

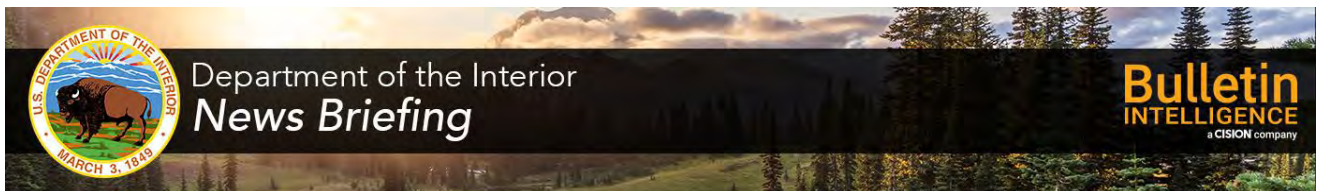
Conversation Contents

[EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, May 22, 2018

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From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Tue May 22 2018 04:00:46 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, May 22, 2018

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DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2018 6:00 AM EDT

Today's Table Of Contents

DOI In The News

- Newton County (AR) Times: Expansion Of Hunting And Fishing Opportunities Includes Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge.
- KFVR-TV Bismarck (ND): More Than 200 Exhibitors To Present At Williston Basin Petroleum Conference.
- Billings (MT) Gazette: Zinke Says Interior Reorganization Still On Track In Speech At Fort Peck.
- Steamboat (CO) Pilot & Today: Secretary Of The Interior Ryan Zinke To Keynote Freedom Conference In Steamboat.
- Associated Press: More Bipartisan Support For Civil Rights Site As US Monument.
- Associated Press: Lawmakers Tout Historic Little Rock School Site Additions.
- E&E Publishing: Prospects For Sage Grouse Rider's Survival Improve.
- Helena (MT) Independent Record: Montana Groups Fight To Preserve Federal Conservation Funds.
- Missoula Current (MT): Snowmobilers Seek Trump's Help In Gaining Access To Proposed Great Burn Wilderness.
- Missoula Current (MT): New Forest Service Chief Says Firefighting Must Become More Efficient.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Deseret (UT) News: Utah Sen. Lee Targeting Powers Of BLM, Forest Service.
- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: Decision On Shale Project Right Of Way May Be Made In Early July.
- Casper (WY) Star-Tribune: Year-Round Drilling In Converse County Offers Operators A Chance To Drill Down Costs.
- Newsweek: Wild Horse Management Plan Would 'Guarantee Extinction,' Mustang Advocates Say.

- Idaho Press Tribune: BLM Launches 'Online Corral' To Ease Wild Horse Adoptions.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Roundup Nets 148 Wild Horses In Mountains West Of Las Vegas.
- Prescott (AZ) Daily Courier: Scientists Find No Cancer-Causing Erionite At Kirkland Mine Site.
- Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: Students Learn About Environment At Scorched Campground.
- Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News: Free Entrance To Dripping Springs And Aguirre Spring On Saturday.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- Florida Delegation Playing Hardball To Extend Offshore Drilling Moratorium.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Arkansas River A Bright Spot Amid Grim Drought.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Alaska Public Radio Network: American And Japanese Descendants Unite After 75 Years To Ensure Attu Occupation Is Remembered.
- ABC News: Hunter Charged With Federal Crimes For Allegedly Leading Illegal Elephant Hunts.

National Park Service

- Reuters: U.S. Proposes End Of Grizzly-baiting Ban In Alaska's National Preserves.
- The Hill: Park Service Publishes Climate Report After Charges Of Censorship.
- Reuters: Hawaii Volcano Eruption Driving Away Millions In Tourism Dollars.
- Associated Press: Yellowstone Bison Experiment Stopped, Disease Rules Changed.
- Utica (NY) Observer Dispatch: State, Federal Governments Look To Maintain Area Parks Deal.
- Associated Press: Helicopter Rescues Hiker In Joshua Tree National Park.
- Erie (PA) Times-News: Lawrence Park Receives Historic Designation.
- Ames (IA) Tribune: Main Street Listed On National Register Of Historic Places.

Insular And International Affairs

- Interior Announces \$247,405 In Funding Support For Power Utilities And Lineman Training In US-affiliated Pacific Islands.
- Learning From Past Micronesian Leaders: Bevacqua.
- U.S. Department Of Education Sends More Aid For V.I. Private And Parochial Schools.
- FHA Extends Foreclosure Freeze For Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands Hurricane Victims, Again.
- School's Future Top Concern Of St. John Residents.
- USSTRATCOM Targets U.S. Space Domain Concerns.
- Pacific Island Leaders Gather In Northeastern Japan For Summit.
- Taiwan Relations Unchanged Despite Chinese Pressure: Palau President.

US Geological Survey

- CBS: Lava Flow Reaches Pacific Ocean.

Opinion Pieces

- Grijalva: 'Dark & Misguided' To Deploy Park Police On Border.
- A Washington Bomb Set To Go Off In California's Delta Tunnels Water War.

Top National News

- ABC: DOJ To Expand Russia Probe To Include Alleged FBI Surveillance Of Trump Campaign.
- CBS: Pompeo Lists Demands, Threatens Iran With "Strongest Sanctions In History."
- Reuters: Pence: Trump Willing To Walk Away From North Korea Summit.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "Trump v. The Department Of Justice."
 - "Venezuela's Sham Election."
- Washington Post.
 - "Not Doors, Not Ritalin. The Issue Is Guns."

- "Don't Let Trump Distract From The Questions That Need Answering."
- "Mike Pompeo Sets The Stage For Perpetual Conflict With Iran."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "Putting A New Squeeze On Iran."
 - "Arbitration Wins At The High Court."
 - "A Welcome China Trade Truce."

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

Expansion Of Hunting And Fishing Opportunities Includes Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge.

The [Newton County \(AR\) Times](#) (5/21) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Monday "announced a proposal to open more than 248,000 acres to new or expanded hunting and fishing opportunities at 30 national wildlife refuges." Zinke said, "As stewards of our public lands, Interior is committed to opening access wherever possible for hunting and fishing so that more families have the opportunity to pass down this American heritage. These 30 refuges will provide incredible opportunities for American sportsmen and women across the country to access the land and connect with wildlife."

More Than 200 Exhibitors To Present At Williston Basin Petroleum Conference.

[KFYR-TV](#) Bismarck, ND (5/21, Hjelseth) reports that more than 238 exhibitors and 70 industry leaders will present at the Williston Basin Petroleum Conference, "showcasing everything from Aircrafts to Oilfield Technologies." [KFYR-TV](#) Bismarck, ND (5/21, Martinez) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will deliver the keynote speech.

Zinke Says Interior Reorganization Still On Track In Speech At Fort Peck.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (5/21, Lutey) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Sunday visited Fort Peck Dam to speak about the need to reorganize the Interior Department. Zinke recounted a story about the difficulties of navigating the federal bureaucracy using a "parable" about two fish. According to the article, "after the meeting Zinke traveled to Wolf Point to the grave site of Navy SEAL Michael Bell, who Zinke trained through Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training. Bell was later stabbed to death during a 2006 fight in Wolf Point." Later Sunday, Zinke "met with the tribal executive board of the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes."

Also reporting is [KCHH-FM](#) Worden, MT (5/21, Flint).

Secretary Of The Interior Ryan Zinke To Keynote Freedom Conference In Steamboat.

[Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (5/21, Stensland) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will "be the keynote speaker during The Steamboat Institute's Freedom Conference this August in Steamboat Springs." Zinke will "speak during the first evening of the Aug. 10 and 11 Freedom Conference."

More Bipartisan Support For Civil Rights Site As US Monument.

The [AP](#) (5/22) reports that "an effort to turn the home of a slain civil rights leader into a national monument is gaining more bipartisan support." Republican U.S. Sens. Roger Wicker and Cindy Hyde-Smith of Mississippi and Democratic Sen. Doug Jones of Alabama "introduced a bill Monday to make the Medgar Evers home a monument." Interior Secretary

Ryan Zinke has "recommended national monument status for the Evers home, which is now owned by Tougaloo College."

Lawmakers Tout Historic Little Rock School Site Additions.

The [AP](#) (5/21) reports that "two U.S. representatives are praising federal legislation that expands the boundaries of the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site." Reps. French Hill and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy visited the site on Sunday. President Trump "signed legislation in January adding seven houses near the school to the historic site boundaries." The legislation also "allows the Interior Department's secretary to reach 'cooperative agreements' with the homeowners to preserve the site."

Prospects For Sage Grouse Rider's Survival Improve.

[E&E Publishing](#) (5/21, Sobczyk) reports that "sage grouse policy has once again made it into" the annual National Defense Authorization Act thanks to House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop, "but this year, his provision may have a shot at becoming law" because of the absence of Senate Armed Services Chairman John McCain. In 2015 and 2016, McCain "helped foil Bishop's sage grouse efforts during the conference process, panning them as unrelated to the military." However, "as McCain continues treatment for brain cancer," Sen. Jim Inhofe will "likely handle the defense bill on the Senate side," and "the longtime ally of the energy industry is likely to be more amenable to Bishop's proposal."

Montana Groups Fight To Preserve Federal Conservation Funds.

The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (5/21, French) reports that "a coalition of Montana conservation groups has authored a report outlining the importance of the Land and Water Conservation Fund in the wake of the Secretary of Interior's announcement to budget only \$8 million to the federal portion of the program – which if approved by Congress would be the lowest amount ever allocated." The conservation groups are worried "because the federal portion of the LWCF is key to acquiring new lands." The groups have "highlighted the importance of LWCF in a detailed, 24-page report released May 21 titled 'Keeping Montana the Last Best Place, A report on the economic and community benefits of the Land and Water Conservation Fund in Montana.'"

Snowmobilers Seek Trump's Help In Gaining Access To Proposed Great Burn Wilderness.

The [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (5/21, Lundquist) reports that "snowmobile groups from Montana and Idaho are asking the Trump administration to open proposed wilderness areas in western Montana and elsewhere to their mechanized sleds." The Backcountry Sled Patriots has "drafted an executive order for President Donald Trump, requiring the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to prove snowmobile access would specifically harm a would-be wilderness area before denying mechanized access." Stan Spencer, Backcountry Sled Patriots president, "said he talked to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who reportedly had a positive response to the draft executive order." The article notes that "both Zinke and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue would have to recommend that the president sign the order."

New Forest Service Chief Says Firefighting Must Become More Efficient.

The [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (5/21, Lundquist) reports, "Interim Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen cautioned Monday that the fire funding fix comes with 'no blank checks,' but with a mandate to fight wildfires more efficiently." Christiansen "addressed hundreds of firefighters, scientists and land managers from across the globe as a keynote speaker at the 24th annual Fire Continuum Conference at the University of Montana." Christiansen said, "If we think what worked for us for the last 100 years is going to work for us the next 100 years, we might as well fold and go home because I don't see success."

Bureau Of Land Management

Utah Sen. Lee Targeting Powers Of BLM, Forest Service.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (5/21, O'Donoghue) reports that Sen. Mike Lee is looking "to rein in the law enforcement authority of the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service and is crafting legislation he says will either restrict or abolish their authority." Lee on Monday said "he aims to hem in powers he says were never envisioned under the Federal Land Management Policy Act of 1976." He said, "Our federal land management agencies have drifted far from their intended purposes."

Decision On Shale Project Right Of Way May Be Made In Early July.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (5/22, Webb) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has "released its final analysis for a proposed utility right of way for a northeast Utah oil shale project near the Colorado border, meaning a decision on the proposal could come in early July." The BLM has "completed a final environmental impact statement for the proposed Enfit American project about 40 miles south of Vernal and 25 miles southwest of Rangely." The agency's "decision on the proposal could come after July 2, before which the public has a final opportunity to comment on the proposal."

Year-Round Drilling In Converse County Offers Operators A Chance To Drill Down Costs.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (5/21, Richards) reports that "an oil and gas proposal has turned heads in Wyoming's Powder River Basin and it could have a significant effect on drilling in a 1.5 million square acre hot spot north of Douglas." The project is "one of the biggest in terms of acreage that the Bureau of Land Management has overseen in Wyoming." The BLM recently completed a draft environmental impact statement, and when the environmental analysis is completed next year, it will "be a guidebook that impacts every company drilling for federal minerals, or on federal land, within the project boundary."

Wild Horse Management Plan Would 'Guarantee Extinction,' Mustang Advocates Say.

[Newsweek](#) (5/21, Hugo) reports that the Bureau of Land Management "recently proposed a series of options that would drastically reduce the number of mustangs on public lands." However, "some horse lovers think the plan would be too effective and wipe out the animals completely." A number of wild horse advocacy groups have "signed a document describing what they believe are better solutions." The Wild Horse Freedom Federation "said a better plan would be to reduce the amount of rangeland given to ranchers so that horses can reclaim the range that they had in 1971: 53.8 million acres, as opposed to today's 26.9 million." The group "suggested that the BLM use offers from the public to help promote horse adoptions, and also reintroduce native predators."

BLM Launches 'Online Corral' To Ease Wild Horse Adoptions.

The [Idaho Press Tribune](#) (5/21, Russell) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has "launched a new website meant to make wild horse and burro adoption easier." The site has "streamlined search functions, allowing viewers to search by price range, age, gender and even location of wild horses currently awaiting adoption." The [Pagosa \(CO\) Daily Post](#) (5/21, Sandoval) reports that Brian Steed, BLM Deputy Director for Policy and Planning, said, "Wild horses and burros make great companions that are superb at performing a wide variety of tasks. I urge everyone to attend a wild horse and burro event or visit the new Online Corral to learn how to bring one home."

