

these amazing places are around for future generations.”

“Today, I stood alongside Secretary Zinke as he announced critical funding grants for Colorado’s Rocky Mountain National Park,” **said Senator Cory Gardner**. “We must continue to be good stewards of our National Parks and protect these treasures for future generations. I want to thank Secretary Zinke for highlighting a crown jewel of Colorado’s public lands, Rocky Mountain National Park, and the dedicated Park employees that care for this land every day.”

“Many of the national parks that Americans treasure today would simply not exist without the strong partnerships and philanthropy that have benefited the national park idea for over a century,” **said Acting National Park Service Director Michael T. Reynolds**. “The Centennial Challenge program continues that proud tradition by matching dollars from Congress with generous donations from dedicated partners to make high-impact improvements in parks.”

Examples of the more than 50 projects the Centennial Challenge program will fund this year using partner donations and federal matching funds include:

- Centennial Challenge funds will complement a donation announced last year from philanthropist David M. Rubenstein to the National Park Foundation that will repair and restore the Lincoln Memorial in addition to expanding educational resources and public access.
- Funding from Yellowstone Forever will improve overlooks along the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.
- Friends of Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park will restore heavily used frontcountry trails in the park.
- The Gettysburg Foundation will help create a multi-use trail at Gettysburg National Military Park that will connect the visitor center to a historic farm that was used as a field hospital during the battle.
- Friends of Saguaro National Park, the Western National Park Association, and G. Arthur Jansson are teaming up to create an accessible outdoor classroom space at Saguaro National Park.

Since 2015 the National Park Service has leveraged over \$45 million in funding from congress through the Centennial Challenge program to attract more than \$77 million from partner organizations to support over hundreds of projects across the country that have improved visitor services and strengthened partnerships to reinvigorate national parks.

For a complete list of centennial challenge projects and partners please visit <http://www.nps.gov/subjects/centennial/nps-centennial-challenge-projects.htm>

Park Name	State	Project Title	Federal \$	Partner \$	Partner
Acadia NP	ME	Reduce Deferred Maintenance on Multiple Park Trails	192,286	259,112	Friends of Acadia
Andersonville NHS	GA	Reduce Deferred Maintenance by Replacing Park Signage	73,071	73,071	Friends of Andersonville
Antietam NB	MD	Reduce Deferred Maintenance on Historic Piper Farm	6,000	6,490	Save Historic Antietam Foundation
Apostle Islands NL	WI	Reduce Deferred Maintenance at Raspberry Light Station	3,657	3,657	Friends of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
Badlands NP	SD	Reduce Deferred Maintenance on Bison Fence	475,000	475,000	National Park Foundation, World Wildlife Fund
Biscayne NP	FL	Reduce Deferred	166,475	170,790	Florida

		Maintenance at Elliott Key Visitor Center and Replace Park Signage			National Parks Association
Blue Ridge Parkway	NC, VA	Reduce Deferred Maintenance at Humpback Rocks Farm, Sharp Top Shelter, and Moses Cone Estate	303,149	308,880	Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation
Blue Ridge Parkway	NC, VA	Reduce Deferred Maintenance on Historic Mabry Mill and Groundhog Mountain Structures	62,863	76,791	National Park Foundation, Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation
Chesapeake & Ohio Canal NHP	MD	Reduce Deferred Maintenance on Swain's Lockhouse	100,000	108,160	C&O Canal Trust, Friends of Historic Great Falls Tavern, C&O Canal Association
Chickamauga & Chattanooga NMP	GA, TN	Reduce Deferred Maintenance on Moccasin Bend Orientation Plaza and Park Trails	143,773	287,546	Friends of Moccasin Bend
Cuyahoga Valley NP	OH	Provide Orientation and Interpretation at Visitor Contact Station	1,492,333	1,492,333	Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park
Delaware Water Gap NRA	NJ, PA	Reduce Deferred Maintenance through Replacement of Deteriorating Non-Code Compliant Cabins	1,429,066	1,429,066	Pocono Environmental Education Center
Denali NP & Pres	AK	Support Research for Three Long-Distance Migration Birds, the Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, and Hermit Thrush	23,800	23,800	Alaska Geographic, Denali Education Center
Dry Tortugas NP	FL	Reduce Deferred Maintenance on Traverse Magazines at Fort Jefferson	237,637	548,316	HTR Foundation through South Florida NP Trust
Everglades NP	FL	Reduce Deferred Maintenance by Repurposing Deteriorating Facility into Visitor Center - Planning and Design	720,000	800,000	South Florida National Park Trust, Everglades Association
Federal Hall NMem	NY	Restore and Illuminate the Wall Street Facade at Federal Hall	189,280	300,000	National Parks of New York Harbor Conservancy
Gettysburg NMP	PA	Install a Multi-Use Trail to Connect the George	394,271	459,837	Gettysburg Foundation

		Spangler Farm with the Museum and Visitor Center			
Glacier NP	MT	Prevent Aquatic Invasive Species Infestations through Inspections	60,000	60,000	Glacier National Park Conservancy
Golden Gate NRA	CA	Reduce Deferred Maintenance at Fort Cronkhite	628,912	644,635	NatureBridge
Grand Teton NP	WY	Reduce Deferred Maintenance in South Jenny Lake Visitor Use Area	757,356	1,267,202	Grand Teton National Park Foundation
Great Smoky Mountains NP	NC, TN	Reduce Deferred Maintenance on Rainbow Falls Trails and Historic Structures	124,945	312,711	Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Great Smoky Mountains NP	NC, TN	Conduct Natural Resource Projects including Native Species Re-introductions and Forest Pest Control	72,000	169,182	Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Great Smoky Mountains Association
Great Smoky Mountains NP	NC, TN	Reduce Deferred Maintenance on the Palmer House Museum and Replace Exhibits	38,470	38,470	Great Smoky Mountains Association
Great Smoky Mountains NP	NC, TN	Conduct Research and Natural Resource Projects on Wildlife Such as Elk, Black Bears, and Exotic Wild Hogs	18,600	55,744	Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Great Smoky Mountains Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Hawaii Volcanoes NP	HI	Reduce Deferred Maintenance on and Kilauea Hale	15,600	15,600	Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
Kalaupapa NHP	HI	Reduce Deferred Maintenance at the Bayview Complex and Pali Trail Overlook	52,173	52,425	Pacific Historic Parks
Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP	VT	Reduce Deferred Maintenance on Park Trails and Replace Park Signage	45,448	53,617	Woodstock Foundation
Mount Rainier NP	WA	Reduce Deferred Maintenance on multiple park trails	24,878	24,878	Washington's National Park Fund
Mount	WA	Reduce Deferred	89,427	89,427	National Park

Rainier NP		Maintenance on the Wonderland Trail			Foundation
Multiple	Multiple	Complete Deferred Maintenance Projects at Multiple Parks	850,000	850,000	National Park Foundation
National Capital Parks-East	DC	Reduce Deferred Maintenance at Carter G Woodson Home National Historic Site - Planning and Design	425,000	425,000	National Park Foundation and other donors
National Mall & Memorial Parks	DC	Reduce Deferred Maintenance at Lincoln Memorial and Redesign the Unused Spaces Beneath the Memorial into a Multi-Use Service Area	4,840,000	16,000,000	National Park Foundation
National Mall & Memorial Parks	DC	Reduce Deferred Maintenance at Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument	650,000	650,000	National Park Foundation
National Mall & Memorial Parks	DC	Reduce Deferred Maintenance at West Potomac Park	15,000	16,224	Trust for the National Mall
National Mall & Memorial Parks	DC	Reduce Deferred Maintenance Near Mt. Vernon Triangle	10,000	10,816	Downtown Business Improvement District
Ocmulgee NM	SC	Reduce Deferred Maintenance on the River Trail and Improve Accessibility	75,000	75,000	NewTown Macon, Georgia Department of Transportation
Padre Island NS	TX	Protect Sea Turtle Population through Beach Patrols and Nest Recovery	30,000	30,000	Multiple Donors
Pullman NM	IL	Document and Archive Oral History Recordings	3,750	3,750	National Park Foundation
Pullman NM	IL	Develop Junior Ranger Program	15,850	15,850	National Park Foundation
Rock Creek Park	DC	Construct Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance	320,000	320,000	Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy
Rock Creek Park	DC	Restore Woodland Area along Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway	17,846	71,240	Rock Creek Conservancy
Rock Creek Park	DC	Reduce Deferred Maintenance in Chevy Chase Circle	16,368	17,705	Friends of Chevy Chase Circle
Rocky Mountain NP	CO	Reduce Deferred Maintenance on Alluvial Fan Trail	200,000	200,000	Rocky Mountain Conservancy
Saguaro NP	AZ	Create Accessible Outdoor	107,323	108,300	Friends of

		Classroom Space			Saguaro National Park, Western National Park Association, G. Arthur Jansson
Sleeping Bear Dunes NL	MI	Construct Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail	561,000	561,000	Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation Trails, Inc. and Michigan Department of Transportation
Tallgrass Prairie NP	KS	Reduce Deferred Maintenance on Multiple Park Trails	121,935	135,223	National Park Foundation
Thomas Edison NHP	NJ	Repair Historic Line Shafts in the Heavy Machine Shop	9,999	9,999	Friends of Thomas Edison NHP
Thomas Edison NHP	NJ	Improve Accessibility, Preservation and Educational Use of Edison Archives 1926-1931	49,999	56,746	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Tule Lake Unit	CA	Support Programming for Students to Participate in the Tule Lake Pilgrimage	62,556	130,000	Tule Lake Committee
War in the Pacific NHP	GU	Implement Reef Ranger Summer Camp	7,500	7,500	Pacific Historic Parks
Whiskeytown NRA	CA	Reduce Deferred Maintenance on Multiple Park Trails	15,260	15,260	Friends of Whiskeytown
Yellowstone NP	ID, MT, WY	Reduce Deferred Maintenance on Trails, Retaining Walls, and Overlooks	2,416,320	2,416,300	Yellowstone Forever
Yellowstone NP	ID, MT, WY	Reduce Deferred Maintenance on Stephens Creek Bison Facility	150,342	154,669	Yellowstone Forever
Yosemite NP	CA	Reduce Deferred Maintenance on Lower and Multiple Backcountry Trails	264,002	294,065	Yosemite Conservancy, California Conservation Corp
Zion NP	UT	Reduce Deferred Maintenance on Lower and Middle Emerald Pools Trails	346,337	348,240	National Park Foundation, Zion National Park Foundation

###



[Update subscription](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#)

This email was sent to scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov by: U.S. Department of the Interior · 1849 C Street, N.W. · Washington DC 20240 · 202-208-3100

GOVDELIVERY 

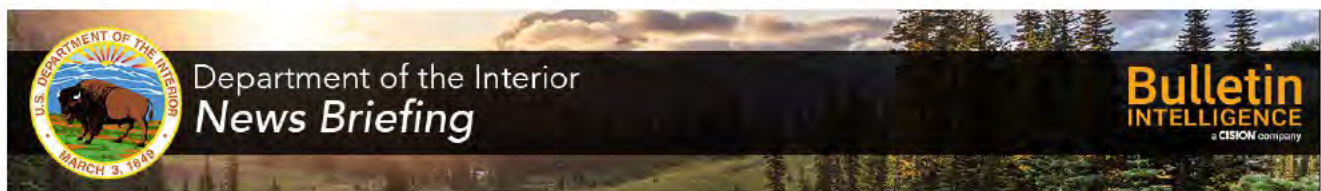
Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, June 8, 2017

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Thu Jun 08 2017 05:01:21 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, June 8, 2017

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.



DATE: THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

Today's Table Of Contents

DOI In The News

- Associated Press: Interior Chief To Review Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan.
- Fox News: Sec. Ryan Zinke On Trump's Push To Overhaul Infrastructure.
- RVBusiness: Zinke Addresses NPS Issues At Committee Week.
- Nation Sun News: Secretary Zinke Testimony Overshadowed By Trump's FBI Controversy.
- Bloomberg News: Trump Said To Mull Combining Agencies Separated After Gulf Spill.
- Morning Consult: Utahns Unsure What to Expect From Interior on National Monument.
- USA Today: Ken Burns To Trump: Don't Scale Back Our National Parks.
- WCSH-TV Portland (ME): Rep. Poliquin Says State Should Have Control Of KWW, St. Clair Responds.
- Salem (OR) Capital Press: Idaho Cattle Producers Impressed With Perdue, Zinke.
- New Orleans Times-Picayune: Keep Gulf Revenue In Budget, Oil/Gas Industry Tells Trump.
- Law360: Environmental Groups Want In On National Forest Canceled Leases Suit.
- Arizona Republic: Additional Coverage: Mohave County Asks Feds To Review Ban On Mining Uranium Near The Grand Canyon.
- Huffington Post: We Must Protect Our U.S. National Monuments Established Through The Antiquities Act – Created By Republican President Teddy Roosevelt.
- Las Vegas Sun: Let's Take A Stand For National Monuments.
- Kenai (AK) Peninsula Clarion: Voices Of Alaska: Zinke's Message Brings Hope To Arctic Iñupiat.
- Alaska Dispatch News: Bradner: Alaskans Should Take Initiative To Explore ANWR.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- President Begaye Calls For DOI Improvements.

Bureau Of Indian Education

- McCain Introduces Bill To Expand School Choice To Tribal Kids.

Bureau Of Land Management

- The Guardian (UK): In Utah, Federal Land Opponent Reverses Stance On Drilling Near Zion National

Park.

- Fairfield (MT) Sun Times: 69,056 Acres: Montana/Dakotas BLM Online Sale Slated For June 12.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- California's Green Culture May Slow Offshore Wind Progress.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Infrastructure Investments Must Prioritize The Colorado River, One Of The Hardest-working Rivers In The World.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Fort Hood (TX) News Sentinel: USFWS Recognizes Fort Hood For Conservation.
- Courthouse News: Texas Sues U.S. To Delist Endangered Songbird.
- Missoulian (MT): Bison Range Meeting Tiptoes Around Question Of Tribal Managment.
- U.S. News & World Report: Montana To Switch How It Counts Wolves In The State.
- Huffington Post: Second Lady Pence Pushes Bee Conservation, An Effort One Critic Labels 'Hypocritical'.
- Huffington Post: The Lehua Aerial Poison Drop – Endangering Native Hawaiians And The Local Fishing Industry?

National Park Service

- Billings (MT) Gazette: Montana Senator: 'Bullying Is Rampant, Sexual Harassment Goes Unaddressed' In National Parks.
- Politico Morning Energy: Report: Energy Development Endangers National Parks.
- U.S. News & World Report: Mountain Lion Kittens Near LA Die After Mother Abandons Them.
- Washington Post: In A Limited Engagement, The Fireflies Blink In Sync In The Great Smoky Mountains.
- U.S. News & World Report: 2017 Travel Season Off To Busy Start At Rocky Mountain Park.
- KCET-TV Los Angeles: Burning For Acorns In Sequoia National Park: Native Peoples And The Park Service Working Together.
- WHTM-TV Harrisburg (PA): Park Service Investigating Helicopter Incident At Gettysburg.
- San Francisco Chronicle: Coyote Encounters Force Trail Closures In SF's Presidio.
- NPR: Site Of Woodstock Added To National Registry Of Historic Places.
- USA Today: Our National Parks Must Tell The Whole Story.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): Mapp Meets With Dept. Of Interior Officials As VI Government Receives Over \$700,000 In Grants.
- Marianas Variety: American Samoa's Aumua Backs Fresh Climate Talks.
- Samoa News: Amata And Governor Talk Issues With Secretary Of State Tillerson.
- Marianas Variety: CUC Gets Over \$60M In Grants.
- Marianas Variety: US Labor To Ramp Up Fraud Probes Of Foreign Visa Programs.

Office Of Surface Mining

- A Look At How Trump's Climate Moves Affect The Coal Industry.

US Geological Survey

- U.S. News & World Report: Fisheries Scientists To Review Minnesota Lake's Fish Count.
- UAS Magazine: US Geological Survey Using Drones To Study Prescribed Burns.

Top National News

- Cincinnati Enquirer: Trump Touts Infrastructure Plans, Blasts Democrats' "Obstruction" In Visit To Ohio.
- NBC: Comey Told Trump He Wasn't Under Investigation, Says Trump Asked Him To Drop Flynn Probe.
- ABC: Trump Announces Wray Nomination To Lead FBI To Cautiously Favorable Reviews.
- Washington Post: Trump Suggests Building Border Wall With Solar Panels.

- Fox News: Cohn: Administration, GOP Leaders On Board To Do Tax Reform This Year.
- Bloomberg Politics: Ryan: Mnuchin Is In Charge Of Debt Limit Negotiations.
- Washington Post: Chao Defends Plans To Privatize FAA Before Senate Commerce Committee.
- Washington Examiner: Labor Department Reverses Obama's Expanded "Joint Employer" Rule.
- New York Times: Hawaii Passes Laws Committing To Climate Goals Of Paris Agreement.
- Washington Post: Pruitt Wants To "Red Team" Climate Science.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "President Trump Picks Sides, Not Diplomacy, In The Gulf."
 - "James Comey And The Fear Of Being Alone With Donald Trump."
- Washington Post.
 - "Trump's FBI Pick Deserves Intense Scrutiny. Here's What He Should Be Ready For."
 - "The Trump Administration's Birth Control Overhaul Could Do Serious Harm."
 - "D.C's Campaign Finance Office Tells Candidates It's Okay To Ignore The Rules."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "The 'Independent' Mr. Comey."
 - "The Death Of Obama's Slush Funds."
 - "Qatar's Reckoning."

Big Picture

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Washington Schedule

- Today's Events In Washington.

Last Laughs

- Late Night Political Humor.

DOI In The News

Interior Chief To Review Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan.

The [AP](#) (6/7, Daly) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said he is ordering a review of federal actions to protect the sage grouse to ensure that officials from 11 western states where the bird lives are consulted. [E&E Publishing](#) (6/7, Yachnin, Lunney) reports that Zinke, "who has been a vocal critic of the Obama-era sage grouse plans," will sign a secretarial order on Thursday "to establish a review panel to look at both federal- and state-level efforts to protect the birds and possibly recommend significant changes to how they are managed." Zinke said, "While we in the federal government have a responsibility under the Endangered Species Act to take action, we also want to be a good neighbor, a good partner and recognize that a lot of the state agencies and the work that has been done thus far are really the forefront of the efforts."

[The Hill](#) (6/7, Cama) reports that Zinke "said Wednesday that the team's goals are to evaluate whether the federal government's policies related to the greater sage grouse are compatible with state policies, whether they're beneficial for local economies and jobs and how they impact production of domestic energy." Zinke "said he wants to restore trust in the process, listen to states and businesses and improve consistency among Interior agencies like the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in enforcing the policies."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Fears) reports that "the two-month review will take into consideration issues that concern some western politicians: jobs and energy development, some of the very things that scientists say led to the bird's decline."

[Reuters](#) (6/7, Gorman) reports that "environmental groups immediately protested the move, saying it might lead to unraveling a complex and delicately balanced strategy that took federal agencies years to negotiate with state and local governments, scientists, ranchers and other private interests."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/7, Carlton) reports that business groups were hopeful the move would lead to a reduction in restrictions on the affected lands. Kathleen Sgamma,

president of the Denver-based Western Energy Alliance, said in a statement, "We hope Secretary Zinke will give western states a real chance to implement sage grouse protections tailored to actual conditions on the ground in each state, rather than the existing plans that don't effectively protect sage grouse but do kill jobs."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (6/7, Siciliano), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (6/7, Yardley), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (6/7, Richards), the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (6/7, Hamway), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (6/7, Finley), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/8, Harmon), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (6/7, Flatt), the [Huffington Post](#) (6/7, D'angelo), and [Law360](#).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [U.S. News & World Report](#) (6/7, Daly), [Business Insider](#) (6/7, Daly), [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (6/7, Daly), the [Owosso \(MI\) Argus-Press](#) (6/7, Daly), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/7, Daly), the [Daily Mail](#) (6/7, Daly), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/7, Daly), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/7, Daly), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/7, Daly), the [Fort Wayne \(IN\) News-Sentinel](#) (6/7, Daly), the [Laredo \(TX\) Morning Times](#) (6/7, Daly), [Montana Public Radio](#) (6/7), [KTVZ-TV Bend \(OR\)](#) Bend, OR (6/7), [KTVB-TV Boise \(ID\)](#) Boise, ID (6/7, Daly), and [KOLO-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (6/7, Daly).

Sec. Ryan Zinke On Trump's Push To Overhaul Infrastructure.

On [Fox News](#) (6/7), Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke commented on President Trump's remarks Wednesday on his call to overhaul America's infrastructure. Zinke said that Trump was not distracted from focusing on rebuilding America's infrastructure and creating jobs.

Zinke Addresses NPS Issues At Committee Week.

[RVBusiness](#) (6/7, Kessler) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke his remarks "to an appreciative RV industry audience during a keynote presentation on the second full day of the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA) Committee Week, an annual conference at which industry leaders gather in Washington, D.C., to set strategy and lobby Capitol Hill." Saying he "loves public-private partnerships," Zinke "gave a clear signal Tuesday (June 6) as to his intentions in dealing with modernizing the National Park System (NPS) campgrounds and related infrastructure." Zinke said, "I love public-private partnerships. There's real opportunity, especially in our park systems, for public-private partnerships."

Secretary Zinke Testimony Overshadowed By Trump's FBI Controversy.

The [Nation Sun News](#) (6/7) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's congressional testimony will take "place at the same time" as former director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation James Comey's. According to the article, "the drama means Indian Country's interests are once again playing second fiddle to the FBI controversy."

Trump Said To Mull Combining Agencies Separated After Gulf Spill.

[Bloomberg News](#) (6/8, Dlouhy) reports that "after the 2010 Gulf oil spill, the Obama administration broke the scandal-plagued federal agency that policed offshore drilling into separate bureaus," but "now the Trump administration is considering putting it back together again." The move, "described by Interior Department officials and lobbyists familiar with the deliberations, would combine two agencies: one that enforces regulations on offshore drilling safety and another in charge of leasing offshore tracts." The article notes that "keeping those roles separate was a key recommendation of a presidential commission that investigated the Deepwater Horizon blast that killed 11 men and sent oil gushing into the Gulf of Mexico for months." The Office of Natural Resources Revenue would "be untouched by the organizational plans now under consideration by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke." The two agencies that would be combined are the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Utahns Unsure What to Expect From Interior on National Monument.

The [Morning Consult](#) (6/7, Fitzpatrick) reports that neither supporters nor opponents of the Bears Ears National Monument are "sure what to expect ahead of the Department of the Interior's Saturday deadline to review its designation." According to Gavin Noyes, executive director of Utah Dine Bikeyah, a nonprofit that supports the monument, "representatives from five tribes that initially proposed the monument designation and a nonprofit representing tribal

interests met on May 25 with James Cason, who was named Interior's associate deputy secretary the next day." Noyes, who plans to file a lawsuit if President Trump revokes the monument, "credited the administration for agreeing to meet with his organization and the tribes that support the monument."

Ken Burns To Trump: Don't Scale Back Our National Parks.

Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns is urging President Trump "to reject any proposal to scale back federal park land," telling [USA Today](#) (6/7, Ullmann), "The president donated his first paycheck to the national parks. ... I would just ask him to go out into those parks and see their transforming force...to understand that they are these important economic engines in every local economy. And as a businessman, it is going to make sense to save them." Dayton Duncan, who along with Burns created the PBS documentary "The National Parks: America's Best Idea," said the President "should follow the lead of two other presidents who also came from New York City," and pointed out that President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Antiquities Act and President Franklin Roosevelt used the act to expand Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

Rep. Poliquin Says State Should Have Control Of KWW, St. Clair Responds.

[WCSH-TV](#) Portland, ME (6/7, Coleman) reports that this week, Rep. Bruce Poliquin sent a letter to the Interior Department "saying regardless of President Trump's decision, the state should gain control of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument." On Wednesday, Lucas St. Clair, President of Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters, "told NEWS CENTER reporters that he's confident in the national monument review process." St. Clair added that if the Trump Administration were "to rescind the national monument designation, he and his family foundation are ready to stand their ground against the state."

Additional coverage was provided by [WMEA-FM](#) Portland, ME (6/7, Sambides).

Idaho Cattle Producers Impressed With Perdue, Zinke.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (6/7, Dumas) reports that the Trump Administration's "focus on collaboration between agencies and stakeholders and its position of aggressively managing issues has Idaho cattle producers optimistic about better management of public lands." Idaho cattle producers "say they are optimistic the Trump administration will get federal agencies back on track for sustainable land management after meeting with USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke late last week."

Welcome To Idaho, Secretaries Zinke And Perdue. In an op-ed for the [Idaho Mountain Express](#) (6/7, Johnson), Rick Johnson, the executive director of the Idaho Conservation League, writes that "it was great to see the nation's two top stewards of public lands—Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue—in Idaho on Friday." Johnson emphasizes that "Idaho is a conservative place," but the state also "loves its public lands."

Keep Gulf Revenue In Budget, Oil/Gas Industry Tells Trump.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (6/7, Schleifstein) reports two energy industry lobby groups for companies in Louisiana said President Trump should abandon his plans to rescind the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, which distributes revenue from offshore Gulf of Mexico oil and gas operations. Don Briggs, president of the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association, said, "Revenues that are shared through GOMESA are vital to the health of Louisiana's working coast. ... The oil and gas industry worked hand-in-hand with the Congressional Delegation to ensure that these shared revenues were made permanent in order to protect Louisiana's coastal communities." Chris John, president of the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association, said, "These dedicated funds should be used for coastal restoration and protection as intended by the Congress. Louisiana expects these funds to be used as a steady and predictable funding stream. Even hinting at diverting these funds from its original dedication puts meaningful dollars for coastal restoration at risk."

Environmental Groups Want In On National Forest Canceled Leases Suit.

[Law360](#) (6/7, Sieniuc) reports that "environmental and tribal groups on Tuesday told a Washington, D.C., federal court that they want to join a suit brought by an oil and gas lessee challenging a move by the U.S. Department of the Interior to void leases on portions of a

Montana national forest, saying they are better positioned to defend against efforts to invalidate the DOI's lease-cancellation decision than the government."

Additional Coverage: Mohave County Asks Feds To Review Ban On Mining Uranium Near The Grand Canyon.

Additional coverage that the Mojave County Board of Supervisors asked Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "this week to consider lifting a 20-year uranium mining ban on public lands in northern Arizona" was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (6/7, Dungan).

We Must Protect Our U.S. National Monuments Established Through The Antiquities Act – Created By Republican President Teddy Roosevelt.

In a piece for the [Huffington Post](#) (6/7, Ertll, Contributor), Randy Jurado Ertll, executive director of the California Latino Environmental Advocacy Network, calls for "protecting 27 of our National Monuments that were created since 1996." He warns that "these U.S. National Monuments are at risk throughout the United States and it does affect our daily lives since our natural resources/environment would become under further threat to be privatized and possibly destroyed through development."

Let's Take A Stand For National Monuments.

In an op-ed for the [Las Vegas Sun](#) (6/8, Tait), Thomas Tait, the former secretary of the Nevada Tourism Commission and former president of the Nevada Tourism Alliance, argues that the "executive order to review national monuments throughout the country and potentially strip them of protection" is "unnecessary." He warns that the "order represents a serious threat to our state economy given that public lands play an integral role in the Nevada tourism industry, our largest employer and economic engine." He urges the public to tell the Trump Administration "to maintain protections for our national monuments and continue to safeguard Gold Butte and Basin and Range by posting a comment at [protectgoldbutte.org](#)."

Voices Of Alaska: Zinke's Message Brings Hope To Arctic Iñupiat.

In an op-ed for the [Kenai \(AK\) Peninsula Clarion](#) (6/7, Sr.), Sayers Tuzroyluk Sr., president of the Voice of the Arctic Inupiat, welcomes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's comments on "the central role Alaska Natives" when he visited Alaska. Tuzroyluk expressed appreciation that Zinke took "the time to listen to us about the needs of our people." Tuzroyluk thanks Zinke, for his "commitment to restoring trust among Alaska Natives and for taking concrete steps toward allowing decisions in our region to be driven by the local people."

Bradner: Alaskans Should Take Initiative To Explore ANWR.

Tim Bradner, an Anchorage author, writes in [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (6/7) that Alaskans should take the initiative proposed by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to update the geological assessments of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Bradner said that "Alaskans deserve to have a better feel for whether major oil discoveries are really possible." Former Gov. Sean Parnell had proposed a limited state-led, one-winter program to conduct 3D surveys, and Bradner urges Gov. Bill Walker to bring the plan back. Bradner acknowledges that securing funding for the project would be difficult, but he says, "If Alaskans are really serious about ANWR, they should step up to the plate with some money."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

President Begaye Calls For DOI Improvements.

The [Lake Powell Life](#) (6/7) reports that on June 1, Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye addressed a Department of Interior panel "calling for improvements to federal agencies that impact the lives of Native Americans across the country." Begaye began "his statement by letting the panel know that the timeframe put forth by the DOI to solicit commentary from tribal leaders was insufficient." The article notes that "among many issues, President Begaye presented concerns addressing tribal authority over land, efficient distribution of funding, and attention to redundancy in tribal public safety."

Bureau Of Indian Education

McCain Introduces Bill To Expand School Choice To Tribal Kids.

[KJZZ-FM](#) Phoenix (6/7, Jung) reports that on Tuesday, Sens. John McCain and James Lankford "introduced a bill that would give students enrolled in Bureau of Indian Education schools an education savings account that can be used for things like private-school tuition."

Bureau Of Land Management

In Utah, Federal Land Opponent Reverses Stance On Drilling Near Zion National Park.

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (6/7, La Ganga) reports that Utah Gov. Gary Herbert reversed a previous position and "decided oil and gas companies should not be allowed to drill near Zion national park." Last week, Herbert declared: "In keeping with our current economic track, I support the tourism and recreation economies and not leasing the parcels that have helped define Washington County and the state of Utah. In keeping with our current economic track, I support the tourism and recreation economies and not leasing the parcels that have helped define Washington County and the state of Utah."

69,056 Acres: Montana/Dakotas BLM Online Sale Slated For June 12.

The [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (6/7) reports that "the Montana/Dakotas Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be holding a quick online oil and gas lease sale commencing on June 12." According to the article, "a total of 156 parcels comprising 69,056.13 acres in Montana will be available for bid at the upcoming event."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

California's Green Culture May Slow Offshore Wind Progress.

[Recharge News](#) (6/7) reports that "California's 'jealous guardianship of the ocean' could slow offshore wind development off the Golden State, say developers and regulators."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Infrastructure Investments Must Prioritize The Colorado River, One Of The Hardest-working Rivers In The World.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Examiner](#) (6/7, Connor, Scarlett), Mike Connor, an Environment Program Fellow with the Walton Family Foundation and a former Deputy Secretary of the Interior and Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation in the Barack Obama Administration; and Lynn Scarlett, the Global Managing Director for Public Policy at The Nature Conservancy and a former Deputy Secretary of the Interior in the George W. Bush Administration, urges the Trump Administration to prioritize 15 projects across the Colorado River basin as highlighted in the Walton Family Foundation's white paper "Colorado River Critical Infrastructure Needs." The white paper, "while not an all-inclusive list of needed actions, identifies over a dozen specific projects as well as some basin-wide initiatives that have significant water user support and represent a range of strategies to address water resource challenges, including traditional water supply improvements, habitat and stream restoration actions, and improved data-gathering networks."

Fish And Wildlife Service

USFWS Recognizes Fort Hood For Conservation.

The [Fort Hood \(TX\) News Sentinel](#) (6/8, Ashley) reports that Fort Hood was "recognized Wednesday by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with the agency's 2017 Military Conservation Partner Award at a ceremony held at III Corps Headquarters." Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, southwest regional director, USFWS, "presented the award to Fort Hood Garrison Commander Col. Todd Fox, on behalf of the Service to recognize the post's efforts with conservation and

environmental stewardship.” Tuggle said, “Fort Hood serves as an outstanding example of the many conservation contributions that military installations make across the country. They have ensured in execution of the training of our young Soldiers ... that they pay attention to the stewardship responsibility that comes with that.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Killeen \(TX\) Daily Herald](#) (6/7, Douglas).

Texas Sues U.S. To Delist Endangered Songbird.

[Courthouse News](#) (6/7, De La Garza) reports that “the Texas land commissioner sued the United States this week, claiming its refusal to delist the golden-cheeked warbler from the endangered species list prevents landowners from effectively managing their own properties.” The Texas Public Policy Foundation, “acting on behalf of the Texas General Land Office, filed the lawsuit Monday against the Department of the Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife in Austin federal court after sending an intent-to-sue letter in March.” The lawsuit argues “new scientific data shows the migratory songbird’s population has recovered and that environmental protections are unnecessary because it has approximately five times more breeding habitat than estimated at the time of its listing in 1990.”

Habitat Shows Why Golden-cheeked Warbler Isn’t At Risk. In an op-ed for the [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (6/7, Wilcox), Erim Wilcox, an attorney with the Center for the American Future at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, writes that the golden-cheeked warbler has “been listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act since 1990,” but “despite federal law requiring that it do so, the USFWS has refused to designate critical habitat for the warbler, leaving landowners in 39 counties in regulatory limbo.” Wilcox writes that “when USFWS first listed the warbler as endangered in 1990, it claimed that habitat destruction was one of the main reasons for protecting the warbler.” But he argues that “if USFWS doesn’t know which habitat is critical for the warbler, how can habitat destruction justify the listing?”

Bison Range Meeting Tiptoes Around Question Of Tribal Management.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (6/7, Chaney) reports that “Tuesday’s Polson meeting and a second session set for Wednesday in Kalispell open a three-year process of writing a comprehensive conservation plan for the National Bison Range.” FWS Regional Refuge Supervisor Bernie Petersen “said in Polson that the Obama Administration’s work leading up to the Federal Register notice was still on the table, but was part of a new process.” Petersen said, “We won’t say it’s not going to be used, but we’re taking a fresh look at all of it. There is an alternative on the table for a transfer (to CSKT management), but when the secretary decided to change course, that means he’s not in favor at this time of doing a transfer.”

Montana To Switch How It Counts Wolves In The State.

The [AP](#) (6/7, Volz) reports that “Montana wildlife officials say the way they count wolves is too expensive and falls far short of an actual population estimate, so they plan to switch to a model that uses information gathered from hunters.” But wildlife advocates “say wolf numbers are declining and the switch could threaten the species’ survival.” They are concerned “the data is too unreliable to be used to manage the population.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [ABC News](#) (6/7, Volz), the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (6/7, Volz), [Fox News](#) (6/7, Volz), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/7, Volz), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/7, Volz), and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/7, Matt Volz |, Ap).

Second Lady Pence Pushes Bee Conservation, An Effort One Critic Labels ‘Hypocritical’.

The [Huffington Post](#) (6/7, D’angelo) reports that “in hopes of boosting the local bee population and raising awareness about the threats facing the planet’s most important pollinators, second lady Karen Pence has installed a honeybee hive at the vice presidential residence in Washington.” Pence and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue “unveiled the new hive — home to a growing population of some 20,000 bees — at an event Tuesday and ‘urged Americans to do their own part to help reverse’ an ongoing worldwide decline in the bee population, according to a White House release.” But Tiffany Finck-Haynes, “an expert in bee populations at the nonprofit advocacy group Friends of the Earth, called the White House request ‘extremely hypocritical’ in light of the administration’s proposed cuts to funding for environmental protection.” Finck-Haynes said, “They’re not putting their money where their mouth is, based on their proposed budget cuts to critical agencies that are needed to help protect bees, butterflies

and other pollinators.”

The Lehua Aerial Poison Drop – Endangering Native Hawaiians And The Local Fishing Industry?

In a piece for the [Huffington Post](#) (6/7, Sergio, Contributor), Maggie Sergio, a conservationist, writes that “in Hawaii, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), and U.S Fish & Wildlife, (USFWS) are planning several rat poison drops via helicopter onto Lehua Island, located approximately 30 miles west of Kaua’i.” She notes that “the planned drop is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from an important Native Hawaiian community, the Ni’ihauans.” Sergio raises concerns that “there is risk that the poison pellets (lethal anticoagulant rodenticides) could impact the biologically diverse and important Lehua Crater.”

National Park Service

Montana Senator: ‘Bullying Is Rampant, Sexual Harassment Goes Unaddressed’ In National Parks.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (6/7, Lutey) reports that the National Park Service has “become a workplace where ‘bullying is rampant, sexual harassment goes unaddressed’ and top employees go unpunished, U.S. Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., said Wednesday during a hearing sparked by a Yellowstone Park scandal.” Daines, “chairing a subcommittee hearing on National Park Service workplace problems, said, “As a son, husband and father of four, including two young women, this is completely unacceptable.” The NPS is “working on workplace issues, said Michael T. Reynolds, acting director of NPS, but restoring employee trust will take work. Reynolds said, “There are some park locations where these cases were allowed to fester, where employees felt reporting these conditions would change nothing and invite retaliation. That was a wakeup call that we needed to make significant improvements to our workplace environment.”

Report: Energy Development Endangers National Parks.

The “Morning Energy” blog of [Politico](#) (6/7) reported “the National Parks Conservation Association is out with a report warning of negative consequences from improperly sited oil and gas leases at seven national parks.”

Mountain Lion Kittens Near LA Die After Mother Abandons Them.

The [AP](#) (6/7) reports that “two mountain lion kittens being tracked by scientists have died in the Southern California wilderness after being abandoned by their mother.” The male and female known as P-57 and P-58 were “part of a study of cougars by researchers with the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, which sprawls from Los Angeles westward along the coast.” The two were “believed to be the first litter for their mother, 3-year-old P-42, National Park Service spokeswoman Kate Kuykendall said via Facebook this week.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/7), [Business Insider](#) (6/7), the [Daily Mail](#) (6/7), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/7), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/7), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/7), [Tucson News Now \(AZ\)](#) (6/7), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/7, Press), and [WTOP-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (6/7).

In A Limited Engagement, The Fireflies Blink In Sync In The Great Smoky Mountains.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Sachs) reports that “for two or three weeks in late May and early June, Great Smoky Mountains National Park pulsates with light and darkness.” The park is “home to 19 species of fireflies, including 13 that flash.” According to the article, “only one — the synchronous firefly — turns the springtime mating ritual into an incandescent performance that dazzles like a laser show.”

2017 Travel Season Off To Busy Start At Rocky Mountain Park.

The [AP](#) (6/7) reports that “the 2017 travel season is off to a busy start at Rocky Mountain National Park, which set a record for visitors last year.” Park spokeswoman Kyle Patterson “said Tuesday visitor numbers in April were up 21 percent over the same month in 2016.”

Burning For Acorns In Sequoia National Park: Native Peoples And The Park Service Working Together.

[KCET-TV](#) Los Angeles (6/7, Clarke) reports that fire crews from Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks this week are “managing a controlled burn in Sequoia’s Ash Mountain area, adjacent to the Park entrance on Route 198 east of Three Rivers.” According to the article, “the 26-acre burn, which will continue in several sections for four or five days, is being conducted in part to attempt to knock down grassy fuels whose growth was stimulated by the Sierra Nevada’s wet winter.” The article notes that “controlled burns in the Parks are nothing new, but the Ash Mountain burn is a little different: it’s happening with advice and assistance from the Parks’ Indigenous neighbors, and reducing fuel load is just one of the objectives.” The Ash Mountain burn is “also intended to boost the health of oak trees in the area, and increase acorn crops in subsequent yields.”

Park Service Investigating Helicopter Incident At Gettysburg.

[WHTM-TV](#) Harrisburg, PA (6/7, Snyder) reports that the National Park Service is seeking information on “what a helicopter pilot was up to Sunday morning at Gettysburg National Military Park.” According to the park service, “the helicopter was seen flying low and may have been dropping something.”

Coyote Encounters Force Trail Closures In SF’s Presidio.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (6/7, Fimrite) reports that the Presidio Trust, “which manages the area for the National Park Service, banned dogs this week on the Park Trail, between West Pacific Avenue and Crissy Field, and the Bay Area Ridge Trail, between Arguello Boulevard and the Rob Hill Campground, in an effort to protect people and their pets.” Michael Boland, chief of parks development and operations at the Presidio Trust, said, “They perceive all canines as coyotes, so they are very threatened, very territorial and they are protecting their offspring. What’s happening is they are trying to scare the dog away. It’s designed to be threatening, but it can be scary if you are not used to having that kind of interaction with a coyote.”

Site Of Woodstock Added To National Registry Of Historic Places.

[NPR](#) (6/7, Flanagan) reports that “the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, the site of the Woodstock music festival in 1969, has been added to the National Register of Historic Places, according to an announcement on its website.”

Our National Parks Must Tell The Whole Story.