Roundup Nets 148 Wild Horses In Mountains West Of Las Vegas.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (5/21, Brean) reports that "federal authorities wrapped up their emergency roundup in the mountains west of Las Vegas on Monday after removing three more wild horses from the depleted range near Cold Creek." Donn Christiansen, "who manages the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area for the U.S. Forest Service, said the last of the 148 horses captured since May 11 would be trucked to a Bureau of Land

Management holding facility in Ridgecrest, California, on Tuesday.” According to the article, “the decision to end the operation was made after a helicopter survey Monday morning showed no more hungry horses within range of the contract wrangling crew.”

Scientists Find No Cancer-Causing Erionite At Kirkland Mine Site.

The [Prescott \(AZ\) Daily Courier](#) (5/21, Tone) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has “received results of scientific tests indicating there is no erionite or harmful asbestos-like materials present on the proposed pozzolan mine in Skull Valley.” Kirkland Mining Company “hopes to quarry and crush rhyolite and rhyodacite volcanic tuffs for use as a supplement in commercial concrete production.” According to the article, “opponents believed erionite, or some other form of harmful asbestiform silica, was present in the pozzolan materials and would create a dangerous health hazard for the nearby community and along proposed transportation routes through Prescott and Chino Valley.” Rem Hawes, BLM Hassayampa Field Office manager, said, “The owner has been very proactive compared to most of my mining operators. This particular operator has stayed in compliance with all requirements, has not balked at any of the requests we make on an operation like that. And we’ve made pretty detailed requests of her.”

Students Learn About Environment At Scorched Campground.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (5/21) reports that “the Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain District, hosted the 27th annual Sixth Grade Environmental Day at Willow Ponds on May 10.” Battle Mountain District Manager Doug Furtado said, “You just can’t beat programs like this. Great partners, great concept and seeing the kids having fun while learning about public lands is just about as good as it gets. We have seen this event grow into something incredible over the past 27 years and would like to thank our partners and the Battle Mountain Middle School for supporting this amazing program.”

Free Entrance To Dripping Springs And Aguirre Spring On Saturday.

The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (5/21) reports that “on Saturday, May 26, the Bureau of Land Management is waiving the access fee to the Dripping Springs Natural Area and the Aguirre Spring Recreation Area (fees for overnight camping will still apply).”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Florida Delegation Playing Hardball To Extend Offshore Drilling Moratorium.

[CQ Roll Call \(DC\)](#) (5/21, Dillon) reports “Florida’s House delegation is preparing to throw its weight around to win a multiyear extension” of the moratorium on offshore drilling in the eastern portion of the Gulf of Mexico. According to Roll Call, an extension could be attached as an amendment to a “must-pass defense measure” under consideration this week “as well as a comprehensive public lands energy bill moving out of the House Natural Resources Committee.” Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-FL) said, “I don’t see any light between Democrats and Republicans on this very passionate issue. ... We are the third largest delegation, and we have a lot of clout when we are united.”

Meanwhile, according to [Politico](#) (5/21, Adragna), House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA) and Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) “are aiming to strike a deal to allow offshore drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico if the U.S. military and federal government sign off.” Bishop said, “There are some areas” that pose an opportunity for new production “if there’s sufficient agreement between Interior and Defense so it doesn’t impact the military mission.” However, the article says “it remains uncertain if their effort can convince Florida lawmakers to drop their sharp opposition.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Arkansas River A Bright Spot Amid Grim Drought.

The [AP](#) (5/21, Elliott) reports that “despite a severe drought across the Southwest this

spring, there should be plenty of water for rafters and anglers in one of the nation's most popular mountain rivers." According to state and federal officials, "water from melting snow is rushing into the Arkansas River in central Colorado, thanks to a surprisingly wet winter in the towering peaks where the river begins." The river will "get a slightly above-average amount of water from the Fryingpan this year, according to Roy Vaughan of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which manages the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project."

Fish And Wildlife Service

American And Japanese Descendants Unite After 75 Years To Ensure Attu Occupation Is Remembered.

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (5/21, Sobel) reports that 75 years after the Battle of Attu, "representatives from all affected parties joined together to ensure this history is never forgotten." A request to return remains "would be complicated, but Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge manager Steve Delehanty says not impossible." Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan "said he didn't know what the options are, but said he's open to talking more about the idea."

Hunter Charged With Federal Crimes For Allegedly Leading Illegal Elephant Hunts.

[ABC News](#) (5/21, Sandell) reports that "a South African man is facing federal charges for his role in allegedly helping a Colorado hunter illegally kill endangered elephants in Zimbabwe and offering similar services to an undercover federal agent, according to an indictment unsealed Monday in Denver." According to the indictment filed by the U.S. Attorney in Colorado, "professional hunter Hanno van Rensburg, 44, of South Africa is facing charges of conspiracy, wire fraud and violations of the Lacey Act and Endangered Species Act, which prohibit the hunting and trade of threatened animals, including the African elephant." A warrant has been issued for van Rensburg's arrest.

The [Denver Post](#) (5/21, Mitchell) reports that Steve Oberholtzer, special agent in charge of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's enforcement arm, said, "The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to protecting imperiled species around the globe from poaching and trafficking."

National Park Service

U.S. Proposes End Of Grizzly-baiting Ban In Alaska's National Preserves.

[Reuters](#) (5/21, Zuckerman) reports that the Trump Administration has "proposed rescinding Obama-era rules barring sport hunters from using bait to lure and kill grizzly bears in Alaska's national preserves, as is allowed in other parts of the state, the National Park Service said on Monday." The proposal, "pushed by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and assailed by environmentalists as inhumane, would give state wildlife managers the discretion to decide what kinds of bear-hunting methods are permitted across 20 million acres (8 million hectares) of national preserve lands in Alaska."

[The Hill](#) (5/21, Green) reports that the NPS "said the rule is intended to conserve wildlife while improving hunting." NPS Regional Director Bert Frost said, "The conservation of wildlife and habitat for future generations is a goal we share with Alaska. This proposed rule will reconsider NPS efforts in Alaska for improved alignment of hunting regulations on national preserves with state of Alaska regulations, and to enhance consistency with harvest regulations on surrounding non-federal lands and waters."

The [AP](#) (5/21, Biesecker) reports that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game was "pleased to see the National Park Service working to better align federal regulations with State of Alaska hunting and trapping regulations," said Maria Gladziszewski, the state agency's deputy director of the Division of Wildlife Conservation. She said the proposal is "progress in that direction, and we appreciate those efforts. Alaskans benefit when state and federal regulations are consistent." However, Collette Adkins, a lawyer and biologist with the advocacy group Center for Biological Diversity, "expressed outrage at the rollback."

She said, "Cruel and harmful hunting methods like killing bear cubs and their mothers near dens have no place on our national preserves," she said.

Also reporting are the [Washington Times](#) (5/21, Richardson), the [Huffington Post](#) (5/21, D'angelo), the [Anchorage \(AK\) Daily News](#) (5/21, Martinson), the [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (5/21, Friedman), and [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (5/21, Ruskin).

Park Service Publishes Climate Report After Charges Of Censorship.

[The Hill](#) (5/21, Cama) reports that the National Park Service "released a major report on rising sea levels after the Trump administration was accused of censoring it." The Center for Investigative Reporting's Reveal "reported last month that administration officials removed mentions of human-caused climate change in the report, reflecting President Trump's and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's skepticism that manmade greenhouse gases are the main cause of climate change." However, "the report released late Friday puts the blame for sea-level rise squarely in human hands." The report says, "Human activities continue to release carbon dioxide (CO2) into the atmosphere, causing the Earth's atmosphere to warm. Further warming of the atmosphere will cause sea levels to continue to rise, which will affect how we protect and manage our national parks."

Also reporting are [E&E Publishing](#) (5/21, Aton), [ABC News](#) (5/21, Ebbs), [Public Radio International](#) (5/21, Shogren), [Grist](#) (5/21, Jochem), and [Law360](#) (5/21, Rodriguez).

Hawaii Volcano Eruption Driving Away Millions In Tourism Dollars.

[Reuters](#) (5/21, Rosa) reports that "tourism authorities say summer bookings for hotels on Hawaii's Big Island have fallen almost 50 percent since the volcano began spewing lava and toxic gases on May 3." The closure of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, "the state's top tourist destination, alone is costing the island \$166 million, the National Park Service said on Monday." According to the park service report, "the lost revenue rises to \$222 million when some 2,000 jobs indirectly impacted by park tourists are included."

Yellowstone Bison Experiment Stopped, Disease Rules Changed.

The [AP](#) (5/21) reports that "federal officials shut down an experiment on diseased wildlife from Yellowstone National Park after inspectors questioned government protocols for handling infected bison." The U.S. Department of Agriculture program "examined whether administering birth control to bison would reduce transmissions of the disease brucellosis." According to the article, "documents released to the advocacy group Buffalo Field Campaign show the experiment was shut down last July after inspectors raised questions about keeping infected and non-infected bison in the same pen."

State, Federal Governments Look To Maintain Area Parks Deal.

The [Utica \(NY\) Observer Dispatch](#) (5/21, Harris) reports that "for the last decade, the Oriskany Battlefield and Steuben Memorial state historic sites have remained open through a cooperative management agreement involving the National Park Service and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation." That agreement ends July 26, but "officials are hopeful that a new agreement can be reached before then." The park service and the state office said in a joint statement, "The NPS and OPRHP have drafted a new five-year agreement that outlines the future of the partnership, which is only growing stronger. The draft agreement is in legal review and we expect the public will see little to no change in the operation of either site."

Helicopter Rescues Hiker In Joshua Tree National Park.

The [AP](#) (5/21) reports that "a hiker who went missing in Joshua Tree National Park during the weekend has been rescued." The National Park Service "says 40-year-old Ali Sandoval of El Monte was reported overdue by his family around 11 p.m. Saturday." According to the article, "a California Highway Patrol helicopter crew spotted Sandoval waving around 1:35 p.m. Sunday a mile north of Mastodon Trail and picked him up."

Lawrence Park Receives Historic Designation.

The [Erie \(PA\) Times-News](#) (5/21, Massing) reports that Lawrence Park has been included in the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places.

Main Street Listed On National Register Of Historic Places.

The [Ames \(IA\) Tribune](#) (5/21, Mika) reports that "Ames' Main Street is now on the National Register of Historic Places after a decade's worth of work in applying to the list of buildings the federal government deems to be of historic value."

Insular And International Affairs

Interior Announces \$247,405 In Funding Support For Power Utilities And Lineman Training In US-affiliated Pacific Islands.

[Marianas Variety](#) (5/22) reports that "Doug Domenech, assistant secretary of the Interior for insular and international affairs, has announced \$230,000 to support the 2018 Pacific Lineman Training program for linesmen from American Samoa, Guam, Ebeye, Majuro, Palau, Pohnpei, and Yap." In addition, "\$17,405 will support participation in workshops and meetings sponsored by the Pacific Power Association for the three U.S. Pacific territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands." Domenech said, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has prioritized energy independence and an important component of that is ensuring that teams in the islands are trained and expert to provide safe, consistent, and effective delivery of electricity throughout their communities. Families, health services, schools, the private sector, and other industries in the islands all rely on these services."

Learning From Past Micronesian Leaders: Bevacqua.

In an op-ed for the [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (5/17, Bevacqua), Michael Lujan Bevacqua, assistant professor of Chamorro studies at the University of Guam, writes about his insights from a "research project focusing on United States federal-insular relations in the Micronesian area." According to Bevacqua, "all islands wanted to maintain a close relationship with the U.S., but the majority recognized the need for layers of legal and political protection to ensure they didn't share the same fate of so many others." He concludes that "this is something that we on Guam would be smart to consider as well as we mull over our own political future."

U.S. Department Of Education Sends More Aid For V.I. Private And Parochial Schools.

The [St. John Source](#) (5/18) reports that "the Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDOE) has received \$13.1 million in new federal assistance from the United States Department of Education (USDOE) under the Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations program, according to a release from the Office of the Governor." Gov. Kenneth E. Mapp "learned of the grant award during a phone call this week with U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos." According to the article, "under the K-12 Restart program, VIDOE will administer funds to public, private and parochial schools in the St. Thomas-St. John and St. Croix Districts to help defray the costs of restarting school operations and restoring the normal learning environment for students and families."

FHA Extends Foreclosure Freeze For Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands Hurricane Victims, Again.

[HousingWire](#) (5/16, Lane) reports that "for the second time this year, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Federal Housing Administration are extending the foreclosure moratorium for Hurricane Maria victims in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands." An "extended freeze was due to expire on Friday, May 18, but now, HUD and the FHA are extending it again." HUD and the FHA have announced "that they are adding 90 more days on to the moratorium to address the 'continuing needs in these hard-hit territories.'"

School's Future Top Concern Of St. John Residents.

The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (5/16, RAO) reports that “a St. John town hall conducted by Gov. Kenneth Mapp and his Cabinet Tuesday attempted to manage expectations of residents convinced recovery efforts on their island are not moving fast enough.” According to the article, “many attendees left with doubts, particularly in regard to St. John students, whose only public school – the Julius E. Sprauve School – was badly damaged and is slated for demolition.” However, “while residents primarily questioned the uncertainty over the school, many cheered after Mapp announced St. John as being ‘ahead of the curve’ in terms of its recovery, with the governor highlighting the arrival of two four-megawatt generators, the installation of composite poles and a planned solar field to make St. John autonomous from St. Thomas for power generation.”

USSTRATCOM Targets U.S. Space Domain Concerns.

[KETV-TV](#) Omaha, NE (5/16, McCartney) reports that “in the next six and a half years,” Russia and China “could target U.S. space assets,” according to Major Gen. Nina Armagno. The article says that “with Washington recently passing a \$700 billion defense budget and talk of trying to launch a new U.S. Space Command in next year’s budget, implementing strategic space into USSTRATCOM’s plans sends a strong message.” Armagno said, “To show Russia and China that we see what they’re doing, we’re going to beef up our defenses.”