In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (6/8, Warren), Mackenzie Warren, who is on a mission to get to visit all 417 National Park Service sites, writes that “national parks are inherently egalitarian in their ideal,” but “in many parks, the visitor profile does not match the makeup of America.” Warren notes that “recent park service-funded research suggests a complex network of economic, historical and cultural barriers keeping some segments of American society away from national parks.” Warren calls for more to “be done to document the struggles, controversies, contributions and achievements that continue to define our nation.” In order for national parks to remain America’s “best idea,” Warren argues that “the concept needs to grow and evolve to reflect a wider range of experiences and be more accessible to all Americans.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Mapp Meets With Dept. Of Interior Officials As VI Government Receives Over \$700,000 In Grants.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (6/7) reports that on Tuesday, Interior Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula and “other officials met with Governor Kenneth Mapp to discuss issues facing the territory, the Department of Interior announced Wednesday.” They talked about “infrastructure challenges related to the hospitals and various initiatives that Mr. Mapp has implemented and is developing to bring greater fiscal stability to the Virgin Islands.” Mapp’s “trip coincided with the release of \$704,000 in technical and maintenance assistance funding from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) which will support the governor and his administration in several important ways.” According to the article, “funds will be used to

explore potential manufacturing and production in food and agricultural products and to save costs and improve the provision of public services in water distribution and maintenance and correctional safety." Pula said, "The governor and I were able to have frank discussions on his priorities for the U.S. Virgin Islands. I am pleased OIA is able to provide some assistance to worthy projects that will directly impact and enhance the government's ability to deliver services and opportunities."

Additional coverage was provided by the [St. Thomas Source](#) (6/8) and the [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (6/8, Carlson).

American Samoa's Aumua Backs Fresh Climate Talks.

[Marianas Variety](#) (6/6) reports that "American Samoa's delegate to the U.S. Congress, Aumua Amata, says she can understand the disappointment Pacific Islanders feel about the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Climate Change Pact." But "she feels that this is an opportunity to come up with a better and more effective agreement." Aumua said Trump "did not believe that sending U.S. dollars to an international body was the best way to expend resources." Aumua added that "she was pleased that he committed to begin immediate negotiations for terms more favorable to the U.S., so the U.S. could rejoin the agreement."

Amata And Governor Talk Issues With Secretary Of State Tillerson.

[Samoa News](#) (6/7) reports that Congresswoman Aumua Amata met with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson "during his second stopover in Pago Pago over the past few days to discuss some of the pressing issues facing American Samoa." The article notes that "also participating in the historic meeting were Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga and Lt. Gov. Lemanu Peleti Mauga." Amata said, "It was very successful meeting. The Governor and I discussed issues pertaining to the Pacific, American Samoa, and the United States' commitment to the region. This is the second high-profile visitor that American Samoa has welcomed in the past few months, which demonstrates just how receptive and involved the new administration is in regards to the territories... a welcome change."

CUC Gets Over \$60M In Grants.

[Marianas Variety](#) (6/8, Todiño) reports that "the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. was able to secure \$60.03 million in grants as of April, its executive director, Gary Camacho, said on Wednesday." CUC grant administrator Carl J. Castro, "in a separate interview, said they expect a 'significant increase' in obligated grants in the next few months, adding that they will obligate a huge portion of their grant money to various projects." According to the article, "as of April, Castro said of the \$60.03 million in grants they received, \$43.04 million had been obligated while only \$16.98 million remained unobligated."

US Labor To Ramp Up Fraud Probes Of Foreign Visa Programs.

[Marianas Variety](#) (6/8) reports that the U.S. Labor Department "said on Tuesday it is stepping up efforts to root out potential fraud in its visa programs for foreign workers, a move that will include increases in both civil investigations as well as criminal referrals." The announcement by Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta follows President Trump in April "ordering a review of the U.S. visa program as part of his 'America First' campaign pledge." On Tuesday, the Labor Department said its new policy will be to "enforce vigorously all laws within its jurisdiction governing the administration and enforcement of non-immigrant visa programs."

Office Of Surface Mining

A Look At How Trump's Climate Moves Affect The Coal Industry.

The [AP](#) (6/7, Gruver, Brown) reports that long-term energy trends within the coal industry, such as the growing competition from natural gas, wind and solar power, have had "far more of an effect on the fossil fuel industries than climate regulations." Over the last decade, coal's share of the U.S. power market fell from 50 percent to about 32 percent, and hundreds of coal-burning power plants are scheduled to retire or shut down soon. The Trump administration, however, is undeterred in its support of coal. During a Wednesday meeting with international energy ministers in Beijing, Energy Secretary Rick Perry "said devising ways to burn coal more

cleanly could stimulate economic growth."

US Geological Survey

Fisheries Scientists To Review Minnesota Lake's Fish Count.

The [AP](#) (6/7) reports that "a nationwide group of fisheries scientists will review the Minnesota Department of Natural Resource's walleye assessment on a popular fishing lake after nearby resort owners questioned the department's low population assessment of the fish." The experts, led by Chris Vandergoot of the U.S. Geological Survey, will be available to answer questions from members of the Mille Lacs Fisheries Advisory Committee.

US Geological Survey Using Drones To Study Prescribed Burns.

[UAS Magazine](#) (6/7, Miller) reports that U.S. Geological Survey scientists and its partners are "using unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) to gather data on the prescribed burns used to protect lives and property during wildfires." The program "combines expertise from multiple USGS partners with the goal of reducing the harmful effects of smoke impacts during planned burns." Todd Hoefen, USGS lead scientist, said, "We aim to use drones to better understand the relationship between fire intensity and what type of particulates are released from fires of greater or lesser intensity. This can tell us what a fire leaves behind and how that could affect people and the environment."

Top National News

Trump Touts Infrastructure Plans, Blasts Democrats' "Obstruction" In Visit To Ohio.

Media coverage of the President's remarks in Cincinnati cast them as a return to his campaign themes – and as an attempt to gain momentum for his agenda as the Russia investigation picks up steam in Washington, DC. The [Cincinnati Enquirer](#) (6/7, Williams) says Trump "was in his element" and "found solace in a region that played a big role in sending him to the White House last November," but [Reuters](#) (6/7, Mason) reports that his efforts to "refocus attention on core" campaign "promises to boost jobs and the economy" were "eclipsed by the furor over Russia's alleged meddling in the election." Likewise, [CNN](#) (6/7, Merica) said that "though Trump stuck to the script, only veering from infrastructure to talk about health care briefly, his top White House aides were focused on what will happen less than two miles down Pennsylvania Avenue on Thursday." CNN added that former FBI Director "Comey's testimony has all but stalled Trump's legislative agenda."

The [Cincinnati Enquirer](#) (6/7, Williams, Horn), meanwhile, refers to a "campaign-style speech" by the President, who attacked "Democrats while promising to fix roads, bridges, dams, the steel and coal industries, health care and the tax code." The Enquirer highlights that "though Republicans control the House, Senate and White House, Trump said Democrats are responsible for the challenges some of his initiatives have faced, including the GOP health care bill now in the Senate." Said Trump, "Total obstruction from Democrats. ... We have had no help."

To the [New York Times](#) (6/7, Thrush), Trump's "forceful "America first" message" was "a wandering assortment of self-defenses, attacks and non sequiturs that bumped into one another like untethered barges." The [Dayton \(OH\) Daily News](#) (6/7, Hulsey) notes "the Ohio River was the backdrop to Trump's speech," with "a barge loaded with what appeared to be coal...docked on the Kentucky side." Then, "just before 1 p.m. a huge American flag was draped over its tug boat." [WVXU-FM](#) Cincinnati (6/7, Wilkinson) said the barge was "full of West Virginia coal."

[WXIX-TV](#) 📺 Cincinnati (6/7, 10:21 p.m. EDT) showed Trump saying, "The great highway system, the Interstate highway system, we don't do that any more. We really don't. We don't even fix the old highways anymore. We'll take even fixing 'em. But we are going to get them going again like they've never been before." [WKBN-TV](#) 📺 Youngstown, OH (6/7, 6:08 p.m. EDT) showed him saying, "It's time to rebuild our country, to bring back our jobs, to restore our dreams, and yes, it's time finally to put America first. And that's what I've been doing, if you haven't noticed." [WCPO-TV](#) 📺 Cincinnati (6/7, 7:01 p.m. EDT) reported that Trump addressed "a much smaller crowd, a lot different than what we have seen in the past at his big

rallies."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Paletta, Nakamura) portrays Trump as seeking "to rally blue-collar workers," and adds that if "part of the aim was to build crucial bipartisan support for a plan he has claimed will boost jobs, Trump was unable to mask his disdain for his political rivals." Said the President, "Every single thing is obstruction." He added that "if I was in that party, I would not do it that way. I'd be doing positive things. That's why they lost the House, it's why they lost the Senate, it's why they lost the White House."

The [Toledo \(OH\) Blade](#) (6/7, Provance) reports that "early on, the idea of a massive federal investment into the nation's aging bridge, highway, rail, and other public infrastructure was cited as an area where Democrats and the new Republican president might find common ground." Sen. Sherrod Brown said yesterday, "I will judge any infrastructure package by whether it's good for Ohio. ... What we've seen from the President so far falls short. We need the real, meaningful investments the President promised on the campaign trail, not handouts to Wall Street or fees and tolls on working families." The [AP](#) (6/7) says "Democrats have balked at Trump's plan for financing improvements, arguing it would result in taxpayer-funded profits for corporations with the cost offloaded on consumers." To [Politico](#) (6/7, Nelson), meanwhile, the reason Democrats haven't backed Trump's plans is that they have "come via a bare-bones outline in his administration's budget proposal, and the White House has up to this point placed more emphasis on undoing Obamacare and pushing an overhaul of the US tax code."

The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (6/7, Pelzer) notes the President's appearance came "days after he announced a \$1 trillion plan to help build and refurbish the country's transportation and utility infrastructure using a mix of public and private funding (the former coming mostly from state and local governments)." The [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (6/7, Ludlow) says Trump "wants to leverage \$200 billion in the pending federal budget to obtain matching spending by private corporations and state and local governments to generate \$1 trillion to tackle a backlog of infrastructure maintenance needs." Said the President yesterday, "Yet, if we want to fix a road or build a school, we don't ever seem to have the money. It's got to change, folks. It's wrong. ... It's time to rebuild our country to bring back our jobs and restore our dreams and it's time, finally, to put America first and that's what I've been doing if you haven't noticed."

[WHIO-TV](#) 📺 Dayton, OH (6/7, 11:05 p.m. EDT) highlighted the fact that Trump "did not call for a gas tax increase to pay for" his plan. Instead, "his plan leaves the door open for private investment. Companies would build for projects up front and be paid back over time with tolls and user fees." Trump: "It is time to recapture our legacy as a nation of builders and create new lanes of travel, commerce, and discovery and we are going to see all the way into the future."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/7, Boyer, Miller) reports "Trump said his predecessor, President Barack Obama, and a Democratic Congress failed to help rebuild America in 2009 with an infamous \$825 billion 'stimulus' package." The President also "said his approval of the once-stalled Dakota Access oil pipeline is indicative of his approach to getting things done." Said Trump, "Nobody thought any politician would have the guts to approve that final link. ... I just closed my eyes and said 'do it.' When I approved it, I thought I'd take a lot of heat. I took none, actually none. People respected that I approved it. I take so much heat for nonsense, it probably overrode the other. It's like a decoy." The [Daily Caller](#) (6/7, Goodman) noted that Trump also "reiterated his commitment to the American worker," saying to "applause," "As long as I am president, America's labor leaders will always find an open door at the White House."

The [Dayton \(OH\) Daily News](#) (6/7, Hulsey) reports that Frani Jones, "whose husband Don owns the marina" where Trump spoke yesterday, "said the White House called them on Friday asking to allow the president to appear there." Said Mrs. Jones, "We're very excited to be hosting the president of the United States." The Daily News adds that "Tom Jones, Don's brother and the chairman of the board of Bryan Equipment Sales in Cincinnati, said he also is a Trump supporter."

Chris Cilizza said on [CNN Wolf](#) 📺 (6/7), "This is an attempt to talk about something that, frankly, does have some possibility or at least did have some possibility of getting bipartisan support or at a minimum, putting Democrats in tough spots." David Gregory said on [CNN Wolf](#) 📺 (6/7) that "you can't just talk about infrastructure in a vacuum. This requires a lot of the political capital. It is a campaign that requires a lot of work, working together in the administration, having issue discipline and then you look at the backlog in terms of legislative accomplishments."

Collins: Trump Not Advancing Infrastructure Plan. Gail Collins, in a column in the [New York Times](#) (6/8, Collins), writes that while Trump pronounced this to be Infrastructure Week, he hasn't discussed the issue with legislative leaders; never reached out to Democrats willing to consider infrastructure spending, instead calling them "obstructionist" on the issue; and "didn't say anything at all about how his infrastructure plan would work, possibly because it doesn't appear to exist at this point in time."

Comey Told Trump He Wasn't Under Investigation, Says Trump Asked Him To Drop Flynn Probe.

The release of former FBI Director James Comey's [written testimony](#) ahead of his Thursday appearance before the Senate Intelligence Committee dominated the news cycle, with extensive cable commentary and more than 29 minutes of combined airtime on the major network newscasts. Much of the mainstream media's tone cast Comey's disclosures as raising serious legal questions about the President, with several Democrats and commentators speaking of possible obstruction of justice. Republicans and conservative news outlets, meanwhile, portrayed the President's interactions with Comey as legitimate, and highlighted the fact that Comey confirmed that he told Trump that he was not under investigation.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (6/7, lead story, 4:40, Holt) called Comey's statement "explosive" in its lead story, and the [Washington Post](#) (6/7, A1, O'Keefe, Demirjian) reports on its front page that Comey "could bring the question of whether...Trump attempted to obstruct justice to the forefront." House Intelligence Committee ranking member Adam Schiff said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/7) that it's "certainly very possible that this is evidence...that could amount to obstruction," and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, also on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/7), said Trump's behavior was "prima facie obstruction of justice." Sen. Ron Wyden, on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/7), referred to "a Watergate-level effort to interfere with an ongoing investigation." Pressed on whether it amounted to obstruction, he added, "That's going to be a topic for lawyers, but I'll tell you if it looks like a duck and it quacks like a duck, it just might be a duck."

On the other hand, GOP Sen. James Lankford said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/7) that what is "very clear is the President wasn't saying" to Comey that he had to drop the Flynn probe "or else. ... What I hear from it is the President just fired Flynn, who he liked and who he respected, but understood he lied to the Vice President, he's not going to do that and be in the Administration. He's trying to say we fired him, that's enough." Rich Lowry, writing for [National Review](#) (6/7), summed it all up by concluding that "this isn't much of a bombshell and is going to be a very thin reed to try to build an obstruction case on."

There were also differing reactions to Comey confirming he told Trump he wasn't under investigation. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/7, Lauter), for example, indicates that "Republicans quickly seized on" that fact "as a major talking point," but the Times argues that "the idea that the president might personally be under scrutiny was never at the center of the controversy" in the first place. The [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Barrett), meanwhile, reports that "in essence, Comey's written testimony confirms a key claim that Trump has made," but to the [New York Times](#) (6/7, Schmidt, Goldman), even his attempts to get "Comey to announce" that he "was not personally under investigation" were part of Trump's "wide-ranging effort by...to influence the FBI's investigation into Russia's meddling in the election." [Politico](#) (6/7, Gerstein) notes that Comey made it clear he "rebuffed the president's attempts to have the agency clear him publicly in case the probe did eventually turn to Trump."

Eli Lake writes for [Bloomberg View](#) (6/7, Lake) that "it's strange that Comey's devastating testimony before the Senate on Thursday will end up vindicating in part something Trump and his advisers have been saying for months." But "make no mistake. The Boy Scout will fire back at the president who fired him." The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (6/7, Harrington), meanwhile, headlines its story "Comey Assured Trump Three Times He Was Not Being Personally Investigated," [Townhall](#) (6/7, Pavlich) "Comey Confirms President Trump Is Not Under FBI Investigation," [The Federalist](#) (6/7, Hemingway) "Comey Confirms He Thrice Told Trump He Was Not Being Investigated," and [Breitbart](#) (6/7, Pollak) "James Comey Testimony Proves Trump Right, CNN Wrong" – noting that "CNN reported on Tuesday that Comey was 'expected to refute Trump.'"

Former senior communications adviser for the Trump campaign Jason Miller said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/7), "I thought this was supposed to be about Russia. I thought this was supposedly about trying to get to the President about some supposed coordination

between the campaign and some foreign entity. That seems to have been completely thrown out. You can see why Republicans look at this and feel like it's a witch-hunt."

According to the [Washington Times](#) (6/7, Dinan, Noble), "former bureau officials" said Comey "is unlikely to shed new light on the ongoing investigation into Russian interference in the presidential election and any links with members of the Trump campaign." Meanwhile, another [Washington Times](#) (6/7, Dinan) report notes "White House deputy press secretary Sarah Sanders told reporters Wednesday afternoon that she found the timing of the released testimony 'a little bit interesting.'"

Last night, [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (6/7, lead story, 6:00, Muir) reported that at Thursday's hearing Comey will "acknowledge that he did tell the President that he was not under investigation personally on multiple occasions." However, "when it came to the investigation into...Flynn, Comey will say the President urged him to 'let this go.'" Catherine Herridge reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) 📺 (6/7) that "Comey stated, 'I understood the President to be requesting that we drop any investigation of Flynn in connection with false statements about his conversations with the Russian ambassador in December. I did not understand the President to be talking about the broader investigation into Russia, more possible links to his campaign.'" However, Herridge noted that Comey "continues, 'It was very concerning, given the FBI's role as an independent investigative agency.'"

The [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (6/7, lead story, 3:55, Pelley) reported that Comey found that meeting with the President "so concerning that he...decided to implore the Attorney General to prevent any future direct communications between the President" and himself. CBS also noted that "Comey reassured Mr. Trump that he was not personally under investigation." After that, the former FBI chief claims, Trump "repeatedly told me, 'we need to get that fact out.'" Jonathan Karl said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (6/7, story 2, 0:55, Muir) that Comey provided "several reasons" for not going public "with the fact that Trump was not under investigation. ... Primarily, because if it changed and if the FBI investigation began to turn to focus on...Trump, Comey said it would have been a duty to correct the record."

[USA Today](#) (6/7, Johnson) reports that Comey's statement outlined "nine contacts with...Trump, including a Jan. 27 dinner in which Trump apparently said: 'I need loyalty, I expect loyalty.'" USA Today adds that "later, in a Feb. 14 meeting at the White House, Comey said Trump strongly defended Flynn, saying that his former national security adviser 'hadn't done anything wrong" in his prior contact with Russian ambassador Sergey Kislyak." Trump added, "He is a good guy. I hope you can let this go." [McClatchy](#) (6/7, Welsh, Irby) notes that "Trump had asked for Flynn's resignation the day before, following revelations that the former national security adviser misled Vice President Mike Pence regarding his phone conversations" with Kislyak.

To John Dickerson of the [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (6/7, story 3, 1:55, Pelley), "the fact that the President asked for private meetings to have these conversations leads some to believe that he knew what he was doing wasn't right." Jeffrey Toobin said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (6/7) that if Comey's testimony is "to be believed, I think it does lay out a case of obstruction of justice against the President." [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (6/7, story 3, 2:05, Muir) called "reaction to Comey's account of his conversations with the President swift, and from Democrats, fierce." Schiff was shown saying, "The President demanded his loyalty, didn't get it. The President asked him to drop the Flynn case, and he didn't do it. Is this why Jim Comey was fired?" ABC (Bruce) added, however, that "the number two Republican in the Senate sees it through a different lens. Is it appropriate for the President to be demanding loyalty of his FBI director?" Sen. John Cornyn was shown saying, "I think every President wants loyalty from his appointees. But I think Mr. Comey appropriately pointed out that an FBI director is different from a traditional political appointee, and they seem to have agreed to something called honest loyalty or loyal honesty."

[Fox News](#) (6/7, Berger) reported that "Comey admitted that when Trump later said he wanted 'honest loyalty,' Comey assured, 'You will get that from me.'" Comey "later wrote in a personal memo he may have interpreted that term differently from Trump." The [New York Post](#) (6/7, Moore) reports that Comey wrote in a memo that very night, "It is possible we understood the phrase 'honest loyalty' differently, but I decided it wouldn't be productive to push it further. The term – honest loyalty – had helped end a very awkward conversation and my explanations had made clear what he should expect."

[Roll Call](#) (6/7, Lesniewski), [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/7, Talev, Strohm), [The Hill](#) (6/7,

Williams) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/7, Wilber), among other news outlets, focus their reporting on the Flynn and "loyalty" issues. Sen. Martin Heinrich, on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/7), said "it's absolutely devastating, completely inappropriate and I would leave it to someone like Bob Mueller...as to whether it's prosecutable." Rep. Eric Swalwell, a member of the House Intelligence Committee, said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/7) that it "is wrong the President demanded loyalty for...Comey to keep his job. It was wrong to ask him to drop the case against his friend, Michael Flynn. And [it was] wrong that he hounded obsessively James Comey to, as he called it, 'lift the cloud' around the Russia investigation."

Trump Feels "Totally Vindicated" By Comey Statement. The [New York Post](#) (6/7, Fredericks) reports that "Trump's personal lawyer said Wednesday that...Comey's testimony to the Senate Intelligence Committee has left Trump feeling 'completely and totally vindicated.'" Wrote Marc Kasowitz, "The president is pleased that Mr. Comey has finally publicly confirmed his private reports that the President was not under investigation in any Russia probe. ... The president feels completely and totally vindicated. He is eager to continue to move forward with his agenda."

White House Mobilizing To Defend Trump; RNC Produces Talking Points. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/7, Cirilli, Jacobs) reports that the White House is "mobilizing" to defend Trump during former FBI Director Comey's Senate testimony, "an effort comparable to preparations for the presidential debate following the release of an Access Hollywood tape that nearly derailed his campaign." Trump's personnel attorney Marc Kasowitz was at the White House on Wednesday morning, while an "outside rapid-response operation" will be led by former deputy chief of staff Katie Walsh, who left the White House in March to join a pro-Trump group, and Mike Dubke, who recently resigned as White House communications director.

[Politico](#) (6/7, Nussbaum, Dawsey, Samuelsohn, Palmeri) likewise reports that "the White House and its allies have scrambled to create a robust outside operation to punch at...Comey" during his testimony on Thursday, but "West Wing aides – fearful that they could get further sucked into the Russia probe – are trying to avoid being the messengers themselves."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/7) reports that the RNC has produced talking points which offer "Republicans a number of pointers including how to respond to Comey's opening statement." The Examiner, which obtained a copy of the talking points, highlights several, including, "President Trump feels completely and totally vindicated by...Comey's opening testimony and is eager to move forward," Comey "has a long history of blatant contradictions and misstatements," and "There is no evidence of collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia," among others.

WPost Analysis: Trump Does Not See Russia Investigation As Legitimate. A [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Rucker) analysis says President Trump does not see the Russia matter as "a legitimate federal investigation into a foreign government's interference with American democracy," and he does not regard it "as an issue that could result in his impeachment, or even one that could expose him to legal trouble of any kind." Instead, he sees it as "a political 'cloud' that hangs over him." To Trump, "the Russia investigation has been an act of personal betrayal with political, though not legal, consequences, insofar as it has impeded his agenda and sullied the start of his presidency." Moreover, according to "friends and advisors," he "views the Russia scandal as a threat to the legitimacy of his election." Trump "feels immense pride that he...defied the polls and pundits to handily win an electoral college majority." The Russia probe "challenges the validity of that win," and "for that, he exhibits a feeling of victimization."

Sources: Comey Testimony "Closely Coordinated" With Mueller. According to a [Fox News](#) (6/7, Gibson) exclusive, a source close to Comey says his testimony has been "closely coordinated" with Robert Mueller, whom the Justice Department appointed as special counsel to oversee the Russia investigation. The source also told Fox News that Comey "will not come to any legal conclusions about whether there was 'obstruction of justice' on the part of President Trump." The [New York Times](#) (6/7, Baker, Thrush) reports that by authorizing the release of his opening statement, Comey "instantly changed the conversation back to his assertion that the president tried to shut down part of the FBI investigation," leaving the White House "on the defensive."

Philip Wegmann writes for the [Washington Examiner](#) (6/7) that the Russia investigation also has "sparked a beautiful and influential relationship" between Comey and Benjamin Wittes, an editor of the Lawfare blog who "meets and occasionally speaks for the beleaguered lawman." Wegmann says that "because of that relationship, his analysis of the FBI director's

written testimony comes closest to the real opinion of Comey."

Poll: 61% Believe Trump Fired Comey To Protect Himself. [TIME](#) (6/7, Jenkins) reports that "more than 60% of Americans" think Trump fired FBI Director Comey "in order to protect himself rather than to help the country," according to a new ABC News/Washington Post poll. The survey also found 72% of Americans "don't trust Trump's word on Russia, but 55% also don't buy Comey's – likely a reflection of his own past controversies such as Hillary Clinton's email scandal and an overall distrust of the federal government."

Rogers And Coats Say They Didn't Feel "Pressured" On Russia Investigations, Won't Offer Specifics. Media reports on the testimony of DNI Dan Coats and NSA Director Rogers cast their words as unfavorable toward the White House's interests. The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/7, story 2, 2:50, Pelley) reported "just as Comey alleges Mr. Trump pressured him over the investigation, sources also say he made similar requests of" Coats and Rogers. During testimony Wednesday before the Senate Intelligence Committee, "neither would answer questions about their interactions with the President, but they denied any outside influence." [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/7, story 2, 2:30, Holt) showed Rogers saying, "I do not recall ever feeling pressured to do so," while Coats was shown stating, "I never felt pressure to intervene or interfere in any way." But NBC (Jackson) added, "Asked to elaborate, they didn't." The [Washington Times](#) (6/7, Boylan) runs the full statement by Coats: "I have never felt pressure to intervene or interfere in any way with shaping intelligence in a political way or in relationship to an ongoing investigation."

Pierre Thomas said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/7, story 4, 3:30, Muir), "Over and over, they would not reveal what, if anything, the President had said to them. And many senators grew frustrated, saying there was no reason not to answer the questions." Sen. Martin Heinrich was shown saying, "I think your unwillingness to answer a very basic question speaks volumes."

[USA Today](#) (6/7, Kelly) reports Coats and Rogers "told a Senate panel Wednesday that they would not answer questions about whether...Trump asked them to downplay possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russian officials." [Politico](#) (6/7, Cheney, Gerstein) headlines its report "Coats And Rogers Refuse To Say If Trump Asked Them To Sway Russia Probe," the [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Nakashima, Demirjian) says the two "said...they would not discuss specifics of private conversations with...Trump," and [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/7, Strohm, Dennis) that they "refused to say whether they were asked...to help impede an FBI investigation." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/7, Tau, Sonne) and [New York Times](#) (6/7, Huetteman, Savage) run similar reports.

Dana Bash said on [CNN Wolf](#) (6/7), "I don't remember ever seeing anything quite like this. Not that we haven't seen hearing after hearing where witnesses didn't want to or didn't feel that it was their responsibility or appropriate to give a response. But nothing at this level when it was very well-known that this is where the panel was going to be going. ... They just didn't have a real answer except for it wasn't appropriate." Bash added that there is "bipartisan frustration and they are perplexed at why there weren't better answers."

Journalist Carl Bernstein said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/7), "It was an appalling moment, their absolute contempt for the Congress of the United States and its legitimate function, and they showed it in their attitude."

Wyden said on [CNN Wolf](#) (6/7) that "on March 23rd, Director Coats told the Armed Services Committee that he wasn't aware of the President or the White House contacting anyone in the intelligence community with respect to a request to drop the investigation into General Flynn." The press has been "reporting otherwise and both accounts cannot be true. So I intend to keep digging." Wyden said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/7) that "they just pretty much stonewalled everything other than their talking points, and the irony of this is, of course, the President has spoken so expansively about these issues. He's been so outspoken in public. This idea that they can't say anything that touches on what the President has talked about widely in the public square just doesn't add up."

[Reuters](#) (6/7) reports that following Wednesday's hearing, Sen. Mark Warner said there was "more investigating to do." Warner said in a [tweet](#), "Our intelligence leaders could have laid allegations against (Trump) to rest. They chose not to and didn't explain why they wouldn't answer." He [added](#), "That tells me we have more investigating to do."

Former Federal prosecutor Michael Zeldin was asked on [CNN Wolf](#) (6/7) if there is a legal basis "for these witnesses to refuse to answer those questions." Zeldin said, "Sure,

executive privilege. ... That I thought was very instructive in terms of the whole way the hearing unfolded. Rogers said, I called the White House and I asked them, are you asserting executive privilege here? And I got no answer. And so with no answer, he doesn't really know what he can and cannot do. So he's stuck with this position of I can't tell you anything because I don't know what I can tell you."

Syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/7), "I think the advantage here is to the senators. If you're going to go up there and you say, 'I refuse to talk about what was said,' then invoke executive privilege. That's a legal basis. Fight it out on that. But to say, 'I don't think it's appropriate,' I think the senators are right. On the basis of what? If you listen to what the intelligence chiefs were saying, they were saying, 'We were not directed.' ... This is lawyerly stuff. I hate to say it but it's rather Clintonian. It depends on what 'directed' means. It sounds as if it's very carefully crafted."

Before Wednesday's testimony, Sen. Chris Murphy said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (6/7), "Coats is a guy with an ethical center. He's also a really smart and careful politician, having served in the Senate for a long time. You should read his statement [Tuesday] night very carefully. He says he never has felt pressured by the President. That doesn't mean that the President didn't ask him to back off – to push Comey to back off the investigation." Murphy added, "Frankly, I think knowing Dan Coats, I would read his statement last night to be almost a confirmation of the fact that Trump had that conversation with him."

USA Today Analysis: Comey's Firing Is Trump's "Most Consequential Miscalculation." [USA Today](#) (6/7, Johnson) reports that when Trump "declared war on the US intelligence community for its collective finding that Russia sought to steer the election in his favor, the president sowed a palpable level of suspicion among its top leaders." In particular, "just 10 days before his inauguration," Trump tweeted "a thinly-veiled shot at the FBI for the alleged 'leak' of an unsubstantiated dossier purportedly detailing the Trump campaign's ties to the Kremlin, asking, 'Are we living in Nazi Germany?'" USA Today adds that "the raw assertion from the president-elect did not escape the notice of top FBI officials, people familiar with the matter have said," and when he fired Comey "the president effectively freed the former director to publicly air some of the most potentially damaging information to his young presidency." That is why "former colleagues and legal analysts said the former director perhaps embodies the president's most consequential miscalculation."

Green Drafting Articles Of Impeachment. The [Washington Times](#) (6/7, Howell) reports that "maverick Democrat" Rep. Al Green said he is "drafting articles of impeachment against President Trump, alleging the Republican president broke the law in May and must be held to account." Green argues that Trump obstructed justice when he fired Comey "and then told a TV reporter he did so because of 'this Russia thing.'" Green said, "The remedy for obstructing justice is impeachment. ... The firing, coupled with the statement, indicated that the president intended to do what he did." Green added that he "has no 'acid test' for when he might actually file the document, saying he wants the public to weigh in first." [Politico](#) (6/7, Lahut) says Rep. Brad Sherman has joined the effort. Green said, "The important thing is that you have two members of Congress who are drafting, or have drafted – to an extent – articles of impeachment." Green "said Sherman offered to join him in part because of threats to the Texan's safety, after he reportedly received racial slurs and death threats after announcing his plans to draft articles of impeachment."

Reich: Use 25th Amendment To Remove "Mentally Unstable" Trump From Office. The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/7, Langille) reports that former Labor Secretary Robert Reich argued in a Facebook [post](#) Tuesday that President Trump "is so mentally unstable that the 25th amendment should be used to remove him from office." Reich wrote, "This is why it is now time to seriously consider the 25th Amendment to the Constitution, which provides for removal of a president who is 'unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office.'" Reich added, "[A]s Trump becomes more isolated, he becomes more paranoid – more fearful of becoming weak and humiliated. We know from Trump's history that whenever he's cornered he also becomes more aggressive. The further he falls, the more fragile his ego becomes, and the greater is the danger that he will do something desperate."

Millions Expected To Watch Comey Testimony; Bars Hosting Viewing Parties. The [New York Times](#) (6/7, Grynbaum, Rogers) reports that millions of Americans are expected to watch Comey's testimony, which is "already being compared to other political-cultural touchstones, like the Army-McCarthy hearings and Anita Hill's testimony about Clarence Thomas." According

to Times, "every national broadcast network – along with an alphabet soup of cable stations from CNBC to HLN – plans to carry the 10 a.m. hearing live." President Trump "is expected to be among the viewers, and there is speculation that he may respond to Mr. Comey on Twitter in real-time."

The [New York Post](#) (6/7, Lapin) reports that "bars across the country are hosting viewing parties" for Comey's testimony, and the Post cites several examples.

Leaked Document Shows Russia Targeted State Election Officials. [Reuters](#) (6/7, Menn) reports that the top secret NSA document that was leaked and [published](#) by The Intercept shows that "Russian hacking of the 2016 US election included sophisticated targeting of state officials responsible for voter rolls and voting procedures." NSA analysts "believed the hackers were working for the Russian military's General Staff Main Intelligence Directorate, or GRU, according to the document." While the document suggests "that US investigators are also still probing a more direct attempt to attack the election itself," there is "no evidence that hackers were able to manipulate votes, or the vote tally."

Former Defense Official Calls For More Information On Kushner Meeting With Russian Banker. Former deputy assistant secretary of defense for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia Evelyn N. Farkas, in an op-ed in the [New York Times](#) (6/8, Farkas), writes that because most Russian financial, media, and energy companies are "virtual branches of the government," the secret meeting President Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner had with the chief executive of Russian bank Vnesheconombank is "worthy of deeper scrutiny." The bank "is regularly used by the Kremlin to finance politically important projects" and has been linked to espionage. When Kushner spoke to the executive, "he was also talking to the Kremlin, and we should know what they discussed."

Officials Confirm Unmasking For Political Purposes Is A Crime. [Townhall](#) (6/7, Pavlich) reports that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein confirmed Wednesday that "unmasking American citizens for political reasons is in fact a crime." During a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing Wednesday, Sen. John Cornyn asked Rosenstein, "If someone is to use the unmasking process for a political purpose, is that potentially a crime?" Rosenstein replied, "Yes sir," and acting FBI Director McCabe "agreed, adding that leaking the name of an unmasked individual is also a crime."

House Intel Panel Wants Ex-DHS Chief Johnson To Testify As Part Of Russia Probe. House Intelligence Committee ranking member Adam Schiff said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/7) the panel will hold its next open hearing with former DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson, who "can shed light on what he knew" about Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election. Schiff said the committee has been in contact with Johnson "to schedule that testimony."

More Commentary. A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/7) editorial says that at its worst, Comey's prepared testimony reveals Trump is a naive narcissist who believes he can intimidate the director of the FBI. The [USA Today](#) (6/7) editorial page similarly says the testimony shows Trump "treats the FBI directorship, a 10-year term designed to preserve independence, like a patronage job." But "most disturbingly...Trump tries to obstruct" the investigation into Flynn.

Jonathan Turley of George Washington University writes in [USA Today](#) (6/7) that "ironically, those who want a criminal charge...are committing the very offense that they accuse Trump of committing: disregarding the law to achieve their desired goal. It would be a highly dangerous interpretation to allow obstruction charges at this stage."

RNC Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel writes in [USA Today](#) (6/7) that the "constant media feeding frenzy reeks of desperation to keep a fabricated anti-Trump narrative alive despite there being no basis in fact. The effort by the left to distract from the work the president is doing on behalf of the American people is truly troubling, yet this administration remains laser-focused on advancing the agenda he promised to the American people."

[Washington Post](#) (6/7) columnist E.J. Dionne Jr. writes that "succeeding in politics in a democratic nation is different from making a go of it in a business centered on one person," and "almost all of President Trump's problems can be traced to his failure to grasp this." Dionne says it also "explains why he now has such a big problem with...Comey."

Trump Announces Wray Nomination To Lead FBI To Cautiously Favorable Reviews.

President Trump [tweeted](#) early Wednesday morning, "I will be nominating Christopher A. Wray, a man of impeccable credentials, to be the new Director of the FBI." The choice generated cautiously favorable reactions across the political spectrum. While [ABC World News Tonight](#)

(6/7, story 5, 0:35, Muir) indicated that the announcement caught even "some in the White House...by surprise," [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/7, story 4, 1:55, Holt) cited "one administration official" who said "the President picked Wray because he's widely respected and has bipartisan support." NBC went on to report that "the reaction was largely positive from both sides of the aisle." Less favorable was the assessment on the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/7, story 4, 1:45, Garrett), which reported that although "respected in the legal community," Wray is "not well-known among rank-and-file FBI agents," and "lacks extensive background in terrorism and national security prosecutions." Some media analysts and Democrats, meanwhile, criticized the timing of announcement as an attempt to divert attention from the Russia investigation.

[Reuters](#) (6/7, Ainsley, Holland), for example, reports Democratic lawmakers said it "seemed designed to distract" from former FBI Director Comey's "testimony," and [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/7, Voreacos, Schoenberg, Shields) that "the timing suggests the White House is trying to turn the page...before" the Senate hearing. At any rate, says the [AP](#) (6/7, Gurman, Jalonick), while Trump "surprised Washington...with his choice" and it "captured headlines early in the day, it was quickly overwhelmed by the advance release of Comey's riveting testimony."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/7, Tanfani) says that Trump "spent a month working through a long list of politicians, former prosecutors and others, in a chaotic month for a White House still struggling to fill many key positions." He "settled on Wray after interviewing him last week at the White House, along with former Transportation Security Administration Director John Pistole." Trump "did not brief key lawmakers" before tweeting his decision, [USA Today](#) (6/7, Gaudiano, Collins) reports.

The [New York Times](#) (6/7, Goldman, Apuzzo) reports that "those who know Mr. Wray say... he will brush back any political interference and protect the bureau's independence." In a separate story, the [New York Times](#) (6/7, Thrush, Davis) refers to a "a safe, mainstream pick" which appears "likely to allay the fears of FBI agents who worried that Mr. Trump would try to weaken or politicize the FBI," and the [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Zapotosky) says that "people who had worked with" him "said he is an accomplished, if low-key lawyer who would not hesitate to stand up to the president if he believed he had to."

[USA Today](#) (6/7, Jackson, Johnson) quotes Attorney General Jeff Sessions as saying in a statement, "Chris combines a brilliant legal mind, outstanding accomplishments and a proven record of public service. ... His exceptional abilities were recognized, and he was brought to the Department of Justice headquarters...where he performed superbly during the incredibly intense period after 9/11." Ken Wainstein, "former chief of the Justice Department's National Security Division, described Wray as 'an exceptionally strong choice.'"

The [AP](#) (6/7, Gurman, Jalonick), meanwhile, says the Senate's response to Wray was "supportive but cautious." Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley said the nominee is "certainly...a suitable candidate," and Majority Leader McConnell praised his "impressive credentials." Democratic Sen. Chris Coons, meanwhile was "encouraged that Trump's pick is a veteran of law enforcement 'rather than a career in partisan politics.'" [Reuters](#) (6/7, Ainsley, Holland) reports that Sen. Ben Sasse, a "frequent Trump critic," called Wray "tough, qualified and principled," and "Republican Representative Mike Conaway, who is leading the House of Representatives intelligence committee probe of the Russia matter, told reporters: 'It appears from the reading of his biography it's a great choice.'"

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/7, Voreacos, Schoenberg, Shields) quotes Speaker Ryan as saying, "I don't know the guy, but I've looked at his resume. He seems like the right person. He seems like to me he's the perfect kind of person." [Breitbart](#) (6/7, Spiering) reports Wray also "earned praise from Norm Eisen, a Brookings Institute fellow and former ethics czar for former president Obama." Said Eisen, "Good choice. Oversaw Enron case, which I also spent years of my life on. ... He was very fair. I endorse."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/7, Wegmann) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, "demurred Wednesday morning, telling reporters that the nominee 'may be fine.'" Sen. Mark Warner, ranking member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, told CNN, "There will be a time and place to review him. ... But it seems to me that this is an effort to try to take people's attention off what is going to be the main event, at least for the next two days: the leaders of our intelligence community and the FBI director." Warner said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (6/7), "I don't know that much about him. I hear he had a good reputation." Warner added that it appears "the President is trying to change the topic because we have got two days of hearing here and it could be explosive."

[Politico](#) (6/7, Nelson, Schor, Kim) quotes Sen. Richard Blumenthal praising Wray's "solid experience and expertise," while Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin "said he...had heard a 'positive response' from Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), who does know the prospective nominee."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/7, Noble), meanwhile, reports that at DOJ, "Wray became the principal associate deputy attorney general under Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson," who yesterday called him a "highly experienced" and "super smart" lawyer.

"Source" Tells NYPost Nomination A "Warning Shot" At Sessions. The [New York Post](#) (6/7, Morrongiello, Golding) reports that "Trump's selection of a former top Justice Department official with ties to...Christie...was a 'warning shot' at...Sessions, a source close to the matter told The Post." This "source close to the White House said Wray's selection was meant to send a message to Sessions, who, according to reports, recently offered to resign over Trump's continued disappointment that he recused himself from the federal probe of Russian meddling in last year's election." The "source" said, "I can't imagine Sessions is pleased knowing a friend of Christie's could soon be running the FBI."

Wray Has Donated Funds Only To Republicans, Currently Works With Trump's Ethics Adviser. [Business Insider](#) (6/7, Sheth, Bondarenko) reported that "Wray donated thousands of dollars to exclusively Republican candidates throughout his career, and he now works closely with Bobby Burchfield, Trump's ethics adviser."

Senate Unanimously Confirmed Wray In 2003; Comey Endorsed His Confirmation. To the [Washington Examiner](#) (6/7, Wegmann), Trump "has put Democrats in a bind and made opposition to the pick all but impossible," because Wray "has impeccable credentials – at least that's what the Senate believed in 2003." Back then, "when President George W. Bush nominated Wray to become assistant attorney general, he was confirmed unanimously by voice vote. ... Should they protest, Democrats would have a hard time explaining why they were for Wray before they were against him."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/7, Ballhaus) recounts that Wray served under Attorney General John Ashcroft and then-Deputy AG Comey, who wrote the Senate Judiciary Committee, "The president has found someone who is...whip-smart, hardworking and possesses indispensable experience as a line prosecutor. ... The president has chosen wisely in deciding upon a governmental version of hockey's substitution on the fly. The stakes are too high to have it otherwise."

The [New York Post](#) (6/7, Golding) noted that "upon leaving the government, he was given the Edmund J. Randolph Award, the DOJ's highest honor for public service and leadership."

Merkley, Rolling Stone's Berney Among Wray's Few Outright Critics. [Politico](#) (6/7, Nelson, Schor, Kim) reports that "one Senate Democrat – Jeff Merkley of Oregon – quickly went on the attack against Wray, questioning whether the nominee could exercise true independence from the man who nominated him." Politico adds that, "noting that Wray represented Christie during the so-called 'Bridgewater' scandal, is a Republican donor and that his firm 'represents Trump Trust and Russian oil,' Merkley tweeted: 'Wray doesn't pass the test.'" But "asked about Wray's ties to Christie, Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) said: 'I don't know that anyone who's ever associated with anybody in the campaign is necessarily automatically disqualified.'"

Jesse Berney, meanwhile, writes in [Rolling Stone](#) (6/7, Berney), "I don't care about Christopher Wray's qualifications. ... How could we possibly trust that anyone Trump chooses to head the FBI hasn't offered him some kind of assurance? Or that Trump hasn't made it clear to him he too will be fired if the FBI continues its investigations?" Berney also notes that Republicans refused to consider former President Obama's Supreme Court pick Merrick Garland, and concludes that while Wray "may be well-qualified...not allowing" him "a hearing on his nomination as FBI director is clearly the right thing to do."

WPost Urges "Intense Scrutiny;" USA Today Says "Bridgewater" Ties Should Be "Thoroughly Explored." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/7) argues that "Wray must get much more intense scrutiny than the typical executive nominee, because it is evident that the next FBI chief may face severe pressure from a president who is unwilling to respect the boundaries of his office." While "at first glance" he "seems to be a solid choice," his "work during the Bush administration deserves a careful look, as does his relationship to Mr. Christie." Moreover, "Wray must be prepared to reveal whether Mr. Trump demanded his 'loyalty before nominating him," and "should detail his conversations with the president and in particular disclose whether the two discussed the Russia probe." Adds the Post, "If he admits to making any commitments

or refuses to answer, the Senate should reject his nomination.”

[USA Today](#) (6/7) editorializes that “at first blush, Wray would appear” to be a good candidate, but “one area...needs to be thoroughly explored during his confirmation hearings for the 10-year term: Wray’s law firm clients, especially New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie in the so-called Bridgegate scandal.”

NYTimes: Next FBI Chief Needs To Resist Political Meddling. In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/8) writes that former FBI Director James Comey’s prepared remarks “tell a shocking story,” adding that Comey’s successor will need to be able “to protect the bureau’s independence from political meddling,” a qualification “all the more critical when the White House is led by a man with no respect for the established barriers between politicians and law enforcement.”

Trump Suggests Building Border Wall With Solar Panels.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Yeo) reports that during a White House meeting Tuesday, President Trump suggested “a new idea on how to cover the costs for a proposed border wall between the United States and Mexico: build it with solar panels.” According to comments posted by [Axios](#), Trump “floated the concept of ‘beautiful structures,’ 40 to 50 feet high, that generate clean electricity from the sun – and would help cover the cost of the project.” The Post says “the realities of building a 1,000-mile wall covered with solar panels – and then getting that electricity to market on either side of the border – are not so simple” and “with few actual details about the design of the wall, the cost of building it or the price that would be paid for the electricity, it is difficult to make any realistic conclusions about the impact of Trump’s solar wall.”

Cohn: Administration, GOP Leaders On Board To Do Tax Reform This Year.

President Trump’s Chief Economic Advisor Gary Cohn said on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (6/7), “[Tuesday] was actually a very good day for us on tax reform.” The President “had Republican leadership into the White House. Then later in the day, Secretary Mnuchin and myself met with both House leadership, Speaker and Chairman Brady and we met with Senate leadership. We met with Leader McConnell and Leader Hatch. The six of us met. We talked about a tax plan. We talked about the schedule. We agreed on a schedule. We agreed on our objectives and agreed on a time frame and we are all on board to do it this year. There is universal consent to get it done this year.”

Ryan: Mnuchin Is In Charge Of Debt Limit Negotiations.

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/7, Edgerton) reports that while there have been questions “about how and when” the Administration “expects Congress to authorize more borrowing to keep from defaulting on US debts,” House Speaker Ryan on Wednesday “said that when it comes to negotiating legislation to raise the US debt ceiling, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin is in charge.” Ryan told reporters, “The Treasury secretary is and should always be the person in charge of debt-limit negotiations, debt-limit legislation. ... That’s the natural thing.” Mnuchin favors “a clean bill without other conditions attached,” while OMB Director Mulvaney “has said other policy changes and spending cuts could be included to reach a deal.” Bloomberg adds that according to a [report](#) from Politico, the President “also stands behind Mnuchin.”

The [New York Times](#) (6/7, Rappeport) says that with Republicans in control of Congress and the White House, “some thought that the debt ceiling would be an easy lift.” However, “it has become an obstacle threatening to further stall an agenda that has already fallen well behind schedule.”

Chao Defends Plans To Privatize FAA Before Senate Commerce Committee.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Halsey) reports that on Wednesday, Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao answered questions on a plan to privatize the FAA before the Senate Commerce Committee, as “Republicans voiced skepticism.” Chao said, “We’re very much aware that the members of this committee come primarily from rural states, so this is an issue that we are very cognizant of. I am very concerned about the rural areas.” Meanwhile, a House bill introduced by Reps. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Rick Larsen (D-WA) “makes critical reforms to the FAA” but would preserve the agency, although it has “little chance in a committee where...Republicans hold a 34-27 majority.” Chao is scheduled to appear before the House

Transportation Committee today.

Labor Department Reverses Obama's Expanded "Joint Employer" Rule.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/7, Higgins) reports that on Wednesday, the Labor Department announced the rescission of "an Obama administration rule that expanded the 'joint employer' doctrine, the conditions for when one business can be held liable for employment and civil rights law violations at another company," marking "a win for business groups." However, the Examiner points out "the Obama-era standard can still be applied to businesses" by the National Labor Relations Board.

Hawaii Passes Laws Committing To Climate Goals Of Paris Agreement.

The [New York Times](#) (6/7, Bromwich) reports that on Tuesday, Hawaii "became the first state to pass a law committing to the goals and limits of the Paris climate accord, defying President Trump." Hawaii Gov. David I. Ige signed two bills that are "geared toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the landmark goals adopted by" the Paris Agreement and that "will establish a task force to help the state improve soil health and remove carbon from the atmosphere." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/7, Lee) highlights how the laws are "a message for President Trump" in favor of the Paris Agreement.

California Gov. Brown Visits China To Spur Investment In Renewable Energy. The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/7, story 9, 1:55, Pelley) reported that "in a setting normally reserved for visiting heads of state," California Gov. Jerry Brown (D) met with Chinese President Xi Jinping, "who is now viewed as the world's leader on climate change," to "spur more Chinese investment in renewable energy...which will help California achieve its own ambitious clean energy goals." Asked whether Brown trusts China to lead the world on this issue, Brown said, "They're taking the climate threat serious, so I say all for the good, and California will collaborate. I just hope that Washington comes on board." China has asserted its clean energy initiatives will create 13 million jobs, despite President Trump's stated concern that climate change goals would lead to job loss.

Canada Aims To Work With US States, Localities On Climate Change. The [New York Times](#) (6/7, A14, Austen) reports on "a broad strategy by the Canadian federal government to work directly with American states and cities on global warming, and to become a leader on the issue." Canada's environmental minister Catherine McKenna said, "I think it's disappointing that the United States' administration has not stepped up" to act on climate change, "But the United States is bigger than the administration." The Times adds that privately, Canadian officials indicated "it is unlikely that the Trump administration will reverse its stand, making working with states and local governments even more critical."

NOAA Records Second-Largest Carbon Dioxide Rise In 2016. [USA Today](#) (6/7, Rice) reports the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced "2016 tallied the second-largest rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide ever recorded," which was "nearly double the average pace since measurements began in 1979." Last year, the CO2 level rose 2.93 ppm, down from the record 2015 rise of 2.96 ppm. NOAA scientist Steve Montzka, who co-authored the update, said, "The warming effect of these chemicals we're tracking has increased by 40% since 1990."

North Korean Statement Blasts Administration Over Paris Agreement Withdrawal. [USA Today](#) (6/7, Abbasi) reports an unnamed North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman "lashed out this week at the Trump administration for withdrawing from the Paris climate agreement, calling it a 'short-sighted and silly decision.'" USA Today adds, "The harsh rhetoric by North Korea wraps up with a call for the world to remain highly vigilant about 'the dangerous ideological trend' surfacing in the U.S. with the Trump administration."

Pruitt Wants To "Red Team" Climate Science.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Samenow) reports that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt told Breitbart News that he wants to re-litigate climate change science, despite the fact that multiple assessments have concluded that climate change is man-made and poses significant risks. Pruitt said, "What the American people deserve, I think, is a true, legitimate, peer-reviewed, objective, transparent discussion about CO2." NYU Professor Steven Koonin said, "The outcome of a Red/Blue exercise for climate science is not preordained, which makes such a process all the more valuable. ... It could reveal the current consensus as weaker than claimed."

Alternatively, the consensus could emerge strengthened if Red Team criticisms were countered effectively."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"President Trump Picks Sides, Not Diplomacy, In The Gulf." On its editorial page, the [New York Times](#) (6/7) says that "rather than position the United States to ease tensions in the Middle East, Mr. Trump has, essentially, picked one side in a small rivalry within a big rivalry." The Times writes that there is also "no sign that Mr. Trump has actually thought any of this through" and calls on Congress to block the \$110 billion weapons package Trump signed in Riyadh "until the Saudis enter into serious negotiations on Yemen and resolve their differences with Qatar."

"James Comey And The Fear Of Being Alone With Donald Trump." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/8) writes that former FBI Director James Comey's prepared remarks "tell a shocking story," adding that Comey's successor will need to be able "to protect the bureau's independence from political meddling," a qualification "all the more critical when the White House is led by a man with no respect for the established barriers between politicians and law enforcement."

Washington Post.

"Trump's FBI Pick Deserves Intense Scrutiny. Here's What He Should Be Ready For." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/7) argues that President Trump's nominee for FBI director, Christopher Wray, "must get much more intense scrutiny than the typical executive nominee, because it is evident that the next FBI chief may face severe pressure from a president who is unwilling to respect the boundaries of his office." While "at first glance" he "seems to be a solid choice," his "work during the Bush administration deserves a careful look, as does his relationship to Mr. Christie." Moreover, "Wray must be prepared to reveal whether Mr. Trump demanded his 'loyalty before nominating him," and "should detail his conversations with the president and in particular disclose whether the two discussed the Russia probe." Adds the Post, "If he admits to making any commitments or refuses to answer, the Senate should reject his nomination."

"The Trump Administration's Birth Control Overhaul Could Do Serious Harm." The [Washington Post](#) (6/7) argues in an editorial that the Trump Administration's birth control overhaul could do serious harm, undoing access to no-cost birth control gained in the ACA. The Post laments that although the repeal and replacement of the ACA has stalled in Congress, a draft of "proposed regulation, which could go into effect as soon as it is published in the Federal Register, sadly demonstrates the harm that can be done if the executive branch sets its mind – and authority – to dismantling key provisions."

"D.C's Campaign Finance Office Tells Candidates It's Okay To Ignore The Rules." The [Washington Post](#) (6/7) editorializes that the "paltry" fine of \$5,100 against DC Council member Brandon T. Todd for failing "to meet deadlines in properly accounting for more than \$100,000 in contributions" shows "that action is...needed by the D.C. Council to overhaul the city's campaign-finance laws and how they are enforced," as the violation was "discovered not by the campaign office but by the nonprofit Public Citizen." The Post urges outside review by DC Attorney General Karl A. Racine into "lingering questions" about the campaign finance violations.

Wall Street Journal.

"The 'Independent' Mr. Comey." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/7) editorial says that at its worst, former FBI Director Comey's prepared testimony reveals President Trump is a naive narcissist who believes he can intimidate the director of the FBI.

"The Death Of Obama's Slush Funds." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/7) editorializes in support of Attorney General Sessions' decision to end a Justice Department practice of directed funds from settlement agreements to non-governmental third parties that were not directly harmed by the conduct in dispute. Sessions sent a memo to US attorneys directing them to immediately put an end to the practice, telling them that financial penalties are meant to punish perpetrators and provide relief to victims, and that funds from future settlements will

generally go directly into the US treasury.

“Qatar’s Reckoning.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/7) editorial says the US goal should be to restore Arab unity to forge a common front against Sunni extremists and Iran, and not to isolate Doha.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Former FBI Director Comey Details Pressure From Trump](#)
[Terrorists Attack Iran’s Parliament And A Shrine In Deadly Rare Assault](#)
[‘I’m Not Sure I Understand’—How Apple’s Siri Lost Her Mojo](#)
[LeBron James’s Media Empire Is Out Front \(Even If His Team Isn’t\)](#)

New York Times:

[Comey Says Trump Pressured Him To ‘Lift The Cloud’ Of Inquiry](#)
[At Least 12 Killed In Pair Of Terrorist Attacks In Iran](#)
[Who Is Christopher Wray? Trump’s FBI Pick Is Said To Be Low-Key And Principled](#)
[Trump Has Busy Day In Vortex Of Middle East Relations](#)
[Theresa May Stumbles Awkwardly To Election Day](#)
[Solved: The 47-Year Mystery Of A Murder Victim’s Many Identities](#)
[Oldest Fossils Of Homo Sapiens Found In Morocco, Altering History Of Our Species](#)

Washington Post:

[ISIS Claims Twin Attacks In Tehran](#)
[White House Split On Throwing The ACA A Lifeline Or Letting It Die](#)
[Obstruction Question Could Move To The Fore](#)
[Comey: Trump Asked For Loyalty](#)
[Trump Chooses Wray For FBI Chief](#)
[GOP Votes To Reverse Tax Cuts In Kansas](#)

Financial Times:

[Santander Takes Over ‘Failing’ Banco Popular After EU Acts](#)
[Revolutionary Guards Blame Saudis For Tehran Attack](#)
[How Britain And France’s Economies Match Up](#)
[Trump Taps Former Federal Prosecutor To Head FBI](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Backs Permanent Snooping Powers He Once Criticized As Abusive](#)
[Russia’s Role In Election Likely To Remain A Mystery After Comey Testifies](#)
[Two Top Intelligence Chiefs Felt No Pressure From Trump To End Russia Investigations](#)
[Virginia Democrats Torn Between Idealism, Pragmatism In Primary Race For Governor](#)
[National Religious Broadcasters Leader ‘Encouraged And Frustrated’ By Washington](#)
[Islamic State Claims Deadly Attacks In Tehran, But Iran Points Fingers At Saudi Arabia And Trump](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Comey Testimony; Comey Testimony-Expert Opinion; Comey Testimony-Congress; Russia Meddling Investigation-Intel Chiefs; Iran Terror Attack; London Terror Attack; Teen Suicide Texting Trial; Severe Weather; Ohio-Road Rage; Highest Paid Athlete; Baby Gorilla.

CBS: Comey Testimony; Russia Meddling Investigation; Comey Testimony-Expert Opinion; FBI Director Candidate; Iran Terror Attack; London Terror Attack; Bill Cosby Trial; NASA New Astronauts; California Gov-China Visit; Child-Lemonade Stand.

NBC: Comey Testimony; Russia Meddling Investigation-Intel Chiefs; Comey Testimony-Expert Opinion; FBI Director Candidate; Iran Terror Attack; Bill Cosby Trial; Kids Migraines; Severe Weather; Honoring Lost Firefighters; MLB News.

Network TV At A Glance:

Comey Testimony – 20 minutes, 30 seconds
Russia Meddling Investigation-Intel Chiefs – 8 minutes, 50 seconds
FBI Director Candidate – 4 minutes, 15 seconds
Iran Terror Attack – 4 minutes, 5 seconds
London Terror Attack – 40 seconds
Severe Weather – 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Comey Testimony; FBI Director Candidate; Trump-Cincinnati Speech; Wall Street News.

CBS: Comey Testimony; Russia Meddling Investigation-Intel Chiefs; FBI Director Candidate; Bill Cosby Trial; West Virginia-Opioid Epidemic; Wall Street News.

FOX: Comey Testimony; Trump-Cincinnati Speech; North Korea Missile Test; NBA News.

NPR: Comey Testimony; Trump-Cincinnati Speech; Qatar Diplomatic Crisis; UK Elections.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Gives remarks at Faith and Freedom Coalition's Road to Majority Conference; hosts Infrastructure Summit with Governors and Mayors.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao and Director of the Office of Management and Budget Mick Mulvaney for an Infrastructure Summit Working Luncheon; participates in a bilateral meeting with President Nicos Anastasiades of Cyprus.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Noel Francisco to be Solicitor General; Makan Delrahim to be Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division; Steven Engel to be Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel; David Nye to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Idaho; Scott Palk to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma; Vishal Amin to be U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator; Stephen Elliott Boyd to be Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs; and Lee Francis Cissna to be U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director, as well as 'S. 782, PROTECT Our Children Act of 2017' Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM National Reentry Resource Center launches new national progress report – National Reentry Resource Center launches new national progress report 'Making People's Transition from Prison and Jail to the Community Safe and Successful', which features new data highlighting progress in recidivism reduction in individual states over the past 10-15 years. Panel of state correctional, judicial, and elected leaders – Republican Sen. John Cornyn, bipartisan Reps. Danny Davis, Jim Sensenbrenner, and Bill Johnson, Supreme Court of Georgia Justice Michael Boggs, Michigan Department of Corrections Director Heidi Washington, Alabama State Sen. Cam Ward, Texas Department of Criminal Justice Executive Director Bryan Collier, and North Carolina Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice Chief Deputy Secretary David Guice highlight insights found in the report and speak to the progress they have experienced in their respective states Location: Rm 562, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://csgjusticecenter.org/> <https://twitter.com/csgjc>

9:45 AM HHS Secretary Price testifies to Senate Finance Committee on FY'18 budget – Hearing on 'The President's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget', with testimony from Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Joint Economic Committee hearing on the opioid crisis – Hearing on 'Economic Aspects of the Opioid Crisis', with testimony from Princeton University Professor Emeritus (and Nobel Laureate) Sir Angus Deaton; Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine; Congressional Research Service Crime Policy Analyst Dr Lisa Sacco; and Harvard Medical School Department of Health Care Policy Professor of Health Economics Dr Richard Frank Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.jec.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/JointEconCmte>

10:00 AM Commerce Secretary Ross testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY'18 budget – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on

'Review of the FY2018 Budget Request for the U.S. Department of Commerce', with testimony from Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

10:00 AM Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee hearing on OMB memo on the federal workforce – Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management Subcommittee hearing on 'Agency Approaches to Reorganization: Examining OMB's Memorandum on the Federal Workforce', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Administration and Department of Commerce Office of the CFO Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration Lisa Casias; Assistant Attorney General for Administration Lee Lofthus; U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Budget and Program Analysis Associate Director Don Bice; and Department of Homeland Security Office of the CFO Program Analysis and Evaluation Division Deputy Director Bridgette Garchek Stone Location: Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:00 AM Senate Energy Committee hearing on cost reductions in emerging technologies – Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 'Hearing to study cost reductions in emerging energy technologies with a specific focus on how recent trends may affect today's energy landscape', with testimony from Rocky Mountain Institute Business Renewables Center Principal Lily Donge; NRG Energy Vice President of Development David Greeson; Cimarex Energy Company Vice President for Drilling & Completion Steve Simonton; Cree Vice President of Marketing and Public Affairs Greg Merritt; Mercedes-Benz Energy Americas (a Daimler company) Business Development Manager Russell Vare; and Siemens USA President of Energy Management Kevin Yates Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

10:00 AM Senate Banking Committee hearing on the role of financial institutions in local communities – Hearing on 'Fostering Economic Growth: The Role of Financial Institutions in Local Communities', with testimony from Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank Chairman, President, and CEO Dorothy Savarese (on behalf of American Bankers Association); 1st Liberty Federal Credit Union President and CEO Steve Grooms (on behalf of National Association of Federally-insured Credit Unions); ValueBank President and CEO R. Scott Heitkamp (on behalf of Independent Community Bankers of America); INOVA Federal Credit Union CEO Dallas Bergl (on behalf of Credit Union National Association); Greylock Federal Credit Union President and CEO John Bissel; and Georgetown University Law Center Professor Adam Levitin Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the Islamic State group outside the Middle East – Hearing on 'Beyond Iraq and Syria: ISIS' Global Reach', with testimony from George Washington University Program on Extremism Director Dr Lorenzo Vidino; and Georgetown University School of Foreign Service Professor / Brookings Institution Center for Middle East Policy Senior Fellow Dr Daniel Byman Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Transportation Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Derek Kan to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy; David Redl to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information; and Robert Sumwalt III to be a National Transportation Safety Board member (for five years) and Vice Chairman (for two years) Location: Rm 253, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Business Meeting Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Fired FBI Director James Comey testifies to Senate Intelligence Committee on Russia – Hearing on 'Russian Federation Efforts to Interfere in the 2016 U.S. Elections', with testimony from former FBI Director James Comey, who was controversially fired by President Donald Trump last month * Open session from 10:00 AM EDT followed by closed session from 1:00 PM EDT * The White House has said President Trump is not exerting executive privilege to prevent the testimony * After the firing, Department of Justice cited Director Comey's handling of a probe into former Secretary of State and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server, although the termination letter mentioned the agency's probe into contacts between Russia and the Trump campaign, including controversially claiming that Director Comey had informed President Trump three times that he was not under investigation as part of the probe. While running for the presidency, Trump praised Director

Comey's actions in the Clinton email investigation Location: Rm 216, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

11:30 AM President Donald Trump speaks at Faith & Freedom Coalition Conference – Faith & Freedom Coalition 'Road to Majority' Annual Conference, with opening day speakers including President Donald Trump, Republican Sens. Ted Cruz and David Perdue and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton * Agenda today also include Capitol Hill Townhall with House Speaker Paul Ryan, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy and Republicans Sens. Joni Ernst and John Boozman and Reps. Mark Meadows, Marsha Blackburn, Diane Black and Bob Goodlatte, Rm 50, Senate Dirksen Office Bldg., Washington DC (2:30 PM EDT) Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St NW, Washington, DC www.roadtomajority.com <https://twitter.com/FaithandFreedom>

12:45 PM CBO Director Hall and GOP Sens. Enzi and Johnson speak at event on a regulatory budget – 'Building a Regulatory Budget: What to Know and Where to Start' George Mason University Mercatus Center event, with speakers – including Congressional Budget Office Director Keith Hall, Senate Budget Committee Chairman Mike Enzi, Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Chairman Ron Johnson, White House Budget Policy Director Paul Winfree, Business Roundtable Executive Vice President Marcus Peacock, George Washington University Regulatory Studies Center Director Susan Dudley, and Deloitte Managing Director in Public Sector Practice Jitinder Kohli – discussing 'how a regulatory budget can manage economic effects of regulation', lessons learned from other nations that have implemented and sustained a regulatory budget, the agency role in implementation and how CBO, BEA, and OIRA can work together, and what Congress can do to encourage a functional regulatory budget Location: Rm 608, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.gmu.edu/> <https://twitter.com/GeorgeMasonU>

1:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

US House: 9:30 AM Transportation Secretary Chao testifies to House Committee on FAA authorization – Hearing on 'Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Federal Aviation Administration Authorization', with testimony from Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

9:30 AM National Reentry Resource Center launches new national progress report – National Reentry Resource Center launches new national progress report 'Making People's Transition from Prison and Jail to the Community Safe and Successful', which features new data highlighting progress in recidivism reduction in individual states over the past 10-15 years. Panel of state correctional, judicial, and elected leaders – Republican Sen. John Cornyn, bipartisan Reps. Danny Davis, Jim Sensenbrenner, and Bill Johnson, Supreme Court of Georgia Justice Michael Boggs, Michigan Department of Corrections Director Heidi Washington, Alabama State Sen. Cam Ward, Texas Department of Criminal Justice Executive Director Bryan Collier, and North Carolina Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice Chief Deputy Secretary David Guice highlight insights found in the report and speak to the progress they have experienced in their respective states Location: Rm 562, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://csgjusticecenter.org/> <https://twitter.com/csgjc>

9:30 AM Interior Secretary Zinke testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget – Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Department of the Interior – Budget Hearing', with testimony from Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, Finance, Performance, and Acquisition Olivia Ferriter; and Department of the Interior Office of Budget Director Denise Flanagan Location: Rm 2007, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM HUD Secretary Carson testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee on budget – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Department of Housing and Urban Development – Budget Hearing', with testimony from Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM CFTC Acting Chairman Giancarlo testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug

Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Commodity Futures Trading Commission – Budget Hearing', with testimony from CFTC Acting Chairman J. Christopher Giancarlo

Location: Rm 2362-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM Nutrition Subcommittee hearing on 'The Next Farm Bill: SNAP Technology and Modernization' Location: Rm 1300, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://agriculture.house.gov/>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'H.R. 2083, Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act' and discussion draft of 'H.R. XXXX, Reclamation Title Transfer Act', with testimony from The Family Farm Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen; National Water Resources Association Board of Directors Member Tom Knutson; Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Chairman Leland Bill; Nez Perce Tribe Chairman Gary Dorr; Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross (invited); and Bureau of Reclamation Chief of Staff James Hess

Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'VA and Academic Affiliates: Who's Benefiting Now' Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM Joint Economic Committee hearing on the opioid crisis – Hearing on 'Economic Aspects of the Opioid Crisis', with testimony from Princeton University Professor Emeritus (and Nobel Laureate) Sir Angus Deaton; Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine; Congressional Research Service Crime Policy Analyst Dr Lisa Sacco; and Harvard Medical School Department of Health Care Policy Professor of Health Economics Dr Richard Frank Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

www.jec.senate.gov

<https://twitter.com/JointEconCmte>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on 'Hezbollah's financial network' – Hearing on 'Attacking Hezbollah's Financial Network: Policy Options', with testimony from The Washington Institute for Near East Policy Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence Director Dr Matthew Levitt; Foundation for Defense of Democracies Center on Sanctions and Illicit Finance Board of Directors member Dr David Asher; Pen-Link Executive Director of Governmental Relations Derek Maltz; and SAIS Associate Professor of Practice and Associate Director of Strategic Studies Dr Mara Karlin Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on fintech – Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on 'Disrupter Series: Improving Consumer's Financial Options With FinTech', with testimony from Center for Financial Services Innovation Vice President Jeanne Hogarth; Fenway Summer Ventures Managing Director Javier Saade; Consumer Union Staff Attorney Christina Tetreault; Coin Center Research Director Peter Van Valkenburgh Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Financial Services Committee hearing on virtual currency and national security – Terrorism and Illicit Finance Subcommittee hearing on 'Virtual Currency: Financial Innovation and National Security Implications', with testimony from Coin Center Executive Director Jerry Brito; The Identity and Payments Association President Scott Dueweke; Stanford Law School lecturer Kathryn Haun; Chainalysis co-founder Jonathan Levin; and Elliptic Vice President for Business Development-Investigations Luke Wilson Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://financialservices.house.gov>

<https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Administration Committee hearing on Library of Congress IT – Hearing on 'Oversight of the Library of Congress' Information Technology Management', with testimony from Librarian of Congress Dr Carla Hayden; and Library of Congress CIO Bernard Barton, Jr., and Inspector General Kurt Hyde Location: Rm 1310, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://cha.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAdmnGOP>

10:00 AM House Space subcommittee hearing on FY'18 NASA budget – Space Subcommittee hearing on 'An Overview of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Budget for Fiscal Year 2018', with testimony from NASA Acting Administrator Robert Lightfoot, Jr. Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://science.house.gov>

<https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on DoJ grant programs – Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on ‘Oversight of Department of Justice Grant Programs’, with testimony from Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs Alan Hanson Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:15 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on ‘the role of HHS in health care cybersecurity’ – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on ‘Examining the Role of the Department of Health and Human Services in Health Care Cybersecurity’, with testimony from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Chief Information Security Officer and Senior Privacy Official Emery Csulak; Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Preparedness and Response Office of Emergency Management Division of Resilience Director Steve Curren; and HHS Deputy Chief Information Security Officer Leo Scanlon Location: Rm 2322, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

11:30 AM President Donald Trump speaks at Faith & Freedom Coalition Conference – Faith & Freedom Coalition ‘Road to Majority’ Annual Conference, with opening day speakers including President Donald Trump, Republican Sens. Ted Cruz and David Perdue and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton * Agenda today also include Capitol Hill Townhall with House Speaker Paul Ryan, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy and Republicans Sens. Joni Ernst and John Boozman and Reps. Mark Meadows, Marsha Blackburn, Diane Black and Bob Goodlatte, Rm 50, Senate Dirksen Office Bldg., Washington DC (2:30 PM EDT) Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St NW, Washington, DC www.roadtomajority.com <https://twitter.com/FaithandFreedom>

12:00 PM House expected to vote on Financial CHOICE Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of ‘H.R. 10 – Financial CHOICE Act of 2017’ Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

1:00 PM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on DoJ oversight – Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Subcommittee hearing on ‘A Time to Reform: Oversight of the Activities of the Justice Department’s Civil, Tax and Environment and Natural Resources Divisions and the U.S. Trustee Program’, with testimony from Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division Chad Readler; Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division Jeffery Wood; Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Tax Division David Hubbert; U.S. Trustee Program Director Clifford White III; Heritage Foundation Election Law Reform Initiative Manager Hans von Spakovsky; Foley and Lardner partner Cleta Mitchell; Baker & Hostetler partner Andrew Grossman; and Public Citizen President Robert Weissman Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

1:00 PM HHS Secretary Price testifies to House Ways and Means Committee on FY’18 budget – Hearing on ‘Department of Health and Human Services’ Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Request’, with testimony from Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

1:30 PM Markup hearing on ‘H.R. XXX, the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act of 2017’ Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on ‘overgrown, fire-prone National Forests’ – Federal Lands Subcommittee oversight hearing on ‘Burdensome Litigation and Federal Bureaucratic Roadblocks to Manage our Nation’s Overgrown, Fire-Prone National Forests’, with testimony from The Lavery Group President Lyle Lavery; American Forest Resource Council General Counsel Lawson Fite; Salt River Project Director of Water Supply Bruce Hallin; and Western Environmental Law Center Staff Attorney Susan Jane Brown Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

2:00 PM House Veterans’ Affairs subcommittee hearing on GI Bill processing for student vets – Economic Opportunity Subcommittee hearing on ‘Improving the Quality and Timeliness of GI Bill Processing for Student Veterans’ Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

2:00 PM U.S. Secret Service director testifies to House Homeland Security subcommittee – Transportation and Protective Security Subcommittee hearing on 'How Can the United States Secret Service Evolve to Meet the Challenges Ahead?', with testimony from U.S. Secret Service Director Roger Alles Location: HVC 210, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

2:00 PM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on NASA budget – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'National Aeronautics and Space Administration – Budget Hearing', with testimony from NASA Acting Administrator Robert Lightfoot Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

2:30 PM House Armed Services Committee Ranking Member Adam Smith hosts 'major' press availability Location: Rm 2212, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://democrats-armedservices.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HASCDemocrats>

2:30 PM Pelosi Holds Press Conference to Reject the Wrong Choice Act – The Wrong Choice Act which would "repeal Dodd-Frank and roll back the consumer protections put in place following the 2008 financial crisis". Participants: Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi; Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer; Rep. David Cicilline, Co-Chair of the Democratic Policy and Communication Committee; Rep. Maxine Waters, Ranking Democrat on the Financial Services Committee; Rep. Dan Kildee, Vice Ranking Member on the Financial Services Committee. Contact: Contact: Ashley Etienne or Caroline Behringer, 202-226-7616 Livestreamed at: <https://www.facebook.com/HouseDemocrats/> Location: HVC Studio A (Enter through HVC-117) Capitol Visitor Center The Capitol.

Latest House Oversight Committee deadline for FBI to provide any memos made by former Director James Comey – Latest deadline set by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform for the FBI to provide the committee with all memoranda, notes, summaries, and recordings relating to any communications between former FBI Director James Comey and President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, other White House employees, the attorney general, or the deputy attorney general * Committee has accused the agency of withholding documents and citing the appointment of a special counsel to investigate Russian efforts to interfere with the 2016 U.S. presidential election as their reason * Request followed a New York Times report that said then-Director Comey memorialized the content of phone calls and meetings with President Trump, including one in which the president reportedly referenced the agency's investigation of former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn and said 'I hope you can let this go', which the committee said raises questions over whether he attempted to influence or impede the investigation Location: TBD <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

Other: 9:00 AM Bipartisan Reps. Michael Burgess and Gene Green speak on the future of the ACA – Health Affairs media briefing on 'The Future of the Affordable Care Act' with House Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman Republican Rep. Michael Burgess, Ranking Member Democratic Rep. Gene Green, Health Affairs Editor-in-Chief Alan Weil and The Commonwealth Fund President David Blumenthal Location: Reserve Officers Association, 1 Constitution Ave. NE, Washington, DC www.healthaffairs.org https://twitter.com/Health_Affairs

9:30 AM CSG Justice Center release report on combating recidivism – Council of State Governments Justice Center release report expected to demonstrate 'significant progress in combating recidivism over the last 15 years' at Capitol Hill event with Republicans Sen. Rob Portman and Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner and Democrats Sen. Cory Booker and Rep. Danny Davis Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://csgjusticecenter.org/> <https://twitter.com/csgjc>

9:30 AM Amtrak and USRC host Industry Open House on the 2nd Century Plan – Amtrak and Union Station Redevelopment Corporation host an Industry Open House to provide interested private sector individuals with updates on the 2nd Century Plan – an improvement initiative comprised of multiple projects that seeks to double passenger and train capacity over the coming decades – as well as information about the upcoming construction solicitations for near-term station and rail infrastructure improvements for Washington Union Station Location: Washington Union Station's Columbus Club, 50 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Washington, DC <http://www.amtrak.com/home> <https://twitter.com/Amtrak>

10:00 AM FCC Commissioner Clyburn speaks at ITIF on spurring broadband development – Federal Communications Commission Commissioner Mignon Clyburn speaks at the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation on 'How Municipalities and Industry Can

Collaborate to Spur Broadband Deployment', followed by panel discussion with Wireless Infrastructure Association Senior Government Affairs Counsel Van Bloys, CTC Technology & Energy President Joanne Hovis, Crown Castle Corporate Development & Strategy External Affairs Rebecca Hunter, and Montgomery County Council At-Large Member Hans Riemer Location: ITIF, 1101 K St., NW, Washington, DC www.itif.org <https://twitter.com/ITIFdc>

11:30 AM GOP Sen. John Boozman speaks at Hudson Institute on 'Strengthening America's Infrastructure' – 'Strengthening America's Infrastructure: What Next?' Hudson Institute discussion, on the importance of modernizing America's infrastructure to spur sustained economic growth and job creation and improve the quality of life for all Americans. Includes keynote from Republican Sen. John Boozman, with other speakers including Virginia Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne, FaegreBD Consulting Senior Director Charles Stitt, and Transurban North America Group General Manager Jennifer Aument Location: Hudson Institute, 1201 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC <http://www.hudson.org> <https://twitter.com/HudsonInstitute>

2:00 PM National Low Income Housing Coalition discusses study of gap between renters' wages and cost of housing – National Low Income Housing Coalition discuss 'Out of Reach 2017: The High Cost of Housing' – a study documenting 'the mismatch between renters' wages and the cost of rental housing' – via press call. Report includes the 'Housing Wage' – the hourly wage a full-time worker must earn to afford a modest rental home without spending over 30% of his or her income on housing costs – and states that 'a person working full-time must earn \$21.21 an hour to afford a decent two-bedroom rental home at the HUD-estimated Fair Market Rent and \$17.14 an hour to afford a decent one-bedroom'. Speakers include Democratic Rep. Keith Ellison, and NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel and Vice President for Research Andrew Aurand Location: TBD www.nlihc.org <https://twitter.com/NLIHC>

2:00 PM AG Sessions speaks at DoJ OIG awards – Department of Justice Office of Inspector General Annual Honorary Award Ceremony, including remarks from Attorney General Jeff Sessions Location: Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.justice.gov <https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

5:00 PM Dem Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse speaks at CSIS on 'The Kremlin Playbook' – Center for Strategic and International Studies Schieffer Series Dialogues continue with 'The Kremlin Playbook: Understanding Russian Influence', with Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, 'The Kremlin Playbook' author CSIS Europe Program Director Heather Conley, and The New York Times National Security Correspondent David Sanger Location: CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Ave, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

6:00 PM Dem Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton hosts annual Service Academy College Fair and Sendoff – Democratic Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton hosts her annual Service Academy College Fair and Sendoff, to present her ten 2017 nominees to the U.S. Service Academies and Service Academy Preparatory Schools Location: One Judiciary Square, 441 4th St. NW, Washington, DC www.norton.house.gov <https://twitter.com/EleanorNorton>

6:00 PM Annual Housing Visionary Award Gala – The National Housing Conference 45th Annual Housing Visionary Award Gala, honoring former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan, Republican Rep. Pat Tiberi, Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together Location: National Building Museum, 401 F St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.nhc.org/2015-NHC-Annual-Gala.html> <https://twitter.com/NHCandCenter>

American Constitution Society National Convention – American Constitution Society for Law and Policy 2017 National Convention, bringing together over 1,000 of the nation's leading lawyers, judges, law students, policymakers, scholars, and activists to discuss critical legal and public policy issues, and to network with lawyers and company representatives from around the country. Day one speakers include U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, and Southern Center for Human Rights President Stephen Bright Location: Capital Hilton, Washington, DC www.acslaw.org <https://twitter.com/acslaw>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: "It's the most magical night of the year because it's Comey testimony eve. I'm ready. I have the decorations up. I hung my socks up over CNN. Got to put a few more of them up. I can still see Wolf Blitzer."

Stephen Colbert: "Trump's pressure to drop the Russia investigation made Comey so uncomfortable he told Attorney General Jeff Sessions, 'Don't leave me alone with Trump.' Which is a phrase you normally hear backstage at the Miss USA pageant."

James Corden: "We Brits hold our elections similar to the way we make love. Quickly and without a lot of unnecessary emotion and followed by an apology, just seven weeks to see who gets the most votes. But in America, they are much more thorough. They take two years to see who gets the most votes. Then they elect the person who gets the second most votes. I'm kidding. They elect whoever Vladimir Putin wants."

Trevor Noah: "Reportedly, Jeff Sessions has threatened to resign. And that would be insane for two reasons. One, he was one of Trump's first big supporters in Washington. And, two, I didn't know that house elves could leave of their own accord."

Trevor Noah: "You know, getting fired at the start of the Trump Administration is like being kicked off the 'Titanic' before it sets sail."

Jimmy Fallon: "President Trump tweeted that he's nominating Christopher Wray to be the new director of the FBI and called him a man of impeccable credentials. Wray was like, 'Thanks, can I put that on my resume when you fire me?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "This is interesting, I read that Wray was actually Chris Christie's lawyer. He helped Christie with the Bridgewater scandal and also got restraining orders dropped from seven KFCs."