Pacific Island Leaders Gather In Northeastern Japan For Summit.

[Mainichi Daily News \(JPN\)](#) (5/18) reports that “leaders of the Pacific island nations gathered Friday in northeastern Japan for a two-day summit aimed at securing the country’s support in tackling climate change and maritime issues.” At the eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is “expected to promise Japan’s continued assistance to the island states in fields such as the environment and disaster prevention for their sustainable development, according to government officials.” Abe is also “likely to pledge support, such as personnel training, to enhance the island nations’ maritime security capability to better crack down on illicit fishery operations, government sources said.”

Taiwan Relations Unchanged Despite Chinese Pressure: Palau President.

[Nikkei Asian Review \(JPN\)](#) (5/18, Tanaka) reports that “Palau will not bow to Chinese pressure to cut off Taiwan, President Tommy Remengesau Jr. told Nikkei, saying the Pacific Island nation would look to such countries as Japan for fresh sources of economic support.” Remengesau is “not against dealing with the mainland.” He said, “China is an important partner. If we had a choice, we would like to recognize China and Taiwan tomorrow.” However, “shared ‘ideals, values and principles such as freedom’ give Palau ‘more in common with Taiwan,’ he said.”

US Geological Survey

Lava Flow Reaches Pacific Ocean.

The [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (5/21, story 7, 2:10, Glor) reported, “There is a new health threat tonight on Hawaii’s Big Island. Flowing lava from the Kilauea Volcano has reached the Pacific Ocean, creating a toxic stew.” [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (5/21, story 5, 2:20, Holt) reported, “A river of lava pouring into the ocean where magma cascades into the water, laze is formed, a haze of poisonous acid, dangerous just like this sulfur dioxide and ash blanketing the air.” 📺[ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/21, story 4, 1:15, Muir) reported that there’s also “methane coming out with minor explosions, making things more complicated for first responders who now also have to deal with brush fires.”

Opinion Pieces

Grijalva: ‘Dark & Misguided’ To Deploy Park Police On Border.

In an op-ed for the [Tucson \(AZ\) Sentinel](#) (5/21, Grijalva), Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva criticizes

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's decision to send U.S. Park Police and National Park Service law officers to Oregon Pipe National Monument and Amistad National Recreation Area in Texas to assist the U.S. Border Patrol. Grijalva argues that if "more law enforcement officers are needed on the southern border, the relevant agencies should hire more law enforcement officers." However, "pulling one federal agency in to do another's job until some ill-defined public safety threshold is met is the kind of expensive, short-sighted approach conservatives normally claim to oppose."

A Washington Bomb Set To Go Off In California's Delta Tunnels Water War.

In a piece for the [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/21, Leslie), Jacques Leslie writes that Rep. Ken Calvert "set off a legislative bomb in California's water wars last week" when he "inserted a rider into an Interior Department appropriations bill that would exempt from all judicial review the intensely contested Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta twin tunnels project." According to Leslie, "if passed by the House (likely) and Senate (possible) and signed by President Trump (probable), the rider would open a gaping hole in California and federal law." Leslie points out that "even though the project is California's, the product of decades of studies, plans, battles and ongoing arguments about the state's water needs, the rider constitutes a federal end run around those deliberations and California's rigorous environmental laws."

Top National News

DOJ To Expand Russia Probe To Include Alleged FBI Surveillance Of Trump Campaign.

Coverage of President Trump's meeting with top law enforcement and intelligence officials over whether the FBI had surveilled his 2016 campaign states that the President managed to head off a collision with the DOJ by reaching an agreement with Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein. However, analyses are offer an unfavorable assessment of Trump's actions, stating that he crossed a line he had previously recognized himself in forcing the DOJ's hand and accusing him of possibly interfering in the investigation.

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (5/21, story 3, 2:40), for example, David Muir referred to "Trump's growing pressure on the Department of Justice. ... There was a meeting today at the White House with the deputy attorney general in charge of the Mueller investigation, and the President's own recent pick now heading the FBI." ABC's Jonathan Karl reported that Rosenstein and Christopher Wray "arrived at the White House today for a meeting with a president highly agitated about the Russia investigation" following a "New York Time report that the FBI in late 2016 used an informant to question two Trump campaign associates about their contacts with Russians. But there is no evidence the FBI infiltrated the Trump campaign."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (5/21, story 2, 2:00, Glor), Paula Reid reported that Rosenstein "arrived at the White House this afternoon for a showdown with President Trump over an FBI informant who had contacts with several Trump campaign aides during the 2016 election. ... After today's meeting, the President appeared satisfied with that outcome." On [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (5/21, story 3, 2:30, Holt), Hallie Jackson reported that Rosenstein is "under orders to do something, finding a middle ground, expanding an existing internal review but not starting a new one all together. The White House now reiterating what the DOJ confirmed yesterday: It will ask the Inspector General to look into any irregularities in tactics concerning the Trump campaign."

[Reuters](#) (5/21) briefly reports that the DOJ "agreed to expand its investigation into alleged Russia collusion in the 2016 election to include 'any irregularities' involving FBI tactics on Trump's presidential campaign, a White House spokeswoman said." The [Washington Post](#) (5/21, Kim, Zapotosky) reports that the meeting, which also included DNI Coats, "lasted about an hour. Trump personally called to confer with the officials, two people familiar with the request said," though the White House said it was scheduled last week.

[USA Today](#) (5/21, Korte, Johnson) reports under the headline "In Extraordinary Meeting, Trump Gets Involved In Congressional Oversight Of Russia Probe" that the President "met with top law enforcement and intelligence officials Monday to pressure them to turn over to Congress information about the origins of the FBI investigation into his own campaign." The [New York Times](#) (5/21, Baker) also calls it an "extraordinary meeting," and reports that a "frustrated and impatient" Trump "has embarked on what amounts to a two-prong strategy to contain the threat and undercut the credibility of the escalating investigations targeting him and his associates" – with both a "blizzard of Twitter messages combined with a string of public statements" by Rudy Giuliani and the "laying out [of] a series of red lines to limit the reach and duration of the primary inquiry."

Charlie Savage of the [New York Times](#) (5/21) writes that with his demand that the DOJ "open an investigation into the F.B.I.'s scrutiny of his campaign contacts with Russia, he inched further toward breaching an established constraint on executive power: The White House does not make decisions about individual law enforcement investigations. ... Almost since he took office, Mr. Trump has battered the Justice Department's independence indirectly." But he had also "acknowledged that as president, 'I am not supposed to be involved with the Justice Department,' as he told a radio interviewer with frustration last fall."

[Politico](#) (5/21, Samuelsohn, Cheney) reports that "under pressure" from Trump, DOJ officials "have agreed to share highly classified information with congressional leaders connected to the FBI's investigation of Russian interference" in the 2016 campaign. The [New York Post](#) (5/21, Moore, Schultz) reports that congressional Republicans "have been seeking details from the DOJ" about the informant, "but FBI officials have balked at the request because they say identifying the person could harm the investigation and endanger the source." The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/21, Nelson) reports that White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said Chief of Staff Kelly "will immediately set up a meeting with the FBI, DOJ, and DNI together with congressional leaders to review highly classified and other information they have requested." The [New York Times](#) (5/21, Shear, Fandos) reports that the disclosure is expected "to happen quickly, most likely before the end of the week."

Sen. Richard Blumenthal said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) 📺 (5/21) that "the President is obviously trying to interfere with an investigation. It happens to be an investigation of him. So it's a threat." Blumenthal added that there is "no evidence to support an investigation. The FBI was conducting a counterintelligence investigation against Russian attempts to interfere with our election. In fact, they warned the Trump campaign about that effort to interfere with the Trump campaign and the Clinton campaign well before any of this stuff happened. And so the precedent is very dangerous that an investigation will be launched simply because a president wants to stop an investigation."

Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (5/21), "The continued assault on the rule of law by Donald Trump as well as the independence of the Department of Justice is highly disturbing." Lieu added that "these are not the actions of an innocent person. This shows consciousness of guilt. If Donald Trump was truly innocent, he would let the investigation conclude without trying to interfere with it at every single step, and I think it's time the President stop smearing the Department of Justice and the FBI."

Tom Rogan of the [Washington Examiner](#) (5/21) writes that Rosenstein's "decision is bad news for Democrats. They have been arguing persistently that the president is crying wolf for the purpose of political distraction. And to make that case, Democrats and their media allies have pointed to Rosenstein's professional credibility as a legal servant beyond reproach." The [Washington Times](#) (5/21, Miller) headlines its report "Trump Calls Rod Rosenstein, FBI's Wray To The Carpet At White House." [The Hill](#) (5/21, Williams) also has a brief report.

The [New York Times](#) (5/21) editorializes, "As the old saying goes, if the facts are against you, argue the law. If the law is against you, argue the facts. If both the facts and the law are against you, pound the table and yell. ... As the Russia investigation burrows closer to the Oval Office, the president, his staff, his collaborators in Congress and his defenders in the right-wing media are sparing no institution in their quest to undermine it." The Times concludes, "The members of our law enforcement and intelligence communities

are trying to protect the country. Donald Trump and his supporters are simply trying to protect Donald Trump.”

The [Washington Post](#) (5/21) editorializes that since Watergate, “presidents have understood the importance of keeping a respectful distance from the Justice Department.” Trump “has chafed at this arrangement,” and has now taken steps that “would erode the norm that presidents do not inject politics into federal law enforcement. ... The nation should not let the president distract from the questions that need answering: What did Trump campaign officials know about foreign plots to help them win, and what did they do about it? What measures is the Trump administration taking to protect future elections from foreign interference?”

Eugene Robinson writes in his [Washington Post](#) (5/21) column, “Stop waiting for the constitutional crisis that President Trump is sure to provoke. It’s here.” Trump “is determined to use the Justice Department and the FBI to punish those he sees as political enemies. This is a crisis, and it will get worse.” However, James Robbins writes in his [USA Today](#) (5/21) column that “it’s about time” that Trump took action, since “we already know the Trump campaign was under FBI ‘surveillance.’ Only the motive and who gave the orders remains a mystery.”

Pence: Americans “Have A Right To Know” About Possible Campaign Surveillance. [Fox News](#) (5/21, Chamberlain) reports on its website that in an interview with Fox News’ Martha MacCallum, Vice President Pence said that “the American people have a right to know” whether the FBI infiltrated” Trump’s campaign. Pence said on [Fox News’ The Story](#), “With the revelations that our campaign may have been the subject of surveillance by the FBI, the President I think is grateful that the Department of Justice is going to have the Inspector General look into it and determine and ensure that there was no surveillance done for political purposes against our campaign. I think it would be very troubling to millions of Americans if that took place, but we are very confident that as the Inspector General has been doing their work, looking at the conduct of the FBI during that period, by adding their focus to this that we will get to the bottom of it because the American people have a right to know.”

WPost Profile: Halper “A Well-Connected Veteran Of Past GOP Administrations.” The [Washington Post](#) (5/21, Costa, Leonnig, Harris) has a profile of Stefan A. Halper, “the FBI source who assisted the Russia investigation and is at the center of a standoff between congressional Republicans and the Justice Department.” Halper “is a well-connected veteran of past GOP administrations who convened senior intelligence officials for seminars at the University of Cambridge in England.” [Axios](#) (5/21, Swan, Treene) is reporting that White House trade adviser Peter Navarro recommended appointing Halper “to a senior role in the Trump administration” or to an ambassadorship in Asia.

[Breitbart](#) (5/21, Caplan) reports that Halper was paid \$282,295 for work done for the Defense Department in 2016. The [Daily Caller](#) (5/21, Ross) reports that Halper made contact with Trump campaign adviser George Papadopoulos in early September of that year. They met in London later that month.

Carter Page said on [Fox News’ Ingraham Angle](#) (5/21), “I never knew anything about the person I was speaking with, who was a university professor at Cambridge in the UK at the time. I was invited to participate in a conference in July of 2016 and everything seemed totally normal.” Asked if, in retrospect, anything about his interactions with the informant seemed “out of the ordinary,” Page said, “Maybe this individual who we are talking about might have been a little bit nicer than I might otherwise have expected. ... I like to give people the benefit of the doubt. People that know him in Washington and senior circles that I have spoken with afterwards say he seemed like a pretty decent guy.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/21, Lim) reports on the interview.

Grassley Seeks DOJ Documents On Ohr’s Communications Regarding Dossier. [Fox News](#) (5/21, Chamberlain) reports on its website in a letter to Rosenstein, Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley asked the DOJ “to turn over communications between former Associate Deputy Attorney General Bruce Ohr, British spy Christopher Steele and others” about the anti-Trump dossier. Grassley “requested Ohr’s emails, phone logs, written notes and text messages,” and also asked to arrange for Ohr to be interviewed by staff of his

committee.

Penn Calls For End To Mueller Probe. In a Sunday op-ed for [The Hill](#) (5/20), Harris Poll chairman Mark Penn wrote that Mueller's investigation must be stopped because "the less investigators found, the more determined and expansive they became." Penn suggests that Trump's lawyers "need to extend their new aggressiveness from words to action," such as "filing complaints with Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility on the failure of Rosenstein and Mueller to recuse themselves." Penn adds, "The final stopper may be the president himself, offering two hours of testimony, perhaps even televised live from the White House." [Townhall](#) (5/21, Benson) reported on the op-ed by the "longtime Clinton confidante," while Peter Baker of the [New York Times](#) (5/21) covered it under the headline "Mark Penn, Ex-Clinton Aide, Dismisses Mueller Inquiry, And The Clintons Along With It."