Jimmy Fallon: "Former FBI Director James Comey released the opening statement for his testimony tomorrow. He said that Trump once invited him out to dinner and it turned out to be just the two of them. Even worse, he made them sit on the same side of the booth. This is weird. After dinner, Comey says, Trump asked him for loyalty, and then they just looked at each other in silence. Then Melania said, 'That's what I should have done.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "So the bar is opening at 9:30 a.m. in DC for Comey's hearing and will give everyone a free round of drinks each time Trump tweets about it, which means everyone will be blacked out around 9:31 a.m."

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that today is Vice President Mike Pence's 58th birthday. That's right. But the White House is gonna leave the decorations up all week so they can celebrate Pence's inauguration."

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that President Obama visited George and Amal Clooney at their home in the UK right before Amal gave birth to their twins. I knew Obamacare was good, but I didn't know he actually showed up to deliver your baby."

Seth Meyers: "Happy birthday to Vice President Mike Pence, who turned 58 today. He made a wish and blew out the candles, and tomorrow we'll find out if James Comey can make his wish come true."

Seth Meyers: "A bar in Washington, DC will offer customers a free round of drinks every time President Trump tweets about former FBI director James Comey during his testimony tomorrow. That story again, a bar in Washington, DC is having a going-out-of-business sale."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump announced his pick for FBI director today on Twitter, and you could tell he was excited about it because he spelled 'FBI' with two fefes."

Seth Meyers: "North Korea said yesterday that the United States' decision to pull out of the Paris climate agreement is shortsighted and silly. North Korea. Man, you know your country is in trouble when a guy with that haircut is telling you to get with the times."

Seth Meyers: "For a potential upcoming meeting between President Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, it is being reported that the press may be excluded. Oh, I'm sorry, may be executed."

Conan O'Brien: "Former FBI Director James Comey apparently did not want to be left alone in a room with Donald Trump, which is why James Comey was just named an honorary Miss Universe contestant."

Conan O'Brien: "It's been reported that Attorney General Jeff Sessions has offered to resign. President Trump told him, 'That won't be necessary, I'm taking you down with me. We're going to go together.'"

Conan O'Brien: "In Utah, a woman pulled out two of her son's teeth in a Walmart bathroom. Or as that procedure will soon be known, the Trumpcare dental plan."

Copyright 2017 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.

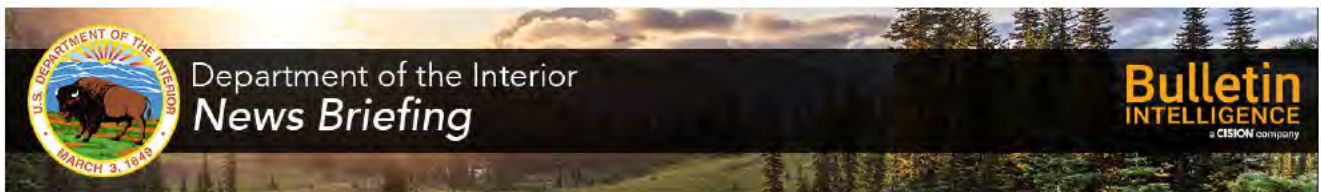
Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, June 2, 2017

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Fri Jun 02 2017 05:00:51 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, June 2, 2017

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.



DATE: FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

Today's Table Of Contents

DOI In The News

- Reuters: Trump Says U.S. To Withdraw From Paris Climate Accord.
- Nation Sun News: Secretary Zinke Still Soliciting Nominations For Royalty Committee.
- CNN: CNN Analysis: Administration Avoids Saying "Climate Change."
- Washington Post: DOJ IG Finds Problems With Department's Response To Sexual Misconduct Allegations.
- E&E Publishing: Additional Coverage: With New Actions, Zinke Says Alaska Is 'Open For Business'.
- Cordova (AK) Times: Additional Coverage: Wackowski Is New Senior Adviser For Interior Department.
- Free Press (ME): King Urges Interior Secretary To Reaffirm Designation Of Katahdin Woods And Waters National Monument.
- Idaho Statesman: Note To Washington: Public Lands Trump Partisanship In These Parts.
- The Hill: Secretary Zinke: Listen To Native Tribes, Not Corporations.
- Albuquerque (NM) Journal: Wild Places Are The True Source Of America's Values.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Washington Times: Budget Cut Would Send Wild Horses To Slaughterhouse, Says Activist.
- Salem (OR) Capital Press: Idaho Cattle Industry OK With Proposed Craters Grazing Plan.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Boise River Flows Go Higher From Increased Snowmelt.

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

- Our Views: More Oil, Safely Drilled.
- Opinion: Excellent Pick For Agency Director.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- USA Today: Environmental Group Targets Border Wall, Says Prototypes Will Imperil Desert Species.

- Helena (MT) Independent Record: Yellowstone Grizzlies Await Delisting Rule, Possibly In June.
- Missoulian (MT): Grizzly Carcass Dumped In Stillwater River.

National Park Service

- Newsmax: National Parks Spending \$287K On Climate Change Internships.
- Washington Times: Republican-linked Developer Says Indiana Dunes Work To Begin.
- U.S. News & World Report: Grand Teton's Jenny Lake In Final Year Of Renovation.
- U.S. News & World Report: Study: Focus On Elk In Yellowstone Brucellosis Fight.
- U.S. News & World Report: Proposed Bike Route In Western Iowa Would Span 6 Counties.
- Los Angeles Times: The Lottery Is Now Open For Permits To Hike Yosemite's Iconic Half Dome This Summer.

Office Of Surface Mining

- Trump's Loyalty To Coal Is Bad For Taxpayers.

US Geological Survey

- Natural Gas Intelligence: USGS Finds Too Little Methane In Water Wells From Natural Gas Drilling To Worry About.
- Daily Mail: Big Sur Landslide Added 13 Acres To California's Coastline.
- Alabama Live: Dreaded White-nose Syndrome Confirmed In Alabama Bat Species For First Time.

Top National News

- Associated Press: Administration Asks Supreme Court To Reinstate Trump's Immigration Order.
- USA Today: Nunes: Media Ignoring "Unmasking" Of Trump Campaign Aides.
- Wall Street Journal: Comey To Testify Before Senate Intel Panel June 8.
- Politico: Politico Analysis: Trump Says Nonexistent Tax Bill Advancing Through Congress.
- Reuters: Mnuchin Confident Congress Will Raise Debt Limit.
- USA Today: Demographer Projects Massive Population Shifts From Climate Change.
- McClatchy: Climate Change Presents National Security Threat.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "Our Disgraceful Exit From The Paris Accord."
- Washington Post.
 - "Trump Turns His Back On The World."
 - "The White House Just Took A Step Forward On Transparency. Time For Some More."
 - "The World's Biggest Muslim Majority Nation Grapples With Rising Radicalism."
- Wall Street Journal:
 - "Trump Bids Paris Adieu."
 - "The Trump Jerusalem Waiver."
 - "Ireland's Reform Example."

Big Picture

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Washington Schedule

- Today's Events In Washington.

Last Laughs

- Late Night Political Humor.

DOI In The News

Trump Says U.S. To Withdraw From Paris Climate Accord.

The President's announcement of his decision to withdraw from the Paris climate accord unleashed furious condemnation from media analysts, Democrats, climate activists and foreign dignitaries. The story led all three major network newscasts – which gave it nearly 20 minutes

of combined airtime – and replaced the Russia investigation as the main topic of discussion on cable. Media analyses disputed Trump's rationale for leaving the accord and accused him of downgrading the US' role as a global leader – as well as of endangering the planet's very survival. [Reuters](#) (6/1, Volcovici), for example, reports that "with Trump's action, the United States will walk away from nearly every nation in the world on one of the pressing global issues of the 21st century," aligning itself only with "Syria and Nicaragua." The [New York Times](#) (6/1, A1, Shear), meanwhile, refers to "a remarkable rebuke to fellow heads-of-state, climate activists, corporate executives and members of the president's own staff," and the [Washington Post](#) (6/1, A1, Rucker, Mooney) to a decision that "risks rupturing global alliances." [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (6/1, story 2, 2:10, Guthrie) warned viewers that the effects of climate change will "worsen...now that the US...plans to pull out of the...agreement."

Typical of the tenor of much of the commentary was Fareed Zakaria, who said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (6/1) that "the United States...has been the leader of the world," but with Trump's move it "almost resigned" from that role. Brian Williams, on [MSNBC](#) 📺 (6/1), called Trump's speech "dark," and on [Twitter](#), Nicholas Kristof wrote, "If somebody drives drunk, we arrest him. If he drives national policy recklessly, threatening our planet, we just call him 'Mr. President.'" Politico editor-in-chief Blake Hounshell somberly [tweeted](#), "Paris is going to be America's Brexit." The [Huffington Post](#) (6/1, Kaufman), meanwhile, headlined its lead story "Liar, Liar, Planet Of Fire," and the [Washington Free Beacon](#) (6/1, Griswold) reports that "billionaire environmentalist and Democratic donor Tom Steyer even said that Trump's actions were an act of war against the American people."

As the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/1, Mascaro) reports, however, "reaction to...Trump's decision...broke swiftly along partisan lines," and most Republicans supported the President – as did conservative media. Thus the [Washington Examiner](#) (6/1, Adams) quipped that "politicos and media pundits" weighed in "with over-the-top hyperbole worthy of a street corner end times preacher," Trish Regan warned viewers on [Fox News' Special Report](#) 📺 (6/1) that they should get ready to "hear a lot of hysteria...from many members of the left," and Steve Hayes the Weekly Standard, also on [Fox News' Special Report](#) 📺 (6/1), said that "the hysteria from the left...is not just because...Trump is president, but it's based on policy." Trump critic Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) 📺 (6/1), "I'm all in favor of an international treaty on climate and on controlling emission of CO2, but Paris wasn't that."

With most of the reporting focused on criticism of Trump, nearly all news accounts on Trump's White House remarks highlighted his statement, "I was elected to represent the citizens of Pittsburgh, not Paris." The [Drudge Report](#), in fact, led with a "Pittsburgh, not Paris" banner – which linked to a similarly-headlined [AP](#) (6/1, Colvin, Pace) dispatch posted on the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's](#) website. Jim Acosta said on [CNN's The Lead](#) 📺 (6/1) that Trump's remarks "seemed to come out of the Steve Bannon playbook," and "when you hear the President use words like 'I represent the citizens of Pittsburgh, not Paris,' you have an announcement that is steeped in campaign rhetoric." Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto took to [Twitter](#) shortly afterwards, however, and wrote, "Fact: Hillary Clinton received 80% of the vote in Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh stands with the world & will follow Paris Agreement."

Asked on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) 📺 (6/1) if he has a message for the President, Peduto said last night, "What you did was not only bad for the economy of this country, but also weakened America in this world." Reporting on the reaction to Trump's move by area officials, the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (6/2, Hopey) reports the President "received some support from elected officials in Western Pennsylvania," though "in most cases, the battle lines were drawn along party lines." Among those defending Trump were Reps. Mike Kelly and Keith Rothfus.

[USA Today](#) (6/1, Korte) says "Trump did not deny the scientific consensus that rising global temperatures" pose "a threat to the planet," though "he has previously called that science 'B.S.' and 'an expensive hoax' perpetrated by the Chinese." Rather, the President "complained that other countries had attached too many conditions to their voluntary agreements," and said, "In short, the agreement doesn't eliminate coal jobs, it just transfers those jobs out of America and the United States, and ships them to foreign countries." In its lead story, the [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (6/1, lead story, 3:20, Mason) similarly reported that "this time," Trump "did not call climate change a hoax, but said he is reasserting American sovereignty, and suggested he's willing to negotiate what he sees as a better deal." Likewise,

the [New York Times](#) (6/1, Landler, Plumer, Qiu) indicates that "one thing Mr. Trump did not do in the Rose Garden on Thursday afternoon was question the underlying science behind climate change." Instead, he "suggested the 194-nation accord did not go far enough in stemming the rise in global temperatures because of greenhouse gas emissions."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/1, Westwood) quotes Trump as also calling "the agreement...a massive redistribution of United States wealth to other countries," and indicating that "foreign leaders 'went wild' when the Obama administration agreed to the Paris deal because they knew its terms would hamstring the US economy." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/1, A1, Stokols, Ballhaus) quotes Trump as saying, "This agreement is less about the climate and more about other countries gaining a financial advantage over the US." An [AP](#) (6/1, Ritter) analysis disagrees with Trump, and reports that the accord "in many ways was designed to ensure the participation of the United States." For example, "the deal's transparency rules...reflect US priorities," and "even the legal structure of the deal has American fingerprints."

[USA Today](#) (6/1, Rice) reports that Nathaniel Keohane of the Environmental Defense Fund said yesterday "the US might as well put up a 'closed for business' sign up across America," which "would signal an American leadership retreat." Jake Schmidt of the Natural Resource Defense Council similarly "said that 'stepping back from such a historic agreement means we're not prepared to be leaders on the global stage.'"

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/1, Halper, Zavis) refers to "a statement of unabashed nationalism as he turned away from a global leadership role in the fight against climate change." The [New York Post](#) (6/1, Fredericks) describes Trump as "fulfilling a campaign promise" but "alarming other world leaders and even going against the wishes of fossil fuel giants like Exxon and BP."

[Roll Call](#) (6/1, Nawaguna) reports "Trump said the US will also immediately stop contributing to the Green Climate Fund, a United Nations-affiliated organization that helps developing nations adapt to and mitigate the harmful effects of climate change." [Politico](#) (6/1, Restuccia, Adragna, Dawsey) notes, however, that Trump "said he'd be willing to re-enter an international climate deal if he could secure better terms for the United States." [Bloomberg News](#) (6/1, Dlouhy) quotes the President as saying, "So we are getting out, but we will start to negotiate and we will see if we can make a deal, and if we can, that's great. And if we can't, that's fine."

[McClatchy](#) (6/1, Kumar, Ordoñez) reports "Republicans and conservative groups immediately cheered the decision." Said Speaker Ryan, "The Paris climate agreement was simply a raw deal for America. ... Signed by President Obama without Senate ratification, it would have driven up the cost of energy, hitting middle-class and low-income Americans the hardest." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/1, Mascaro) reports Senate Majority Leader McConnell "applauded Trump 'for dealing yet another significant blow to the Obama Administration's assault on domestic energy production and jobs,'" and "coal-state lawmakers, including Rep. Alex Mooney (R-WV), were thrilled to attend the White House announcement at the Rose Garden." There were, however, "several Republicans, including Rep. Carlos Curbelo, who represents a swing district in South Florida, and Sen. Susan Collins, the centrist from Maine," who "opposed Trump's decision."

Curbelo said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/1), "This is a strategic mistake and something that really sets us back. ... We're already seeing the effects of salt water intrusion into the Everglades which threatens our drinking water supply. We're also seeing coastal properties under threat, real estate, billions and billions of dollars. So down here in south Florida we understand that the environment and the economy are one and the same." Asked why so many Republicans do not see climate change as a problem, Curbelo said, "Regrettably this issue has been politicized. The polarization is out of control. I really think it dates back to when former Vice President Gore adopted this cause. Back then a lot of Republicans just assumed that they must be against whatever Mr. Gore was discussing at the time."

Sen. Roger Wicker, writing for [USA Today](#) (6/1), says the agreement "stood in the way of...Trump's efforts to eliminate these costly carbon dioxide rules. But this would be the least of its harm. A report released in March by NERA Economic Consulting suggests that the climate deal could cost the US economy nearly \$3 trillion and more than 6 million industrial sector jobs by 2040." To Wicker, "The Paris deal would have threatened our country's prosperity."

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, meanwhile, said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/1) that the

message Trump is sending "to the rest of the world is that the United States is abdicating leadership here. No one who abandons the field can fight and win and the United States essentially is going to sidelines." Rep. Jackie Speier said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/1) that Trump "has made himself totally irrelevant," adding that the "biggest thing that has happened as a result of this action today is that our international relations with our European friends is in shambles."

Tucker Carlson said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (6/1), "We are no longer, obviously, talking about science here. What you're watching is a priesthood defending its faith. The essence of science, meanwhile, is skepticism. That's relentlessly testing what you think you know to make certain you actually know it. ... That's not happening here. It's not allowed. Press for explanations as to what they are talking about and you're attacked as immoral, a denier. The matter is settled. Every word immutable and holy. Questions equal apostasy. Shut up and believe."

Trump Withdraws U.S. From Paris Agreement; Andrew Cuomo, Barack Obama, Scott Pruitt, More Respond. [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (6/1) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "America's energy and economic destiny should be up to the United States, not the United Nations." Zinke praised Trump for taking "bold and decisive action to pull the U.S. out of the poorly negotiated Paris Accord that would kill American jobs and manufacturing while doing little to protect the environment."

Pence, Pruitt, Perry Defend Trump's Decision. Vice President Pence said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (6/1) that Trump "has demonstrated his commitment not just to keep his word, but to put American workers, American consumers, American energy and the American people first. This was a bad deal from the moment it was signed by the last Administration. It is an international treaty that was never submitted to the Senate probably because it never would have had a chance there. This is an agreement that puts an enormous burden on Americans consumers, on the American economy while allowing countries like India and China to virtually get off scot-free for a decade or more." The President "made a decision to fulfill his word to the American people to get out of the Paris accord, but also to leave the door open to the possibility of negotiating a completely new deal or going back into the agreement under terms that will put the American economy and the American people first."

EPA Administrator Pruitt said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/1), "We are leading the world with respect to innovation and technology and reducing our CO2 footprint. This agreement was truly about putting America second or last. It was not about learning from what America is doing. It was about putting constraints on the economy as the President talked about. This is not an agreement or a decision with respect to engagement on CO2. America is going to continue engage on CO2. We are going to export innovation and technology. We are going to continue our seat at the table and negotiating with the nations across the globe but with the attitude of putting our interests first, making sure we don't penalize ourselves."

Later in the interview, Pruitt was asked if Trump believes climate change is a hoax. He answered, "This is not about whether climate change is occurring or not. This is about making sure that America, as we renegotiate CO2 reductions, that we do so with an America first approach. That's why it was a bad deal for this country when it was signed. It is a bad deal today. It puts us at economic disadvantage. The President has said unequivocally that he is committed to continuing the discussions about CO2 reductions but with America at the forefront in those discussions."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/1, Zavis) reports Energy Secretary Perry said, "Today the president announced that the United States will no longer be bound by an agreement unilaterally entered into by the Obama administration. This was neither submitted to nor ratified by the U.S. Senate, and is not in the best long term economic interest of the United States." He added, "Instead of preaching about clean energy, this administration will act on it. Our work and deeds are more important than empty words. I know you can drive economic growth and protect the environment at the same time, because that is exactly what I did as governor of Texas."

The [AP](#) (6/1) reports Perry, who is on a nine-day trip to Japan and China, "said from Tokyo that the U.S. will continue to develop 'next generation technology' in energy, including nuclear energy, liquefied natural gas and renewables such as wind and solar power." Also mentioning Perry's words are [Politico](#) (6/1) and [CBS News](#) (6/1).

The Paris Accord Withdrawal Is a Win For the Coal Industry. But It Probably Won't Bring Back

Jobs. [Fortune](#) (6/1, Abramson) reports, "There is shaky evidence" that withdrawing from the Paris agreement will lead to more coal mining jobs. Even without the Clean Power Plan, "experts say larger market forces – like the increasing use of natural gas and renewable energy – will prevail." James Van Nostrand, a law professor at West Virginia University and the Director of the school's Center for Energy and Sustainable Development, said, "Environmental regulations have a small impact on economics. You make environmental regulations go away, it doesn't change anything at all."

Secretary Zinke Still Soliciting Nominations For Royalty Committee.

The [Nation Sun News](#) (6/1) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "still seeking nominations for a new royalty policy committee." Zinke "re-established the committee in March to advise him on mineral policy and leasing issues on Indian and federal lands." The Interior Department has "twice extended the deadline for nominations, with the latest to be announced in the Federal Register on Friday."

CNN Analysis: Administration Avoids Saying "Climate Change."

[CNN](#) (6/2, Green) reports that rather than claim climate change is not happening or that "global warming isn't real", "there is an administration-wide reluctance to avoid the topic altogether." Indeed, CNN adds, the Administration "has repeatedly circumvented any mention of those key little words." CNN also report that though the White House says it favors increased study of the climate, it has "cut much of the major funding that would go towards the studies."

DOJ IG Finds Problems With Department's Response To Sexual Misconduct Allegations.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/1, Rein) reports that the Justice Department "faces 'potentially significant and recurring' problems in its handling of sexual harassment claims, the agency's watchdog said Thursday, weaknesses that are watering down enforcement of its zero-tolerance policy toward employee misconduct." DOJ Inspector General Michael E. Horowitz, "in a harsh report on how managers in Justice's Civil Division handle accusations of workplace sexual harassment, found 'systemic' issues and inconsistent policies for tracking, investigating and reporting cases," and "as a result, it said, there were weak, often inequitable penalties for employees with documented misconduct." The article notes that "the issue has dogged at least one other agency, the Interior Department, where widespread harassment in the National Park Service has prompted an agency-wide survey of 70,000 employees to gauge the extent of the problem and the effectiveness of the government's response."

Additional Coverage: With New Actions, Zinke Says Alaska Is 'Open For Business'.

Additional coverage that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Wednesday "unveiled plans to update the government's resource assessment for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and to open new sections of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska to oil and gas leasing" was provided by [E&E Publishing](#) (6/1, Hobson), the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (6/1, Siciliano), [Newsweek](#) (6/1, Main), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (6/1, Passut), [Newsmax](#) (6/1, Swanson), [Breitbart](#) (6/1, Starr), [Oil and Gas Investor](#) (6/1), [Stars And Stripes](#) (6/1, DLOUHY), and [E&P Magazine](#) (6/1).

Additional Coverage: Wackowski Is New Senior Adviser For Interior Department.

Additional coverage that Steve Wackowski, "who most recently managed the reelection campaign for Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, was named May 30 to be senior adviser for Alaska affairs to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke," was provided by the [Cordova \(AK\) Times](#) (6/1) and [Coastal Television \(AK\)](#) (6/1, Athens).

King Urges Interior Secretary To Reaffirm Designation Of Katahdin Woods And Waters National Monument.

The [Free Press \(ME\)](#) (6/1) published Sen. Angus King's May 25 letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. In the letter, King urged Zinke to reconfirm the designation of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

Note To Washington: Public Lands Trump Partisanship In These Parts.

In an op-ed for the [Idaho Statesman](#) (6/1, Johnson), Rick Johnson, the executive director of

the Idaho Conservation League, welcomes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to Idaho. While "Idaho is a conservative place," Johnson says that Idaho also "loves its public lands." Johnson acknowledges that "we all have different ideas of how parts of it should be managed," but writes that "we've done a pretty good job of trying to figure that out, working together." He concludes that "while we all recognize our rural neighbors are sometimes struggling, Idaho overall is doing pretty well, in part, because of our access to a great quality of life, brought to us by our public lands."

Secretary Zinke: Listen To Native Tribes, Not Corporations.

Bernadette Demientieff, executive director of the Gwich'in Steering Committee, writes in the Pundits Blog for [The Hill](#) (6/1, Demientieff) urging Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to listen to Native tribes in Alaska, and not just corporations. Demientieff says that the destruction to Native homeland should not be sacrificed for short-term financial gain. She says that the Gwich'in "people are alarmed. We see the changes in our climate, our land, our animals and our way of life. Villages are falling into the sea, permafrost melt is making infrastructure insecure and food sources are disappearing."

Wild Places Are The True Source Of America's Values.

In an op-ed for the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/2, Zedalis), University Of Tulsa Law Professor Rex J. Zedalis writes that "those who urge encroachment on our national monuments, parks, recreation areas or public lands overlook a central truth about America and its big-hearted, industrious and creative people." Zedalis argues that "liberty, opportunity and free thought" grow "out of a sense of complete openness, a sense of an absence of parameters, a sense of the immense scale of time, a sense of ancient and even primordial beginnings." He asserts that "these are the sources of the fundamental values that represent our great country."

Bureau Of Land Management

Budget Cut Would Send Wild Horses To Slaughterhouse, Says Activist.

The [Washington Times](#) (6/1, Sherfinski) reports that "activists are warning the country to brace for mass horse slaughters after President Trump's new budget called for axing \$10 million from the government's wild horse management program." The Interior Department's proposal "to cut costs by allowing unrestricted sales of excess wild horses on federal lands could ultimately send thousands of them to slaughter," according to Suzanne Roy, executive director of the American Wild Horse Campaign. Roy said, "It would be nice if President Trump could step in here, because it's hard to imagine that someone who wants to make America great would support destroying the symbols of American freedom and greatness."

Idaho Cattle Industry OK With Proposed Craters Grazing Plan.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (6/1, O'Connell) reports that Idaho Cattle Association President Jerald Raymond "believes the Bureau of Land Management did a reasonable job in drafting its preferred plan to govern grazing of roughly 275,000 acres within Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve." Raymond said, "We actually think it's a pretty good plan they put forth as far as the preferred alternative." Grazing opponents such as the conservation group Western Watersheds Project, however, "vow to formally challenge the plan, arguing it doesn't adequately protect the environment and native sage grouse within the federally protected ancient lava flows."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Boise River Flows Go Higher From Increased Snowmelt.

The [Idaho Statesman](#) (6/1, Sowell) reports that "the amount of water flowing through the Boise River is expected to reach its highest level this year on Friday, after additional water is released from Lucky Peak Dam in two stages." The Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers "released an extra 500 cubic feet per second beginning late Thursday morning." Then "a few hours later, the agencies announced that an additional 500 cfs will be released beginning at 8 a.m. Friday morning."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Our Views: More Oil, Safely Drilled.

In an editorial, the [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (6/1) says that newly appointed Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement director Scott Angelle will "have his hands full." The paper warns about "political polarization" and that critics of President Trump are "apt to blame him if another safety problem of any major scale comes along." Also, "reversing the 'red tape' that Angelle now criticizes will be difficult and require a lot of hard work." But the paper is "heartened that the industry and Angelle are continuing to make the case that energy development should be both robust and safe."

Opinion: Excellent Pick For Agency Director.

In an op-ed for the [Thibodaux \(LA\) Daily Comet](#) (6/2, Comeaux), Shane Comeaux calls the pick for Scott Angelle to lead the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement a "home run." Comeaux lists "three areas of focus" for Angelle so that "U.S. energy dominance can become a reality." Comeaux urges Angelle to tackle "required burdensome paperwork," "unclear regulations in the permit process," and "a focused effort toward more offshore drilling."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Environmental Group Targets Border Wall, Says Prototypes Will Imperil Desert Species.

[USA Today](#) (6/1, Loomis) reports that the Center for Biological Diversity will "file the third in what promises to be a string of environmental legal challenges to President Trump's border wall plans." The group on Thursday "filed a required notice of its intent to sue the Department of Homeland Security over plans to hire contractors to build 30-foot-long prototypes of reinforced concrete or other materials this summer near San Diego." The organization claims that "such construction north of an existing border fence would harm several legally protected endangered species...and the government has provided no documents assessing or disputing that point."

Yellowstone Grizzlies Await Delisting Rule, Possibly In June.

The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (6/1, Chaney) reports that the proposed removal of grizzly bears from federal Endangered Species Act protection "remains in hibernation." Chris Servheen, who retired last year as the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee's recovery coordinator, said, "It's very unusual to have change of administration and all this time with nobody knowing what's going on. The Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM (Bureau of Land Management), National Park Service – nobody's got any directors. And if this gets politically directed instead of following the biological decision, things are going to go south." However, "the lack of an appointed agency director would not affect progress on the delisting effort, said Gavin Shire, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service chief of Public Affairs." Shire said, "We can produce a rule with an acting director. Jim Kurth, who was one of our two deputy directors, has assumed the role of acting director as of January 20. We're still hoping for publication (of a final rule) this spring or early summer."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Yellowstone Insider](#) (6/1, Reichard).

Grizzly Carcass Dumped In Stillwater River.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (6/1, Chaney) reports that "someone dumped a male grizzly bear's carcass in the Stillwater River near Whitefish, and state and federal wildlife officials have started an investigation." Boaters discovered "the bear in the water on May 28." U.S. Fish and Wildlife agents "believe the bear may have been dumped from the Farm to Market Road Bridge into the Stillwater west of Whitefish sometime between May 25 and 28."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (6/1), [Montana Public Radio](#) (6/1, Hegyi), and [KPAX-TV Missoula \(MT\)](#) Missoula, MT (6/1).

National Park Service

National Parks Spending \$287K On Climate Change Internships.

[Newsmax](#) (6/1, Crowe) reports that the National Park Service is “spending \$287,308 on an internship program for college students to learn about producing messages to communicate the impact of climate change, according to a grant notice reported by the Washington Free Beacon.” George Mason University is partnering with the NPS on the program, “which provides students with paid internships to produce videos, websites, infographics, and other items, according to the program’s website.”

Republican-linked Developer Says Indiana Dunes Work To Begin.

The [AP](#) (6/1, Slodysko) reports that “a Republican Party official with a lucrative privatization deal to redevelop an aging pavilion at Indiana Dunes State Park plans to forge ahead with the project, which was in limbo amid numerous setbacks, and hopes to break ground in the coming months.” Steve Patterson, a spokesman for the group Pavilion Partners, whose principal, Chuck Williams, is treasurer of the Indiana Republican Party, said, “As we continue to work with both the state of Indiana and our architects, we anticipate final renderings to be available in late June. Once we receive feedback from the state, we hope to begin renovation of the pavilion around Labor Day.” Emily Ferguson, a National Park Service compliance official, “said the state has yet to submit paperwork that would clear the way for the construction of the banquet facility.” However, “she says the federal agency does not have a say over work on the pavilion.”

Grand Teton’s Jenny Lake In Final Year Of Renovation.

The [AP](#) (6/1) reports that “this year marks the final summer of construction at one of the most popular destinations in Grand Teton National Park in northwest Wyoming.” Grand Teton spokesman Andrew White noted that “this season’s work at Jenny Lake is the fourth and final major construction phase on an \$18 million renovation project.” According to White, “all the visitor services are open at the lake but visitors might encounter altered access routes.”

Study: Focus On Elk In Yellowstone Brucellosis Fight.

The [AP](#) (6/1) reports that “a new study says wildlife managers should worry more about elk than bison as they seek to reduce the transmission of brucellosis to cattle in the area around Yellowstone National Park.” The report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine suggests agencies “should consider reducing the elk population through hunting, contraception and removing infected elk.” It also recommends “reducing the use of supplemental elk feeding grounds in Wyoming during the winter.”

Proposed Bike Route In Western Iowa Would Span 6 Counties.

The [AP](#) (6/1) reports that “officials from six western Iowa counties are working together to mark a 209-mile bicycle route that would run from Woodbury County to Fremont County.” The Frontier Iowa Trails Network is working on the designation of the Lewis and Clark Today Route. Brian Leaders of the National Park Service and others are “raising money for installation of the route’s signs, which is expected to cost \$200,000.”

The Lottery Is Now Open For Permits To Hike Yosemite’s Iconic Half Dome This Summer.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/1, Forgione) reports that the lottery for a Half Dome hiking permit has started. According to the article, “the cables that guide hikers the last 400 feet to the top of the Yosemite high point will be in place starting Friday.”

Office Of Surface Mining

Trump’s Loyalty To Coal Is Bad For Taxpayers.

In a piece for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (6/1, Zukoski), Ted Zukoski, an attorney with Earthjustice, criticizes President Trump’s executive order “which lifted the Obama administration’s moratorium on coal leasing on public lands.” He argues that reform is “badly needed” because “there is now little or no meaningful competitive bidding for federal coal leases.” According to Zukoski, “Trump’s order gutted a process meant to ensure that the coal-leasing program, last revised in the 1980s, generates a fair return for Americans and protects the environment.”

US Geological Survey

USGS Finds Too Little Methane In Water Wells From Natural Gas Drilling To Worry About.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (6/1, Fisher) reports that "a new study by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) said natural gas drilling in the Eagle Ford, Fayetteville and Haynesville shales is not a significant source of methane or benzene found in drinking water wells located in areas of drilling operations." However, the agency "said it could take decades before the effects of unconventional oil and natural gas production on groundwater in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas is fully known." The study is the first of these areas "to systematically determine the presence of benzene and methane in drinking water wells near unconventional oil and gas production areas in relation to the age of the groundwater," USGS said. USGS hydrologist Peter McMahon, study lead, said, "Understanding the occurrence of methane and benzene in groundwater in the context of groundwater age is useful because it allows us to assess whether the hydrocarbons were from surface or subsurface sources. The ages indicate groundwater moves relatively slowly in these aquifers. Decades or longer may be needed to fully assess the effects of unconventional oil and gas production activities on the quality of groundwater used for drinking water."

Additional coverage was provided by [World Oil](#).

Big Sur Landslide Added 13 Acres To California's Coastline.

The [Daily Mail](#) (6/1, Wilkinson) reports that "when California suffered its biggest-ever mudslide on May 20, it lost a quarter of a mile of Highway 1 near to a terrifying torrent of rock and dirt." However, "it also gained a massive 13 acres of coastline – the equivalent of ten football fields, comprising an estimated 71 million cubic feet of collapsed earth – the US Geological Survey (USGS) has revealed." USGS research geologist Jonathan Warrick "led the project, using aerial photos taken out of the window of a Cessna plane on May 27 to calculate the extent of the collapse." Warrick "found that the equivalent of 2 million cubic meters of rock and dirt – that's 70 million cubic feet, or 200,000 dump trucks' worth of soil – had fallen on the road from as far as 1,100 feet above."

Dreaded White-nose Syndrome Confirmed In Alabama Bat Species For First Time.

[Alabama Live](#) (6/1, Pillion) reports that white-nose syndrome has "been confirmed for the first time in a species called the southeastern bat, according to the U.S. Geological Survey." According to the article, "the infected southeastern bat was found in a cave in Shelby County, and is the first member of its species (*Myotis austroriparius*) confirmed to have white-nose syndrome and the first infected bat of any species found in Shelby County." A USGS lab confirmed the test results this week.

Top National News

Administration Asks Supreme Court To Reinstate Trump's Immigration Order.

The [AP](#) (6/1) reports that in a filing Thursday, the Justice Department asked the Supreme Court to reinstate the Trump Administration's "ban on travelers from six mostly Muslim countries." The Department argues in its filing "that the federal appeals court in Richmond, Virginia, made several mistakes in ruling against the Trump travel policy," and that "the nation will be safer if the policy is put in place."

Nunes: Media Ignoring "Unmasking" Of Trump Campaign Aides.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes, who said in April he would step aside from his panel's Russia investigation, argued Thursday that the media is ignoring former intelligence officials' "unmasking" of Trump campaign aides while focusing on possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russian officials.

[USA Today](#) (6/1, Kelly) highlights a [tweet](#) from Nunes Thursday in which he wrote "Seeing a lot of fake news from media elites and others who have no interest in violations of Americans' civil liberties via unmaskings," and says it "echoed" a Thursday morning [tweet](#) from the President, who wrote, "The big story is the 'unmasking and surveillance' of people that took

place during the Obama Administration." While USA Today says Democrats "have largely dismissed" the "unmasking" issue as "an attempt to divert attention from possible collusion by Trump campaign officials with the Russians," [Politico](#) (6/1, Nelson) says "unmasking and other surveillance activities have been a larger priority for the president in the months since he took office. He has accused Obama administration officials of using the unmasking process for political purposes to target Trump campaign and transition officials."

Meanwhile, [McClatchy](#) (5/31, Schofield) says Nunes appears to have "launched an investigation of his own" into the unmasking issue, citing reports from "various news outlets" that the intelligence committee "had subpoenaed three former Obama administration officials," former UN Ambassador Samantha Power, former National Security Adviser Susan Rice and former CIA Director John Brennan, "to address Nunes' allegations." A senior committee aide wrote in an email, "If the reports are accurate, subpoenas related to the 'unmasking' issue would have been sent by Chairman Nunes acting separately from the committee's Russia investigation. ... This action would have been taken without the minority's agreement. Any prior requests for information would have been undertaken without the minority's knowledge." However, another aide "disputed that account, saying that 'the minority was fully informed and consulted in accordance with committee rules.'"

The [Washington Times](#) (6/1, Boylan, Taylor) says this is "the first time that Ms. Power has been reported as a possible witness in the ongoing congressional Russia probes." Andrew C. McCarthy writes in a piece for [National Review](#) (6/1) that "were a pattern of unmasking established, divorced from any proper foreign-intelligence purpose, that would be a profound abuse of power in the nature of a 'high crime and misdemeanor' – the Constitution's predicate for impeachment."

The [New York Times](#) (6/1, Huetteman) reports that Rep. Adam Schiff, the ranking Democrat on the committee, "strongly criticized" Nunes Thursday "for refusing to give up his subpoena power over the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election less than two months after announcing he would step away from the inquiry." Schiff said, "When someone says they're going to recuse themselves or step aside from the investigation, you have to expect that they're not going to insist on having final approval over subpoenas, one of the most important tools of an investigation." [Politico](#) (6/1, Wright, Conway) reports that Schiff "said Thursday that he was only informed of Nunes' subpoenas the night before they went out."

[Reuters](#) (6/1) says that in an interview on [MSNBC](#) (6/1) Thursday, Schiff "accused" Nunes of violating his recusal by issuing the subpoenas. Schiff said, "Commitments to recuse himself have not been fully honored," and "added that he and Republican Representative Michael Conaway, the top Republican now leading the panel's probe into alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. election, would not be distracted from their investigation." The [Washington Post](#) (6/1, Demirjian) quotes Schiff as saying, "I think [subpoenas are] part of the White House desire to shift attention away from the Russia probe and on to the issue of unmasking. ... But Mr. Conaway and I are determined not to lose our focus on the Russian investigation, and so we plod on, keeping our eyes on what has to be done, and unwilling to let this other stuff distract us."

Comey To Testify Before Senate Intel Panel June 8.

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr and ranking member Mark Warner announced Thursday that former FBI Director Comey will testify publicly before their panel on June 8 as part of its investigation into Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election and possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russian officials.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/1, Tau) reports that Comey's public testimony will be followed by a closed session in the afternoon. The [Washington Times](#) (6/1, Noble) says the hearing will be Comey's "first opportunity to testify in public since he was fired by President Trump last month," and [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/1, story 5, 0:20, Muir) said Comey is "expected to answer questions about his one-on-one meetings with President Trump and the memos he kept."

[USA Today](#) (6/1, Kelly) says that the testimony, which is "expected to be explosive," could "do major damage to a White House already shaken by five separate investigations into possible collusion between Trump's campaign aides and Russian officials." Rep. Jackie Speier similarly said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/1) that Comey's testimony will come in "probably...the most explosive and most watched hearing since Watergate." She thinks he'll be

asked questions related to whether Trump "obstructed the investigation that was ongoing around Michael Flynn."

[Reuters](#) (6/1, Heavey) says the hearing "could be difficult for President Donald Trump," and [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/1, Dennis) anticipates "intense questioning" of Comey over "what Trump said to him about the Russia investigation before the president fired him on May 9." Comey's testimony, Bloomberg adds, "is sure to be a pivotal event in Trump's already tumultuous presidency."

[USA Today](#) (6/1, Kelly) says that the testimony, which is "expected to be explosive," could "do major damage to a White House already shaken by five separate investigations into possible collusion between Trump's campaign aides and Russian officials." Rep. Jackie Speier similarly said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/1) that Comey's testimony will come in "probably...the most explosive and most watched hearing since Watergate." She thinks he'll be asked questions related to whether Trump "obstructed the investigation that was ongoing around Michael Flynn."

A [New York Times](#) (6/1, Savage) analysis questions whether Trump should "invoke executive privilege to try to block Mr. Comey from talking" and considers "the issues that would be raised by applying executive privilege in this case," while the [Washington Times](#) (6/1, Boylan) looks back on the files late-FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover kept in his home, calling them "the most powerful archive of blackmail material on presidents, politicians and pundits compiled in American history." The Times says "the whereabouts of Mr. Comey's files" is among "the most urgent questions lawmakers on Capitol Hill will have for Mr. Trump's next choice to head the bureau."

FBI, Congress Examining Possible Meeting Between Trump, Sessions, Kushner, and Kislyak. Under the headline, "Did Trump, Kushner, Sessions Have An Undisclosed Meeting With Russian?," [NBC News](#) (6/1, Dilanian) reports on its website that that according to "multiple officials," the FBI and Congress are looking into "a campaign event last spring during which Donald Trump, Jeff Sessions and Jared Kushner were in a small gathering with Russian ambassador to the US Sergey Kislyak and other diplomats at Washington's Mayflower Hotel." NBC says "five current and former US officials said they are aware of classified intelligence suggesting there was some sort of private encounter between Trump and his aides and the Russian envoy, despite a heated denial from Sessions." However, the officials "acknowledged to NBC News that the evidence does not amount to proof, and they have declined to provide details about it." In an analysis for [Townhall](#) (6/1, Benson), political editor Guy Benson takes issue with the NBC story, writing, "It's worth noting that the headline on this story ends with a question mark, a tacit admission that they don't have anything solid."

White House, Russian Bank Offer Different Explanations For Kushner's Meeting. A front-page story in the [Washington Post](#) (6/1, Filipov, Brittain, Helderman, Hamburger) reports that the explanations from the White House and a Russian state-owned bank about why "the bank's chief executive and Jared Kushner held a secret meeting during the presidential transition in December" are "very different." While the bank, Vnesheconombank, "maintained this week that the session was held as part of a new business strategy and was conducted with Kushner in his role as the head of his family's real estate business," the White House "says the meeting was unrelated to business and was one of many diplomatic encounters the soon-to-be presidential adviser was holding ahead of Donald Trump's inauguration." The Post says that "contradiction is deepening confusion over Kushner's interactions with the Russians" as he "emerges as a key figure in the FBI's investigation into potential coordination between Moscow and the Trump team."

Foreign Agents Registration Act Central To Flynn, Manafort Investigations. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/1, Sonne, Wilber, Tau) reports that people familiar with the situation say the Foreign Agents Registration Act, which requires people to disclose when they are acting on behalf of foreign powers in the US is central to the investigations of former national security adviser Mike Flynn and former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort. According to those sources, investigators are looking into whether Flynn's work involving Turkey and Manafort's work involving Ukraine violated the Act and related laws.

Farage A "Person Of Interest" In FBI's Russia Investigation. [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (6/1, Kirchgaessner, Hopkins, Harding) cites "sources with knowledge of the investigation" who said that former Ukip leader Nigel Farage is a "person of interest" in the US investigation "into possible collusion between the Kremlin and Donald Trump's presidential campaign." According

to the sources, Farage "had raised the interest of FBI investigators because of his relationships with individuals connected to both the Trump campaign and Julian Assange, the WikiLeaks founder whom Farage visited in March." The Guardian points out that Farage "has not been accused of wrongdoing and is not a suspect or a target of the US investigation." Peter Alexander reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/1, story 3, 2:15) that Farage is "denying any Russia connection."

Farage said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (6/1), "If ever there was a case of a fake news, this is it. What they have done is they've tried to join the dots together. I was involved with Brexit. I was involved with the Trump campaign. I was involved with upsetting their little world in 2016. Therefore, I must somehow be associated with the Russians. It is total and utter hysterical nonsense." Reporting on Farage's Fox News appearance, [Politico](#) (6/1, Lima) quotes him as saying, "I've never done business in Russia, I have literally no political connections with Russia whatsoever. ... The whole thing is a fantasy from people who cannot accept the fact that they lost badly last year."

Crowley: Democratic Candidates Should Not Focus On Russia In 2018. The [Washington Times](#) (6/1, Persons) reports that in an interview with [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) Thursday, Rep. Joe Crowley called the Russia investigation a "Washington issue," and said that "Democratic candidates should not focus on it in 2018." Crowley said, "I think the focus for the DNC has to be, not what happened in the last election, but about the election now, and that's individual congressional districts. It's hand-to-hand combat. ... Putting aside the Russian issue, that's a Washington issue. What we've been focusing on and telling our folks and candidates to do is focus on your local issues and leave the Washington stuff to Washington." Crowley added, "I think the Russia issue is an important issue for the American people, they are focused on it, but they're more concerned about the economy, whether they can put food on the table, can they afford college, when they graduate from college can they afford the student loan, can they have a job."

Politico Analysis: Trump Says Nonexistent Tax Bill Advancing Through Congress.

During a Rose Garden speech Thursday announcing his decision to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, President Trump claimed "that tax legislation is advancing through Congress – even though no such bill yet exists," [Politico](#) (6/1, McCaskill) reports. Trump said, "Our tax bill is moving along in Congress, and I believe it's doing very well. ... I think a lot of people will be very pleasantly surprised." He continued, "The Republicans...are working very, very hard. We'd love to have support from the Democrats, but we may have to go it alone. But it's going very well."

Mnuchin Confident Congress Will Raise Debt Limit.

[Reuters](#) (6/1) reports that in an interview Thursday with [Fox Business](#), Treasury Secretary Mnuchin expressed confidence that Congress will raise the debt limit "before there's an issue" with US creditworthiness. Mnuchin said, "We're going to get it increased. ... The credit of the United States is the utmost. I've said to Congress they should do it as quickly as they can. But we are very focused on working with them and I'm confident we'll get there before there's an issue."

Demographer Projects Massive Population Shifts From Climate Change.

[USA Today](#) (6/1, Bruggers) reports on a study published in *Nature Climate Change* by University of Georgia demographer Mathew E. Hauer finding that with climate change the US "can expect massive population shifts." He projects that up to "13 million Americans living in coastal areas could be flooded out by 2100," which could result in "tens of thousands...headed toward Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and Tennessee."

Climate Change Presents National Security Threat.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (6/1, Bergengruen) reports President Trump is "at odds with the Pentagon, which has been warning for years that climate change poses a critical national security threat." Military leaders have said for more than a decade "that extreme weather patterns and rising sea levels are aggravating social tensions, destabilizing regions and feeding the rise of extremist groups." Meanwhile, at least 128 US military bases are threatened by rising sea levels, with some "already flooding." [NPR](#) (6/1, Kelly) reports there is a concern that

“the US pulling away from a global leadership role” leaves a void “that America’s rivals and adversaries will be keen to fill.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Our Disgraceful Exit From The Paris Accord.” The [New York Times](#) (6/1) editorializes that “only future generations will be able to calculate the full consequences of...Trump’s incredibly shortsighted approach to climate change, since it is they who will suffer the rising seas and crippling droughts that scientists say are inevitable unless the world brings fossil fuel emissions to heel.”

Washington Post.

“Trump Turns His Back On The World.” The [Washington Post](#) (6/1) editorializes that President Trump “said Thursday that the United States might rejoin the Paris agreement after a period of renegotiation.” Yet “given the extent to which other nations already accommodated American demands, the prospect of a radically different treaty is fanciful. So what tangible benefit does this irrational decision bring to Americans? None. None at all.”

“The White House Just Took A Step Forward On Transparency. Time For Some More.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/1) praises the Trump Administration for disclosing the ethics waivers granted to Administration appointees, but says “the Trump White House should accept other transparency measures that it has so far resisted.” The Post says President Trump should release his tax returns and the Administration should “disclose White House visitor logs.”

“The World’s Biggest Muslim Majority Nation Grapples With Rising Radicalism.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/1, Board) writes that as “a surge of hard-line Islamist sentiment” shakes Indonesia, “whether the country’s political leadership is able to steer a genuinely pluralist course through local and presidential elections over the next two years poses a critical test of whether the secular government in Jakarta will remain a bulwark against Islamic radicalism.” The Post cites as an example the “particularly worrying episode” of Jakarta Gov. Basuki Tjahaja Purnama being sentenced to prison and losing an election based on public backlash and blasphemy charges after at first appearing “a clear electoral front-runner” based on a “no-nonsense anti-corruption” platform. The Post says “opportunistic” hard-line Islamists are seeking to “capitalize on a sluggish economy, widespread corruption and popular resentment of ethnic Chinese tycoons” to impose sharia law nationwide. This “would mark a sweeping reversal of Indonesia’s relatively easygoing pluralist democracy.”

Wall Street Journal:

“Trump Bids Paris Adieu.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/1) in its editorial mocks the reaction of what it casts as elites around the world to President Trump’s decision to withdraw from the Paris agreement, and argues that economic growth and technological innovation are by far the most effective strategies to fight climate change.

“The Trump Jerusalem Waiver.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/1) editorial says the President’s decision to sign the waiver to keep the US embassy in Tel Aviv after he promised to move it damages American credibility, and will encourage the Palestinians to hold out for further concessions.

“Ireland’s Reform Example.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/1) editorializes about the coming choice in Ireland between what the Journal views as two good candidates for prime minister. The majority Fine Gael party must choose a new prime minister after Enda Kenny resigned. The Journal is pleased that both candidates favor free-market reforms. The Journal says that Fine Gael offers a lesson to other European countries, as it recently reduced spending by €10 billion paired with a €5 billion tax increase, and that the focus on cuts helped strengthen the Irish economy.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump Quits Climate Deal He Says Is Unfair To US](#)

[Despite Paris Accord Exit, Companies See Little Change In Strategy](#)

[S&P Downgrade Brings Illinois Closer To Junk](#)

[Anbang, After A Whirlwind Of Western Deals, Has Been Benched By China](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Will Withdraw US From Paris Climate Agreement](#)

[Trump Hands The Chinese A Gift: The Chance For Global Leadership](#)

[Trump, Prioritizing Economy Over Climate, Cites Disputed Premises](#)

[Maybe Private Russian Hackers Meddled In Election, Putin Says](#)

[Trump Rule Could Deny Birth Control Coverage To Hundreds Of Thousands Of Women](#)

[A Few Months Before Its Official Opening, Tappan Zee Bridge Is Drivable](#)

Washington Post:

[Trump To Pull Nation Out Of Global Climate Pact](#)

[White House, Russian Bank Differ On Kushner Meeting](#)

[Move Could Put A Difficult Target Out Of Reach](#)

[A Day After Huge Kabul Blast, Anger, Sorrow And Questions](#)

[After Debate, Trump "Stayed Where He's Always Been"](#)

Financial Times:

[May Pledges To Embrace "Promise Of Brexit"](#)

[Trump Paris Rejection Widens Rift With Germany](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Eviscerates Obama's Paris Legacy](#)

[Investigations Focus On 'Unwittingly' Conspirators Aiding Russia's Efforts To Sabotage US Election](#)

[Hoover's FBI Files Offer Cautionary Tale As Comey Prepares To Testify](#)

[Left's Quandary: Cheer Strong Female In "Wonder Woman" Or Jeer Her Israeli Ties](#)

[India's Prime Minister Makes Waves By Attempting To Appropriately Gandhi's Legacy](#)

[US Economy, World Already Locked Into Lower-Emission Model](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Paris Climate Accord Withdrawal; Paris Climate Accord-Obama Comment; Paris Climate Accord-US Reactions; Philippines-Resort Attack; Russia Meddling Investigation-Comey; Russia Meddling Investigation-Kushner; US Embassy In Israel; Wisconsin-Corn Mill Explosion; Tiger Woods-DUI; United-Bird Strike; Lost Mother; Walmart-Commute Delivery; University Baseball; NBA Finals; Climate Change-Corals.

CBS: Paris Climate Accord Withdrawal; Paris Climate Accord-Kerry Comment; Russia Meddling Investigation; US Embassy In Israel; Philippines-Resort Attack; LeBron James-Racism; Ringless Marketing Calls; California-Coast Highway Mudslide; Beatles-50 Years.

NBC: Paris Climate Accord Withdrawal; Paris Climate Accord-US Reactions; Russia Meddling Investigation; NBC-Putin Interview; Philippines-Resort Attack; LeBron James-Racism; Teenage Drivers-Safety; Tiger Woods-DUI; World's Biggest Plane; Kids Summer Toys.

Network TV At A Glance:

Paris Climate Accord Withdrawal – 19 minutes, 50 seconds

Russia Meddling Investigation – 7 minutes, 25 seconds

Philippines-Resort Attack – 2 minutes, 10 seconds

US Embassy In Israel – 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Paris Climate Accord Withdrawal; Immigration Order-Legal Challenge; Philippines-Resort Attack; NBA Finals.

CBS: Paris Climate Accord Withdrawal; Wisconsin-Corn Mill Explosion; Philippines-Resort Attack; US Embassy In Israel; Private Schools-Substance Abuse.

FOX: Paris Climate Accord Withdrawal; Wisconsin-Corn Mill Explosion; US Unemployment Rate.

NPR: Paris Climate Accord Withdrawal; Kushner Company-US Visa Abuse; Philippines-Resort Attack.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with Senator Lindsey Graham; Signs bills.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in an interview with Ainsley Earhardt on Fox & Friends; participates in an interview with Laura Ingraham on The Laura Ingraham Show; participates in an interview with Michael Savage on The Savage Nation.

US Senate: 9:00 AM Senate convenes for pro forma session

On recess until 5 June.

US House: 10:30 AM House of Representatives convenes for pro forma session

On recess until 5 June.

Other: No notable event scheduled.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Trevor Noah: "You know, I don't know what's worse, the fact that Donald Trump may have doomed the planet or the fact that he announced it like it's an episode of 'The Bachelorette'. 'Earth, we had a great time in the hot tub. But I gotta give a rose to coal, my black beauty, I choose you.'"

Trevor Noah: "After the Earth's temperature crosses a certain threshold, we may not be able to go back. It's like telling your girlfriend that her friend is hot. That problem is man-made and irreversible. You can never take it back."

Trevor Noah: "You can't bring back coal jobs. It may have been big back in the day, but it's not going to work now. You know, it's like 'Baywatch'. You can't save it."

Copyright 2017 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.

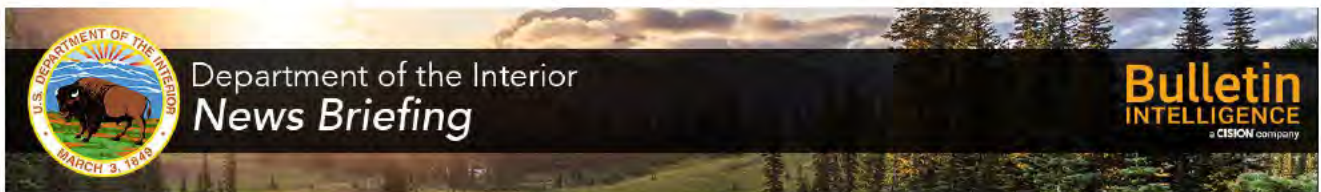
Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, May 22, 2017

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Mon May 22 2017 05:01:05 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, May 22, 2017

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.



DATE: MONDAY, MAY 22, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

Today's Table Of Contents

DOI In The News

- Huffington Post: Interior Denies Secretary Zinke Will Recommend Rescinding Bears Ears Designation.
- Palm Beach (FL) Post: Secretary Zinke Plans To Visit Everglades.
- Washington Post: Secretary Zinke's Personal Schedule Shows Industry Leaders Have Frequent Access.
- Denver Post: Colorado Parks & Wildlife Faces Budget Cuts As Interior Delays Grants.
- The Guardian (UK): Maine Gov. LePage Bans Signs To Katahdin Woods And Waters.
- Seattle Times: Interior Receives Public Input On National Monuments.
- Washington Post: WPost: Secretary Zinke Should Be Cautious In Reforming Methane Rule.
- The Hill: Deputy Interior Nominee Criticized.
- Missoulian (MT): National Bison Range Decision Criticized.
- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: Colorado Celebrates Public Lands Day.

America's Great Outdoors

National Park Service

- Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): NPS Announces Proposed Fee Increases.
- Washington Post: More Protests Mean More Porta-Potties In Washington.
- Washington Post: Volunteers Plant Trees At Flight 93 Memorial.
- U.S. News & World Report: Draw Of Lightning Bugs Could Overwhelm Congaree National Park.
- Washington Times: Businesses Raise Concerns With Ozark Riverways Park Closure.
- U.S. News & World Report: Businesses Concerned About Effect Of Yellowstone Road Work.
- U.S. News & World Report: Yellowstone Wolf Family Tree And Genealogy Available Online.
- Glens Falls (NY) Post-Star: Schuyler House Being Digitally Mapped.
- Minneapolis Star Tribune: NPS Expanding Mississippi River Paddle Share Program.
- U.S. News & World Report: Zion National Park's Highway Reopens.
- U.S. News & World Report: Woman Falls To Death On Blue Ridge Parkway Overlook.

- Atlanta Journal-Constitution: Additional Coverage: Creationist Geologist Sues NPS Over Grand Canyon Rocks.
- Toledo (OH) Blade: Additional Coverage: NPS Investigating Vandalism To Perry's Victory And International Peace Memorial.

Fish and Wildlife Service

- Washington Times: Family Business Charged With Smuggling Sea Cucumbers To US.
- U.S. News & World Report: Oil Company Takes Measures To Protect Pregnant Polar Bear.
- Smithsonian: Genetics Helps Scientists Identify Species.
- Washington Post: Supreme Court's Decision In Spider Case Has Implications For Limits Of Federal Power.

Bureau of Land Management

- USA Today: Court Rejects Nevada Rancher Bundy's Attempt To Jump-start Trial.
- U.S. News & World Report: Man Sentenced For Damaging Archaeological Site.
- Craig (CO) Daily Press: Additional Coverage: Four Colorado Counties Plan Suit Over Greater Sage-grouse Protection.
- Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News: Third Anniversary Of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Celebrated.
- Bend (OR) Bulletin: Editorial: Wild Horse Population Needs To Be Controlled.
- Los Angeles Times: Cadiz Water Project Criticized.

Securing America's Energy Future

Offshore Energy Development

- UPI: BOEM Schedules Cook Inlet Lease Sale For June.
- Oil and Gas Journal: Oil Spill Commission Action Officials Oppose Plans To Open Up OCS Areas To Leasing.
- Bloomberg BNA: Atlantic Surveys In Doubt Over Funding Concerns.
- Alaska Dispatch News: State, Local Governments May Take Over Arctic Policy After Federal Pullback.

Onshore Energy Development

- Green Valley (AZ) News: Op-Ed: Arctic Refuge Targeted By Oil Industry.

Renewable Energy

- Falmouth (MA) Enterprise: Offshore Wind Farms Planned South Of Martha's Vineyard.

Empowering Native American Communities

- Lawrence (KS) Journal World: Haskell Indian Nations University Holds Commencement Ceremony.
- Connecticut Mirror: Connecticut Gov. Malloy Focuses On Tribes' Casino Expansion Option.
- Los Angeles Times: Yurok Tribe Set Out To Save Klamath River And Stop A Suicide Epidemic.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Radio New Zealand: American Samoa Urged To Follow Hawaii's Lead On Fiscal Stability.
- Marianas Variety: Gov. Torres Accepts Labor Chief's Courtesy Resignation.

Tackling America's Water Challenges

- El Paso (TX) Herald Post: El Paso Water Receives \$150K For Aquifer Recharge Feasibility Study.

Top National News

- ABC: Media Analyses: Trump Delivered Moderate, Measured Speech In Riyadh.
- Associated Press: Lawmakers Promise "Aggressive" Investigations Of Russian Election Meddling.
- Washington Post: Some Republican Lawmakers Express "Growing Unease" Over Budget Cut Proposals.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "China And India Make Big Strides On Climate Change."
 - "Lurching Backward On Justice Reform."

- Washington Post.
 - "New Orleans Took Down Its Confederate Monuments. Will The Rest Of The South?"
 - "In Mexico, Journalism Is Literally Being Killed Off."
 - "Everyone Tells Little Lies. No One Should Lose Their Citizenship Over It."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "Trump's Middle East Reset."
 - "Los Angeles Charter Uprising."
 - "Britain's Manifesto Destiny."

Big Picture

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Washington Schedule

- Today's Events In Washington.

Last Laughs

- Late Night Political Humor.

DOI In The News

Interior Denies Secretary Zinke Will Recommend Rescinding Bears Ears Designation.

The [Huffington Post](#) (5/19, D'angelo) reports that the Interior Department has "denied that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told Utah officials he will recommend the 1.35-million acre Bears Ears National Monument be abolished." E&E News reported Friday that San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman "told the publication Zinke disclosed his plans during a meeting with the commission earlier this month." But "shortly after the story published was, Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift said on Twitter that such reports were 'not accurate.'" Swift wrote in a statement, "The Secretary is listening to and talking with advocates on all sides of the issue in Utah. He has not yet reached a decision."

Utah Politicians Press Secretary Zinke On Monuments. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (5/19, Knox) reports that "the Democratic leader of Utah's capital city and a pair of Utah Republican congressmen were jockeying for the president's ear on public lands Friday." Utah's senators, Mike Lee and Orrin Hatch, were "among 25 Republicans who sent a letter Friday praising the review" of national monuments. But Salt Lake City Mayor Jackie Biskupski "wants Utah's national monuments to stay put, saying they are 'powerful economic drivers' for the city she sees as the gateway for thousands of tourists traveling south to Utah's red rock wonders." Biskupski "urged Zinke in a letter Friday to keep Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments intact, her office announced."

Additional coverage was provided by [KTVX-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (5/19, Francis).

Michigan Footwear Brand Supports Bears Ears. [MLive \(MI\)](#) (5/20, Martinez) reports that "a Michigan footwear brand is joining the effort to save 1.3 million acres of Utah land from being stripped of its national monument status by President Donald Trump." Chaco, "a brand known for its minimalist yet durable sandals invented by a rafting guide, has introduced a collection of limited-edition products to support preserving the Bears Ears National Monument." According to the article, "all the net proceeds from the collection will go to two non-profits dedicated to protecting the land that has more archaeological sites than any other national monument or national park."

Op-Ed: Tribes Should Manage Bears Ears. In an op-ed for [Forbes](#) (5/19, Anderson), Terry Anderson, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and at the Property and Environment Research Center, writes that "rather than settling for consultation rights and depending on federal agencies to protect sacred sites, tribes would do better by seeking real authority to control access and manage the resources they care so much about." Anderson recommends following the model used in Canyon de Chelly National Monument. He notes that "Canyon de Chelly's legal ownership and authority are unique in that the monument lies entirely within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation on land owned by the Navajo Tribal Trust." Anderson concludes that "getting the right to manage and protect their sacred lands is far better than leaving these important responsibilities to a federal government that has demonstrated time

and again little respect for Indian rights.”

Op-Ed Says Secretary Zinke, Other Trump Appointees Advancing His Agenda Despite White House Woes. David Horsey wrote in a [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/19, Horsey) op-ed that although President Trump “does his best to paint himself into a corner from which he can’t escape, the work of his appointees goes on unhindered.” For instance Interior Secretary, Ryan Zinke recently “a look at recently designated national monuments in Utah.” Horsey wrote, “A proud son of Montana, Zinke insists he cares about protecting public lands and wants to listen to all sides, but according to the Salt Lake Tribune he gave conservationists and tribal groups just a couple of hours to talk with him while, over four days, pro-development folks traveled with him and guided his trail ride through the Bears Ears National Monument.”

Secretary Zinke Plans To Visit Everglades.

The [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (5/19, Bennett) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “plans to visit the Everglades after being invited to tour the River of Grass by Florida’s two senators and most of the state’s U.S. House delegation.” Heather Swift, the Interior Department’s press secretary, said, “The Secretary believes the best way to learn about a location is with boots on the ground.” Swift said, “He’s visited Utah, California, Wyoming, Montana, and several other locations and looks forward to seeing the Everglades and other Florida public lands. The Secretary is thankful for the warm invitation from the senators.”

Secretary Zinke’s Personal Schedule Shows Industry Leaders Have Frequent Access.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/19, Eilperin) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “spent much of his first two months in office meeting with energy and other industry groups, according to personal schedules released this week under the Freedom of Information Act.” The schedules, “which cover March and April, detail a slew of meetings with oil and gas producers as well as officials representing gun owners, marine industries, automobile dealers and builders.” Zinke “also met with representatives of the Navajo Nation and Montana’s Little Shell Tribe, as well as numerous lawmakers and officials from a range of states and U.S. territories.”

Colorado Parks & Wildlife Faces Budget Cuts As Interior Delays Grants.

The [Denver Post](#) (5/19, Blevins) reports that the Interior Department’s “review of all grants over \$100,000 has stopped the flow of federal money to Colorado Parks and Wildlife, threatening the agency’s ability to manage wildlife and support its various conservation programs.” Colorado Parks and Wildlife “receives about 20 percent of its funding – nearly \$30 million – from a trio of federal grant programs funneled through the Interior department.” The article notes that “the suspension of federal support comes as Colorado Parks and Wildlife faces a financial crisis.”

Maine Gov. LePage Bans Signs To Katahdin Woods And Waters.

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (5/21, Helmore) reports that a decision by the Maine Gov. Paul LePage to ban signs to Katahdin Woods and Waters “has been described as ‘sophomoric and petty’ by a member of the family that donated the 87,563-acre tract to the nation.” A state transportation spokesman, Ted Talbot, “said in remarks reported by the Bangor Daily News that the refusal to allow official signs for Katahdin to be placed along main roads including Interstate 95 and Routes 11, 157 and 159 was a cost-saving measure.” But Lucas St Clair, “whose family acquired the land using the Burt’s Bees fortune, told the Guardian the governor’s refusal to erect signs was ‘spiteful and destructive’.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Newser](#) (5/21, Doig).

Interior Receives Public Input On National Monuments.

In his column for the [Seattle Times](#) (5/19, Westneat), Danny Westneat writes that “at a rate of more than 100 to 1, comments are flowing into the Department of the Interior denouncing the effort to review, and perhaps undo, up to 22 national monuments.” Westneat has “never seen a public comment outreach more lopsided or sweeping than this one, at least so far.” He also notes that “some recent polls show 80 percent of Western state voters want to keep the monuments.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Gabriel Valley \(CA\) Tribune](#) (5/20, Scauzillo), the [Rome \(NY\) Sentinel](#) (5/19), the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (5/21, Van Manen), [Grist](#)

(5/21, Setiawan), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (5/20, Furlong).

WPost: Secretary Zinke Should Be Cautious In Reforming Methane Rule.

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/19) discusses the Senate's move to block the reversal of the Methane and Waste Prevention Rule, which regulates emissions from oil and gas drilling on federal land. The Post agrees with the senators' request for modifying the regulation through administrative action, suggesting that avoiding the Congressional Review Act gives Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "flexibility to adjust the rule modestly rather than aggressively." The Post adds, "Modesty on Mr. Zinke's part would be wise," and suggests that he "should aim to write a rule that reflects both direct monetary concerns and society's broader interest in preventing environmental degradation."

Additional coverage of the rule was provided by the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (5/21, Grover), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (5/18), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (5/20, Richards), the [Williston \(ND\) Herald](#) (5/20, Flohrs), the [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (5/21, Perkins), and [KKCO-TV Grand Junction \(CO\)](#) Grand Junction, CO (5/20, Roth).

Deputy Interior Nominee Criticized.

For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (5/19, Butler, Contributor), Mark Butler, the former superintendent of Joshua Tree National Park, writes in opposition to the nomination of David Bernhardt for the position of Deputy Secretary of the Interior. Butler argues that Bernhardt's "experience and legal positions are far too skewed to do the job with any kind of balanced decision-making." Butler claims that "the list of conflicts" for Bernhardt is "far too long and goes back for too many decades, making the prognosis dismal for his providing America with the fair and balanced approach needed at DOI."

Additional coverage of Bernhardt's nomination was provided by [Roll Call](#) (5/19, Nawaguna), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (5/20, Lopez), the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (5/18, Shogren) and the [Nation Sun News](#) (5/19).

National Bison Range Decision Criticized.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (5/19) gives "chokecherries" to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "for his decision to 'change course' on the National Bison Range, which had taken the first steps toward management by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, whose reservation completely surrounds the range and who have deep cultural ties to both the land and the bison."

Colorado Celebrates Public Lands Day.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (5/21) reports that "the celebration of the nation's first statewide public lands day on Saturday hopefully serves as a counterweight to the agenda unfolding in Washington, D.C. under the Trump administration." Saturday was "a day to accentuate the positive and celebrate the abundance and variety of public lands in Colorado – from national parks and monuments to national forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, state parks, regional open spaces and urban parks." Colorado Public Lands Day is "an expression of the great affection Coloradans have for their public lands and how these places are critical to our way of life, health and economy."

America's Great Outdoors

National Park Service

NPS Announces Proposed Fee Increases.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (5/20) reports that the National Park Service has "established a new nationwide entrance fee rate structure, with a goal for all parks to implement the new rates sometime this year, N.P.S. announced Friday." According to the park service, "similar parks are grouped into one of four different tiers: Group 1 \$7/person, group 2 \$10/person, group 3 \$12/person, and group 4 \$15/person."

More Protests Mean More Porta-Potties In Washington.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/20, A1, Stein) reports "the Trump presidency has brought an increased number of protests – and, yes, bladders and bowels – to the Mall." The Post says rentals of

porta-potties have hit records over the past few months. The Post adds, "The National Park Service, which oversees the Mall, requires demonstration permit holders to provide one portable toilet for every 300 participants, 20 percent of which must be wheelchair-accessible." The article states that "the increase in political advocacy – typically among protesters with left-leaning political affinities – has translated to boom times" for the industry. Although long-term construction projects still account for most rentals, industry officials "said protests are particularly fruitful since the events typically last only a day and the toilets – most often associated with foul smells and grimy conditions – sustain only minimal damage, but carry a pretty rental price tag."

Volunteers Plant Trees At Flight 93 Memorial.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/20, Gormly) reports that "the "Plant a Tree at Flight 93" project – which has provided thousands of volunteer-planted baby trees in designated spots at the 2,200-acre site since 2011 – aims to honor the victims of Flight 93 with something beautiful and beneficial, officials said." This year, about "500 volunteers came out on Friday and Saturday to plant more than 11,000 new seedlings among 17 acres." According to the article, "by 2020, leaders hope to have 150,000 trees."

Draw Of Lightning Bugs Could Overwhelm Congaree National Park.

The [AP](#) (5/20) reports that "crowds are threatening to overwhelm a South Carolina park that features lightning bugs as they put on a nighttime show." According to the article, "some visitors say they left Congaree National Park in frustration last year after encountering traffic snarls, overzealous observers and not enough park staff to manage the crowds." After hearing the complaints, National Park Service officials "say they plan to increase staffing to control traffic and large crowds attracted by the fireflies between now and early June."

Businesses Raise Concerns With Ozark Riverways Park Closure.

The [AP](#) (5/20) reports that "some business owners near Missouri's Ozark National Scenic Riverways are expressing concern about how the temporary closure of park sites and rivers after recent flooding could affect communities heavily relying on summer tourism." The National Park Service "released a statement in early May saying that the sites would be closed until employees and volunteers finished cleaning flood damage to buildings, camp sites and rivers." However, "people living in and near the towns along the rivers say visitors shouldn't stop coming to the area for recreation in the summer because of floods because the communities need the support of tourism."

Businesses Concerned About Effect Of Yellowstone Road Work.

The [AP](#) (5/21) reports that "business owners in northwest Wyoming are concerned about losing customers because of proposed road construction in 2018 in Yellowstone National Park." According to the article, "road construction planned around Fishing Bridge inside the park next year could involve road closures that would affect the park's East Entrance road, which connects Yellowstone to Cody." Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk "said the National Park Service intends not to have closures until after Oct. 15, 2018, when the busy summer tourist season comes to an end." Wenk told members of the Cody Chamber of Commerce last week, "We want the closings as late as possible to have the least impact on area businesses."

Yellowstone Wolf Family Tree And Genealogy Available Online.

The [AP](#) (5/21, French) reports that details of Yellowstone National Park's "individual wolves and their inter-relatedness can be found in one place: online at Ancestry.com, a website formerly reserved for rooting out human family trees." According to the article, "for each wolf recorded on the website there is a life story to be read, as well as facts and a photo gallery if shots are available." The article notes that "adapting such complex family relations to a website was a challenge since the Ancestry.com formula was set up for humans who give birth to about one offspring a year, not 4.4 a year, which is the average litter size for Yellowstone wolves."

Schuyler House Being Digitally Mapped.

The [Glens Falls \(NY\) Post-Star](#) (5/20, Colver) reports that "a team, led by Ithaca College Professor Michael Rogers, worked" to digitally map the Gen. Philip Schuyler House "this past

week." Saratoga National Historical Park Superintendent Amy Bracewell said, "The National Park Service has a mission to not only interpret and share our history with the public and our community, but also protect our history for future generations. So this project is tackling both of those."

NPS Expanding Mississippi River Paddle Share Program.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (5/18, Van Berkel) reports that the National Park Service is "expanding its Mississippi River Paddle Share program, which debuted briefly in Minneapolis last summer and is the first kayak rental of its kind in a U.S. national park." The NPS is "opening a route in St. Paul and has plans for even more Twin Cities sites." Susan Overson, a National Park Service landscape architect and park planner, said, "It's just going to change the whole dynamic of the way people look at recreation on the Mississippi River."

Zion National Park's Highway Reopens.

The [AP](#) (5/20) reports that "the main road through Zion National Park in Utah has reopened, despite a stream of sand and debris that continues to fall down." The National Park Service "said Saturday that they're reopening the Zion-Mount Carmel Highway after closing it the day before over safety concerns." According to the article, "jersey barriers have been installed to contain any falling debris, but officials said it's unlikely for it to even hit the roadway."

Woman Falls To Death On Blue Ridge Parkway Overlook.

The [AP](#) (5/20) reports that "a spokeswoman for the Blue Ridge Parkway says a Virginia woman has fallen from an overlook to her death." Spokeswoman Leesa Brandon said "that 83-year-old Nancy Ann Martin of Richmond, Virginia, fell over the edge of the East Fork Overlook at Milepost 418 in Haywood County on Friday." The article notes that "it's the second death on the Blue Ridge Parkway this year."

Additional Coverage: Creationist Geologist Sues NPS Over Grand Canyon Rocks.

Additional coverage that a creationist geologist has filed a lawsuit over the rejection of his Grand Canyon study was provided by the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (5/19, Bonvillian), [Access Atlanta \(GA\)](#) (5/19, Bonvillian), the [Daily Mail](#) (5/19, Weston), [Science Magazine](#) (5/19, Reill), and [KIRO-TV Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (5/20, Bonvillian).

Additional Coverage: NPS Investigating Vandalism To Perry's Victory And International Peace Memorial.

Additional coverage of vandalism to the historic Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial at Put-In-Bay was provided by the [Toledo \(OH\) Blade](#) (5/19, Skebba).

Fish and Wildlife Service

Family Business Charged With Smuggling Sea Cucumbers To US.

The [AP](#) (5/19) reports that "a father and son have been indicted on charges of smuggling illegally harvested sea cucumbers worth more than \$17 million into the United States and selling the Chinese delicacy on Asian markets." Ramon Torres Mayorquin and his son, David Mayorquin, were "charged in federal court in San Diego of conspiracy, false labeling and unlawful importation of wildlife." Their company, Blessings Inc. of Tucson, Arizona, was also charged.

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (5/19, Spagat) and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/19, Smith).

Oil Company Takes Measures To Protect Pregnant Polar Bear.

The [AP](#) (5/19, Joling) reports that "a pregnant polar bear seeking to dig her maternity den chose an unlikely spot: a snow drift along a bridge leading to an artificial production island off the north coast of Alaska." According to the article, "as a threatened species, polar bears are entitled to peaceful pregnancies and the operating oil company, Hilcorp Alaska LLC, took vigorous measures to make sure that happened." The article says that "in consultation with federal wildlife authorities, Hilcorp restricted traffic on the causeway, monitored the den and kept things mostly quiet until mother and cub emerged three months later."

Genetics Helps Scientists Identify Species.

The [Smithsonian](#) (5/19, Panko) reports that "with advancing DNA technology, scientists are now able to draw finer and finer lines between what they consider species by looking at the genetic code that defines them." Also, "advances in sequencing techniques and technology are helping today's scientists better piece together exactly which species are being impacted by which human actions." Mary Curtis, a wildlife forensic scientist who leads the genetics team at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Forensics Laboratory, said, "We're capable of recognizing almost any species [now]." Curtis' lab is "responsible for identifying any animal remains or products that are suspected to have been illegally traded or harvested." According to the article, "since adopting DNA sequencing techniques more than 20 years ago, the lab has been able to make identifications much more rapidly, and increase the number of species it can reliably recognize by the hundreds."

Supreme Court's Decision In Spider Case Has Implications For Limits Of Federal Power.

In his column for the [Washington Post](#) (5/19, Will), George F. Will writes that a case involving the Bone Cave Harvestman spider species "might be heading to the Supreme Court." The case hinges on the interpretation of the Constitution's commerce clause, and the court's decision will have implications for the limits of federal power. Will hopes that the court will "apply its 2005 ruling that congressional regulation of intrastate, noncommercial activity is proper only when the activity is an 'essential part of a larger regulation of economic activity, in which the regulatory scheme could be undercut unless the intrastate activity were regulated.'"

Bureau of Land Management

Court Rejects Nevada Rancher Bundy's Attempt To Jump-start Trial.

[USA Today](#) (5/19, Anglen) reports that a federal judge last week rejected Nevada rancher Bundy's "attempt to jump-start his trial on conspiracy and weapons charges for taking up arms against federal agents in the 2014 standoff near his ranch." Nevada Judge Gloria Navarro "said Bundy, 71, will have to wait to go to trial until after the retrial of four co-defendants has ended." The article notes "that case is scheduled to begin June 26 and could take months."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (5/19, Anglen).

Man Sentenced For Damaging Archaeological Site.

The [AP](#) (5/21) reports that "a Grants Pass, Oregon, man was sentenced in federal court to three years of probation for excavating and damaging an archaeological site on federal land." U.S. District Court Judge Ann Aiken "sentenced Jason Christopher Ruppel last week for violating the Archaeological Resources Protection Act." Ruppel "admitted that in 2013, he violated the Act by digging on Bureau of Land Management land and damaging a known archaeological resource."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Oregonian](#) (5/19, Bernstein), [KAJO-AM](#) Grants Pass, OR (5/21, Ray), and [KATU-TV](#) Portland, OR (5/19).

Additional Coverage: Four Colorado Counties Plan Suit Over Greater Sage-grouse Protection.

Additional coverage that Colorado counties plan to sue the federal government over its plan for protecting greater sage-grouse was provided by the [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (5/19, Blair).

Third Anniversary Of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Celebrated.

In an editorial, the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (5/20) celebrates "the third anniversary of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, and anticipate the future opportunities the monument may bring." Supporters can "envision a future with increased visitation to the area; interpretive signs leading to historic treasures; new trails and infrastructure such as visitor's centers; and new protections to ensure that petroglyphs and other ancient artifacts are preserved for future generations." However, for opponents of the monument, "all of your fears and concerns about lack of access remain."

Additional commentary appeared at [KRWG-FM](#) Las Cruces, NM (5/21, SORG, GANDARA, JOHNSON-BURICK).

Editorial: Wild Horse Population Needs To Be Controlled.

In an editorial, the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (5/21) draws attention to the problem of wild horse overpopulation. It says that "too many Americans see the mythical horse when the discussion begins and recoil at solutions that reduce wild horse herds." However, the paper argues that "it's doing wild horses no favor to allow their population to overwhelm the landscape."

Additional coverage of the wild horse issue was provided by the [AP](#) (5/20, Backus).

Cadiz Water Project Criticized.

In an op-ed titled "The Ludicrous Plan To Pump Mojave Water To L.A." for the [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/21, Brooks), Peter H. Brooks, the vice president of a water technology firm in Southern California, criticizes the Cadiz water project. Brooks argues that "Cadiz's vision is now out of step with the times" because "in the decades since the project was conceived, water planning has moved away from the centralized, over-engineered projects of the past to decentralized infrastructure that is more resilient and efficient." According to Brooks, "while technically feasible and legal, it presents significant economic, engineering, quality, sustainability and environmental challenges, and is made even less desirable by a recent surge in cheaper, less risky alternatives."

Securing America's Energy Future

Offshore Energy Development

BOEM Schedules Cook Inlet Lease Sale For June.

[UPI](#) (5/19, Graeber) reports that "after a careful environmental review, the U.S. government said it was putting a section of the Alaskan coast up for auction for oil and gas explorers." Walter Cruickshank, the acting director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, said in a statement, "We conducted a robust environmental analysis and look forward to holding Alaska's first Outer Continental Shelf lease sale since 2008." According to the article, "the lease covers about 1 million acres off the south-central Alaskan coast in the Cook Inlet." Cruickshank added, "The areas offered for leasing represent a careful balance between jobs, energy development, and natural resource protection." The auction opens June 21.

Additional coverage was provided by [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (5/19), the [Oil and Gas Investor](#) (5/19), [Splash 24/7 \(SGP\)](#) (5/19, Scully), [Offshore Magazine](#) (5/19), [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (5/19), and [KTVA-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (5/19).

Oil Spill Commission Action Officials Oppose Plans To Open Up OCS Areas To Leasing.

The [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (5/19) reports that "officials from the Oil Spill Commission Action (OSCA) project, a continuation of the presidential commission that investigated the 2010 Macondo deepwater oil well blowout and subsequent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, expressed their opposition to US President Donald Trump's plans to open Atlantic and Arctic offshore areas to oil and gas leasing." OSCA Co-Chairs Bob Graham and William K. Reilly said in a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "that they support Arctic Ocean Exploratory Drilling final technical regulations that DOI adopted in July 2016, and the 2017-22 OCS Management Plan, which limits oil and gas leasing to the western and central gulf and parts of the eastern gulf, that DOI adopted in January." However, "their greatest concern centered on the possibility that Zinke might repeal the offshore well control rule that the US Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement finalized in April 2016." their letter said, "In our view, the most broadly important measure to come out of what the commission learned was the new well control rule that [BSEE] finalized in April 2016." They noted, "In the commission's investigation of the causes of the Macondo accident, a primary cause was determined to be the failure of the blowout preventer and the inadequacy of existing rules and standards for offshore well control."