Manafort Attorney Asks Judge To Allow Investigation Into Possible Leaks. The [Washington Times](#) (5/21, Scarborough) reports that Paul Manafort's attorney Kevin Downing has asked District Court Judge T.S. Ellis in Virginia "to allow an investigation into whether special counsel prosecutor Andrew Weissmann illegally leaked confidential grand jury testimony to the press." Downing wants the judge to compel Mueller "to disclose what Mr. Weissmann said to the Associated Press before it wrote negative stories about the former Trump campaign manager and his business ties to a Russian oligarch."

WPost Analysis: Flynn Has Become A Popular Figure On The Right. The [Washington Post](#) (5/21, Parker, Dawsey) reports that "since his West Wing departure and guilty plea" for "lying to the FBI about his contacts with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak," ex-National Security Adviser Michael Flynn "has become something of a cause celebre among the conservative right and a symbol of what the president's most ardent supporters contend is a conspiracy to undermine his administration by law enforcement and intelligence officials hostile to his presidency." But the effort to rehabilitate Flynn, "largely based on social media, has at times put Flynn's advocates, and occasionally Flynn, at odds with his own legal team, which believes that any public attention to Flynn's case is not helpful as he awaits sentencing."

DOJ IG Report Will Fault FBI For Slow Action On Clinton Emails. The [AP](#) (5/21, Tucker) reports that according to people familiar with the findings, an upcoming report from the DOJ IG "is expected to criticize senior FBI leaders for not moving quickly enough to review a trove of Hillary Clinton emails discovered late in the 2016 campaign." Some FBI officials knew about the emails on former Rep. Anthony Weiner's laptop in September of that year, "but the bureau did not obtain a warrant to review them until the following month." [Fox News](#) (5/21, Chamberlain) reports on its website that a group of conservative House Republicans including Reps. Jim Jordan (R-OH) and Mark Meadows (R-NC) "plans to introduce a resolution Tuesday calling for the appointment of a second special counsel to investigate alleged misconduct at the FBI and Justice Department."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/21, Quinn) reports that sources told the AP that the "high anticipated report" will "criticize the FBI for not moving quickly enough and for its delay in obtaining a warrant to examine the emails found on a laptop belonging to former Rep. Anthony Weiner," who was married to top Clinton aide Huma Abedin, "who had forwarded some of the messages to Weiner to be printed out."

Pompeo Lists Demands, Threatens Iran With "Strongest Sanctions In History."

Media coverage of Secretary of State Pompeo's speech Monday at the Heritage Foundation casts a skeptical light on the list of demands he says must be met by the Iranian government to avoid the imposition of strong US sanctions. The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/21, story 3, 0:30, Glor) – the only network to report on the speech – said Pompeo "demanded that Iran make sweeping changes, including dropping its nuclear program, or face what he called the strongest economic sanctions in history." Iran "called the ultimatum unacceptable."

The [Washington Times](#) (5/21, Boylan) reports Pompeo laid out the Administration's "long-awaited Plan B," a list of 12 demands, including an end to all enrichment of uranium; "unqualified access" for international inspectors to any suspect site inside Iran, the release of American citizens held in Iranian jails; and a halt to Iran's destabilizing moves throughout

the Middle East. But to the [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/21, Wilkinson), the Administration's "so-called Plan B...was less a detailed new policy than a dozen harsh demands, with no clear way to achieve them," and [Bloomberg News](#) (5/21, Wadhams, Nasser) says Pompeo "essentially demanded Iran's total submission without offering anything in return aside from the hazy prospect of sanctions relief at some future date."

Under the headline "US Demands Wholesale Changes In Iran Policies Post-Nuke Deal," the [AP](#) (5/21, Lederman, Lee) says Pompeo "issued a steep list of demands to be included in a nuclear treaty with Iran to replace the deal scuttled by" President Trump, and threatened "the strongest sanctions in history" if Iran doesn't change course. Said Pompeo, "This list may seem long to some, but it is simply a reflection of the massive scope of Iranian malign behavior." The [New York Times](#) (5/21, Harris) reports that while Pompeo "did not directly threaten the use of military force," he did say that if Iran restarts its nuclear program, "we will respond."

To the [Washington Post](#) (5/21, Morello), Pompeo "gave short shrift to what the administration has been calling 'fixes' to the nuclear deal," and, instead, "demanded Iran's complete capitulation on 12 points." Iran, it adds, is "unlikely to go along with any of Pompeo's demands." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/21, Gordon) quotes Pompeo as saying, "Relief from sanctions will come only when we see tangible, demonstrated, and sustained shifts in Tehran's policies."

[Reuters](#) (5/21, Wroughton) says Pompeo "warned that the United States would 'crush' Iranian operatives and allies abroad and told Tehran to pull out forces under its command from the Syrian civil war where they back President Bashar al-Assad." A "senior Iranian official" said Pompeo's remarks showed that the US was pushing for "regime change," but Reuters says Pompeo "did not explicitly call for regime change." He did, however, "repeatedly urge the Iranian people not to put up with their leaders, specifically naming President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif."

Asked on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (5/21) to respond to claims that the Administration is seeking regime change, Brian Hook, a senior policy adviser to Secretary Pompeo, replied, "The only thing we would like to see is a change in the behavior of the Iranian regime." He said the Iranian people have "had protests where they've expressed this."

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/21, Wadhams, Nasser) says Pompeo's speech also "gave European leaders little reason to hope Washington will show flexibility in dealing with their companies that want to continue investing in the Islamic Republic." Pompeo, [The Hill](#) (5/21, Kheel) reports, "acknowledged the concerns European allies have with the United States reimposing sanctions, but said businesses from all countries must make sacrifices to change Iran's behavior."

In a second article titled "UK Slams New US Iran Plan Even Before Pompeo Presents It," [Bloomberg News](#) (5/21, Ross, Penny) reports earlier Monday, British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson "predicted that in the end the US will come back to discussing an enhanced version of the original deal...but it may take a long time."

On its editorial page, the [Washington Post](#) (5/21) says the plan laid out by Pompeo "seems sure to heighten tensions in the Middle East and between the United States and its European allies – and it may make its unstated aim less rather than more likely." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/21) strikes a more positive tone on its editorial page, writing that while it is unlikely Iran's leaders will meet Pompeo's terms on their own, tougher sanctions could force their hand.

[New York Times](#) (5/21) editorial board member Carol Giacomo writes that Pompeo, in what she called "a belligerent speech," made it clear that what the Administration expects is "Iranian capitulation." The demands, she argues, "are so extensive that it is unlikely Iran could comply any time soon, even if it wanted to. And any benefits it would achieve in exchange – sanctions relief, the re-establishment of diplomatic and commercial relations – would be at some unspecified point in the future." Giacomo adds that "there's also the irony of, as Mr. Pompeo is making these demands, his boss is offering North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-un...security guarantees to abandon his arsenal," while Iran "has no nuclear weapons."

Mark Dubowitz and Richard Goldberg of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies write in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/21, Dubowitz, Goldberg) that the Administration has declared financial war on Iran, and it's likely to win. The new strategy, they say, also presents European leaders with a choice: either help the US or face sanctions. If the Europeans refuse, Dubowitz and Goldberg argue that Trump would have options.

A.B. Stoddard of Real Clear Politics said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (5/21), "We don't know how effective the Trump Administration can be in making a broad set of demands and dreaming of an actual new deal as long as Iran doesn't feel isolated. As long as the Europeans are still at the table with the Iranians, they can say, 'You know what? We don't need the US and we don't need to give in to all these stipulations.'"

Pence: Trump Willing To Walk Away From North Korea Summit.

[Reuters](#) (5/21, Brunnstrom) reports Vice President Pence said Monday that "there's no question" President Trump is willing to walk away from his planned summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, scheduled to take place in Singapore on June 12. Pence said North Korea should not seek concessions from the US if it does not intend to honor its promises, and that it "would be a great mistake" for Kim "to think he could play" Trump.

Pence told [Fox News' The Story](#) (5/21), "As the President often says, we will see. ... We really hope that Kim Jong-un will seize the opportunity to dismantle his nuclear weapons program and do so by peaceable means. There was some talk about the Libya model last week, and as the President made clear, this will only end like the Libya model ended if Kim Jong-un doesn't make a deal." Asked if that was a threat, Pence said, "I think it's more of a fact. President Trump made it clear the United States of America under his leadership is not going to tolerate the regime in North Korea possessing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles that threaten the United States and our allies."

Media Analyses: Moon To Meet With Trump As Diplomatic Momentum Slows. The [AP](#) (5/21, Tong-Hyung) reports South Korean President Moon Jae-in heads to his Tuesday meeting with President Trump at the White House "with his status in the diplomatic driver's seat in doubt." The AP says Moon previously enjoyed a string of diplomatic successes before the North last week made a "surprise move...to break off a high-level meeting with Seoul over US-South Korean military drills while threatening to cancel next month's summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un."

[Reuters](#) (5/21) says Trump's meeting with Moon "was originally arranged as a meeting to fine-tune a joint strategy for dealing with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un but has instead become more of a crisis session after Pyongyang last week" caught the White House "off-guard" with its "dramatic change of tone." Trump's "aides are looking to Moon to help determine whether Kim is taking a harder line against denuclearization than South Korea had previously communicated to them, a US official said, speaking on condition of anonymity." Some US officials "have privately expressed concern that Moon, eager to make progress with the North," not only "may have overstated Kim's willingness to negotiate in good faith," but also could "be prepared to accept a less-stringent version of North Korean denuclearization than Washington wants and could be open to faster sanctions relief for Pyongyang."

A [Washington Post](#) (5/21, Nakamura) analysis says the Tuesday meeting, which "coincides with renewed tensions on the Korean Peninsula that have cast doubt on the fate" of the upcoming summit, represents for Moon "a crucial opportunity to soothe Trump's concerns and, perhaps, readjust his expectations about the potential outcome." The question looming over Tuesday's meeting, "analysts said, is how much responsibility Moon bears for feeding Trump's unrealistic expectations – or whether Trump has failed to be properly skeptical amid talk from his supporters that he could win a Nobel Peace Prize if he strikes a deal in Singapore."

South Korean Officials Critical Of Bolton's Remarks About "Libya Model." The [Washington Post](#) (5/21, Fifield) reports that "in South Korea, many say the blame for the sudden problems in the diplomatic process lie squarely at the feet of" National Security Adviser Bolton. Woo Sang-ho, a lawmaker from the ruling Democratic Party, said "Bolton's preposterous 'Libya solution' is a red light in North Korea's summit talks with the U.S. and

South Korea." Lee Jong-Seok, who served as South Korea's Unification Minister in the later years of the Roh administration, says Bolton "created a mess," and "things would have gotten out of hand had it not been for the immediate follow-up from Trump himself." The Post says President Trump "contradicted Bolton" last week, "saying he was not thinking of a Libya model...but an outcome where Kim remained in power and his economy flourished under a denuclearization deal."

Trump Notes Reports That China Is Easing Economic Blockade Of North Korea. The [Washington Post](#) (5/21, Wagner, Rucker) reports that earlier today, President Trump "pushed...for China to continue 'strong & tight' trade sanctions against Kim Jong Un's regime until a possible accord over the North's nuclear program." On Twitter, Trump wrote, "The word is that recently the Border has become much more porous and more has been filtering in." The Post says that, "inside the White House, there are mounting concerns that North Korea may back away from striking a deal on denuclearization and growing suspicions about the role the Chinese may be playing in complicating preparations for the Singapore summit."

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/21) reports that "China's enforcement of United Nations sanctions helped bring Kim to the negotiating table," but "now that Trump and Kim are meeting," Chinese President Xi Jinping "can support any deal that is good for China and undermine anything that goes against its interests." Bloomberg says the Chinese government "has repeatedly called for talks between the US and North Korea to avoid a war or regime collapse, which could devastate its economy and lead to a refugee crisis or potentially US troops on its border."

South Korean Ambassador: Trump-Kim Summit An Unprecedented Chance At Peace. In a [Washington Post](#) (5/21, Je) op-ed, South Korea's Ambassador to the US, Cho Yoon Je, urges Seoul and Washington to "seize this opportunity" of "peace on the Korean Peninsula," no matter how "bright or dim the prospects might seem." Cho compares the current situation to the Cold War and says former President Reagan, despite a similar climate of pessimism and "intense opposition, chose to steadily move forward to make accommodations through several summit meetings with [Soviet leader Mikhail] Gorbachev, concluding in a major arms-control agreement."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Trump v. The Department Of Justice." The [New York Times](#) (5/21) editorializes, "As the old saying goes, if the facts are against you, argue the law. If the law is against you, argue the facts. If both the facts and the law are against you, pound the table and yell. ... As the Russia investigation burrows closer to the Oval Office, the president, his staff, his collaborators in Congress and his defenders in the right-wing media are sparing no institution in their quest to undermine it." The Times concludes, "The members of our law enforcement and intelligence communities are trying to protect the country. Donald Trump and his supporters are simply trying to protect Donald Trump."

"Venezuela's Sham Election." A [New York Times](#) (5/21) editorial says now that Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro secured a second term as expected, the question before the international community is how he can be removed "before he completes the destruction of his country." To the Times, "It is clear that Mr. Maduro must go," but "that emphatically does not mean American military action, as hinted by President Trump" last August. The Times argues, "The best means of eventually ousting Mr. Maduro is in collective action by the Western Hemisphere, led by Latin America, to further choke off funds to his government while supporting the National Assembly, which has been sidelined by Mr. Maduro since the opposition won a majority in 2015."

Washington Post.

"Not Doors, Not Ritalin. The Issue Is Guns." The [Washington Post](#) (5/21) says in an editorial that while Republicans and the NRA sought to blame "too many doors," "abortion," "video games," and "Ritalin" for Friday's mass shooting at a high school in Texas, what "sets

the United States apart from the rest of the civilized world is not Ritalin or school entrances or violent video games but the astronomical number of guns and the easy access to them.”