The piece also appears at [PennEnergy](#) (5/19).

Atlantic Surveys In Doubt Over Funding Concerns.

[Bloomberg BNA](#) (5/19, Kovski) reported that six companies are trying to get permits to conduct seismic surveys off the US in the Atlantic, but there are doubts that the surveys will receive funding. There have been no lease sales for exploration drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf in the Atlantic, and without the ability to lease the territory, the companies conducting the

surveys may not be able to find clients to finance the project. Will Ashby, VP of human resources and communications for TGS NOPEC Geophysical Co. ASA, said, "We only see seismic surveying going ahead in the Atlantic if we see enough companies coming in with funding."

State, Local Governments May Take Over Arctic Policy After Federal Pullback.

[Alaska Dispatch News](#) (5/21, Rosen) reports that if the federal government pulls back from its climate commitments in the Arctic, policy may be increasingly set by state and local populations. Several mayors from cities in Alaska, Canada, Norway, Finland and Iceland promised to exchange information, technology and best practices to address the threat of climate change, while the Alaska Legislature has also been involved in international Arctic issues for many years.

Onshore Energy Development

Op-Ed: Arctic Refuge Targeted By Oil Industry.

In an op-ed for the [Green Valley \(AZ\) News](#) (5/21, Raskin), David Raskin, co-founder of Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges, writes about "impending threats by oil developers" to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Raskin argues that "no landscape is more deserving of protection than the wild and pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern Alaska." He urges "Arizona's congressional delegation and all Arizonans to oppose any executive or legislative action that would open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling."

Renewable Energy

Offshore Wind Farms Planned South Of Martha's Vineyard.

The [Falmouth \(MA\) Enterprise](#) (5/19, Feldott) reports that in the next few years, "three wind energy developers plan to install" Massachusetts's "first offshore wind farms about 14 miles south of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket." The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center hosted a meeting on Tuesday, May 16 "to update the public on the state of offshore wind energy development off the coast of Massachusetts and Rhode Island." According to the article, "about 70 people attended the meeting, which featured presentations from representatives of the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and offshore wind developers."

Empowering Native American Communities

Haskell Indian Nations University Holds Commencement Ceremony.

The [Lawrence \(KS\) Journal World](#) (5/19, Shepherd) reports that Haskell Indian Nations University held its annual commencement ceremony on Friday, which "featured native drum music, prayers in native language and graduates wearing caps, gowns and regalia from many different tribes." The director of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Education, Tony Dearman, delivered remarks at Friday's ceremony.

Connecticut Gov. Malloy Focuses On Tribes' Casino Expansion Option.

The [Connecticut Mirror](#) (5/19, Pazniokas) reports that Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy "moved forcefully Friday for the first time to focus the legislature's debate on casino expansion, saying the only measure he would consider signing is a bill granting the owners of Connecticut's two tribal casinos permission to build a commercial casino in East Windsor to compete with MGM Resorts International in Springfield." In an interview, Malloy "said he remains neutral on the question of whether to expand, but if the General Assembly is going to permit the state's first casino off tribal lands, then lawmakers should respect the state's long-standing exclusivity agreement with the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribal nations." He said, "If I can help the legislature focus, it's do you want to work with the two tribal nations that employ thousands and thousands of people in our state? If that's what you're trying to do to help secure those jobs and that base, then there is one road to go down. I will not sign a transaction or bill that puts into real danger our existing arrangement with the tribal nations, nor would anyone in this building who thought about it. And I'm not sure we've had that clear, crisp discussion."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Hartford \(CT\) Courant](#) (5/19) and the [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (5/19, Pazniokas).

Yurok Tribe Set Out To Save Klamath River And Stop A Suicide Epidemic.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/19, Mozingo) reports how "over the last 50 years, the yearly migration of salmon from the Pacific dwindled, and poverty, addiction and lawlessness gripped" the Yurok reservation. Last year, "a rash of suicides pushed" the Yurok tribe "into an existential crisis." According to the article, "it would be a vastly complex task to slow the spiral of joblessness, broken families and addiction, intertwined as it was with the long demise of the river that once sustained everyone here."

Office Of Insular Affairs

American Samoa Urged To Follow Hawaii's Lead On Fiscal Stability.

[Radio New Zealand](#) (5/21) reports that an economist from the Interior Department "says American Samoa should look at what Hawaii does if it's to maintain fiscal stability." Wali Osman "says Hawaii is regarded as one of the most financially stable states of the union because its laws require it to live within its means." Osman "said American Samoa should study the Hawaii approach which also includes a requirement that any budget growth is more than matches by wage increases."

Gov. Torres Accepts Labor Chief's Courtesy Resignation.

The [Marianas Variety](#) (5/22, Villahermosa) reports that Gov. Ralph D.L.G. Torres "on Friday accepted the courtesy resignation of Department of Labor Secretary Edith Deleon Guerrero and named Enforcement Director Gil San Nicolas as acting chief of DOL." Harry Blanco of the Office of Insular Affairs "wished Deleon Guerrero good luck and thanked her for her dedication and leadership." Blanco added that "it was a privilege on his part to work with Deleon Guerrero to address some of the most important labor issues in the CNMI."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Marianas Variety](#) (5/19, Villahermosa).

Tackling America's Water Challenges

El Paso Water Receives \$150K For Aquifer Recharge Feasibility Study.

The [El Paso \(TX\) Herald Post](#) (5/19) reports that El Paso Water "received notice last week that it will be awarded \$150,000 in funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for developing a feasibility plan to increase its aquifer recharge efforts by six-fold." According to the article, "the proposed plan will make El Paso's water supply more resilient to drought and help preserve the Hueco Bolson for future generations." Public Service Board Chair Henry Gallardo "previewed EPWater's expansion plan Friday as part of his keynote speech at the 7th Annual WaterReuse Texas Conference, hosted here in El Paso this year." He said, "By redirecting excess river water supplies to our Hueco Bolson aquifer in non-drought years, we can put additional water supplies in the 'bank' so that we can make necessary withdrawals during times of drought."

Top National News

Media Analyses: Trump Delivered Moderate, Measured Speech In Riyadh.

Coverage of President Trump's [Sunday speech](#) to the Arab Islamic American Summit in Riyadh focuses on the measured language of the speech, contrasting its moderation with the President's campaign rhetoric about Islam and his call for curtailing Muslim immigration to the US. Some analyses say the tone signified a shift toward a more conventional Republican foreign policy by the President, and some even compare his words to those of President Obama.

Tom Llamas said in the opening story on [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (5/21, lead story, 3:55) that "it was what the President did not say that spoke volumes – no mention of the phrase 'radical Islamic terrorism.' The move marking a reset of the harsher tones of the presidential campaign." ABC's Jonathan Karl: "Here in the birthplace of Islam, the man who had portrayed Muslims as the problem, offering a message of unity against terrorism." Trump:

"Terrorists do not worship God. They worship death. This is not a battle between different faiths, different sects or civilizations. This is a battle between barbaric criminals who seek to obliterate human life and decent people, all in the name of religion. This is a battle between good and evil." Karl: "In the audience, the leaders of more than 50 Muslim countries, virtually the entire Islamic world. A remarkable moment for the man who just a year ago said --" ABC showed video of Trump saying: "I think Islam hates us. There's something, something there, there's a tremendous hatred there."

On the [CBS Weekend News](#) (5/21, lead story, 3:35, Quijano), Margaret Brennan reported, "President Trump called leaders from more than 50 Muslim majority countries, partners in the fight against extremism, and urged them to battle terrorism at home." Trump: "Drive them out. Drive them out of your places of worship. Drive them out of your communities. Drive them out of your holy land. And drive them out of this Earth." Brennan: "The President abandoned the heated campaign rhetoric that characterized his election-winning platform, one built on his view that, quote, 'Islam hates us.'"

Kelly O'Donnell reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/21, lead story, 2:55, Snow), "The centerpiece of this first stop: President Trump's new message to the Muslim world. ... His aim: to contrast President Obama and to contrast himself, discarding his well-worn phrase 'radical Islamic terrorism' for a more subtle approach." But Manu Raju said on [CNN's Inside Politics](#) (5/21), "President Trump said several months ago that most of Islam hates us. Now he is trying to make the case these extremists are not necessarily Muslim; they follow a completely different ideology, a completely different faith. That is the argument that President Obama made repeatedly, that he did not want to call it radical Islamic terrorism because, he said, these people are not Muslims."

The [AP](#) (5/21, Pace, Lemire) says that "in a pointed departure from his predecessor, Trump all but promised he would not publicly admonish Mideast rulers for human rights violations and oppressive reigns." [Reuters](#) (5/21, Holland, Mason) says Trump "urged Arab and Islamic leaders on Sunday to unite and do their share to defeat Islamist extremists, making an impassioned plea to 'drive out' terrorists while toning down his own harsh rhetoric about Muslims." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (5/21, Jacobs, Carey, Talev) reports that "Trump's speech was aimed at easing concerns that the administration's policies deliberately discriminate against Muslims."

The [Arab News](#) (5/21) reports that Trump "said all countries must work together to 'honestly' confront 'the crisis of Islamist extremism and the Islamist terror groups it inspires.'" The [Gulf News](#) (5/21) reports that Trump "denounced Iranian aggression in the region, and said that the 'longest-suffering victims' are the Iranian people." The [Saudi Gazette](#) (5/21, Syed) says that Trump "was full of praise for the history and culture of the Muslim world. He declared Islam 'one of the world's great faiths.'"

The [Jerusalem Post](#) (5/21) reports that "longstanding US concerns with human rights policies across the Arab world took a back seat in this speech as Trump focused exclusively on the global threat of religious extremism." His "basic vision of a war against extremism, on which he campaigned, remained intact, as he called for a 'renaissance' in a Middle East encumbered by 'venomous' ideologies." [USA Today](#) (5/21, Korte) reports that Trump took "a tough stance on terror that nonetheless attempts to soften the anti-Muslim rhetoric of his campaign for president."

The [New York Times](#) (5/21, Baker, Shear) reports that the President "pivoted away from his strident assessment of Islam as a religion of hatred as he sought to redefine American leadership in the Middle East and rally the Muslim world to join him in a renewed campaign against extremism." The Times says that Trump's "measured tone...was a far cry from his incendiary language on the campaign trail last year."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/21, Memoli) says that Trump "took a carefully veiled swipe at Saudi Arabia and other Sunni Muslim countries that, at least in the past, turned a blind eye to radical clerics and others who raised money or recruited for extremist groups." The President said, "There can be no coexistence with this violence. There can be no tolerating it, no accepting it, no excusing it, and no ignoring it." Jim Sciutto said on [CNN](#) (5/21) that it was "something of an ambitious speech...[and] quite a tough one, a tough message for the leaders in the audience, perhaps for the Muslim people as well, saying repeatedly, it is your responsibility to stamp out extremism."

[The Hill](#) (5/21, Fabian, Cohn) writes that "Trump's tough campaign rhetoric, which has

extended into the early days of his presidency, has been a rallying cry for his political base. ... But Trump flattered his hosts on Sunday, even commenting several times on the 'grandeur' of the location for his speech." [BBC News](#) (5/21) reports, "Behind the lavish praise heaped on his hosts," Trump "used this speech to deliver a tough message to Arab and Muslim governments: deal with the ideology that fuels terrorism now or live with it for generations to come."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/21, DeYoung, Rucker) says Trump "forcefully summoned the Muslim world to confront 'the crisis of Islamic extremism,'" and he "implored the leaders of dozens of Muslim nations to take their destinies in hand and, together with the United States, eliminate the 'wave of fanatical violence' committed in the name of religion." The Post says Trump "implicitly rejected the aspirational goals and call for democracy and human rights" of President Obama. Trump said, "We are not here to lecture. We are not here to tell other people how to live, what to do, who to be or how to worship. Instead, we are here to offer partnership, based on shared interests and values." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/21, Lee, Stancati) reports that Trump set the tone for his foreign policy by stating that the US role in the world should be guided by "principled realism."

[Axios](#) (5/21, Swan) writes that Trump "gave a measured, disciplined speech to the Muslim world in Saudi Arabia on Sunday, reading entirely off TelePrompTer." [Vox](#) (5/21, Wildman) reports, "A very different Trump took the microphone in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia today. Gone was the Muslim ban president – we saw a relatively conventional president who recognized what every other leader has realized before him: that he needs allies, even if he's loathe to go about gathering them." [Politico](#) (5/21, Karni) reports that Trump "delivered a moderate speech on Islam designed to reset his relationship with the Muslim world." He "emphasized a war against terrorism around the globe, and not between religions."

[CNN](#) (5/21, Liptak, Zeleny) says Trump "veered closer than ever to the establishment views of American influence abroad, a sharp and jarring break for a man whose campaign was built upon uncensored language about America's security and role in the world. ... The words from President Trump and candidate Trump, particularly on Islam, were vast worlds apart," with his Sunday speech "far closer in tone to Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush than to the rhetoric" of Trump's campaign. (The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/21) compares and contrasts the speech with Obama's 2009 Cairo address.) Democratic strategist Steve McMahon said on [MSNBC](#) (5/21) that Trump's "rhetoric seems to have grown into a more establishment kind of Republican view. This is a speech that could have been given by George Bush." However, [The Hill](#) (5/21, Beavers) reports that "a senior White House official" told reporters, "I don't think it was a softer speech, I think it was tough."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/21, Fahim, Mahfouz) writes, "He talked about Islam. He thundered against extremism. But after President Trump's hotly anticipated speech in Saudi Arabia was over Sunday, many in the Arab world latched on to a different theme from his address, one that maybe explained why an American leader had traveled so far. The bottom line." The [Washington Post](#) (5/21, Hauslohner) reports, "To some viewers in the United States, where Muslims make up about 1 percent of the population, the pivot was surprising. ... But the shift also provoked cynicism." Texas A&M University law professor Sahar Aziz said, "If there's one thing we've learned about Trump, it's that he just wants to get the deal done, and he changes his message based on the audience." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/21, Bulos) reports that while reactions from Middle East leaders and security officials was positive, "many Muslims, especially those outside the Persian Gulf states, were less enthusiastic."

[USA Today](#) (5/21) editorializes, "Trump's welcome shift in tone only partially obscured a troubling departure on policy. He drew an explicit line between good and evil – and a more implicit line between Saudi Arabia and the Sunni sect of Islam on the one hand, and Iran and the rival Shiite sect on the other. ... Why the United States would want to tilt toward either side in the Sunni-Shiite divide is mystifying. These two sects have been at odds for centuries, with no signs of a detente."

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/21) says that while the visit was important because it was a show of the US-Saudi relationship, it also showed Iran that the US views it as an adversary. But Jennifer Rubin writes in the [Washington Post](#) (5/21) "Right Turn" blog, "It is all well and good to explain we have shared 'interests' – with regard to fighting Iran and the Islamic State, most clearly. To say we have shared 'values' with Saudi Arabia, however, is daft, and shows how deficient is Trump's understanding of American values and their role in American foreign policy."

Anne Applebaum of the [Washington Post](#) (5/21) calls Trump's trip to Saudi Arabia "bizarre, unseemly, unethical and un-American. It was a very strange choice for a first trip abroad," and "a very strange place to speak out against Islamist extremism. Although Saudi Arabia is afraid of some forms of Islamist extremism, it supports others." Applebaum also criticizes Trump, Tillerson, and others for "participating in [the] sinister all-male" sword dance, as well as "Tillerson talking about human rights in Iran. Yes, Americans are often hypocritical about where and when they promote human rights. But to denounce human rights in Iran while standing in Saudi Arabia, a place where there is no political freedom and no religious freedom, brought hypocrisy to a whole new level."

[New York Times](#) (5/21) opinion writer Mustafa Akyol writes, "All in all, this wasn't a speech about Islam. It was all about terrorism and the Middle East. Trump did not say anything significant about Islam as a religion and civilization. The whole point was that there are terrorists in the Middle East that we all should eradicate – and the United States selling 'beautiful weapons,' by the way, to help that effort."

[McClatchy](#) (5/21, Kumar), the [Washington Times](#) (5/21, Miller), [Fox News](#) (5/21), [NPR](#) (5/21), [TIME](#) (5/21, Malsin), and the [Huffington Post](#) (5/21, Bobic) are among the other sources covering the speech.

Lawmakers Promise "Aggressive" Investigations Of Russian Election Meddling.

The [AP](#) (5/21, Yen) reports that lawmakers from "key congressional committees" on Sunday vowed "to proceed with aggressive investigations into Russia's meddling in the US election and any ties with the Trump campaign, saying the American people need a full airing as to why former FBI director James Comey was ousted." Senate Intelligence Committee member Sen. Marco Rubio "said he wants to press Comey as to whether he ever believed the White House was interfering with his work, in light of a spate of news reports that Comey had kept detailed records of his interactions with Trump." Rubio told [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (5/21, Dickerson) that he hasn't seen the notes discussed in the New York Times report saying that President Trump told Russians he had just fired the head of the FBI. Rubio added that he has "encouraged" the White House to make the notes available to the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Asked on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (5/21, Tapper) what he thinks of "President Trump call[ing] all of this a witch hunt," Rubio said, "I wouldn't use the term 'witch hunt.' These issues are being raised in the press. People are going to the press who appear to be in the know or pretend to be in the know, they leak information, the press reports on it. These questions need to be answered." Rubio was also [asked](#) whether he sees "a growing body of evidence that the President might have attempted to obstruct justice." He said, "We don't know yet. Number one, I haven't seen the notes. Number two, we have yet to take the testimony from James Comey. He'll be asked that question. In two weeks we'll know more based on the testimony that he gives under oath before the committee and the country publicly." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/21, Mauldin) reports Rubio said that if Trump were trying to impede investigation, it would be "potential obstruction of justice that people have to make a decision on."

On [ABC's This Week](#) (5/21, Stephanopoulos), Sen. Ben Sasse also spoke on whether it was "appropriate for the President to talk to the Russians" about Comey, saying, "Obviously, we don't have aligned interests with Russia. Putin in particular is an enemy of free speech, religion, press, assembly. He's the enemy of many things at the beating heart of America. We have to be clear we don't have aligned interests with Russia."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (5/21, Harris) reports that House Oversight Chairman Jason Chaffetz said on ABC's This Week that that he will speak to Comey on Monday and is seeking any records of Trump's meetings with the former FBI director. [Politico](#) (5/21, Warmbrodt) says that when he was asked to react "to reports that during a meeting with Russian officials the president divulged classified information and called Comey a 'nutjob,' Chaffetz said, 'I hope that's not true.'"

The [New York Times](#) (5/21, Huetteman, Weiland) describes Republicans as "inch[ing] away" from Trump "amid mounting evidence that he may have sought to interfere in the federal investigation." In what the Times says is a "sign of growing anxiety, several important Republicans expressed discomfort with Mr. Trump's firing" of Comey, but they "stopped short of explicitly criticizing Mr. Trump." The [Washington Times](#) (5/21, Wolfgang) takes a much different view of the Republican criticism, describing it as "blistering."

In the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/21), Alan S. Blinder, a professor of economics and public affairs at Princeton University and a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution, writes that while congressional Republicans and Trump seem to have agreed to an arrangement under which they ignore his ethical and other controversies in return for his support of their agenda, that deal now appears to be coming apart.

Meanwhile, Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), ranking Democrat on the House Oversight Committee, said on [ABC's This Week](#) 📺 (5/21, Stephanopoulos) that "there are three things going on here. One, we have to figure out what this whole idea of the Russians interfering with our elections was all about. After all, 17 of our intelligence agencies said it did happen. Two, we have to figure out whether there was collusion and that – I'm sure that will come out. And three, we have to figure out exactly whether there was some type of coverup. That's how I see this. All along we have to look at it very carefully." Cummings, the [Huffington Post](#) (5/21, Barrón-López) reports, "said...he wants every single note the White House has on President Donald Trump's meeting with Russian officials in the Oval Office earlier this month." Cummings said, "I want every note that they have. ... There have been so many lies, so many contradictions. And I think documents will help us to ferret out exactly what's the truth and what's a lie."

[The Hill](#) (5/21, Carter) says Cummings "suggested...that more than one person at the White House may be under investigation for ties to Russia." Referring to a closed-door briefing for lawmakers last week, Cummings told ABC, "My impression, when I walked out of the briefing, was that this thing runs deep. ... There may be quite a few people that may have some problems with the law."

Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) said on [MSNBC](#) 📺 (5/21), "These investigations will determine whether there was obstruction of justice and obstruction of justice constitutes grounds for impeachment. The Republicans need to understand that. They need to be for real. They need to go where the facts lead and hopefully they will sign onto our bipartisan commission because this will make sure that the investigation moves forward in a more expedited and objective manner."

Feinstein Says Comey Firing "Borders On A Very Serious Charge." Asked on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) 📺 (5/21, Dickerson) what she wants to know from Comey, Sen. Dianne Feinstein said, "How many times did he meet with the President or talk with the President on the phone? What was he asked by the President? What was he asked to in any way alter the investigation? What was he asked about Gen. Flynn? ... Did the President fire Comey because of his investigation and he was worried about what the investigation might conclude?" If so, that "borders on a very serious charge. So we need to flush that out and see what the response is and it's got to come from Director Comey himself."

Tillerson, McMaster Explain Trump's Discussion Of Comey Firing With Russian Officials. Secretary of State Tillerson and National Security Adviser McMaster said Sunday that President Trump discussed Comey's firing with the Russian foreign minister "to explain why he had been able to find areas of cooperation with Moscow," [Reuters](#) (5/21, Gibson, Harte) reports. McMaster said on [ABC's This Week](#) 📺 (5/21, Stephanopoulos), "The gist of the conversation was that the president feels as if he is hamstrung in his ability to work with Russia to find areas of cooperation because this has been obviously so much in the news." On Fox News Sunday, Tillerson "said Trump was also trying to convey to the Russians that he was 'not going to be distracted by all these issues at home that affect us domestically.'" Reuters adds that neither "disputed that the subject of Comey's dismissal came up in the meeting with Russian officials." Rather, they "said that Trump's remarks had been misinterpreted."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/21, Snell) likewise highlights that McMaster "did not deny" that Trump discussed Comey's firing during the meeting with Russian officials. The [Huffington Post](#) (5/21, Barrón-López) reports that McMaster said "he doesn't really remember what President Donald Trump said" in the meeting. Asked "whether Trump called former FBI Director James Comey a 'nut job' in that meeting and bragged about firing him, McMaster said he couldn't remember." [Politico](#) (5/21, Warmbrodt) also reports on the Tillerson and McMaster interviews.

Tillerson: US Investigation Is Not On Foreign Leaders' Minds. Tillerson was also asked on [Fox News Sunday](#) 📺 (5/21, Wallace) whether foreign leaders "are concerned with the investigation into the President." Tillerson said that from his encounters "with [his] counterparts," these "are not the issues that are on their mind. The issues that are on their minds are security issues, economic issues, issues of common interest to both of our countries,

that's what they want to talk about when I'm with the them. These domestic issues just simply never come up in our discussions."

McMaster Declines To Say If Trump Brought Up Russian Meddling In Election. [ABC News](#) (5/21) reports that McMaster "declined to say if the president confronted Russian officials about the country's interference in the 2016 US presidential election" during the meeting. McMaster argued that "there already was too much that's been leaked from those meetings," adding, "One of the things that I'm most concerned about is the confidence, the confidentiality of those kind of meetings, as you know, are extremely important. ... I'm really concerned about these kind of leaks because it undermines everybody's trust in that kind of an environment where you can have frank, candid and oftentimes unconventional conversations to try to protect American interests and secure the American people."

McMaster: Biggest Problem With US-Russia Relations Is Russia's Behavior. Asked on [ABC's This Week](#) (5/21, Stephanopoulos) whether former FBI's "grand standing and politicizing, in Sean Spicer's words, hurt our ability to deal with Russia," McMaster said, "I think what's been hurting our ability to deal with Russia more than any other factor has been Russia's behavior. Since President Trump has taken action in Syria, we think there may be opportunities to find areas of cooperation in places like Ukraine, places like Syria in particular."

McCain Says He Was "Almost Speechless" Over Trump's "Nutmeg" Comment About Comey. [Politico](#) (5/21, Warmbrodt) reports that Sen. John McCain told Fox News Sunday that he was "almost speechless" over reports that President Trump in a conversation with Russian officials described former FBI Director Comey as "a real nutmeg." McCain said, "I don't know how to read it except that, I'm almost speechless. ... I don't know why someone would say something like that." Asked if Comey's firing was an effort to impede the investigation, "McCain said he didn't know." Said McCain, "I don't think it was a wise thing to do. ... Mr. Comey was highly respected and highly regarded, and so I can't explain it." The [Washington Times](#) (5/21, Wolfgang) describes Republican criticism of Trump on Sunday as "blistering" and says McCain "offered perhaps the most scathing attack."

Carl Hulse of the New York Times said on [CNN's Inside Politics](#) (5/21) that Trump "may come to regret some of this. Comey, that comes out he called him a 'nutmeg' and crazy, a few hours later it's announced Comey is going to testify in public before the Senate Intelligence Committee. He's in a fight with a practiced person here...and I think that this could, it could be a real problem for the President."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/21, O'Keeffe) reports that McCain pulled back from his claim that the situation had reached "Watergate size and scale." McCain told Fox News that he was referring to the Administration's management of the situation. McCain [said](#), "Now the question is, how is it handled? Is it handled the way Watergate was where it's drip, drip, drip, every day more, or do we handle it like the – like Ronald Reagan handled Iran Contra?" he said. "It was a scandal. He fired people. He went on national television and said, we made mistakes, we did wrong and we're not going to do it again and the American people let him move forward."

NYTimes Analysis: Rosenstein Sought To Shield Investigation From "Political Tumult." A [New York Times](#) (5/21, Davis, Ruiz) analysis describes Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein as an "improbable character in the theatrics surrounding Mr. Trump." While Rosenstein was "saddled with a leading role in the firing of an F.B.I. director," when Trump "cited a three-page memo from him as a pretext for" the firing, the day after, "in an at-times tense conversation" with White House Counsel Don McGahn, Rosenstein "stressed that he did not want to be part of an effort to obfuscate or 'massage' the facts about it, according to a person with knowledge of the discussion." After it was reported that Trump had asked Comey "to quash the Russia investigation," Rosenstein "had few options" and named Robert Mueller as a special counsel. To the Times, the "sequence of events suggested Mr. Rosenstein was determined to keep the investigation from being imperiled by the political tumult and wanted to reassert his own independence from it."

CBS Poll: Number Of Trump Supporters Has Fallen. [CBS News](#) (5/21, Salvanto, Khanna, De Pinto, Backus) reports on its website that the CBS News 2017 Nation Tracker poll shows that while the "ranks of President Trump's strongest backers" have gotten smaller "as the weight of the FBI investigation appears to be taking a toll, and Americans' optimism and confidence in his presidency have slipped," the "ranks of his most ardent detractors have grown." The "staunchest" of Trump's opponents "have grown from 36 percent of the country to 40 percent."

CBS adds that “just 37 percent of Americans approve of how Mr. Trump has handled matters involving the FBI investigation thus far,” and “60 percent say former FBI Director Comey should not have been fired.” Moreover, “63 percent say there should be a special prosecutor,” and 85 percent “do believe that the president discussed the FBI investigation in private meetings with Comey in some fashion, though fewer (48 percent) think he actively tried to stop the probe.”

Some Republican Lawmakers Express “Growing Unease” Over Budget Cut Proposals.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/21, Paletta) reports President Trump’s 2018 budget proposal, to be unveiled on Tuesday, “will include massive cuts to Medicaid” that will affect an estimated 10 million low-income Americans over 10 years, “and call for changes to anti-poverty programs.” The Post outlines reasons why the cuts are significant, and suggests even “more significant” are “changes to entitlements – programs that are essentially on autopilot and don’t need annual authorization from Congress.” The White House will likely “use its presumed new revenue from the tax cuts combined with broad spending cuts” to achieve a “budget deficit over 10 years,” but some experts and “even many Republicans” expressed “growing unease” over “cutting the safety net.”

“Key Republicans are not interested in another round of” Medicaid cuts on top of the more than \$800 billion included in the House healthcare bill that passed in “a razor-thin 217-213” vote earlier this month, explains the [AP](#) (5/21, Taylor). Furthermore, the proposal is based on “an unpopular partial release in March” that “made lawmakers in both parties recoil,” including “Trump’s GOP allies” who will not likely “have a change of heart now.”

[Reuters](#) (5/21) reports Democrats also expressed “worry about its impact on costs for low-income Americans, among other issues.” In a statement issued on Sunday, Senate Minority Leader Schumer said the Medicaid cuts in Trump’s budget constituted “yet another broken promise to working people” because it “pulls the rug out from so many who need help” and “is taking the fast lane to rejection by the American people and both parties in Congress.”

Recently, HHS Secretary Price told CNN’s Jake Tapper that there will “absolutely not” be Medicaid program cuts, but [Salon](#) (5/21, May) says the “health care plan that passed the House, and now Trump’s budget proposal stand to do just that.” Some lawmakers also oppose proposed cuts to federal employee pensions and farm subsidies. Rep. Mike Conaway (R-TX) warned, “Production agriculture is in the worst slump since the depression – 50 percent drop in the net income for producers. They need this safety net.” Furthermore, cuts to non-defense programs to increase the Pentagon’s existing spending cap “rang alarm bells for many Republicans, who were particularly upset about proposals to eliminate community development block grants, slash medical research and eviscerate foreign aid.”

One White House source told Jonathan Swan of [Axios](#) (5/21), “Conservatives will love it; moderates will probably hate it,” and some of the mandatory cuts “will make some moderate Republicans as nervous as the recent healthcare bill did.” The source told Swan that among the entitlement cuts, “there’ll be an ‘emphasis on work requirements for able-bodied people’ to save money on these social welfare programs.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“China And India Make Big Strides On Climate Change.” The [New York Times](#) (5/22) editorializes, “Until recently, China and India have been cast as obstacles, at the very least reluctant conscripts, in the battle against climate change.” But “that reputation looks very much out-of-date. ... China and India should easily exceed the targets they set for themselves in the 2015 Paris Agreement. ... Piece by piece, agency by agency, the Trump administration seems determined to destroy or undermine every initiative on which President Obama based his pledge in Paris to substantially reduce America’s greenhouse gases.” But China and India “are finding that doing right by the planet need not carry a big economic cost and can actually be beneficial.”

“Lurching Backward On Justice Reform.” The [New York Times](#) (5/22, Board) editorializes, “When it comes to criminal justice, Attorney General Jeff Sessions is a man out of time – stuck defiantly in the 1980s, when crime in America was high and politicians scrambled to out-tough one another by passing breathtakingly severe sentencing laws.” Sessions “has clung to the

familiar myth that longer, harsher sentences reduce crime and increase public safety. The evidence shows the opposite: To bring down recidivism, a punishment's swiftness and certainty matter far more than its length."

Washington Post.

"New Orleans Took Down Its Confederate Monuments. Will The Rest Of The South?"

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/21) says New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu achieved "a major step toward de-glorifying a past that deserves very little glory" by removing "erected with the explicit goal of lionizing the Confederacy and a past in which slavery was a central and defining feature." The Post outlines options available for all southern states "left to grapple with what to do with hundreds, or perhaps thousands, more such statues and memorials, in varying sizes and settings," and warns "what is unacceptable is to do nothing." The Post accuses "those who erected many of the statues of Confederate icons" of doing so "as an act of defiance" and "a promise that the South would 'rise again' in the cause of white supremacy," and asserts this "impulse is deeply offensive to most Americans today."

"In Mexico, Journalism Is Literally Being Killed Off." A [Washington Post](#) (5/21) editorial decries the killing of Javier Valdez, "the sixth journalist to be killed in Mexico this year and one of more than 100 journalists who have been murdered since 2000." Eleven days before Valdez's death, a delegation from the Committee to Protect Journalists met with President Enrique Peña Nieto to present a newly released report that calls for "better protections for at-risk journalists, timely investigation of threats and training prosecutors in how to pursue crimes against freedom of expression." The Post urges Peña Nieto to embrace the recommendations of the CPJ report.

"Everyone Tells Little Lies. No One Should Lose Their Citizenship Over It." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/21) recalls Justice Department attorney Robert A. Parker's argument in a case before the Supreme Court on the issue of whether a naturalized US citizen's citizenship can be revoked if based on "an irrelevant falsehood, one likely immaterial to a naturalization case's outcome." Several Justices pointed out that Parker's "stance was an affront to common sense," and Justice Anthony M. Kennedy told Parker that his "argument is demeaning the priceless value of citizenship." The Post concludes that the Supreme Court "seems on solid ground in insisting that citizenship, once granted, should not be taken back blithely."

Wall Street Journal.

"Trump's Middle East Reset." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/21) says that while President Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia was important because it was a show of the US-Saudi relationship, it also showed Iran that the US views it as an adversary.

"Los Angeles Charter Uprising." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/21) celebrates the election of a majority of charter school advocates to the Los Angeles Board of Education, as union control of local school boards is one contributing factor to failing public schools in large cities. The Journal says claims by anti-charter advocates that public school graduation rates recently have improved are unimportant because the board reduced the requirements needed to graduate.

"Britain's Manifesto Destiny." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/21) editorial says the Tory Party's official platform released last week is very disappointing. The Journal argues that it lacks the bold thinking Britain needs to succeed after it leaves the EU.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Huntsman, Clariant In Talks To Merge](#)

[Trump Calls On Muslims To Confront Extremism](#)

[The Quants Run Wall Street Now](#)

[Arconic Board Vote To Test Power Of Activist Investors](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Softens Tone On Islam But Calls For Purge Of 'Foot Soldiers Of Evil'](#)

[In Saudi Arabia, Trump Reaches Out To Sunni Nations, At Iran's Expense](#)
[Caught In White House Chaos, Justice Dept. Official Seeks Neutral Ground](#)
[Lack Of Workers, Not Work, Weighs On Utah's Economy](#)
[In Wreckage Of The Fyre Festival, Fury, Lawsuits And An Inquiry](#)
[No, Google's Not A Bird: Bringing The Internet To Rural India](#)
[After 146 Years, Ringling Brothers Circus Takes Its Final Bow](#)

Washington Post:

[Kushner's Complicated Divestitures](#)
[A Common Plight For Hotel Maids: Sex Abuse](#)
[Trump Budget Targets Medicaid](#)
[Trump: Muslims Must Fight Terrorism](#)
[Ringling The Curtain Down](#)

Financial Times:

[Trump Attacks Iran In 'Good And Evil' Speech](#)
[Supporters Urge Rouhani To Embrace Reforms](#)
[Church Of England Fund Becomes Top World Performer](#)

Washington Times:

[In Historic Speech, Trump Implores Muslim World To Rip Out Islamic Extremism At Its Roots](#)
[Trump Lashed By Republicans At Home While Delivering Major Address To Arab Leaders](#)
[National Guard Unit On Virgin Islands Caught In Army Recruiting Assistance Scheme](#)
[Local Communities Look For Reasons, Take Up Resolutions To Impeach Trump](#)
['Freeloaders' Shaming Of Tax Hike Opponents Backfires On California Gov. Jerry Brown](#)
[As Obamacare Markets Tighten, Lawmakers Feel Squeeze For Quick Fixes](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Trump-Middle East Visit; Russia Meddling Investigation-Comey Public Testimony; North Korea Missile Test; Gas Station Fire; Severe Weather; Pence-Notre Dame Commencement Ceremony; Trump Middle East Visit-Women's Rights; Shark Repel Device; Times Square Car Plowing-Suspect; Boxing-Assault; Grand Prix Crash; Final Circus Performance; Sea Lion Attack.
CBS: Trump-Middle East Visit; Iran-Presidential Election; China Spy Crackdown; North Korea Missile Test; Mosul Assault; Turkish NBA Player-Passport Cancelled; Final Circus Performance; Netflix Show-Teen Suicide; English Churches-Bat Problems.
NBC: Trump-Middle East Visit; Trump-First Foreign Visit; Iran-Presidential Election; Texas Sanctuary Cities Law Challenge; Bill Cosby Trial; Final Circus Performance; FBI Dog-Computer Parts; Boxer-Green Card Application; Sea Lion Attack; Disabled Actress-Broadway Star.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump-Middle East Visit – 12 minutes, 50 seconds
Iran-Presidential Election – 3 minutes, 55 seconds
North Korea Missile Test – 1 minute, 55 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Trump-Middle East Visit; University of Maryland-Murder; ISS Space Walk; Hot Dog Recall.
CBS: Final Circus Performance; Trump-Middle East Visit; Russia Meddling Investigation-Comey Public Testimony; Sea Lion Attack.
FOX: Trump-Middle East Visit; Pence-Notre Dame Commencement Ceremony; Bill Cosby Trial; Times Square Car Plowing-Suspect.
NPR: Trump-Middle East Visit; Trump-Russia Meeting Controversy; North Korea Missile Test.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in a bilateral meeting with President Reuven Rivlin of Israel; visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre; visit the Western Wall; meets with Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 3:00 PM Senate votes on nomination of Iowa Gov. Branstad to be U.S. ambassador to China – Senate convenes and proceeds to executive session to resume consideration of the nomination of Iowa Governor Terry Branstad to be U.S. Ambassador to China Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

US House: 5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 953, Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2017' Location: H-313, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: 10:00 AM Department of Transportation National Maritime Day ceremony – Department of Transportation National Maritime Day ceremony, on National Maritime Day Location: Dept of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington, DC <http://www.dot.gov/index.cfm> <https://twitter.com/usdot>

10:00 AM CAP Action Fund discussion on challenges and opportunities for women in U.S. politics – 'Beyond the Ambition Gap: Challenging the Systems That Keep Women off Ballots and Out of Office' Center for American Progress Action Fund discussion, with keynote remarks from Democratic Reps. Nanette Diaz Barragan and Pramila Jayapal, with panelists EMILY's List Chief of Staff Kate Black, Three Point Strategies Founder Jessica Byrd, and Higher Heights for America Co-founder Glynda Carr Location: CAP Action Fund, 1333 H St., NW, Washington, DC www.americanprogressaction.org <https://twitter.com/CAPaction>

10:00 AM National Maritime Day Observance – Maritime Administration National Maritime Day Observance, Wreath Laying and Medal Presentation, with World War II Merchant Marine veteran Morton Schlanger receiving six awards for his maritime service during WWII Location: DOT HQ, 1200 New Jersey Ave., Washington, DC <http://www.marad.dot.gov/>

11:00 AM GOP Rep. Mac Thornberry speaks at Brookings on military readiness – House Armed Services Committee Chairman Republican Rep. Mac Thornberry speaks on military readiness, modernization, and innovation at Brookings Institution Center for 21st Century Security and Intelligence Location: Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave., Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst>

1:00 PM CARE National Conference – CARE National Conference. Opening day speakers include U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, Clinton Foundation Vice Chair Chelsea Clinton, Global Health Corps CEO and co-founder Barbara Pierce Bush, United Nations Population Fund Gender-based Violence Team Leader Erin Kenny, Malian Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family Secretary-General Mohamed Attaher Maiga, former Time magazine Managing Editor Rick Stengel, and Mars, Inc. Community Development Leader Jeff Morgan Location: Mead Center for American Theater, 1101 6th St SW, Washington, DC www.care.org <https://twitter.com/CARE>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

Copyright 2017 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, May 18, 2017

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Thu May 18 2017 05:08:57 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, May 18, 2017

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.



DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

Today's Table Of Contents

DOI In The News

- Washington Examiner: Bernhardt Faces Opposition As Nominee For Top Interior Spot.
- Missoulian (MT): Zinke: National Bison Range To Remain Under FWS Management.
- Lake Powell (AZ) Chronicle: Zinke: No Decisions Made On National Monuments.
- Politico: Murkowski To Have Cabinet Members In Front Of Her Committees Soon.
- Wilmington (DE) News Journal: Opinion: Trump's Budget Cuts Will Hurt Interior Department.

America's Great Outdoors

National Park Service

- Associated Press: Washington Monument To Display Plaque From Ireland.
- Forbes: Glacier National Park May Lose Glaciers In Upcoming Decades, Study Says.
- RV Daily Report: National Park Service Reflects On Fallen Rangers During Police Week.
- Rockport (TX) Pilot: Rockford, Texas Resident Has Photo Featured On National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass.
- Country Living: Additional Coverage: Yellowstone Offers Reward For Information About Shooting Of Rare White Wolf.
- Associated Press: Low-Income Families Invited To Grand Teton National Park.
- Hot Springs (AR) Sentinel-Record: Garland County Historical Society Pays Tribute To First NPS Ranger Killed While On Duty.