“Don’t Let Trump Distract From The Questions That Need Answering.” The [Washington Post](#) (5/21) editorializes that since Watergate, “presidents have understood the importance of keeping a respectful distance from the Justice Department.” President Trump “has chafed at this arrangement,” and has now taken steps that “would erode the norm that presidents do not inject politics into federal law enforcement. ... The nation should not let the president distract from the questions that need answering: What did Trump campaign officials know about foreign plots to help them win, and what did they do about it? What measures is the Trump administration taking to protect future elections from foreign interference?”

“Mike Pompeo Sets The Stage For Perpetual Conflict With Iran.” On its editorial page, the [Washington Post](#) (5/21) says the list of demands for Iran laid out by Secretary of State Pompeo “seems sure to heighten tensions in the Middle East and between the United States and its European allies – and it may make its unstated aim less rather than more likely.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Putting A New Squeeze On Iran.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/21) says in an editorial that while it is unlikely Iran’s leaders will meet Secretary of State Pompeo’s terms on their own, tougher sanctions could force their hand.

“Arbitration Wins At The High Court.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/21) praises the Supreme Court’s ruling in Epic Systems v. Lewis, saying a decision in the other direction would have ended thousands of employment contracts and opened the door to class-action lawsuits.

“A Welcome China Trade Truce.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/21) editorial welcomes the trade truce between the US and China and says the surge in the stock markets should indicate to the President that negotiations are moving in the right direction.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Pompeo Lays Out US Demands For New Iran Deal](#)

[Stocks Surge As Fears Of A Trade War With China Ebb](#)

[Starbucks Clarifies Policy On Allowing Nonpaying Guests](#)

[Egypt Clamped Down On Political Opposition—Next Up Is The Economy](#)

[What’s A Clown To Do After The Circus? One Is Running For Congress](#)

New York Times:

[Divisions Within Trump Team Undercut Quick Trade Victory With China](#)

[Trump Team’s Mueller Strategy: Limit The Investigation And Attack The Investigators](#)

[The Eviction Machine Churning Through New York City](#)

[Bankers Hate The Volcker Rule. Now, It Could Be Watered Down.](#)

[Hillary And Bill Clinton Go Separate Ways For 2018 Midterm Elections](#)

[Dovey Johnson Roundtree, Barrier-Breaking Lawyer, Dies at 104](#)

Washington Post:

[Trade Limits On China Could Hamstring US Tech Sector](#)

[High Court Sides With Firms On Arbitration](#)

[Kelly Sets Meeting On FBI Source](#)

[In Georgia, Blazing A Trail For Democrats’ Future](#)

Financial Times:

[Political Novice Giuseppe Conte Proposed As Italy’s PM](#)

[US Demands Exacting Terms For New Iran Nuclear Treaty](#)

[International Community Considers Response As Maduro Digs In](#)

[UK Court Dismisses Charges Against Barclays Over Qatar Deal](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Orders 'Highly Classified' Data For Congress On FBI's 'Tactics'](#)

[Wall Street Rallies As Trump Crows About China Concessions, Promises 'Fair Trade, Plus'](#)
[Mike Pompeo Threatens Iran With 'Strongest Sanctions In History,' Outlines New Nuclear Demands](#)

[Students Safer In School Than Out Despite Shootings, Statistics Show](#)

[Congo Begins Trial Ebola Vaccination Amid Widening Outbreak](#)

[Pending Power Vacuum: Younger Palestinians Despair Over Aging, Flailing Leadership](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Texas School Shooting; Baltimore-Officer Killed; WH-DOJ Investigation; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Montana Border Patrol Outrage; Celebrity Chef Under Investigation; CIA Director Confirmation; UK Royal Wedding; Washington State Cougar Attack; North Carolina Vehicle Crime; South Carolina Prison Break; Clinton-Graduation Speech; UK Royal Wedding-Markle.

CBS: Texas School Shooting; WH-DOJ Investigation; Trump Admin-Iran Nuclear Deal; Trump Golf Club Shooting; Baltimore-Officer Killed; North Carolina Vehicle Crime; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Celebrity Chef Under Investigation; South Carolina Prison Break; Washington State Cougar Attack; President GHW Bush Returns To Maine; College Graduation; UK Royal Wedding; English Music Star.

NBC: Baltimore-Officer Killed; Trump Golf Club Shooting; WH-DOJ Investigation; Texas School Shooting; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Opioid Crisis; ADHD Diagnosis; Egg-Health Benefits; Netflix-Obama Show; UK Royal Wedding; Debt Collection Issues.

Network TV At A Glance:

Texas School Shooting – 9 minutes, 15 seconds

WH-DOJ Investigation – 7 minutes, 10 seconds

Hawaii Volcano Eruption – 5 minutes, 45 seconds

Baltimore-Officer Killed – 4 minutes, 40 seconds

UK Royal Wedding – 4 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: WH-DOJ Investigation; Texas School Shooting; CIA Director Confirmation; Miss USA.

CBS: WH-DOJ Investigation; SCOTUS-Employee Arbitration; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Australia-Catholic Sex Abuse; Miss USA; Wall Street News.

FOX: WH-DOJ Investigation; House-Farm Bill Vote; Baltimore-Officer Killed; Indonesia Volcano Danger.

NPR: WH-DOJ Investigation; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; UK Apartment Fire Memorial; Texas School Shooting.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets South Korean President Moon at the White House; meets with the Secretary of State; delivers remarks at the Susan B. Anthony List 11th Annual Campaign for Life Gala.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Armed Services subcommittee marks up National Defense Authorization Act – Seapower Subcommittee closed markup hearing on 'National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019' * Conducted at the secret level Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 232A, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on the health care workforce – Hearing on 'The Health Care Workforce: Addressing Shortages and Improving Care', with testimony

from Boston University School of Medicine Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Assistant Dean for Admissions Kristen Goodell; James Madison University School of Nursing Director Julie Sanford; and University of Washington Adjunct Associate Professor of Health Services Elizabeth Phelan Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, with agenda including ‘S. 2848, Fighting Opioid Abuse in Transportation Act’, ‘S. 2842, Opioid Addiction Recovery Fraud Prevention Act of 2018’, ‘S. 2844, STB Information Security Improvement Act’, ‘S. 2764, Sustainable Shark Fisheries and Trade Act of 2018’, ‘S. 1092, Interstate Transport Act of 2017’, and ‘S. 2418, Rural Reasonable and Comparable Wireless Access Act of 2018’, the nominations of Heidi King to be National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Administrator, Joseph Ryan Gruters to be an Amtrak Board of Directors member, and Jennifer Homendy to be a National Transportation Safety Board member, and U.S. Coast Guard promotions Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 106, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:00 AM Treasury Secretary Mnuchin testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY’19 budget – Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee hearing on ‘Review of the FY2019 Budget Request for the U.S. Department of the Treasury’, with testimony from Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin; and Internal Revenue Service Acting Commissioner David Kautter Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 138, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

10:00 AM Senate Environment & Public Works Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including ‘S.2800, America’s Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018’, ‘S.2602, Utilizing Significant Emissions with Innovative Technologies (USE IT) Act’, ‘S.2734, a bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the ‘George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse’, and ‘S.2377, a bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 200 West 2nd Street in Dayton, Ohio, as the ‘Walter H. Rice Federal Building and United States Courthouse’, the nomination of John Ryder to be a member of the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors, and three General Services Administration resolutions Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:30 AM Senate Appropriations subcommittee markup hearing – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup hearing on Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations bill Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 192, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

11:00 AM Senate Armed Services subcommittee marks up National Defense Authorization Act – Readiness Subcommittee closed markup hearing on ‘National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019’ * Conducted at the secret level Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 232A, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

1:30 PM Congressional briefing on afterschool and summer learning programs’ response to opioid and substance abuse – Senate Afterschool Caucus briefing on the role afterschool and summer learning programs play in combating the opioid crisis and preventing substance abuse, with experts – Alaska Afterschool Network Director Thomas Azzarella, West Virginia University Extension Specialist Nila Cobb, Boys and Girls Clubs of Tennessee Valley Director Stacey Busby, and Montgomery County Recreation Specialist Tiffany Nelson – discussing their work to increase resilience among young people, support positive youth development, prevent future substance abuse among youth and children, and help young people develop the skills to respond to substance abuse in their families and communities Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 902, Washington, DC murkowski.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/lisamurkowski>

2:15 PM Senate Foreign Relations Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including ‘The Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Public Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, Done at Marrakesh on June 27, 2013’, ‘S. 2269, Global Food Security Reauthorization Act of 2017’, ‘S. Res 386, A resolution urging the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to fulfill its

agreement to hold credible elections, comply with constitutional limits on presidential terms, and fulfill its constitutional mandate for a democratic transition of power by taking concrete and measurable steps towards holding elections not later than December 2018 as outlined in the existing election calendar, and allowing for freedom of expression and association, with amendments', and 'S.J. Res. 58, A joint resolution to require certifications regarding actions by Saudi Arabia in Yemen, and for other purposes' Location: U.S. Capitol, S-116, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Energy and Water Development Subcommittee markup hearing on Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations bill Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 138, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

2:30 PM Personnel Subcommittee markup hearing on 'National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019' Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Joint Economic Committee hearing on 'red tape' – Hearing on 'Breaking through the Regulatory Barrier: What Red Tape Means for the Innovation Economy', with testimony from Kentucky Secretary of the Executive Cabinet Scott Brinkman; Information Technology and Innovation Foundation Senior Fellow Dr Joseph Kennedy; Utah State University Center for Growth and Opportunity Senior Director / George Mason University Mercatus Center Senior Affiliated Scholar Christopher Koopman; and Small Business Majority Board Member (and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Small Business, Community Development, and Housing Policy) Jessica Milano Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC www.jec.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/JointEconCmte>

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

3:30 PM Senate Armed Services subcommittee marks up National Defense Authorization Act – Cybersecurity Subcommittee closed markup hearing on 'National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019' * Conducted at the secret level Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 232A, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

4:30 PM Senate Armed Services subcommittee marks up National Defense Authorization Act – Emerging Threats Subcommittee closed markup hearing on 'National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019' * Conducted at the secret level Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 232A, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

5:15 PM Senate Armed Services subcommittee marks up National Defense Authorization Act – Strategic Forces Subcommittee closed markup hearing on 'National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019' * Conducted at the secret level Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 232A, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

US House: 10:00 AM Dem Rep. Judy Chu introduces Protecting Our Workers from Exploitation and Retaliation Act – Democratic Rep. Judy Chu introduces the Protecting Our Workers from Exploitation and Retaliation (POWER) Act, which would provide U Visa eligibility for immigrant workers who report unsafe or unfair labor practices and would strengthen labor agencies' investigative powers and allow a stay of removal and work authorization for workers who file a workplace claim, via press conference with Jessie Hahn (National Immigration Law Center), Shannon Lederer (AFL-CIO), and Sarita Gupta (Jobs With Justice) Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC chu.house.gov <https://twitter.com/RepJudyChu>

10:00 AM Education Secretary DeVos testifies to House Education and Workforce Committee – Hearing on 'Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Education', with testimony from Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2175, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM House Technology subcommittees joint hearing on 'empowering U.S. veterans' – Research and Technology Subcommittee and Energy Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Empowering U.S. Veterans Through Technology', with testimony from National

Nuclear Security Administration chief scientist Dr Dimitri Kusnezov; SoldierStrong founder and chairman Christopher Meek, and advisory board member Martha MacCallum; Project Hero president and founder John Wordin; and Northwestern University research health scientist and assistant professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation Dr Matthew Major Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'The Curious Case of the VISN Takeover: Assessing VA's Governance Structure' Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM House Transportation subcommittee hearing on FAST Act implementation – Highways and Transit Subcommittee hearing on 'FAST Act Implementation: Motor Carrier Provisions', with testimony from Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Administrator Ray Martinez; Krapf Transportation Chairman Dale Krapf; Eastern Missouri Commission Company owner Mike VanMaanen (on behalf of Livestock Marketing Association); Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance President Christopher Turner; and Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways Board Member Jennifer Tierney (on behalf of Truck Safety Coalition) Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM House Oversight subcommittees joint hearing on '10 years of TARP' – Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee and Government Operations Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Ten Years of TARP: Examining the Hardest Hit Fund' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee hearing on USPTO oversight – Hearing on 'Oversight of the United States Patent and Trademark Office', with testimony from Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and USPTO Director Andrei Iancu Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2141, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Energy subcommittee hearing on DOE modernization – Energy Subcommittee hearing on 'DOE Modernization: Legislation Addressing Development, Regulation, and Competitiveness of Advanced Nuclear Energy Technologies' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on advancing effective conservation policy worldwide, markup hearing – Hearing on 'Advancing Effective Conservation Policy Worldwide: Successes, Challenges, and Next Steps', with testimony from Center on Illicit Networks and Transnational Organized Crime Executive Director Gretchen Peters; Vulcan Executive Vice President and General Counsel Dave Stewart; and Wildlife Conservation Society Vice President for Species Conservation Dr Elizabeth Bennett * Immediately followed by markup hearing on 'H.R. 4819, DELTA Act' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

10:00 AM CIA Subcommittee closed hearing on 'Ongoing Intelligence Activities' Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-304, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseIntelComm>

10:00 AM House Financial Services Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 4439, the Modernizing Credit Opportunities Act', 'H.R. 5735, the Transitional Housing for Recovery in Viable Environments Demonstration Program Act', 'H.R. 5749, the Options Markets Stability Act', 'H.R. 5793, the Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration Act of 2018', and 'H.R. 5841, the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act of 2018' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM Markup hearing on 'FY 2019 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2118, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM Business Meeting, to consider a resolution designating Republican members of subcommittees Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC

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

10:15 AM Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on 'Internet of Things Legislation' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

12:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include 'S. 2155 – Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act' and 'S. 204 – Trickett Wendler, Frank Mongiello, Jordan McLinn, and Matthew Bellina Right to Try Act of 2017' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Federal Lands Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'H.R. 5597, Desert Tortoise Habitat Conservation Plan Expansion Act, Washington County, Utah', 'H.R. 5751, Golden Spike 150th Anniversary Act', and 'H.R. 5875, To amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, to provide parity for United States territories and the District of Columbia, to make technical corrections to such Acts and related laws, and for other purposes', with testimony from National Park Service Deputy Director P. Daniel Smith; bipartisan Reps. Rob Bishop, Chris Stewart, and Madeleine Bordallo; Transcontinental Railroad 150th Celebration Commission Chairman Doug Foxley; Washington County Commissioner Dean Cox; and Conserve Southwest Utah Board of Directors member Paul Van Dam Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

2:00 PM House Oversight subcommittees latest joint hearing on challenges to freedom of speech on college campuses – Healthcare, Benefits, and Administrative Rules Subcommittee and Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Challenges to the Freedom of Speech on College Campuses: Part II' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on 'geopolitics of U.S. oil and gas competitiveness' – Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade Subcommittee hearing on 'Geopolitics of U.S. Oil and Gas Competitiveness', with testimony from Rice University Baker Institute for Public Policy Center for Energy Studies Senior Director Dr Kenneth Medlock III; Gas Technology Institute President and CEO David Carroll; Center for Strategic and International Studies Energy and National Security Program Director Sarah Ladislav; and Brookings Institution Cross-Brookings Initiative on Energy and Climate Fellow Samantha Gross Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2200, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

2:00 PM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on 'Stopping the Daily Border Caravan' – Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Stopping the Daily Border Caravan: Time to Build a Policy Wall', with testimony from Customs and Border Protection Acting Deputy Commissioner Ronald Vitiello; Immigration and Customs Enforcement Acting Director Thomas Homan; and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Lee Francis Cissna Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

2:30 PM Joint Economic Committee hearing on 'red tape' – Hearing on 'Breaking through the Regulatory Barrier: What Red Tape Means for the Innovation Economy', with testimony from Kentucky Secretary of the Executive Cabinet Scott Brinkman; Information Technology and Innovation Foundation Senior Fellow Dr Joseph Kennedy; Utah State University Center for Growth and Opportunity Senior Director / George Mason University Mercatus Center Senior Affiliated Scholar Christopher Koopman; and Small Business Majority Board Member (and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Small Business, Community Development, and Housing Policy) Jessica Milano Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC www.jec.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/JointEconCmte>

2:30 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Lebanon and Iraq – Middle

East and North Africa Subcommittee hearing on 'Lebanon and Iraq: After the Elections', with testimony from Hudson Institute Senior Fellow Dr Michael Doran; American Enterprise Institute Senior Vice President for Foreign and Defense Policy Studies Danielle Pletka; and Brookings Institution Center for Middle East Policy Senior Fellow Dr Tamara Cofman Wittes Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

3:00 PM Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on AI – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on 'Artificial Intelligence: The Consequences for Human Rights', with witnesses – 3rd Party consultant Samir Goswami, Center for a New American Security Technology and National Security Program Director Paul Scharre, and American University Professor of Law Kenneth Anderson – examining the potential harmful effects of AI, ways that the misuse of AI can be – if not prevented – mitigated, and the positive potential of AI Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2255, Washington, DC <http://tlhrc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/TLHRCcommission>

3:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 5515, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019' (amendment consideration) Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>
Other: 7:30 AM Security Through Innovation Summit – Security Through Innovation Summit, featuring sessions and breakouts focused on the implications of the White House's 2017 cybersecurity executive order, the emerging security needs of the Defense Department and military services at home and abroad, the future of programs like FedRAMP and CDM, and more Location: InterContinental The Willard Washington DC, 1401 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC fedscoop.com <https://twitter.com/fedscoop>

8:00 AM U.S. Chamber of Commerce annual Global Supply Chain Summit – U.S. Chamber of Commerce Annual Global Supply Chain Summit 'Navigating the Future', bringing together industry leaders from the public and private sectors to discuss issues influencing supply chains today and into the future * Held during National Infrastructure Week. Speakers include U.S. Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Thomas Donohue Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H Street Northwest, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

8:00 AM ACEP Leadership and Advocacy Conference continues – American College of Emergency Physicians Leadership and Advocacy Conference continues, with day three speakers include Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy and Democratic Rep. Kyrsten Sinema (invited), before Congressional visits and Congressional reception with Members of Congress Location: Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H St NW, Washington, DC www.acep.org <https://twitter.com/EmergencyDocs>

8:40 AM The Hill hosts forum on the opioid epidemic and youth awareness and prevention – The Hill hosts 'America's Opioid Epidemic: Youth Awareness & Prevention', with lawmakers, educators, physicians and addiction experts discussing the crisis' impact on the nation's schools and colleges, and the steps family members, physicians, schools and public health officials can take to curb opioid addiction within the younger population. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown, Republican Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, Pennsylvania Secretary of Health and Physician General Dr Rachel Levine, New Jersey Department of Education Assistant Commissioner Carolyn Marano, Maryland Opioid Operational Command Center Executive Director Clay Stamp, S.A.F.E. Project US Co-Founder and Co-Chair Adm. James Winnefeld Jr., University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine Department of Neurology Chair Frances Jensen, The Hill Editor-in-Chief Bob Cusack and The Hill Healthcare Reporter Rachel Rouben Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC thehill.com <https://twitter.com/TheHill>

9:00 AM Dem Sen. Ben Cardin speaks at Wilson Center on the 'Rule of Law' and U.S. foreign policy – Democratic Sen. Ben Cardin speaks at Wilson Center special event on 'Rule of Law, A Linchpin of U.S. Foreign Policy', in conversation with Wilson Center Director, President, and CEO Jane Harman. Followed by panel discussion and report launch for 'Frontier Justice: A New Approach for U.S. Rule of Law Assistance', with report authors George Mason University School of Policy and Government Adjunct Professor Robert Perito and Albright Stoneridge Group Senior Advisor Donald Planty, and Wilson Center Asia

Program Deputy Director and Senior Associate for South Asia Michael Kugelman and Kennan Institute Deputy Director William Pomeranz Location: Wilson Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/>
<https://twitter.com/TheWilsonCenter>

9:00 AM Bipartisan Reps. Ted Lieu and Steve Russell speak at USIP on North Korea – U.S. Institute of Peace Bipartisan Congressional Dialogue on 'North Korea and the Fine Print of a Deal: A View from Congress', with Democratic Rep. Ted Lieu and Republican Rep. Steve Russell speaking on the importance of the ongoing diplomatic effort, possible outcomes of negotiations, and the role they hope Congress plays in the coming months * President Donald Trump is scheduled to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore 12 Jun Location: U.S. Institute of Peace, 2301 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC www.usip.org
[#BipartisanUSIP](https://twitter.com/USIP)

9:00 AM Farm Foundation Forum on 'Trade War or Rhetoric?' – 'A Conversation with the Ambassadors: Trade War or Rhetoric?' Farm Foundation Forum at the National Press Club, with Office of the U.S. Trade Representative Chief Agriculture Negotiator Amb. Gregg Doud, and former Chief Agriculture Negotiators Richard Crowder and Al Johnson Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC www.farmfoundation.org
<https://twitter.com/farmfoundation>

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

12:00 PM POSTPONED: Donald Rumsfeld speaks at National Archives – POSTPONED: National Archives presents special program and book signing with former Secretary of Defense and White House Chief of Staff Donald Rumsfeld, on his memoir 'When the Center Held: Gerald Ford and the Rescue of the American Presidency' Location: National Archives Museum, Washington, DC <http://www.archives.gov/> <https://twitter.com/USNatArchives>

12:00 PM 'The Iraqi Elections: Waiting for Sadr and Soleimani' Hudson Institute discussion – 'The Iraqi Elections: Waiting for Sadr and Soleimani' Hudson Institute discussion, assessing the political coalitions taking shape in Iraq and weigh the potential consequences of the election for Iraq, Iran, the U.S., and the region. Speakers include Washington Institute Philip Solondz Distinguished Fellow Amb. James Jeffrey, Middle East Institute IranObserved Project Fellow and Director Ahmad Khalid Majidiyar, Hudson Institute Senior Fellow Michael Pregent, and The Washington Institute Nathan and Esther K. Wagner Fellow Bilal Wahab Location: Hudson Institute, 1201 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.hudson.org> <https://twitter.com/HudsonInstitute>

2:00 PM Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich speaks at Heritage Foundation on 'Trump's America' book – Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich speaks at the Heritage Foundation on his new book, 'Trump's America: The Truth About Our Nation's Great Comeback' Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

6:00 PM Women in Government Relations Annual Spring Reception – Women in Government Relations Annual Spring Reception, bringing together Members of Congress, Capitol Hill staff, and the govt relations and public affairs community to honor Congressional leaders who embody the vision of WGR. Honorees include Republican Rep. Mimi Walters, Democratic Rep. Jackie Speier, American Gas Association 2018 Distinguished Member Bree Raum, Department of Education 2018 Public Sector Honoree Julie Warner, and Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Outgoing President Katie Schubert Location: Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC
http://www.wgr.org/Spring_Reception <https://twitter.com/WGRDC>

6:00 PM Alliance for Nuclear Accountability awards – 30th Anniversary DC Days Reception: Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA), representing communities downwind and downstream from U.S. nuclear weapons sites, honors 'leaders in the movement to stop unnecessary nuclear weapons research and production, clean up radioactive wastes, and address the needs of those contaminated by nuclear facilities' – Democrats Sen. Ed Markey and Rep. Barbara Lee, ANA network coordinator Susan Gordon, and Judith Johnsrud Unsung Hero Award recipient Terry Lodge, plus the recipient of the Bill Mitchell Grassroots Activist

Award Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2168, Washington, DC
<http://www.ananuclear.org/> <https://twitter.com/ananuclear>

6:00 PM Dem Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand speaks at Women's Leadership Works Kick-Off Celebration – Women's Leadership Works Kick-Off Celebration, with special guests including Democratic Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, TIME magazine columnist Elise Jordan, Bustle Contributing Editor Alicia Mendez, Minnesota State Rep. Ilhan Omar, and Hillary Clinton 2016 Communications Director Jennifer Palmieri * Women's Leadership Work is a partnership of VoteRunLead and WeWork to advance gender equality and start conversations around 'the need for women to enter public service and take action in their communities' Location: WeWork, 80 M St SE, Washington, DC voterunlead.org
[#GameChanger](https://twitter.com/VoteRunLead)

6:30 PM Annual Congressional Soccer Match – U.S. Soccer Foundation's 6th annual Congressional Soccer Match, presented by Nike, featuring Members of Congress and 'soccer and sports legends'. Congressional players include Republicans Sen. Todd Young and Reps. Don Bacon, Jack Bergman, Darin LaHood, Erik Paulsen, and David Valadao and Democratic Reps. Kathy Castor, Ruben Kihuen, Rick Larsen, and Norma Torres, while other players include former soccer internationals Jim Gabarra, Clarence Goodson IV, John Harkes, Cobi Jones, Jaime Moreno, Ben Olsen, Santino Quaranta, Juergen Sommer, Saskia Webber, Cat Whitehill, and Staci Wilson * Preceded by a 'mini world cup tournament' featuring members from 16 embassies, and followed by a Staffer Tournament bringing together staffers from Capitol Hill Location: Gonzaga College High School, 19 I Street Northwest, Washington, DC
<http://www.ussoccer.com/> <https://twitter.com/ussoccer>

'Taking Aim: A Closer Look at the Global Arms Trade' Stimson Center forum – 'Taking Aim: A Closer Look at the Global Arms Trade' Stimson Center forum, featuring Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy, author Guy Lawson, and David Packouz Location: Stimson Center, 1211 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC www.stimson.org <https://twitter.com/StimsonCenter>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Conan O'Brien: "Former President Obama and Mrs. Obama have just signed a multi-year deal with Netflix. Meanwhile, President Trump has just signed a multi-year deal with Melania."

Jimmy Fallon: "The Trump Administration is trying to stop leaks by allowing fewer people into White House meetings. The President loved the idea until he found out that he's one of the people no longer allowed in the meetings."

Stephen Colbert: "Donald Trump is obsessed with his staff leaking information. You know how I know that? His staff leaked that information to the New York Times."

Stephen Colbert: "Trump is now determined to stop it at all costs. In fact, West Wing aides are instructed to drop their personal phones into a small storage locker when they come to work. Wait a second! They're taking away the phones of everyone except Donald Trump? ... How does that help? That's like saying no one can bring knives to work, except you, O.J."

Stephen Colbert: "Former Trump aides say the President thrives on a sense of dominance and control of his environment, so much so that he has a longtime fear of having his food contaminated. Yes, for good reason. Once he was eating what he thought was a safe meal, and he found a vegetable in there."

Jimmy Kimmel: President Trump "spent the weekend tweeting like a nut. Donald Trump was so out of control with the tweets this weekend Michael Cohen had to pay him \$130,000 to stop it."

Jimmy Kimmel: "This might be the quadruple double down on what might be his most

paranoid delusion to date. He wrote, 'I hereby demand and will do so officially tomorrow, that the Department of Justice look into whether or not the FBI/DOJ infiltrated or surveilled the Trump campaign for political purposes and if any such demands or requests were made by people within the Obama Administration.' I like that he threw in 'hereby' like it makes it more official. 'I hereby demand that John Kelly remove every marshmallow bit from this box of Lucky Charms and hand-feed them to me individually.'"

Jimmy Kimmel: "You have to hand it to Donald Trump, he somehow managed to obstruct justice while tweeting about how he hasn't obstructed justice. That's impressive. At this point, we should appoint a special prosecutor to investigate Donald Trump's imagination because it has run completely wild."

Jimmy Kimmel: "What if tomorrow the President announces that shape shifters have taken over the Department of Justice and that Robert Mueller is a reptile in human form? Would that be so different from what he's doing now?"

Jimmy Kimmel: "I mean, if Trump said Robert Mueller's a lizard who came here from space to destroy America, based on how things have been going so far, I have to believe that Sean Hannity and Lou Dobbs and those dummies on Fox & Friends would jump in and go, 'Yes, Robert Mueller is an iguana.'"

Jimmy Kimmel: "In between fits of hysteria, the President welcomed Melania back home after she had a kidney procedure. She was in the hospital. He wrote, 'Great to have our incredible first lady back home in the White House. Melanie is feeling and doing very well.' He wrote 'Melanie.' He misspelled his own wife's name. Although I will say, to be fair to him, he's had quite a few wives. It's hard to keep track."

James Corden: "Once again, Trump had a busy weekend on Twitter. After reports that there may have been an FBI informant in the Trump campaign in 2016, on Sunday President Trump tweeted, 'I hereby demand that the Department of Justice look into whether or not the FBI/DOJ infiltrated or surveilled the Trump campaign for political purposes.' ... Trump said he remembers during the campaign there was one guy who was always lurking around, suspicious looking, trying to undermine the campaign, and his staff was like, 'Sir, that's Eric, he's your son.'"

James Corden: "In other White House news, Melania Trump has returned home from the hospital after five days following a routine kidney procedure. We're so glad she's doing okay and we wish her well. And President Trump welcomed Melania home by tweeting, 'Great to have our incredible First Lady back home in the White House. Melanie is feeling and doing really well.' Trump spelled his own wife's name wrong. But this did actually lift Melania's spirits. For a minute there, she was like, 'Wait, did he get remarried? Oh, my God, I'm free!'"

James Corden: "The popular streaming service Netflix announced that they have signed a multi-year production deal with Barack and Michelle Obama. ... With this television deal, that makes three things Obama will have that Trump can never win – an Emmy, a Nobel Peace Prize, and the popular vote."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump tweeted yesterday, quote, 'I hereby demand and will do so officially tomorrow that the Department of Justice look into whether or not the FBI/DOJ infiltrated or surveilled the Trump campaign for political purposes.' Only Trump could open with the words 'I hereby demand' and still be so lazy as to add, 'But I'll do it tomorrow.'"

Seth Meyers: "President Trump yesterday accused former President Obama and the FBI of placing a mole inside his 2016 campaign when they knew full well that campaign was supposed to be weasels only."

Seth Meyers: “Rudy Giuliani said this weekend that special counsel Robert Mueller has promised to finish his investigation into possible wrongdoing by President Trump by September, possibly even August if Rudy Giuliani would just stop calling him.”

Seth Meyers: “During a speech at Yale this weekend, Hillary Clinton mocked President Trump by putting on a traditional Russian hat and then Trump mocked Clinton by being the President.”

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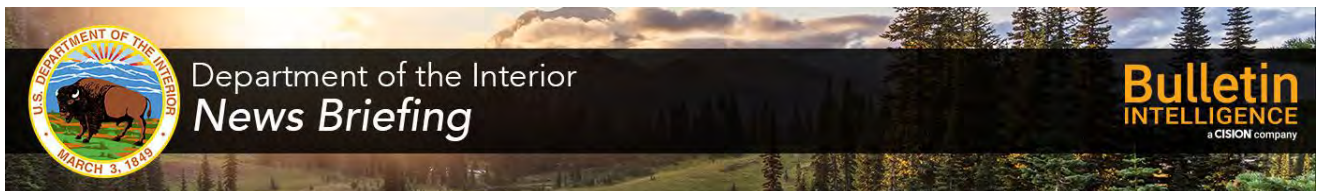
Conversation Contents

[EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, May 17, 2018

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Thu May 17 2018 03:59:23 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, May 17, 2018

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DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2018 6:00 AM EDT

Today's Table Of Contents

DOI In The News

- The Hill: Interior: Officers Arrested 13 People In New Border Surge.
- Washington Examiner: Scott Pruitt: EPA Press Aide Did Not Try To Trash Ryan Zinke.
- Jackson (MS) Clarion Ledger: Bill To Make Medgar Evers' Home National Monument Needs Senate Sponsors.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- U.S. Argues In Tribal Land Dispute In 10th Circuit.
- New Details In Search For Olivia Lone Bear.

Bureau Of Indian Education

- Committee To Explore School Safety On Reservations.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Science Magazine: Drilling Boom Threatens Web Of Ancient Roads In Southwest.
- Rapid City (SD) Journal: Bill To Expand Black Hills National Cemetery Is Headed To The President.
- Craig (CO) Daily Press: BLM Seeks Public Comment In Possible Buffalo Horn Land Exchange In Moffat And Rio Blanco Counties.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- Offshore Drilling Opponents To Unite For Hands Across The Sand.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Bureau Of Reclamation Test ` Bug Flow' Experiment.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Associated Press: Pipeline Work In Question After Court Vacates Key Permit.
- E&E Publishing: Exposed! The Real Story Behind Endangered Species Day.
- Casper (WY) Star-Tribune: Thousands Urge Mead To Delay Grizzly Hunt.
- Highland (CA) Community News: Grant Will Fund Model For Predicting Water Flows In The Santa Ana River.

National Park Service

- Deseret (UT) News: New Park Service Website Features Thousands Of Digital Records.
- Utah Public Radio: Groups Urge Congress To Invest In National Park Infrastructure.
- Kiowa County (CO) Press: Gardner, Bennet, Buck Introduce The Amache Study Act.
- Neshoba (MS) Democrat: Old Jail Hearing: Tell The Full Story.
- Associated Press: Is The Yellowstone Region Being Loved To Death?
- Associated Press: Yellowstone Launches Program To Establish New Bison Herds.
- Los Angeles Times: Mountain Lions Are Being Killed On Freeways And Weakened By Inbreeding.
- KHNS-FM Haines (AK): National Parks Service Conducts Air And Water Quality Study In Skagway.
- Associated Press: Heading To Montgomery? Make Time For Atlanta's King Sites.
- San Francisco Chronicle: How To Visit Muir Woods By Shuttle, Car And Bike.
- Seattle Times: Seattle Program Brings Underserved Students Outdoors: 'Snowshoeing! That's Fun!'
- KIRO-FM Seattle (WA): Did You Know There Is A National Park In Seattle's Pioneer Square Neighborhood?
- Cape Cod (MA) Today: National Seashore Releases New Orientation Movie.
- Johnstown (PA) Tribune-Democrat: Flight 93 Speaker Series Returns.
- Martinez (CA) News-Gazette: Public Opinions On Mount Wanda Sought.
- Pipestone County (MN) Star: Blacik's Acting Role Made Permanent.

Insular And International Affairs

- St. John Will Soon Be Able To Generate Its Own Power, Government House Says.

Office Of Surface Mining

- US Agency Asked To Investigate Miner's Reclamation Bonds.

US Geological Survey

- NBC: Red Alert Issued As Hawaii's Kilauea Volcano Sends Ash Two Miles High.

Opinion Pieces

- BSEE Proposes Revisions To Well Control Rule.
- Sen. Martin Heinrich: White Sands Should Be A National Park.
- Florida's New-found Muscle Against Oil Drilling.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- New York Times: Trump: North Korean Denuclearization Remains Prerequisite For Any Deal.
- ABC: Trump Financial Disclosure Report Shows Reimbursement To Cohen.
- CBS: Senate Intelligence Committee Says Russia Meddled In 2016 Election On Trump's Behalf.
- Washington Post: House Republicans Push Back On Trump's Rescission Request.
- Politico: Heller Asks Trump Not To Shut Down Government Before Midterms.
- Reuters: Senate Panel Approves Haspel Nomination.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "He Walked For His Right To Vote. Now He's Running For Office."
- Washington Post.
 - "North Korea's Bluff Should Be A White House Wake-Up Call."
 - "The Post's Endorsements For Montgomery County's Council And School Board."

- Wall Street Journal.
 - "Funny Business At The Trump Labor Board."
 - "Korean Summit Maneuvers."
 - "Magical Thinking In Italy."

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: Officers Arrested 13 People In New Border Surge.

[The Hill](#) (5/16, Green) reports that "law enforcement officers apprehended 13 people at the U.S.-Mexico border this week during the first two days of the Trump administration's border surge." The Interior Department announced in a statement Wednesday that "twenty-two officers were sent to the border by the Interior Department where they made arrests on federal land in Texas and Arizona that is managed by the agency." In the statement, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "said officers also confiscated one illegal handgun and saw 'evidence of recent activity along smuggling routes.'"

The [Washington Times](#) (5/16, Dinan) reports that Zinke said, "President Trump and I are 100-percent committed to keeping our border communities and the American people safe and secure, which is why I'm deploying additional law enforcement officers to increase security of Interior-managed lands on the southern border."

Also reporting is [Breitbart](#) (5/16, Starr).

Scott Pruitt: EPA Press Aide Did Not Try To Trash Ryan Zinke.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/16, Siegel) reports that Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt on Wednesday "denied reports that one of his press aides shopped negative stories about Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke." In testimony before the Senate Appropriations Interior-Environment Subcommittee, Pruitt said, "That was not happening. We have investigated that and spoken to Interior" about it. Pruitt said that Michael Abboud, a member of Pruitt's press team, "denied shopping negative Zinke stories." Pruitt added that his chief of staff, Ryan Jackson, "contacted Interior's chief of staff, Scott Hommel, to reassure him of that."

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (5/16), [Government Executive](#) (5/16, Clark), and [Law360](#) (5/16, Rodriguez).

Bill To Make Medgar Evers' Home National Monument Needs Senate Sponsors.

The [Jackson \(MS\) Clarion Ledger](#) (5/16, Berry) reports that "the push to make civil rights activist Medgar Evers' home a national monument has shifted to the Senate, but there are no sponsors there yet, slowing its chances of becoming law." The House approved a bill on Tuesday. The office of Sen. Roger Wicker "said Wednesday he plans to introduce a companion bill," but "the office did not say when." Katie Schoettler, a spokeswoman for the Natural Resources Committee, said, "We're working with our counterparts in the Senate and are hopeful that one of the Mississippi senators will introduce a companion soon."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

U.S. Argues In Tribal Land Dispute In 10th Circuit.

[Courthouse News](#) (5/17, Pampuro) reports that the Interior Department "argued before the

10th Circuit Wednesday in support of its decision to secure 76 acres of land into a trust for the otherwise landless United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, contending that it did not need to consult another tribe to do so." One of the issues before the court is "if the United Keetoowah Band requires the consent or the consultation of the Cherokee Nation, and if the DOI erred in accepting the United Keetoowah Band's trust application."

New Details In Search For Olivia Lone Bear.

[KFYR-TV](#) Bismarck, ND (5/16, Skurzewski) reports that "authorities have updated the date and location they believe Olivia Lone Bear, a missing woman from the Fort Berthold Reservation, was last seen in New Town." The Bureau of Indian Affairs "now says the 32-year-old Lone Bear was last seen in downtown New Town on Oct. 25, 2017, in the metallic gray 2011 Chevy Silverado that has also disappeared." The article notes that "investigators had previously said she was last seen leaving the Sportsman's Bar in New Town on Oct. 24."

Bureau Of Indian Education

Committee To Explore School Safety On Reservations.

[Politico](#) (5/16, Emma) reports that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on Wednesday was set to hear testimony "pertaining to the safety of Bureau of Indian Education schools." Tony Dearman, the director of the schools, was to be "among the witnesses."

Bureau Of Land Management

Drilling Boom Threatens Web Of Ancient Roads In Southwest.

[Science Magazine](#) (5/16, Reese) reports how a modern day boom in drilling and energy production in Chaco Canyon, in New Mexico's San Juan Basin is imperiling an "elaborate network of great houses, kivas, and grand roads" built about 1000 years ago by indigenous people. The site is the "setting of a collision between burgeoning energy development and archaeology, as new discoveries reveal the importance of the larger landscape in understanding Chacoan society." The Bureau of Land Management predicts that "more than 4000 new wells will be developed in the area in the coming years," as developers avail themselves of drilling technology advances, even as improved remote sensing reveals "hundreds of previously unknown roads between Puebloan sites." As companies "scrape well pads and access roads from the high desert scrub, archaeologists fear they will erase ancient roads before they have been fully studied—or even detected."

Bill To Expand Black Hills National Cemetery Is Headed To The President.

The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (5/16, Huber) reports that "a bill to double the size of the Black Hills National Cemetery is headed for the president's desk after the U.S. House passed the legislation on Wednesday." The Black Hills National Cemetery Boundary Expansion Act "facilitates a permanent land transfer of 200 acres of Bureau of Land Management land to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the expansion of Black Hills National Cemetery south of Sturgis." The legislation "passed a Senate voice vote in December 2017."

BLM Seeks Public Comment In Possible Buffalo Horn Land Exchange In Moffat And Rio Blanco Counties.

The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (5/16) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is seeking public input "on a preliminary environmental assessment of a proposed land exchange in Rio Blanco and Moffat counties that could consolidate public lands and increase public access for hunting and other recreation." BLM White River Field Manager Kent Walter said, "The BLM will only go forward with a land exchange if it is in the public's interest, and public involvement is a key piece of determining public interest."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Offshore Drilling Opponents To Unite For Hands Across The Sand.

The [Delmarva \(MD\) Daily Times](#) (5/16, Hughes) previews the "Hands Across the Sand" events that will be held across the Delmarva region on May 19 to protest offshore drilling and the Trump Administration's plan to expand offshore energy exploration. Oceana campaign manager Matt Heim said, "This is a great way for the public to show where they stand, especially since the Trump administration said they would be willing to listen to the public." The article also discusses state officials' response to the Trump Administration's proposal to expand offshore energy exploration. In Delaware, legislation was introduced Tuesday to "ban offshore drilling off the Delaware coastline," and "the bill has support in both the Delaware House of Representatives and Senate, with 14 representatives and senators serving as cosponsors." Meanwhile, the governors of Maryland and Virginia have urged Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to exempt their states from the plan.