Fish and Wildlife Service

- Denver Post: Activist Groups File Lawsuit To Block Construction Of Rock Flats Visitor Center.
- The Verge: Hawaiian Plant Extinction Prevention Program Faces Budget Cuts.
- KWPC-AM Muscatine (IA): Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge Hosting Bird Festival.

Bureau of Land Management

- Law360: BLM, Conservation Groups Settle Utah Land Use Plans.

- Lake Powell Life: Ex-BLM Head Tells US House Committee National Monuments Hurt Local Economies.
- Deming (NM) Headlight: Council Members, Senators Upset By Interior's Suspension Of Resource Advisory Councils.

US Geological Survey

- KBOI-TV Boise (ID): Idaho USGS Researchers Measure Flow Of Boise River.

Securing America's Energy Future

Offshore Energy Development

- The Hill: Panetta: Trump's Offshore Order Attacking Legacy Of Protecting Marine Sanctuaries.

Onshore Energy Development

- Fuel Fix (TX): BLM Looking For Ways To Speed Up Application Process.
- Alaska Journal of Commerce: Alaska Seeks Revised Rules For National Petroleum Reserve From Interior Department.
- Politico: Groups Ask FERC To Halt Construction Of Rover Pipeline.
- Arkansas Democrat Gazette: New Natural Gas Pipeline To Cross Arkansas River.
- Bloomberg News: Lack Of Fracking Crews May Push Oil Production Increases To 2018.

Renewable Energy

- Fuel Fix (TX): US Less Attractive For Renewable Energy Investment.
- NPR: Philadelphia Seeks To Add More Rooftop Solar.

Empowering Native American Communities

- The Seventy Four: GAO Report Criticizes Bureau Of Indian Education.
- Associated Press: Bureau Of Reclamation Says South Dakota Tribe Repaid \$54K In Questionable Costs.
- Rome (NY) Sentinel: SCOTUS Denies Challenge To New York Land Trust Decision.
- Muskogee (OK) Phoenix: Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Testifies Before US House Appropriations Subcommittee.

Tackling America's Water Challenges

- Associated Press: Federal Government Approves \$400 Million Northern Colorado Reservoir.
- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Utah Town Seeks Restriction Of Popular Hiking Trail Due To Drinking Water Concerns.

Top National News

- Washington Post: DOJ Names Mueller As Special Counsel To Investigate Russian Interference In Election.
- USA Today: Trump Tells USCG Graduates "No Politician In History" Has Been Treated As Unfairly.
- NBC: Multiple Committees Seek Comey Testimony; Two GOP House Members Raise Impeachment.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "The Special Counsel America Needs."
 - "China's Trillion-Dollar Foreign Policy."
- Washington Post.
 - "Trump's Commission On Voter Fraud Is, Well, Fraudulent."
 - "A Note To Erdogan And His Thugs: You Can't Beat Up Protestors Here."
 - "A Special Counsel Is Essential. But Congress Isn't Off The Hook."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "Release The Comey Tapes."
 - "The Special Counsel Mistake."
 - "West Coast Natural Gas Coup."

Big Picture

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Washington Schedule

- Today's Events In Washington.

Last Laughs

- Late Night Political Humor.

DOI In The News

Bernhardt Faces Opposition As Nominee For Top Interior Spot.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/17) reports that, in "an eleventh-hour push," more than 100 environmental groups sent a letter to all senators calling for them to not support the confirmation of David Bernhardt as Interior Department deputy secretary. The groups argue that "Bernhardt's representation of oil, coal and mining companies during his career in private legal practice as a major conflict of interest that will jeopardize the nation's federal lands." In the letter, the groups argue Bernhardt "should not seek, accept or be granted any exemptions from issues that he may have a conflict." [The Hill](#) (5/17, Henry) predicts "a contentious confirmation hearing," with opponents "gearing up to scrutinize his professional history and the role he intends to play in a Trump Interior Department that had already ruffled feathers among greens and conservationists." Critics say that Bernhardt's lobbying makes him a "walking conflict of interest."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/17, Boxall) reports Bernhardt has a history of doing "lobbying and doing legal work to elude or undermine Interior Department policies and protections." As a partner in the lobbying-law firm of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, Bernhardt "represented major players in oil, mining and western water – all areas that fall under the purview of Interior agencies that Bernhardt would oversee if confirmed." Environmentalists argue that Bernhardt either "would be unable to do his job" due to the many important issues he would have to recuse himself on or "will receive administration waivers to deal with them despite his history of representing department adversaries." Bernhardt's potential conflicts of interest are "likely to be a major focus of Bernhardt's confirmation hearing Thursday before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources."

The [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (5/17, Matthews), [EcoWatch](#) (5/17), and another [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (5/17, Boxall) article also cover this story.

Zinke: National Bison Range To Remain Under FWS Management.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (5/17, Chaney) reports Interior Secretary confirmed his intention to keep the National Bison Range under US Fish and Wildlife Service management. FWS was "on track to transfer Bison Range management to" the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) "until the end of President Barack Obama's administration." Zinke said in a Wednesday press release, "As secretary, my job is to look 100 years forward at all of Interior's resources. I recognize the Bison Range is a critical part of our past, present and future, which is why I have changed course." Zinke announced April 12 his intention to revisit the transfer plan "and restart the Bison Ridge's comprehensive conservation plan," and Wednesday's announcement "expanded on that."

The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (5/17, Chaney) reports the Interior Department said in its news release that the agency "is committed to evaluating a range of options that include opportunities for the CSKT to take part in the future management."

Zinke: No Decisions Made On National Monuments.

The [Lake Powell \(AZ\) Chronicle](#) (5/17, Law) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was in Kanab, Arizona, last Wednesday after touring portions of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument with Kane and Garfield county commissioners. Zinke met with reporters in Kanab and emphasize that neither the Trump Administration nor the department had reached a conclusion on the possibility of rescinding or shrinking 27 of America's national monuments. He told reporters, "These are absolutely places that need to be protected, and that is our ultimate goal, to make sure the land is managed well." Zinke added, "Everyone wants to protect their culture and traditions. There are a lot of things we can do better." According to the article,

Zinke “emphasized that he and the Department of the Interior are considering input from all parties involved from local governments.”

Murkowski To Have Cabinet Members In Front Of Her Committees Soon.

The “Morning Energy” blog of [Politico](#) (5/17, Adragna) reported Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski “says she looks forward to hearing from the trio of relevant Cabinet members in front of her committees in the next few weeks.” Murkowski “said Tuesday afternoon that she has penciled in days to bring Energy Secretary Rick Perry, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt up to Capitol Hill.” Murkowski has “found the pace of nominations coming out of the White House ‘problematic’” and “even people officially nominated aren’t moving all that fast.” At the Energy Department, “Trump announced Dan Brouillette as his pick for deputy energy secretary more than six weeks ago – but the White House did not officially send his nomination to the Senate until Tuesday.” [E&E Daily](#) (5/17) also provides coverage.

Opinion: Trump’s Budget Cuts Will Hurt Interior Department.

In the [Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#) (5/17, Hoff), Dr. Samuel B. Hoff, George Washington Distinguished Professor of History and Political Science and Law Studies Director at Delaware State University, writes that the Trump Administration’s proposed budget cuts to the Department of the Interior “will impact national parks, conservation initiatives, and even national monuments on land and water.” Over the objections of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Trump has outlined a 12 percent cut in the department’s budget, approximately \$1.6 billion in lost funds. Hoff argues there is “no logical rationale for diminishing a department, which, through its supervision of natural resources, produces revenue for the federal government.” Hoff also calls relaxing rules on energy exploration for federally protected lands “problematic for several reasons.” The budget cuts will also “endanger national monuments.”

America’s Great Outdoors

National Park Service

Washington Monument To Display Plaque From Ireland.

The [AP](#) (5/18) reports the National Park Service on Thursday “will accept a plaque from the people of Ireland that will be hung in the staircase of the monument.” The plaque “highlights the connection between the 2016 centennials of the park service and Ireland’s Easter Rising.” The monument’s stairwell “has scores of commemorative stones, most of which were received in the mid-19th century,” and the NPS says news donations are accepted “only in very rare circumstances.”

Glacier National Park May Lose Glaciers In Upcoming Decades, Study Says.

[Forbes](#) (5/17, Nace) contributor Trevor Nace writes recent studies “present strong evidence that in the coming decades” Glacier National Park in Montana “will have none of the glaciers from which the park is named after.” A United States Geological Survey and Portland State University study examined how 39 glaciers in the park have been impacted by warming temperatures in the previous decades. Since the monitoring began in 1966, “the glaciers have on average declined 39% with some glaciers declining as much as 85% of their previous extent.” The study further estimates “that the contiguous United States will lose its glaciers by mid-century, impacting seasonal runoff from glaciers, streams, ecological systems, and biodiversity.” The loss of the glaciers will “impact the park’s tourism and thus its budget and conservation effort.”

National Park Service Reflects On Fallen Rangers During Police Week.

[RV Daily Report](#) (5/17) reports the National Park Service and the United States Park Police are remembering the service and sacrifice of 41 law enforcement rangers and 13 police officers who have fallen in the line of duty for Police Week. Charles Cuvelier, NPS Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency Services (LESES) Division chief, said, “Our rangers face risk every day as they protect the nation’s most treasured natural and cultural resources. Those who have fallen while honorably serving our country will not be forgotten.” According to the article, there

are approximately 2,300 National Park Service Law Enforcement rangers and United States Park Police officers "responsible for securing and protecting more than 84 million acres across 417 National Park Service locations."

Rockford, Texas Resident Has Photo Featured On National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass.

The [Rockport \(TX\) Pilot](#) (5/17, Woolston) reports Rockport resident Craig McIntyre's photo taken at the Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge was "chose out of more than 16,500 entries as the grand prize winner" in the Department of the Interior's 2016 Share the Experience photography contest. McIntyre initially thought his victory "was a scam," but now his photo of a frog will be featured on the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands pass.

Additional Coverage: Yellowstone Offers Reward For Information About Shooting Of Rare White Wolf.

[Country Living](#) (5/17, Matthews) reports in additional coverage that Yellowstone National Park is offering a \$5,000 award for information leading to the arrest of the people responsible for mortally wounding one of the park's "most recognizable white wolves."

Low-Income Families Invited To Grand Teton National Park.

The [AP](#) (5/17) reports low-income families were invited to Grand Teton National Park's National Junior Ranger Day through the "Roll Into Readiness" program, which is part of a "six-organization community outreach effort that includes Teton Literacy Center and the Children's Learning Center." Programming for the event was provided in Spanish and English. Millie Jimenez, community engagement and volunteer coordinator for Grand Teton, said the event helps community members feel welcome in the park.

Garland County Historical Society Pays Tribute To First NPS Ranger Killed While On Duty.

The [Hot Springs \(AR\) Sentinel-Record](#) (5/17, Bryan) reports the Garland County Historical Society paid tribute on Tuesday to Hot Springs National Park Ranger James Alexander Cary, the first NPS ranger killed while on duty. Cary was killed by bootleggers on March 12, 1927. NPS Ranger Zach Summerlin gave a presentation about Cary, and "gave context to the shooting by pointing out that Raymond Hunt, arguably the most egregious offender in Ranger Cary's death, had been arrested by the park ranger prior to the incident." Hunt vowed that Cary would "never be able to testify" against him, and subsequently, he and four other bootleggers "met Ranger Cary on West Mountain and shot him following an altercation." Summerlin said the arrest of 35 suspects following the shooting "was the result of the loyalty and brotherhood among law enforcement."

Fish and Wildlife Service

Activist Groups File Lawsuit To Block Construction Of Rock Flats Visitor Center.

The [Denver Post](#) (5/17) reports community and activist groups filed a federal lawsuit on Wednesday to "block trail-building and construction of a visitor center at the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, claiming that government officials have not adequately analyzed the environmental risks of opening the former nuclear weapons manufacturing site to the public." The groups allege that the US Fish and Wildlife Service has not "complied with the National Environmental Policy Act in moving forward with plans to begin building a visitor center at the 6,200-acre property 16 miles northwest of Denver as early as next month." David Lucas, refuge manager for FWS, "responded to the lawsuit by saying that construction of the visitor's center wasn't planned to start in June and that it hasn't been fully designed"

The [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (5/17, Brennan) reports Randall Weiner, a Boulder environmental law specialist who represents the plaintiffs in the suit, said, "Federal agencies have to comply with environmental statutes before they engage in significant actions that impact the public." Mark Squillace, a professor specializing in environmental law at the University of Colorado School of Law and a former Department of Interior special assistant, said, "In my mind, there is little doubt they (Fish and Wildlife) at a minimum have to prepare an environmental assessment before they go ahead, and they have to engage the public."

Hawaiian Plant Extinction Prevention Program Faces Budget Cuts.

[The Verge](#) (5/17, Potenza) reports on Hawaii's Plant Extinction Prevention Program (PEPP), which "focuses on protecting Hawaiian plants that only have fewer than 50 individuals left in the wild." The future of the program is in peril because the bulk of its funding comes from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and in the past year, "the FWS funding has been cut by 50 percent, to about \$500,000." When the new fiscal year comes in October, even more cuts are expected. The cuts started in the previous administration, but "President Donald Trump is requesting a 12 percent cut to the Interior Department." Miel Corbett, FWS deputy assistant regional director of external affairs, said, "Our federal funding levels are decreasing and so our ability to continue to provide financial support to our partners is shrinking as federal budgets shrink," adding that it is "a reflection of the overall budget situation at the federal level."

Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge Hosting Bird Festival.

[KWPC-AM](#) Muscatine, IA (5/17, Mason) reports on its website that the Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge Bird Festival will take place Saturday, May 20. A refuge biologist and trained volunteers will use mist-nets to capture songbirds, which will be banded and released.

Bureau of Land Management

BLM, Conservation Groups Settle Utah Land Use Plans.

[Law360](#) (5/17, Sieniuc) reports the Bureau of Land Management and conservation groups challenging six land use and travel management plans "on about 10 million acres in Utah administered by BLM asked a federal court on Tuesday to approve their deal to resolve the long-standing litigation, which includes new travel plans for site-specific areas."

Ex-BLM Head Tells US House Committee National Monuments Hurt Local Economies.

The [Lake Powell Life](#) (5/17) reports former BLM head Kathleen Clarke appeared before a US House committee and "blasted national monuments for harming local economies and communities' way of life." She told the committee, "Monuments have had significant and negative impacts on the traditional uses of these lands and on the lives and livelihoods of local populations." She added, "Landscapes don't disappear, but jobs do." The article mentions her position "contradicts the findings of two recent studies into the effects of monument creation."

Council Members, Senators Upset By Interior's Suspension Of Resource Advisory Councils.

The [Deming \(NM\) Headlight](#) (5/17, D'Ammassa) reports the US Department of Interior last week "abruptly suspended the activity of 200 natural resource advisory councils and national park committees that provide local input into federal management of public lands." The department explained in a statement, "To maximize feedback from these boards and ensure their compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the president's recent executive orders, the department is currently reviewing the charter and charge of each board/advisory committee." Council members were surprised by the suspensions of RACs. Randy Gray of Hillsboro, vice chairman of the Las Cruces District RAC, said, "We were just getting steam for making good recommendations, and now there is this hiatus. That was disappointing to me." New Mexico's US Sens. Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall "were among eight Democratic senators who signed a letter on May 11 to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke calling for reinstatement of RAC activity."

US Geological Survey

Idaho USGS Researchers Measure Flow Of Boise River.

On its website, [KBOI-TV](#) Boise, ID (5/17, Osumi) explains how the United States Geological Survey measures the flow of the Boise River. A hydrographer places a device in the water that "transmits how many cubic feet per second the water is traveling." To make sure the gauge is accurate, "crews have to make manual measurements, a task that isn't as easy as it may sound." The data the USGS gathers "is used to make sure the permanent steam gage is accurate because so many people rely on the numbers it transmits." Tim Merrick, Idaho USGS spokesperson, said, "The Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation are using data

from this gage to make decisions about releases from Lucky Peak.”

Securing America’s Energy Future

Offshore Energy Development

Panetta: Trump’s Offshore Order Attacking Legacy Of Protecting Marine Sanctuaries.

Rep. Jimmy Panetta writes in the Congress Blog for [The Hill](#) (5/17, Panetta) saying that President Trump’s executive order to expand offshore drilling is “attacking a legacy of laws, leaders, and local communities that have long fought to prevent any attempts to drill for oil in our treasured marine sanctuaries.” Marine sanctuaries were designed to protect important and unique areas of the ocean, so there must be more than an “executive order by President Trump to turn back the clock on the incredible work done to establish these treasures.” Panetta says that for California, “it would take an act of Congress to open them up for oil exploration and exploitation.” He promises to “fight not only for our marine sanctuaries in California and across our nation, but also to preserve the many benefits that our oceans bestow upon our communities, country, and future generations.”

Onshore Energy Development

BLM Looking For Ways To Speed Up Application Process.

[Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (5/17, Osborne) reports that a drilling application backlog is hampering new oil and gas drilling on federal lands, as more than 3,000 applications for drilling permits are awaiting review at the Bureau of Land Management, according to E&E News. Acting Director Mike Nedd said the agency is working on several strategies to speed up the application process. He said, “It may be a strike team. It may be shifting the workload to a different office.” Neal Kirby, spokesman for the Independent Petroleum Association of America, said, “Every day that goes by while independent producers — companies with an average of 12 employees — wait for their permits to be approved means more money out of their own pockets.”

Alaska Seeks Revised Rules For National Petroleum Reserve From Interior Department.

The [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (5/17, Bradner) reports Alaska officials will urge Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “for a revamp of Obama administration rules restricting oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, state Natural Resources Commissioner Andy Mack said May 12.” Mack said in an interview, “We believe we can help BLM (Bureau of Land Management) in developing a new plan that is balanced,” between resource development and environmental protection. BLM would develop the new plan, as it manages the 23-million-acre petroleum reserve, “but Mack said the state hopes to be heavily involved.” The current management plan “was implemented in 2013 and placed large parts of the reserve into special conservation areas, effectively putting large areas off-limits to petroleum exploration and development.”

Groups Ask FERC To Halt Construction Of Rover Pipeline.

The “Morning Energy” blog of [Politico](#) (5/17, Adragna) reported that more than 110 organizations released a letter yesterday “morning asking FERC to halt all construction on the Rover Pipeline and reopen the project’s environmental impact statement in light of the recent spill of 2 million gallons of drilling fluid.” The letter “also asks FERC to review...its horizontal drilling regulations in general and pause all pipeline projects in its docket while undertaking that action.”

New Natural Gas Pipeline To Cross Arkansas River.

The [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (5/17) reports Enbridge Inc. said “a new pipeline to transport natural gas is scheduled to be installed under the Arkansas River between Little Rock and North Little Rock, near the site where a similar pipeline ruptured nearly two years ago.” The pipeline industry says that using a horizontal directional drill process to bury the pipeline well under the riverbed “will result in a safer natural-gas transportation and storage system, protecting it from the turbulence of the river as opposed to the existing pipelines, which are on the river floor.”

Lack Of Fracking Crews May Push Oil Production Increases To 2018.

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/17, Carroll, Wethe) reports the shale explorers that have been expanding oil production are struggling to find enough hydraulic fracturing crews after thousands were dismissed during the market downturn. Infill Thinking LLC said independent US drillers underspent their first quarter budgets by \$2.5 billion because many could not find crews to handle all the planned work. Infill's founder Joseph Triepke said that if the struggle to find workers continues, the output increases planned for the summer may be pushed into 2018, which could create an unanticipated production bulge. Some workers are even paying early termination fees to take higher paying jobs at other fields. EQT Corp CEO Steven Schlotterbeck said, "So we will get some penalty fees but that obviously is far less than the value of having the wells fracked on the schedule that we would have liked."

Renewable Energy

US Less Attractive For Renewable Energy Investment.

[Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (5/17) reports that accounting firm Ernst and Young says Administration plans to undo the Clean Power Plan and the possibility of dropping out of the Paris climate accords "could push renewable energy investors away from the United States." The US's Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index has fallen below that of China and India.

Philadelphia Seeks To Add More Rooftop Solar.

[NPR](#) (5/17, Phillips) reports new employment is growing in the solar industry, and "Philadelphia has a plan to take advantage of this trend, and get young people without college degrees into the field." As part of a city plan to create 10,000 green jobs in the next ten years, the nonprofit Philadelphia Energy Authority is seeking "proposals from solar companies to install panels on 500 rooftops in the city by the end of 2018." The Solarize Philly plan seeks to take advantage of economies of scale and "negotiate deals with equipment manufacturers to bring down the cost enough to allow moderate income homeowners to participate."

Empowering Native American Communities

GAO Report Criticizes Bureau Of Indian Education.

The [Seventy Four](#) (5/17, Phenicie) reports the Government Accountability Office has released its biennial report on fraud, waste, and mismanagement in federal programs, and this iteration "includes the federal government's management of Indian education, primarily its mismanagement of spending and facilities." The report says the Bureau of Indian Education "doesn't have appropriate policies for overseeing school spending, and officials charged with that task often don't have the requisite training."

Bureau Of Reclamation Says South Dakota Tribe Repaid \$54K In Questionable Costs.

The [AP](#) (5/17) reports the US Bureau of Reclamation said Wednesday that a South Dakota Native American tribe "has repaid roughly \$54,000 in costs questioned by auditors" and agreed to "increase oversight of financial reporting and agreements." The bureau's decision "came after an audit found the tribe claimed \$1.44 million in costs for the operation and maintenance of a water system that was unsupported, unallowable or unreasonable." Reclamation's Great Plains Regional Director, Michael Ryan, "says the bureau made the decision after a careful review of the audit findings."

SCOTUS Denies Challenge To New York Land Trust Decision.

The [Rome \(NY\) Sentinel](#) (5/17) reports the US Supreme Court on Monday denied a petition from a group of plaintiffs challenging "a New York federal judge's March 2015 ruling that Interior had reasonably decided to take thousands of acres in Oneida and Madison counties, including the Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona and the Oneidas' 32 acres of reservation land in Madison County, into trust for the Oneidas." Interior placed the land into a trust "following the 2013 agreement with the state, Oneidas, and Oneida and Madison counties that settled trust land and tax issues."

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Testifies Before US House Appropriations

Subcommittee.

The [Muskogee \(OK\) Phoenix](#) (5/17) reports Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker testified before the US House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, environment, and related agencies as "part of a tribal leaders' panel invited to deliver comments on funding for American Indian/Alaska Native programs." Baker discussed the "effect the budget cuts to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of the Interior" and called for "a Bureau of Indian Education program equivalent to the Indian Health Service Joint Venture Construction Program."

Tackling America's Water Challenges

Federal Government Approves \$400 Million Northern Colorado Reservoir.

The [AP](#) (5/17, Elliott) reports the US government gave final approval Wednesday "for a \$400 million dam and reservoir in northern Colorado where 13 cities and water districts will store water from the other side of the Continental Divide." According to the AP, the Army Corps of Engineers "issued a permit for construction of the Chimney Hollow Reservoir in the foothills about 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of Denver." A spokesman for the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District said it was the last approval the reservoir needs, and "construction could start in early 2019, after the district refines the plans, hires a project manager and awards contracts."

Utah Town Seeks Restriction Of Popular Hiking Trail Due To Drinking Water Concerns.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (5/17, Maffly) reports town leaders of Kanarrville, the home of one of Utah's busiest hiking destinations, "fear the recreational traffic could degrade the drinking water, which comes from a spring on a state trust section" located near waterfalls and is piped to tanks at Kanarra Creek canyon's mouth. The Utah town is seeking a leasing deal with the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration "that would enable officials to severely limit the number of people hiking the scenic canyon, even though the trail crosses public lands." However, the proposal concerns public access advocates, "especially if it's approved without first exploring other options that don't restrict access and figuring out whether recreational use is actually hurting the town's water."

Top National News

DOJ Names Mueller As Special Counsel To Investigate Russian Interference In Election.

The Justice Department announced late Wednesday that Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein appointed former FBI Director Robert Mueller as special counsel to lead the investigation into Russian interference in the presidential election. Media coverage overwhelmingly characterizes the announcement as a defeat for President Trump, while taking a favorable view of the selection of Mueller for the role. Indicative of the overall reporting, the [Washington Post](#) (5/17, Barrett, Horwitz, Zapotosky) characterizes the move as "a concession by the Trump administration to Democratic demands for the investigation to be run independently of the Justice Department."

The [Washington Times](#) (5/17, Noble) reports Trump issued a statement about 90 minutes after the announcement in which he said, "As I have stated many times, a thorough investigation will confirm what we already know – there was no collusion between my campaign and any foreign entity." The President added, "I look forward to this matter concluding quickly. In the meantime, I will never stop fighting for the people and the issues that matter most to the future of our country."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (5/17, lead story, 4:00, Muir) reported the White House was "blindsided" by the "bombshell announcement," and Jonathan Karl said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (5/17, story 2, 0:40, Muir) that "they were completely taken off guard by this." Karl added, "I'm told the senior staff of the White House didn't get word of this until about 30 minutes before the news was shared with the news media." Pamela Brown said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) 📺 (5/17) that Rosenstein "wanted to make sure he didn't give a long advance warning to the White House and to the Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, about this

decision to appoint Bob Mueller as special counsel."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/17, A1, Wilber, Viswanatha) says Rosenstein had previously indicated he did not see a need for a special counsel and indicated he felt the individuals currently involved in the probe were independent enough. The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/17, lead story, 4:00, Pelley) said "the tipping point came yesterday when it was revealed" that former FBI Director Comey allegedly wrote in a memo that Trump asked him to stop investigating former National Security Adviser Flynn. [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/17) reported that "Mueller was at the Department of Justice last week" and that he met with Rosenstein a day after the Comey firing. CNN said Rosenstein was not ready to have a special counsel at that point, but that "clearly changed" after the reports regarding Comey's memo.

John Roberts said on [Fox News The Story](#) (5/17) that Trump's statement after the announcement made it seem "that he is completely comfortable with this, that he shows no worry about the fact that this has gone into the hands of the special prosecutor as opposed to the Deputy Attorney General at the Department of Justice." David Axelrod said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/17) that "if the President truly believes in his statement that his campaign and his associates and he will be cleared by such an investigation, then he should welcome this." Paul Begala said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/17) that the sentence missing from Trump's statement was, "I and my staff and my campaign will cooperate fully." Begala added, "He is making a huge mistake...by not volunteering that he will cooperate fully. ... The fact that he has not tells me something."

Roberts also said on [Fox News The Story](#) (5/17) that "for the White House, this is kind of a two-edged sword." Roberts said the decision "gets Democrats off their back," but "just three months into his presidency, a special prosecutor has been named to look into a lot of the dealings surrounding the Trump campaign." Jim Acosta said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/17) that "one thing we are going to have to be watching for is whether the President can show any restraint. Does he go after Bob Mueller if there is a day in the news he doesn't like?"

The [New York Times](#) (5/17, Ruiz) says that a special counsel "would remain ultimately answerable to Mr. Rosenstein – and by extension, the president," but he would "have greater autonomy to run an investigation than a United States attorney." [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/17, lead story, 2:50, Holt) reported that while Mueller will need to "get permission" from Rosenstein to "expand the investigation," it "seems like, at this point, if Mueller asks for something, he's going to get it."

Rosenstein said in a statement, according to [The Hill](#) (5/17, Williams), "In my capacity as acting attorney general I determined that it is in the public interest for me to exercise my authority and appoint a special counsel to assume responsibility for the matter." [Politico](#) (5/17, Gerstein) reports Rosenstein "stressed that the move to appoint a special prosecutor did not mean anyone involved acted illegally." Rosenstein said, "My decision is not a finding that crimes have been committed or that any prosecution is warranted."

The [AP](#) (5/17, Tucker, Gurman) and [Roll Call](#) (5/17, Ruger) indicate Rosenstein explained, "What I have determined is that based upon the unique circumstances, the public interest requires me to place this investigation into the authority of a person who exercises a degree of independence from the normal chain of command." The [New York Daily News](#) (5/17, Joseph) quotes Rosenstein as saying, "A special counsel is necessary in order for the American people to have full confidence in the outcome. Our nation is grounded on the rule of law, and the public must be assured that government officials administer the law fairly."

Steve Hayes said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (5/17) that "there are several reasons why Rosenstein had to take the step." Hayes added that Rosenstein "presumably" has seen Comey's memos. In addition, Hayes said Rosenstein "knows the status of the investigation more broadly and thought that this was the next logical step." Dana Bash said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/17) that according to "a senior Republican source," Rosenstein "was more and more agitated with the White House's actions and being put in the position that he had been put in, to the point where he was so angry, according to the source who was in contact with Rosenstein, that he was ready to, quote, pack his bags, last week."

In his [Washington Post](#) (5/17) column, Dana Milbank says Rosenstein's decision to appoint Mueller "redeemed his reputation, preserved the justice system, pulled American politics back from the brink – and, just possibly, saved the Republican Party and President Trump from themselves." Milbank says the first months of the Trump Administration "have

tested the strength of America's democratic institutions," but "the good news is it appears those institutions are holding." However, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/17) editorializes that Rosenstein bowed to pressure from Democrats and the media.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/17, Gold, Helderman, Hamburger) reports Mueller "brings to his new role as special counsel a proven willingness to take on a sitting president." [Reuters](#) (5/17, Rascoe, Cowan) quotes Mueller as saying in a statement – [tweeted](#) by CBS News – "I accept this responsibility and will discharge it to the best of my ability."

The [New York Post](#) (5/17, Tacopino) says the appointment as special counsel means Mueller, who will resign from the law firm WilmerHale, "has all powers of a federal prosecutor, including subpoena power." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/17, Tanfani) reports he will have authority to hire a staff and request a budget from the Justice Department, while [Townhall](#) (5/17, Vespa) says Mueller "will take command of the prosecutors and FBI agents who are working on the far reaching Russia investigation."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (5/17, story 4, 1:25, Muir) reported Mueller could decide to "start over" with the investigation. ABC added that Mueller "can now decide what he wants to do with all that information." [Breitbart](#) (5/17, Mason) cites the [order of appointment](#) giving Mueller authority over the probe into "any links and/or coordination between the Russian government and individuals associated with the campaign of President Donald Trump," "any matters that arose or may arise directly from the investigation," and "any other matters within the scope of 28 C.F.R. §600.4(a)." Breitbart says 28 C.F.R. §600.4(a) "expands a special counsel's jurisdiction to all crimes, such as perjury or obstruction of justice, that interfere with his original named responsibility." According to the [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (5/17, story 10, 0:50, Pelley), a probe into "all other matters that arise from that case" includes Trump's "dismissal last week of FBI Director James Comey."

Jeffrey Toobin said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (5/17) that Mueller "is an absolutely brilliant choice. There is no more respected figure in American law enforcement than Bob Mueller." Mueller is, Toobin added, "someone of what unquestioned integrity. Extreme confidence." Brit Hume said on [Fox News The Story](#) 📺 (5/17) that Mueller "is universally respected. His reputation as a totally straight shooter is widely recognized. He is the kind of grown-up who, in that job, may not feel compelled, as some previous special prosecutors have, to find a crime, whether one turns up at first or not." The [New York Times](#) (5/17) editorializes that Rosenstein "has done the nation a service in choosing Mr. Mueller, one of the few people with the experience, stature and reputation to see the job through."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/17, Sullivan, O'Keefe, Viebeck, Debonis) reports the approval of Mueller was "a rare moment of bipartisanship on Capitol Hill over a politically charged issue." [USA Today](#) (5/17, Johnson) reports "key" Republican lawmakers and Democratic Senators "welcomed" the news. The [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (5/17, story 4, 2:30, Pelley) similarly said "Democrats are hailing the appointment of a special prosecutor as a victory and a good first step, and the move will be welcomed by small but growing number of Republicans."

Rep. Jackie Speier told [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (5/17) that the decision of Rosenstein "to identify a special counsel and name Robert Mueller is remarkable." Speier added, "It took a lot of guts for him to make this decision and place someone with sterling credentials to take over this position." Sen. Richard Blumenthal said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (5/17) that the appointment of a special counsel is a "very solid and significant step." Blumenthal added, "Bob Mueller is someone with a history of expertise and experience with the guts and backbone to stand up and speak out against any kind of political influence." Sen. Chris Coons told [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) 📺 (5/17) that he was "encouraged" by the appointment. Coons added that Mueller's "long record of service as a senior federal prosecutor and as former FBI Director, suggests that he's exactly the sort of person that many of us hoped would be named for special counsel."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (5/17, McLaughlin, Harris) reports Rep. Jason Chaffetz [tweeted](#) that Mueller "is a great selection" with "impeccable credentials" and he "should be widely accepted." The [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (5/17, story 3, 2:25, Pelley) showed Chaffetz saying Mueller will "provide a great deal of comfort on both sides of the aisle. He's a real professional. People will have great trust in him." However, Chaffetz said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) 📺 (5/17) that while Mueller is a good choice, "I also agree that I don't think they actually should have appointed somebody."

Rep. Adam Kinzinger said on [Fox News The Story](#) (5/17) that "this is the right thing." Kinzinger said he "changed [his] mind" about the need for a special counsel when the information about Comey's memo came out and he "saw this partisan hysteria." Kinzinger added that he "came to the realization that an independent counsel, a special counsel, can take the heat off of this, can detox the partisanship of it." Sen. James Lankford told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/17) that the appointment is "positive" because "everyone wants to get to an answer" and "no one wants to see it drag on." Lankford said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (5/17) that he thinks "the decision was made to say we've got to have someone who is a prime mover and decision-maker that is unequivocally neutral and nonpartisan."

However, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/17, Mascaro, Halper) reports some Republicans – who have "preferred to keep the investigation relegated to congressional committees" – were "less enthused and slower to react." Senate Majority Leader McConnell said the appointment "confirms that the investigation into Russian intervention into our election will continue." House Speaker Ryan said his "priority has been to ensure thorough and independent investigations are allowed to follow the facts wherever they may lead" and the "addition of Robert Mueller as special counsel is consistent with this goal."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/17) editorializes that the appointment of a special prosecutor is "a much-needed shot of good news," but it "does not let Congress off the hook." The Post says that a special counsel's role "is only to look for criminal behavior" and prosecute it, as opposed to "inform the public or to pass judgment on actions that may have been unwise, inappropriate or unethical."

Reuters: Trump Campaign Had At Least 18 Previously Undisclosed Contacts With Russia. [Reuters](#) (5/18, Parker, Landay, Strobel) reports in an exclusive this morning that "Michael Flynn and other advisers to Donald Trump's campaign were in contact with Russian officials and others with Kremlin ties in at least 18 calls and emails during the last seven months of the 2016 presidential race. ... The previously undisclosed interactions form part of the record now being reviewed by FBI and congressional investigators."

Putin Offers To Provide Transcript Of Russian Officials' Meeting With Trump. Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday said he would be willing to provide Congress with a record of Trump's Oval Office meeting with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Russia's ambassador to the United States if the request comes from the Trump Administration. The [Washington Times](#) (5/17, Miller) says Putin "mocked the news media furor in the US over alleged intelligence sharing." According to a report in RT, Putin "said no secrets were shared at the meeting," and said, "We are seeing in the US a developing political schizophrenia. ... There is no other way I can explain the accusations against the acting US president that he gave away some secrets to Lavrov." [USA Today](#) (5/17, Stanglin) quotes Putin as saying, "If the US administration considers it possible, we are ready to submit a transcript of Lavrov's talk with Trump to the US Senate and Congress, if, of course, the US administration would want this."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/17, Grove) reports that Putin said that Lavrov did not pass on any US secrets following the meeting, and joked that he would have to admonish him for not handing such secrets over to the Kremlin or intelligence services. The Journal cites the joke as evidence that Putin enjoys the turmoil gripping the US.

The [New York Times](#) (5/17, Higgins) reports that "the offer left everyone guessing about what kind of 'record' Mr. Putin has of his diplomats' meeting with Mr. Trump. Intentionally or otherwise, Mr. Putin muddled the waters by using a Russian word that can mean both audio recording and a written account." [Reuters](#) (5/17, Pinchuk, Osborn) reports, Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov, "told reporters that Moscow had a written record of the conversation, not an audio recording." The [Washington Post](#) (5/17, Roth) calls the Kremlin's offer "provocative" and says "the tactic may have more to do with attempts to sow further chaos in Washington than assuage suspicions about the talks." The [New York Times](#) (5/17, Higgins) likewise says that Putin's offer "suggested less an effort to create clarity over what Mr. Trump actually said in the Oval Office last Wednesday than a headline-grabbing assertion of his own authority and a reminder that he should not be ignored." In a separate story, the [Washington Post](#) (5/17, Wang) says lawmakers from both sides of the aisle "quickly brushed off – even laughed off" – Putin's offer.

Rubio: Person In Meeting Says Trump Didn't Compromise Intelligence. The [Washington Times](#) (5/17, Persons) reports that in an interview with [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) on Wednesday, Sen. Marco Rubio said that "he spoke with a person in the meeting between

President Trump and Russian officials who said Mr. Trump didn't compromise intelligence information." Rubio said, "I didn't just speak to the White House, I spoke to one of the people that was in that meeting, and they vehemently and repeatedly denied that the president said or did anything that would've compromised US intelligence, its sources, its methods or our intelligence relationships around the world." Rubio added, "There are no transcripts of the meeting. There are notes, and I would imagine at some point here fairly soon the White House should make those notes available to the appropriate committees."

NYTimes Analysis: Trump "Far Less Forgiving" Of Other Recent Leaks. In an analysis, the [New York Times](#) (5/17, Qiu) says that while President Trump asserted his "'absolute right' to reveal highly classified information to Russian officials and defended his disclosure as a way to collaborate against terrorism," that stance "contradict[s] earlier positions on leaks." The Times describes Trump as "far less forgiving of recent leaks of government secrets," adding that he has offered "scathing assessments and suggesting harsh punishments."

In a piece for [USA Today](#) (5/17), James S. Robbins decries leaks and argues that "if anyone was placing sources and methods in danger it was the anonymous intelligence official who put a neon sign on the key bit of information that ISIS should be paying attention to. Good job." Robbins adds that "it is clear that some people are in the wrong line of work. Those who feel that it is their duty to criminally reveal secret information in the interests of hobbling the president should reexamine their priorities and their commitment to public service."

In 2016, McCarthy Told Colleagues "I Think Putin Pays" Trump. The [Washington Post](#) (5/17, A1, Entous) reports that in a "private conversation on Capitol Hill with his fellow GOP leaders" a month before President Trump secured the GOP presidential nomination, House Majority Leader McCarthy "made a politically explosive assertion" that "Trump could be the beneficiary of payments from Russian President Vladimir Putin." According to a recording of the June 15, 2016 conversation, McCarthy said, "There's two people I think Putin pays: [Rep. Dana] Rohrabacher and Trump." At that point, House Speaker Ryan "immediately interjected, stopping the conversation from further exploring McCarthy's assertion, and swore the Republicans present to secrecy." Ryan said, "No leaks...This is how we know we're a real family here." To the Post, the conversation provides a look at "the internal views of GOP leaders who now find themselves under mounting pressure over the conduct of President Trump."

White House correspondent Hallie Jackson said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/17, story 2, 1:20, Holt) that the Post report on McCarthy's comment is potentially "explosive" and "could do some real damage between the relationship between President Trump and Republican leaders." Jackson added that "McCarthy told NBC News, it's a bad attempt at a joke" and a spokesman for Ryan "echoed that, telling us tonight, 'This entire year-old exchange was clearly an attempt at humor.'"

Flynn Told Trump's Transition Team He Was Under Investigation. The [New York Times](#) (5/17, A1, Rosenberg, Mazzetti) cites "two people familiar with the case" who say former National Security Adviser Flynn "told President Trump's transition team weeks before the inauguration that he was under federal investigation for secretly working as a paid lobbyist for Turkey during the campaign." Flynn first disclosed the information to transition team attorney and now White House counsel Donald McGahn, and his lawyers told transition lawyers two days later. This, the Times adds, "shows that the Trump team knew about the investigation of Mr. Flynn far earlier than has been previously reported."

Report: Flynn Stopped Attack On ISIS Opposed By Turkey. According to [McClatchy](#) (5/17, Bergengruen), one of the Trump Administration's "first decisions about the fight against the Islamic State was made by Michael Flynn weeks before he was fired – and it conformed to the wishes of Turkey, whose interests, unbeknownst to anyone in Washington, he'd been paid more than \$500,000 to represent." The decision, McClatchy says, came 10 days before Trump was sworn in during a conversation with Flynn's predecessor, Susan Rice, who had explained the Pentagon's plan to retake Raqqa with Syrian Kurdish forces. The Obama Administration "decided to ask for Trump's sign-off, since the plan would all but certainly be executed after Trump had become president," but according to "timelines distributed by members of Congress in the weeks since, Flynn told Rice to hold off, a move that would delay the military operation for months."

Morrell Sees Three Lessons From Scandal. In a [Washington Post](#) (5/17) op-ed, former Deputy CIA Director Michael Morrell writes that the scandal provides "three lessons." First, Trump "is actually paying attention to the intelligence community," because he was "evidently

able to recite to the Russians the Islamic State-related threat intelligence on which he had been briefed with a significant level of detail." Second, National Security Adviser McMaster and his staff "are not succeeding in persuading Trump to work off of a set of carefully written and coordinated talking points when meeting with foreign officials" and are "not always willing or able to redirect the conversation between the president and foreign officials when it is heading into inappropriate areas." Finally, "the leaks that led to The Post's article on the issue have made matters worse." As a result of the leaks, ISIS "may now be narrowing its search for the source or method of the intelligence on its attack plans."

Trump Tells USCG Graduates "No Politician In History" Has Been Treated As Unfairly.

Coverage of President Trump's [commencement address](#) at the US Coast Guard Academy focuses mainly on the President's comments about how he is being treated unfairly by the media – remarks that are being criticized as self-pitying. [USA Today](#) (5/17, Jackson) reports, "On a brief escape from the political firestorm brewing in Washington, President Trump protested the media coverage of his four-month-old administration" in his address. Trump said, "No politician in history, and I say this with great surety, has been treated worse or more unfairly." Trump "did not make specific references to the problems awaiting him back at the White House, but they are multiplying."

The [New York Times](#) (5/17, Haberman, Thrush) says that the "embattled" President signaled with his remarks that he "will hunker down for a lengthy fight." The [Washington Post](#) (5/17, Nakamura) says Trump "was clearly eager to address the controversies, using the second half of his commencement address to express his frustration in rhetoric just loosely cloaked as 'advice' for the new cadets." He said, "Over the course of your life, you'll find things are not always fair. Things happen to you that you do not deserve and are not always warranted, but you have to put your head down and fight, fight, fight. Never, ever give up. Things will work out just fine."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/17, story 3, 3:20, Muir), Mary Bruce said the President was "venting to the Coast Guard graduation class." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/17, Bierman) writes that while the speech "contained much of the traditional praise for the new graduates, and ceremonial pardons of their 'oversights or slight violations,' it was also laced with Trump's hallmark defiance and boastfulness that put himself at the center." [NPR's All Things Considered](#) (5/17) reported, "The Coast Guard is famous for rescues at sea. President Trump used a graduation speech at the Coast Guard Academy today to try to right his own listing Administration." The [New York Daily News](#) (5/17, Edelman) says Trump used the speech "to toot his own horn and complain about how he's treated by the media."

Gail Collins writes in her [New York Times](#) (5/17) column, "Wow, Donald Trump can't even give a commencement speech to the military without making it all about him." Sen. Tim Kaine referenced the song "You're So Vain," [tweeting](#), "You probably think this graduation is about you..." Washington Post conservative blogger Jennifer Rubin [tweeted](#), "Pathetic. What contempt they must have for this whining." A [Daily Intelligence](#) (5/17, Raymond) piece is headlined "Trump Keeps The Focus On Himself In Coast Guard Commencement Address," while a story in the Guardian is headlined "Trump To Coast Guard: It's Rough Out There... For Me." The [Washington Times](#) (5/17, Miller) also covers the President's remarks.

Multiple Committees Seek Comey Testimony; Two GOP House Members Raise Impeachment.

Several congressional committees are now seeking testimony and documents from former FBI Director Comey, and Republicans are vocally joining Democrats in seeking a complete investigation into President Trump's interactions with Comey regarding former National Security Adviser Flynn and the FBI's Russia probe. Coverage is extensive and highly negative toward the President, with many reports including speculation over impeachment. A major component of the coverage deals with the Republican reaction – GOP legislators have been reticent to defend Trump, and two have said that impeachment may be on the table.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (5/17, story 3, 3:05, Holt) reported that "congressional committees [are] anxious to put James Comey under oath to hear from him whether President Trump did, in fact, ask him to back off the Michael Flynn part of the Russia investigation." House Oversight Chairman Jason Chaffetz wants a hearing next week while "three different congressional committees now demanding memos, recordings and clarity about the President's conversations

with" Comey. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/17, story 3, 3:20, Muir) reported both Democrats and Republicans want "Comey on the Hill testifying before the American people about what he wrote about his meetings with the President." The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/17, story 4, 2:30, Pelley) reported that Sen. Lisa Murkowski "put out a statement saying that these White House crisis are eroding public trust, and that 'it may be that we need the look to an independent commission or special prosecutor to regain that credibility.'"

The [New York Times](#) (5/17) reports that the Senate Intelligence Committee has invited Comey "to testify in both open and closed-door hearings, offering him the opportunity to address reports Mr. Trump asked him to scuttle the investigation into Mr. Flynn." Ranking Democrat Mark Warner said, "I don't think I know any member that I've talked to, publicly or privately, Democrat or Republican, that doesn't think that Jim Comey deserves a chance to tell his side of the story." [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/17) showed Warner saying, "I want to see the documents, I want to hear from Director Comey, and I want the FBI to come forward with any other relevant materials and then we can continue in a bipartisan way. We'll follow the intel and the facts." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/17, Mascaro) reports, "The committee hopes to have a response from the FBI within 72 hours, and expects to hear from Comey soon, possibly next week."

[McClatchy](#) (5/17, Goldstein, Wise) reports, "Washington went into full-blown crisis mode Wednesday as the controversies surrounding" Trump "ballooned into questions about whether the president might be guilty of obstruction of justice. ... With Trump scheduled to embark on his first foreign trip Friday, fears were high that another shoe might drop. Some experts suggested the president cancel his travels, but there was no indication such a dramatic step was even being considered." The [Washington Post](#) (5/17, Weigel, DeBonis) reports, "For much of a frenzied day, Democrats and Republicans were asked not just whether there needed to be further investigations of the president, but whether impeachment...was on their minds."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/17, Viebeck, Sullivan, DeBonis, Kane) reports that congressional Republicans "are increasing pressure on the administration to produce records related to the latest string of controversies involving President Trump, amid flagging confidence in the White House and a growing sense that scandal is overtaking the presidency." The Senate Judiciary Committee has "also asked the White House to provide any records of interactions between Trump officials and Comey, including audio recordings." Chairman Charles Grassley told [Politico](#) (5/17, Wright, Kim), "We need all those memos. We're going to try to get not just the Comey memo as you heard in my letter, but all memos, all communications between everybody - Comey, and other people in the hierarchy - and throughout the organization, wherever we have to, and over a long period of time."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/17, Tau, Andrews, Epstein) reports that Republican leaders are playing active roles in all of these inquiries, and [USA Today](#) (5/17, Kelly, Collins) says congressional Republicans "appeared to be digging in Wednesday for a long investigation of President Trump." House Speaker Ryan said, "Now is the time to gather all of the pertinent information. Our job is to be responsible, sober and concentrate on gathering the facts." The [Washington Times](#) (5/17, Dinan) reports that Ryan "said the House will pursue its investigation 'regardless of which party is in the White House.'" Amber Phillips writes in the [Washington Post](#) (5/17) "The Fix" that Republicans "face a difficult choice: Do they keep giving the president the benefit of the doubt that he's done nothing improper? Or do they take concrete steps to get more evidence, wherever it may lead?"

The [Washington Times](#) (5/17, Noble) reports that "following explosive reports" on the Comey memo, "members of Congress are now seeking records kept by the former director about his communications with the president. Given Mr. Comey's penchant for documenting what he considered to be controversial conversations or requests, there might be a lot to turn over." The [New York Times](#) (5/17, Ruiz) writes that "for law enforcement officials like Mr. Comey, who was fired last week as the director of the FBI, documenting sensitive conversations is a reflex - and in keeping with the habits of diligent lawyers." Charles Lane of the [Washington Post](#) (5/17) writes, "Today's lesson in How Washington Really Works begins with the 11th Commandment: 'Thou shalt retain documentation of all communications with the boss.' If anyone understands that, it's James B. Comey." [USA Today](#) (5/17, Johnson, Jackson) writes that "by firing the FBI director...Trump has unleashed a formidable rival who may finally outdo him. An untethered James Comey is now the single greatest threat to his young administration."

House Intelligence Committee ranking Democrat Adam Schiff told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/17) that we "don't know enough yet to conclude" whether Trump obstructed justice. He said, "The very best evidence, if it exists, would be any tape recorded conversations as the President threatened he had. The next best evidence would be any memoranda that Director Comey produced and his own testimony." Schiff said on [ABC's Good Morning America](#) (5/17), "We don't really know what took place here and we need to find out." Schiff said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (5/17), "I think there are questions that go to a legal standard which will mostly revolve around what the President's intent was. ... But then as a very practical question and that is in the context of, you know, a potential removal from office, would the country, would the Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, view the President's conduct as so serious to be disqualifying?"

Sen. Tim Kaine was asked on [CBS This Morning](#) (5/17) if Trump's actions are close to obstruction of justice. Kaine said, "If the facts are as they are alleged, yes it would get close to obstruction of justice." Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/17) that Trump's actions are "a textbook prima facie case of attempted obstruction." Sen. Joe Manchin said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (5/17), "The Intel Committee will get the facts. We'll get the facts and go from there. I'm not going to speculate until I see the facts."

Sen. Susan Collins said on [CNN's New Day](#) (5/17) that the Senate Intelligence Committee "is vigorously pursuing all of the allegations involving Russian influence on the campaign, including the vital question of whether there was collaboration between any member of the Trump campaign and the Russians." Sen. Marco Rubio said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (5/17) that it is "inevitable" and "inescapable" that Comey "will have to testify before the Congress. I imagine before the Judiciary Committee, and he's going to have to turn over these notes and anything else that he kept, and we'll go from there."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/17) says in an editorial that both Comey and the White House should release any records or tapes, and says it was foolish of Trump to discuss the Russia investigation with Comey.

Amash, Curbelo Become First Republicans To Mention Impeachment. On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/17, story 3, 3:20, Muir), Mary Bruce reported that Rep. Justin Amash became the first Republican to say that "if the allegations in the Comey memo are true, it could be an impeachable offense." [USA Today](#) (5/17, Kelly, Collins) says Amash "was the first Republican lawmaker to raise impeachment publicly," though [The Week](#) (5/17) reports that GOP Rep. Carlos Curbelo's spokeswoman "made a point of reaching out to Mother Jones to clarify that Curbelo was 'the first Republican to mention impeachment.'" The magazine's editor then [tweeted](#), "This correction we just ran makes clear how bad it's gotten for Trump."

Brian Todd said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/17) that "a huge question tonight is whether Congress, with both houses led by Republicans, is going to have the political will to establish a commission to investigate the President or to push impeachment proceedings in the months ahead." Nancy Cordes said on [CBS This Morning](#) (5/17) that the Comey memo "does seem to be a turning point for some Republicans whose instinct until now has been to stand by the President or minimize his mistakes." Legal analyst Dan Abrams said on [ABC's Good Morning America](#) (5/17), "When we're talking about impeachment, it's not about the definition of the statute. It's about the fact that Fox News at 6:00 [Tuesday] night couldn't get a single Republican to come on to defend Donald Trump. That should be a bigger concern than the legal statute."

Dana Bash said on [CNN's Wolf](#) (5/17) that this situation is "being received differently. It is being taken seriously in a way that we have not seen from the many, many other self-inflicted wounds, crises that have been manufactured from the Oval Office." "The Art Of The Deal" co-author Tony Schwartz said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/17) that Trump "is in pure terror that he is going to lose. And, by the way, he is going to lose. I surely believe that at some point over the next period of time, he is going to have to figure out a way to resign."

The [New York Times](#) (5/17, Hulse) writes that Republicans "are acutely aware that if they turn on Mr. Trump, they run the real risk of alienating the voters who made him president, voters the Republican Party is going to badly need in the midterm elections." However, the [Washington Post](#) (5/17, Fisher) writes that "within the president's party this week, what had been a fairly solid wall of support has suddenly developed cracks." David Leonhardt of the [New York Times](#) (5/17) notes that "well into 1974, most Republicans stayed loyal to Richard Nixon,"

which “is actually a reason for optimism. Why? Because the minority of Republicans willing to back an honest investigation of the president four decades ago was enough to make the difference.”

As for other party, Dan Balz of the [Washington Post](#) (5/17) writes, “Democrats were at the barricades over the conduct and policies of President Trump long before the blockbuster developments of the past week. One question now is whether they can step back enough to let events play out slowly, deliberately and without prejudice, whatever the ultimate outcome.”

Philip Bump of the [Washington Post](#) (5/17) writes that “life for 101 Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill may be about to get rather sticky. Those Republicans, you see, voted to impeach [President] Clinton for obstruction of justice 17 years ago, and they would need to decide whether to cast a similar vote against Trump. The Democrats declined to impeach Clinton on that charge – and would similarly need to develop a new rationale.”

Stone: Trump’s Foes To Claim He Has Alzheimer’s To Invoke 25th Amendment. The [New York Times](#) (5/17, Peters) reports that Trump’s “most fervent supporters are building alternative narratives to run alongside the ‘establishment’ media account – from relatively benign diversions to more bizarre conspiracies.” Roger Stone, “the president’s friend and longtime associate,” said, “They’re going to say that Donald Trump has Alzheimer’s. This is the game plan. Watch carefully.” The Times writes, “With varying degrees of credibility and credulity, conservatives have fed stories that Mr. Trump is the victim of sabotage by an adversarial intelligence community full of Trojan horse holdovers from the Obama administration.” The [Washington Times](#) (5/17, Blake) also reports on Stone’s prediction that claims that Trump has “become incapacitated by Alzheimer’s disease” will be used to remove Trump via the 25th Amendment.

More Commentary. E.J. Dionne writes in his [Washington Post](#) (5/17) column, “There is really only one issue in American politics at this moment: Will we accelerate our way to the end of the Trump story, or will our government remain mired in scandal, misdirection and paralysis for many more months – or even years? ... It shows how far along we are that fears are already being voiced of a political backlash from his supporters if Trump is railroaded out of office. But delaying the process of getting to the truth will harm our country far more. And Republicans who throw up roadblocks will be hurt most of all.”

Karl Rove writes in his [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/17) column that while Trump has not committed any crime, his actions have crippled his presidency, and a staff shake-up will not fix the problem. Rove says either Trump himself must change, or his presidency will fail.

[USA Today](#) (5/17) contributor Christian Schneider compares Trump’s current woes to the 2005 “Access Hollywood” tape, which “gave us a glimpse into the mind of a delusional old man using his fame to have sex with a married woman whether or not she consented.” He writes that the tape exposed Trump’s “core belief that as long as you’re an A-lister, there are no rules worth obeying. ... Because when you’re a star, they let you do it.”

Elizabeth Price Foley of Florida International University College of Law writes in the [New York Times](#) (5/17) that “as distasteful as the president’s statements may be, they do not constitute an obstruction of justice. Indeed, if they did, virtually every communication between criminal defense lawyers and investigators would be a crime.” Andrew McCarthy of [National Review](#) (5/17) similarly writes, “On its face, the statement does not amount to obstruction of justice. Trump could be said to be putting pressure on his subordinate. ... It is not frivolous to infer that Trump’s statement to Comey was a veiled order. If that is your interpretation, though, you cannot avoid the conclusion” that President Obama’s statements last year “were also veiled orders not to indict” Hillary Clinton. Guy Benson of [Townhall](#) (5/17) also cites this alleged Obama parallel.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“The Special Counsel America Needs.” The [New York Times](#) (5/17) editorializes that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein “has done the nation a service in choosing [as special counsel Robert] Mueller, one of the few people with the experience, stature and reputation to see the job through.”

“China’s Trillion-Dollar Foreign Policy.” A [New York Times](#) (5/18) editorial says that “to hear the world leaders who gathered in Beijing last weekend boast about China’s ambitious

plans to spend more than \$1 trillion on roads, ports, energy and other major projects in 60 countries, linking Asia, Europe and Africa, is to be reminded how America's vision and influence have shrunk under President Trump." The Times says that while Trump "pushes an America First agenda of isolationism and protectionism and embroils himself in controversies that raise doubts about his competence," President Xi Jinping "exudes purpose and confidence as he tries to remake the global economic and political order and lure nations into Beijing's orbit."

Washington Post.

"Trump's Commission On Voter Fraud Is, Well, Fraudulent." The [Washington Post](#) (5/17) argues in an editorial that the commission imppaneled by President Trump "to investigate voter fraud" is "the real fraud." Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, who will head the commission with Vice President Pence, "is notorious for erecting impediments to the ballot box – specifically, ones that would disproportionately discourage and deter minority and other Democratic-leaning voters." His presence "makes a farce of the idea that the commission's work will be dispassionate, fair and clear-eyed."

"A Note To Erdogan And His Thugs: You Can't Beat Up Protestors Here." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/17) says after President Trump "laid out the welcome mat" for Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, "the strongman apparently felt so much at home he thought it okay for his thugs to beat up peaceful demonstrators." The Post argues that "there need to be consequences," and that while the State Department "issued a relatively strong statement" condemning the attack on protesters outside the Turkish embassy in Washington, "it is not enough."

"A Special Counsel Is Essential. But Congress Isn't Off The Hook." The [Washington Post](#) editorializes that the appointment of a special counsel to investigate Russian attempts to influence the 2016 presidential election is "a much-needed shot of good news," but it "does not let Congress off the hook." The Post says that a special counsel's role "is only to look for criminal behavior" and prosecute it, as opposed to "inform the public or to pass judgment on actions that may have been unwise, inappropriate or unethical."

Wall Street Journal.

"Release The Comey Tapes." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/17) says in an editorial that both former FBI Director Comey and the White House should release any records or tapes, and says it was foolish of Trump to discuss the Russia investigation with Comey.

"The Special Counsel Mistake." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/17) editorializes that in appointing a special counsel to investigate attempts by Russia to influence the 2016 presidential election, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein bowed to pressure from Democrats and the media.

"West Coast Natural Gas Coup." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/17) praises the decision of 75 percent of Coos County, Oregon voters on Tuesday to reject a referendum looking to block the Jordan Cove liquefied natural gas terminal and a connecting 231-mile pipeline. As the nation's first West Coast terminal, Jordan Cove would provide Rocky Mountain gas field producers access to fast-growing Asian markets. The \$7.5 billion project also would prompt economic growth in the region via job growth: 240 new permanent jobs and 4,000 construction jobs would have an average salary of \$85,000.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Former FBI Director Robert Mueller Named Special Counsel For Russia Probe](#)
[Stocks, Dollar Sink On Washington Turmoil](#)
[Russian State-Run Bank Financed Deal Involving Trump Hotel Partner](#)
[Health Of New CSX Chief In Focus Ahead Of Pay Vote](#)

New York Times:

[Robert Mueller, Former FBI Director, Is Named Special Counsel For Russia Investigation](#)
[Trump Team Knew Flynn Was Under Investigation Before He Came To White House](#)

[Washington Is Abuzz With Surround Sound Of Scandal](#)
[Drama In Washington Rattles Wall Street, And Stocks Dive](#)
[The Right Builds An Alternative Narrative About The Crises Around Trump](#)
[How Uber And Waymo Ended Up Rivals In The Race For Driverless Cars](#)
[Forsaken Village On Italy's Coast Tells Tale Of A Paradise Lost](#)

Washington Post:

[Special Counsel Will Lead Russia Probe](#)
[Arrests Of Immigrants Soar Under New Administration](#)
[Mueller Roundly Lauded On Hill](#)
[Trump's Support Develops Cracks As Trump's Woes Grow, Support On Hill Wavers](#)
[Ryan Swore Republicans To Secrecy](#)
[DC Officials Skirted Rules For School Lottery, Report Finds](#)

Financial Times:

[Smith Defends Netflix Debut At Cannes](#)
[Trump Crisis Grows As Congress Seeks Russia Evidence](#)
[Indonesia Targets Islamist Group](#)
[Hong Kong Car Park Site Sells For \\$3Bn](#)

Washington Times:

[Longtime FBI Director Mueller Named Special Counsel To Investigate Russian Meddling In Election](#)
[Intel Officials Scoff At Hype Over Trump's Reported Sharing Of Information With Russians](#)
[Trump Engulfed In Turmoil With Talk Of White House Shake-Up Ahead Of Overseas Tour Free Of Obama Restraints, Immigration Agents Make 38% More Arrests In Trump's First 100 Days](#)
[Environmental Partners Of Obama Administration Quickly Turn Into Litigation Adversaries Of Trump](#)
[Palestinians Clash Over Video Of Snacking Politician On Hunger Strike In Israeli Prison](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Russia Meddling Investigation-WH; Russia Meddling Investigation-Congress; Russia Meddling Investigation-Expert Opinion; Trump-First Foreign Trip; Wall Street News; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; DC-Turkey Protest Violence; High School-Pepper Spray Exercise; Pennsylvania-School Bus Hit And Run; High School Graduation Brawl; South Carolina-Sharks Spotted; First-Time Mother Age; Elderly Unemployed Documentary.

CBS: Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Russia Meddling Investigation-WH; Russia Meddling Investigation-Congressman Chaffetz; Russia Meddling Investigation-Congress; Classified Info-ISIS Terror Plan; Syrian Civil War; Brady-Super Bowl; Severe Weather; Chelsea Manning Released; Russia Meddling Investigation-Recap.

NBC: Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Russia Meddling Investigation-Kevin McCarthy Comment; Russia Meddling Investigation-Congress; Wall Street News; Airplane Laptop Ban; Severe Weather; Colon Cancer Survivors; Chelsea Manning Released; DC-Turkey Protest Violence; High School Prom.

Network TV At A Glance:

Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel – 29 minutes, 25 seconds
Weather – 4 minutes, 25 seconds
DC-Turkey Protest Violence – 3 minutes, 35 seconds
Chelsea Manning Released – 55 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Tulsa Police Shooting Trial; Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Wall Street News.

CBS: Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Ransomware Hacking; Airplane Laptop Ban; Trump-First Foreign Trip; Severe Weather.

FOX: Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Tulsa Police Shooting Trial.

NPR: Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Russia Meddling Investigation-WH; Trump-South Korea Meeting; Airplane Laptop Ban.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with National Economic Director Gary Cohn; meets with President Santos of Colombia.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers the keynote address at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Invest in America! 2017 Summit; delivers remarks at the Laffer Associates 57th Washington Conference; joins the President to participate in an expanded bilateral meeting with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia.

US Senate: 8:30 AM Economic Equality Caucus Conference continues – Economic Equality Caucus Conference continues, with speakers today including Republican Sens. John Boozman and Roger Wicker and Democratic Rep. Jim Clyburn. Agenda includes sessions on 'Hunger, Nutrition, Rural Development Infrastructure and USDA Programs', Rm 385, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC (8:30 AM EDT) and 'The Trump Budget Cuts and Their Impact Nationally as Well as on the Virginia/DC/Maryland Region', Lutheran Church of the Reformation, 212 East Capitol St NE, Washington, DC (11:30 AM EDT) Location: Washington, DC www.mdgc.us

9:30 AM Nominations hearing considers William Francis Hagerty IV to be U.S. Ambassador to Japan Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Kari Bingen to be Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence; Robert Karem to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs; and Kenneth Rapuano to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Global Security Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, to consider 'S. XXXX, Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2017', 'S. 118, Reinforcing American-Made Products Act of 2017', 'S. 396, A bill to make technical amendments to certain marine fish conservation statutes, and for other purposes', 'S. 793, Shark Fin Trade Elimination Act of 2017', 'S. 1057, A bill to amend the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to address harmful algal blooms', and 'S. 1096, Maritime Administration Authorization and Enhancement Act for Fiscal Year 2018' Location: Rm 216, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Finance Committee marks up CHRONIC Care Act – Executive Session, to consider the 'Creating High-Quality Results and Outcomes Necessary to Improve Chronic (CHRONIC) Care Act of 2017' Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Nominations hearing considers David Bernhardt to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including nomination of Amul Thapar to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, plus 'S.867, Law Enforcement Mental Health & Wellness Act' Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'Domestic and International Policy Update', with testimony from Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:30 PM Deputy AG Rosenstein addresses all-senators briefing on the firing of FBI Director James Comey – Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein addresses an all-senators briefing on President Donald Trump's sudden firing of FBI Director James Comey last week, following an invitation from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Chuck

Schumer, in order to give the legislators an opportunity to ask him questions amid controversy over his possible role * White House has said President Trump received recommendations from Deputy AG Rosenstein and Attorney General Jeff Sessions over the firing, although the president subsequently said he made the decision before speaking to either. Department of Justice cited Director Comey's handling of a probe into former Secretary of State and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server, although President Trump subsequently attributed it to the agency's probe into contacts between Russia and the Trump campaign. While running for the presidency, Trump had praised Director Comey's actions in the email investigation Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC mcconnell.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/McConnellPress>

2:30 PM POSTPONED: Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing on the Balkan Peninsula – POSTPONED: Europe and Regional Security Cooperation Subcommittee hearing on 'The Balkan Peninsula: Strengthening Democracy and Countering Malign Foreign Influence', with testimony from Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Hoyt Brian Yee; Atlantic Council Executive Vice President Damon Wilson; SAIS Foreign Policy Institute Fellow Dr Majda Ruge; and National Endowment for Democracy Associate Director for Europe Ivana Cvetkovic Bajrovic Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

US House: 8:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on the USCG – Homeland Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Coast Guard Requirements, Priorities and Future Acquisition Plans', with testimony from U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Paul Zukunft Location: Rm 2007, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

8:30 AM Economic Equality Caucus Conference continues – Economic Equality Caucus Conference continues, with speakers today including Republican Sens. John Boozman and Roger Wicker and Democratic Rep. Jim Clyburn. Agenda includes sessions on 'Hunger, Nutrition, Rural Development Infrastructure and USDA Programs', Rm 385, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC (8:30 AM EDT) and 'The Trump Budget Cuts and Their Impact Nationally as Well as on the Virginia/DC/Maryland Region', Lutheran Church of the Reformation, 212 East Capitol St NE, Washington, DC (11:30 AM EDT) Location: Washington, DC www.mdgc.us

9:00 AM House Government Reform Committee hearing on federal employee compensation – Hearing on 'Federal Employee Compensation: An Update', with testimony from Congressional Budget Office Assistant Director for Microeconomic Studies Joseph Kile; American Enterprise Institute Resident Scholar Andrew Biggs; Heritage Foundation Research Fellow in Economics, Budget and Entitlements Rachel Greszler; and Government Accountability Office Director of Strategic Issues Robert Goldenkoff Location: Rm 2154, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on lessons from the IMF bailout of Greece – Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee hearing on 'Lessons from the IMF's Bailout of Greece', with testimony from Center for International Governance Innovation Senior Fellow Paul Blustein; Wilson Center Public Policy Fellow Meg Lundsager; Georgetown Law Professor Anna Gelper; and Congressional Research Service Specialist in International Trade and Finance Dr Rebecca Nelson Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Workforce subcommittee hearing on 'regulatory barriers to saving for retirement' – Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee hearing on 'Regulatory Barriers Facing Workers and Families Saving for Retirement', with testimony from Drinker Biddle & Reath partner Bradford Campbell; Peterson Institute for International Economics Senior Fellow Dr Jason Furman; Transamerica Senior Vice President James Kais; and PepsiCo Vice President for Global Benefits and Wellness Erik Sossa Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on U.S. interests in Africa – Hearing on 'U.S. Interests in Africa', with testimony from former U.S. Africa Command Commander Gen. (Ret.) William Ward; explorer and investigative reporter Bryan Christy; SAIS Adjunct Professor Anthony Carroll; and former U.S. Representative to the African Union Reuben Brigety II Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

10:00 AM House Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on integrated planning and water infrastructure – Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee hearing on 'Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Improving Water Quality through Integrated Planning', with testimony from South Bend, IN, Mayor Pete Buttigieg (on behalf of U.S. Conference of Mayors); Hattiesburg, MS, Mayor Dr Johnny DuPree (on behalf of National League of Cities); Hamilton County, OH, Commissioner Todd Portune (on behalf of National Association of Counties); Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Director Craig Butler (on behalf of Environmental Council of the States); WE3 Consultants Principal William Spearman III (on behalf of American Public Works Association); and Natural Resources Defense Council Senior Attorney Lawrence Levine Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on emerging transportation tech – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on 'Emerging Transportation Technologies', with testimony from RAND Corporation Senior Information Scientist Dr Nidhi Kalra; Stanford University Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics Professor Mykel Kochenderfer; Self-Driving Coalition for Safer Streets counsel and spokesperson David Strickland; and Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International President and CEO Brian Wynne Location: Rm 2358-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on U.S. Capitol Police budget – Legislative Branch Subcommittee hearing on 'U.S. Capitol Police: FY2018 Budget', with testimony from U.S. Capitol Police Chief Matthew Verderosa, and Assistant Chief Steven Sund Location: HT-2, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'H.R. 2371, To require the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration to establish a pilot project to provide increased transparency for customers, and for other purposes' and a discussion draft of 'H.R. XXXX, Water Rights Protection Act', with testimony from Arizona G&T Cooperatives CEO Patrick Ledger; Utah Farm Bureau Federation CEO Randy Parker; Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Mielke & Brownell partner Vanessa Ray-Hodge; Western Area Power Administration CFO Dennis Sullivan; and Colorado River District External Affairs Manager Chris Treese Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM Tax Policy Subcommittee hearing on 'How Tax Reform Will Grow Our Economy and Create Jobs Across America' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 1973, Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse Act', 'H.R. XXXX, Enforcing Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act', 'H.R. XXXX, Michael Davis, Jr. and Danny Oliver in Honor of State and Local Law Enforcement Act', 'H.R. 2407, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Reauthorization Act', and 'H.R. 2406, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Authorization Act' Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee markup hearing – Health Subcommittee markup hearing on 'H.R. 1222, Congenital Heart Futures Reauthorization Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2410, Sickle Cell Disease Research, Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act of 2017', and 'H.R. XXXX, FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017' Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

11:30 AM Speaker Ryan to Hold Weekly Press Conference – House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) will hold his weekly press conference. Contact: House Radio-TV Gallery staff at 202-225-5214. Location: Capitol Visitor Center HVC Studio A, HVC 114 www.speaker.gov <https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan>

12:00 PM House expected to vote on Thin Blue Line Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of 'H.R. 115 – Thin Blue Line Act', and consideration of 'H.R. 1039 – Probation Officer Protection Act of 2017' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM Wives of Chinese prisoners testify to House Foreign Affairs subcommittee –

Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on 'Disappeared, Jailed, and Tortured in China: Wives Petition for Their Husbands' Freedom', with testimony from Lee Chin-yu – spouse of Lee Min-che; Wang Yanfeng – spouse of Tang Jingling; Jin Bianling – spouse of Jiang Tianyong; and Chen Guiqiu – spouse of Xie Yang Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

2:00 PM Hearing on 'Current Status of the Medicare Program, Payment Systems, and Extenders' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

2:00 PM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on 'critical canine contributions to the DHS mission' – Oversight and Management Efficiency Subcommittee hearing on 'From the Border to Disasters and Beyond: Critical Canine Contributions to the DHS Mission', with testimony from Customs and Border Protection Canine Training Program Director Damian Montes; Transportation Security Administration Threat Assessment Division Director Melanie Harvey; U.S. Border Patrol Acting Deputy Chief of Law Enforcement Operations-Specialty Programs Peter Jaquez; Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency Director Dr Patrick Carrick; and Urban Search and Rescue-Florida Task Force Canine Search Specialist and Team Veterinarian Dr Jennifer Brown Location: HVC-210, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

2:00 PM GOP Rep. Mac Thornberry releases DoD reform bill – House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry releases his stand-alone acquisition bill – 'the third installment in his effort to enact reasonable, realistic reform in the Department of Defense' – via press conference Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

2:00 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on amphibious warfare – Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee hearing on 'Amphibious Warfare in a Contested Environment', with testimony from Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments analyst Jesse Sloman; and RAND Corporation Senior Policy Researcher Brad Martin Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

2:30 PM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on Library of Congress budget – Legislative Branch Subcommittee hearing on 'Library of Congress: FY2018 Budget', with testimony from Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden, and Deputy Librarian for Institutional Advancement Robert Newlen; and Library CIO Bud Barton Location: HT-2, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

4:00 PM Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission briefing on humanitarian protection – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hosts 'Humanitarian Protection: Views from the Field' briefing, on the operational challenges of protecting civilians in the context of humanitarian crises. Coordinators of NGO humanitarian networks in Iraq, Burma (aka Myanmar), and Syria – NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI) Executive Director Kelly Gilbride, INGO Forum (Burma) coordinator Marta Kaszubska, and Syria INGO Regional Forum representative Mathieu Rouquette – discuss the on-the-ground operational challenges they face in protecting civilians in the midst of such crises, and provide recommendations for meeting these challenges Location: Rm 2255, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://tlhrc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/TLHRCommission>

Other: 8:00 AM SMART Congressional Breakfast Briefing and Symposium – SMART Congressional Breakfast Briefing and Symposium, hosted by the Hispanic Heritage Foundation, to discuss 'an innovative school health solution focused on academic achievement'. SPeakers include Democratic Reps. Jan Schakowsky and Terri Sewell, Hispanic Heritage Foundation CEO Antonio Tijerino, CVS Health Chief Diversity Officer David Casey, CVS Workforce Initiatives Senior Ernest DuPont, Brown University Vice President for Academic Development, Diversity, and Evaluation Dr Liza Cariaga-Lo, Ginn Group Consulting President and CEO Melanie Shaw Ginn, and University of Alabama College of Education Dean Dr Peter Hlebowitsh * SMART clinics employ social workers, nurses, physicians, administrators and other staff that work closely with educators to meet the unique needs of disadvantaged students and remove stigma and barriers to foster a culture of self-care Location: Ronald Reagan Bldg. and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC <http://www.hispanicheritage.org/>

<https://twitter.com/HHFoundation>

8:30 AM CSID Annual Conference – Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy Annual Conference – ‘The Trump Administration and the Islamic World: From Fighting Extremism to Building Peace and Prosperity’. Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy keynotes Location: Renaissance Washington Hotel, 999 9th St. NW, Washington, DC islam-democracy.org

10:00 AM Dem Rep. John Delaney speaks at Bipartisan Policy Center on infrastructure funding – Democratic Rep. John Delaney speaks at Bipartisan Policy Center on ‘\$1 Trillion for Infrastructure – Balancing Public and Private Sources’, as part of National Infrastructure Week. Other speakers include City and County of Denver Chief Projects Officer Diane Barrett, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Executive Director Pat Foye, Prince George’s County, MD, Department of the Environment Director Adam Ortiz and S&P Global President and CEO Doug Peterson Location: Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 Eye St., Washington, DC www.bipartisanpolicy.org https://twitter.com/BPC_Bipartisan #BPCLive

11:00 AM Bicameral Dems outline new govt ethics bill – Democrats Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse and Tom Udall and Rep. Ted Deutch discuss their Conflicts from Political Fundraising Act – new legislation to ‘close a glaring ethics loophole in the appointment process for high-ranking govt officials’ – via press call. They also discuss ‘how it would help to address some of the serious conflicts of interest posed by Trump administration appointees who used to solicit for or donate to special interest spending groups’ Location: TBD whitehouse.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/SenWhitehouse>

4:00 PM AAPSS annual Moynihan Prize Lecture – American Academy of Political and Social Science 2017 Daniel Patrick Moynihan Lecture on Social Science and Public Policy: prize-winner Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs Professor of Economics and Public Policy Alan Krueger on ‘Independent Workers: What Role for Public Policy?’, introduced by Democratic Sen. Mark Warner Location: Rm 325, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.aapss.org> <https://twitter.com/TheAAPSS>

6:00 PM Colombian President Santos speaks at Economic Club of Washington, DC – Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos speaks at the Economic Club of Washington, DC * President Santos meets with President Donald Trump at the White House today Location: JW Marriott Hotel, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC www.economicclub.org <https://twitter.com/TheEconomicClub>

6:30 PM Transportation Secretary Chao and Netflix CEO give lecture at Library of Congress – Library of Congress John W. Kluge Center Third Annual Daniel K. Inouye Distinguished Lecture: ‘Inspiring a Sense of Service and Idealism’, with Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao and Netflix CEO Reed Hastings reflecting on their experiences as leaders in govt and business and discussing ‘the need for a spirit of service and idealism’ * This year’s lecture held as part of special Library programming to mark the centennial of John F. Kennedy’s birth Location: Library of Congress (Thomas Jefferson Bldg), 10 1st St SE, Washington, DC <http://www.loc.gov/homepage/lchp.html> <https://twitter.com/librarycongress> #Inouye

7:00 PM Committee of 100 Awards Gala Dinner – Committee of 100 Awards Gala Dinner, with Democratic Rep. Judy Chu and Republican Rep. Ed Royce providing remarks. Honorees include Chinese Ambassador to the U.S. Cui Tiankai * Summit takes place tomorrow Location: Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC <http://www.committee100.org/> <https://twitter.com/Committee100>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: “The temperature was higher than Sean Spicer’s blood pressure today in Washington, DC.”

Jimmy Kimmel: “By the way, betting odds, you bet on this sort of thing, betting odds on Donald Trump being impeached are close to 50-50, close to even. At this point, Melania is looking pretty smart for not moving out of New York, you know.”

Jimmy Kimmel: “This explains why the Russian ambassador insisted Donald Trump speak directly into the flowers he brought him. Can you imagine a former KGB agent, Vladimir Putin,

offering to vouch for our President's credibility? What a love story this is. It is like 'The Notebook 2.'"

Jimmy Kimmel: "All Trump said is, 'I hope you can let it go.' Maybe he was singing the song from 'Frozen,' we don't know."

Stephen Colbert: "There's a huge scandal out of the White House. No, not that scandal. Or the one before that, or the one tomorrow."

Stephen Colbert: "Right now, [NATO is] frantically trying to Trump-proof the President's first visit. Now, 'Trump-proofing' traditionally means locking the door to the Miss USA dressing room."

Stephen Colbert: "As one anonymous source put it, 'It's like they're preparing to deal with a child.' Yeah, with Trump around, you've got to put the hook on the cabinets, bumpers on the coffee table, and put one of one of those twisty caps to child-proof the nuclear button."

Stephen Colbert: "I suppose we should have seen [Trump's] anti-exercise thing coming. After all, one of the first things Trump did was replace Michelle Obama's 'Let's Move' campaign with his own, 'Let's Not.'"

Trevor Noah: "People are talking about President Trump being in real trouble this time, which means for Trump, it's a normal Wednesday."

Trevor Noah: "Last week, it was firing FBI Director James Comey, who was coincidentally investigating Trump's ties to Russia. Then Monday, we found out that Trump revealed national security secrets, coincidentally, to the Russians. And then last night, to complete the trilogy, yet another Trump scandal drops."

Trevor Noah: "First, he helps Trump get elected, and now, he could be the reason that Trump gets kicked out. Comey reminds me of every black mother. I brought you into this world, and child, I can take you out of it."

Trevor Noah: "Obstruction of justice to impeachment is what that funky robot voice is to Daft Punk. It's the key ingredient."

Trevor Noah: "Anyway, the point is, this is by far the biggest Trump scandal until the next one."

Trevor Noah: "Last night, I realized why Donald Trump loves Fox News so much. They are basically his Snapchat filter, all right. Because whatever the reality is, they will always make him look better than he is. And just like a snap, we are all hoping that he disappears soon."

Jimmy Fallon: "Some say that what Trump told Comey could be considered obstruction of justice and could land Trump in serious trouble. You can tell Trump's worried because today he frantically signed an executive order to make all prisons super-nice."

Jimmy Fallon: "In an op-ed, the New York Times argued that Trump should be declared unfit and removed from office via the 25th amendment. Well, when he heard that, Trump said, 'Wait, there are 25 amendments?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "A reporter from Politico says that when she asked Republican Congressman Darrell Issa about the Flynn scandal, he gave her the middle finger and kept walking. Then Sean Spicer said, 'Hang on, we're allowed to do that to reporters? I would have done that four months ago.'"

Seth Meyers: "During his commencement speech at the Coast Guard Academy today, President Trump said that no politician in history has been treated worse or more unfairly by the media

than he has. And when Hillary Clinton heard that, she laughed so loud the moon cracked."

Seth Meyers: "Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said today that he would have no way of knowing if the Russians installed a listening device in the Oval Office during their recent meeting with President Trump. And why would they need to? They already installed a talking device."

Seth Meyers: [Referring to President Trump's speech at Coast Guard Academy Commencement] "No politician has been treated worse? Need I remind you about Lincoln? There were only 20,000 people at his inauguration, and none of the TV stations covered it."

Seth Meyers: "Even Fox News can't get Republicans to come on [TV]. That's E! not being able to book a Kardashian."

Copyright 2017 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.