Bureau Of Reclamation

Bureau Of Reclamation Test 'Bug Flow' Experiment.

The [Lake Powell \(AZ\) Chronicle](#) (5/16, Law) reports that throughout May, the Bureau of Reclamation is "releasing 15,000 cubic feet per second (cfs)" from the Glen Canyon dam "during the day dropping to 9,000 cfs during the night." According to the article, "this fluctuating water level puts a strain on the populations of water insects, particularly black flies and midges, which lay their eggs just under the surface of the water along the shore of the river, usually on rigid surfaces such as rocks, logs and reeds." Starting on May 1, the BOR "started a program where they release a steady water flow of 9,500 cfs on the weekends in an effort to be less interruptive to the life cycles of the midges and other flies laying eggs along the Colorado River."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Pipeline Work In Question After Court Vacates Key Permit.

The [AP](#) (5/16, Rankin) reports that Dominion Energy and environmental groups "were at odds Wednesday over what happens now that a federal appeals court has vacated a key permit" issued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. According to Dominion Energy spokeswoman Jen Kostyniuk, the ruling only affects construction activities in specific areas. Kostyniuk said, "Although we disagree with the outcome of the court's decision, and are evaluating our options, we are committed to working with the agency to address the concerns raised by the court's order." However, lawyers from the Southern Environmental Law Center, which argued the case on behalf of Defenders of Wildlife, Virginia Wilderness Committee and Sierra Club, say that the ruling means "all work must stop."

The [Roanoke Rapids \(NC\) Daily Herald](#) (5/16) further quotes Gerken as saying, "Like other agencies, the Fish and Wildlife Service rushed this pipeline approval through under intense political pressure to meet developers' timelines. ... We are grateful this decision upholds the protection of endangered species as the law requires. It's foolish and shortsighted to risk losing rare species for an unnecessary and costly pipeline."

Additional coverage is provided by the [Alexandria \(VA\) News](#) (5/16), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (5/16, Cocklin), the [Augusta \(VA\) Free Press](#) (5/16), [E&E Publishing](#) (5/16), the [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (5/16, Snow), and [WVIR-TV](#) Charlottesville, VA (5/16, Freedman).

Exposed! The Real Story Behind Endangered Species Day.

[E&E Publishing](#) (5/16, Doyle) reports that Endangered Species Day will be commemorated on Friday. They say "now endures without the explicit congressional imprimatur it formerly enjoyed," and as such, is "a kind of common-law commemoration, something that's become standard practice without the stamp of legislation." The Fish and Wildlife Service and "environmental advocacy groups alike will be marking the day with varied events, commemorations and rousing statements."

Thousands Urge Mead To Delay Grizzly Hunt.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (5/16, Spina) reports that the National Parks Conservation Association "delivered a petition with nearly 33,000 signatures to Gov. Matt Mead's office Friday, calling on him to use his executive powers to delay, or at least limit, the upcoming grizzly hunt." According to the article, "despite the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's recent decision to halve the number of permits for females in the designated hunt area adjacent to Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks from two to one, the NPCA remains concerned the 23 permits proposed statewide could put the population's future in jeopardy." Stephanie Adams, the National Park Conservation Association's Yellowstone program manager, said, "We appreciate that Wyoming made the right decision to reduce the hunt within the designated area to one female. But in the larger hunt area [hunt zone 7], up to 12 females could be harvested, which could have a significant effect on the population."

Grant Will Fund Model For Predicting Water Flows In The Santa Ana River.

The [Highland \(CA\) Community News](#) (5/16, Crider) reports that "the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District has been awarded a \$1 million grant from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a mathematical model for predicting surface and groundwater flows along the Santa Ana River." According to the article, "water agencies have previously hired the U.S. Geological Survey to conduct field research to determine how much water is needed to sustain healthy populations of Santa Ana suckers, an endangered fish, and other native species in the Santa Ana River." However, "water agencies do not yet know the extent to which Santa Ana River surface flows are affected by falling groundwater levels resulting from the Inland Empire drought, which is now in its 20th year."

National Park Service

New Park Service Website Features Thousands Of Digital Records.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (5/16) reports that the National Park Service has "unveiled a newly launched public website – pubs.etc.nps.gov – that is making more than 32,000 park records available to the public." The NPS "created the site to accommodate the public's need to access drawings and documents in a convenient, user-friendly, digital way."

Groups Urge Congress To Invest In National Park Infrastructure.

[Utah Public Radio](#) (5/16) reports that "during national Infrastructure Week, a coalition of business, conservation and veterans groups is calling on Congress to tackle an \$11 billion backlog of deferred maintenance in America's national parks." Curtis Wells, vice chairman of the Grand County Council in Moab, "said a surge of visitors, including 15 million last year who spent more than \$1 billion in gateway communities, has taken a toll." Marcia Argust, director of the Pew Charitable Trusts' Restore America's Parks campaign, said, "A Pew-commissioned analysis found that, if the maintenance backlog facing the National Park Service was fully addressed, more than 110,000 jobs could be created or supported nationwide, including more than 2,700 jobs in Utah alone."

Gardner, Bennet, Buck Introduce The Amache Study Act.

The [Kiowa County \(CO\) Press](#) (5/16) reports that Sens. Cory Gardner and Michael Bennet, and Rep. Ken Buck have introduced the Amache Study Act, "legislation that would direct the Department of Interior to conduct a special resource study at Amache, a former Japanese American relocation center in Granada, Colorado." The objective of the study is "to assess the historical significance of Amache and determine the feasibility of Amache becoming part of the National Park System."

Old Jail Hearing: Tell The Full Story.

The [Neshoba \(MS\) Democrat](#) (5/16, CARROLL) reports that "a packed house greeted federal representatives seeking feedback on elevating the old county jail to national park status

because of its significance in the Civil Rights Movement.” National Park Service representatives were visiting Wednesday “to specifically discuss the jail where civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner were held on trumped-up speeding charges, released, ambushed by a mob of Ku Klux Klansmen that included law enforcement and murdered on June 21, 1964.” The article notes that “several Neshoba County residents made it clear that in order to tell the full story of what happened to the three men, the Park Service needed to consider several additional sites in the county, including several sites that are part of the Neshoba County African-American Heritage Driving Tour.”

Is The Yellowstone Region Being Loved To Death?

The [AP](#) (5/16, French) reports that an increase in recreational visitors to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is raising questions about how the area can be protected. The issue was the focus of discussion for “a large group gathered in Bozeman on April 23 – academics, land managers, conservation group members and a few motorized recreationists – for” thea two-day symposium titled “Our shared place: The present and future of recreation in Greater Yellowstone.” According to the article, “Yellowstone National Park – which has seen a 50 percent increase in visitation just since 2000 – has been studying many of these questions.” Christina White, outdoor recreation planner for Yellowstone, said, “Right now, all potential solutions are on the table. But there won’t be a silver bullet.”

Yellowstone Launches Program To Establish New Bison Herds.

The [AP](#) (5/16, Volz) reports that Yellowstone National Park is “launching a new program to capture and quarantine wild bison with the goal of establishing new, disease-free herds across the nation, park officials said Tuesday.” The program seeks “to help the conservation of the species by relocating wild Yellowstone bison to ‘suitable public and tribal lands’ after they pass rigorous testing for disease, according to the National Park Service’s decision.” The program would also “would cut down the number of bison that are slaughtered when they wander outside the park over concerns about the spread of disease.”

The [Ravalli \(MT\) Republic](#) (5/16, French) reports that Yellowstone superintendent Dan Wenk said, “Quarantine is a positive step forward for bison conservation. The NPS will continue to work closely with tribes, the state of Montana, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and other stakeholders to implement this program.”

Mountain Lions Are Being Killed On Freeways And Weakened By Inbreeding.

Researchers Have A Solution. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/16, Serna) reports that for mountain lions, Southern California’s freeways are “concrete killing fields that divide animals into isolated genetic pools, researchers say.” The article notes that “of particular concern to conservationists are Highway 101, which prevents mountain lion populations in the Santa Monica Mountains south of the freeway from mating with cats in the Santa Susana and Sierra Madre mountains to the north; and Interstate 15, which separates the Santa Ana and Palomar mountains.” Fortunately, the Times says, “an effort is already underway to fund construction of a wildlife crossing bridge over each highway — landscaped with native vegetation and with features such as sound walls, irrigation and fencing — to allow cats looking for mates to move back and forth freely.”

National Parks Service Conducts Air And Water Quality Study In Skagway.

[KHNS-FM](#) Haines, AK (5/16, Leasia) reports that “the National Park Service and the Municipality of Skagway are conducting research on air and water quality in Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park.” Researchers will “repeat an air quality study from 10 years ago to see if levels of contaminants related to fossil fuel emissions have changed over time. The water studies, however, are a new component.”

Heading To Montgomery? Make Time For Atlanta’s King Sites.

The [AP](#) (5/16, HARPAZ) reports that “two new sites in Montgomery, Alabama — a memorial

to lynching victims and a museum — are attracting a lot of attention.” Tourism officials are expecting “thousands of visitors will come to see them in the next year.” Sites in Atlanta include Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “birthplace and childhood home, the church where he and his father preached, the center founded after his assassination and the tombs where King and his wife, Coretta, are buried.” In *Montgomery*, “visitors may tour the Dexter Parsonage Museum, where King and his family lived, and the Rosa Parks Museum, along with the newly opened lynching memorial, called the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and a companion museum called the Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration.”

How To Visit Muir Woods By Shuttle, Car And Bike.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (5/16, Shapiro) reports that “in January, a new parking reservation and shuttle system was implemented to ease congestion around Muir Woods National Monument appears to be working, a park spokeswoman says, but the true test will come during the popular park’s peak season this summer.” The park predicts “a drop in visitors, from slightly more than 1 million last year to 900,000 or fewer this year,” according to National Park Service ranger Mia Monroe. She said, “People are planning ahead – the word is out. It’s kind of like your favorite restaurant or camping reservations: You need to plan ahead.”

Seattle Program Brings Underserved Students Outdoors: ‘Snowshoeing! That’s Fun!’

The [Seattle Times](#) (5/16, Paul) reports that the Every Kid in a Park Collaborative in Seattle, Washington is a partnership with area outdoor and national park organizations that helps low-income youth take trips to area public parks and forests. “With funds from the National Park Foundation, they’ve hired former National Park Service ranger Casey Andrews as project coordinator, and expanded programming to include Mount Baker and Stevens Pass ski passes for fifth-graders, overnight excursions for sixth-graders, and a joint mentorship and internship program with the Seattle Area National Park Sites for high-school and college students.” The group is focusing on schools that get Title I funding.

Did You Know There Is A National Park In Seattle’s Pioneer Square Neighborhood?

[KIRO-FM](#) Seattle, WA (5/15, Belle) reports that the Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park in Seattle’s Pioneer Square neighborhood is “one of the country’s 10 smallest national parks.” Interpretive park ranger, Chief of Interpretation for Seattle area national park sites, Julie Fonseca de Borges said, “There is a recent survey that just came out that said that the economic impact of our small park being here. Our Klondike in the southern edge of Pioneer Square brings a \$6 million benefit to the local area, which is great. Nationally, it’s about ten to one. For every dollar that is put into the park service, \$10 is generated in the local economy.”

National Seashore Releases New Orientation Movie.

[Cape Cod \(MA\) Today](#) (5/16) reports that Cape Cod National Seashore has “finished production of a new orientation movie.” The 15-minute film, *Standing Bold—Cape Cod National Seashore*, will “play throughout the day in the two seashore visitor centers beginning in early June.” Superintendent Brian Carlstrom said, “This new film captures many dimensions of this special place, and it will encourage people to get out and explore. The movie showcases the national seashore’s beauty, history, and nature; the forces that shape it; recreational opportunities; and what the Outer Cape has meant to people over time.”

Flight 93 Speaker Series Returns.

The [Johnstown \(PA\) Tribune-Democrat](#) (5/16, Fisher) reports that “the Flight 93 Speaker Series will return for a second consecutive year beginning this weekend.” The series, “which are free of charge to the public, will focus on first-person stories and accounts of the events and aftermath of the tragedies that took place on Sept. 11, 2001.” Henry Scully, executive director for Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial, said, “One of our missions besides raising funds and raising volunteers is raising education and awareness. When we have over

a thousand people throughout the summer sitting and listening to these wonderful people tell about their experience on Sept. 11, 2001, and especially Flight 93, they learn more about it. They help educate the next generation when they tell their children and grandchildren about what they heard."

Public Opinions On Mount Wanda Sought.

The [Martinez \(CA\) News-Gazette](#) (5/16) reports that the National Park Service is "welcoming public comment Saturday about what its future plans for Mount Wanda should be." It will be "the second opportunity residents and visitors will have to weigh in on plans for the Mount Wanda unit of John Muir National Historic Site." Acting Superintendent Sue Fritzke said, "The Mount Wanda portion of the historic site provides an opportunity to experience some of the wildness that Muir reveled in as he conceived ideas for his many writings, and spent time with his family."

Blacik's Acting Role Made Permanent.

The [Pipestone County \(MN\) Star](#) (5/16, Fitzgerald) reports that "Lauren Blacik has been selected to serve as the superintendent for Pipestone National Monument." Blacik had "arrived at the Monument in late March to serve as the Acting Superintendent during the search for a permanent superintendent." National Park Service (NPS) Midwest Regional Director Cam Sholly said, "Lauren brings a strong background in park operations, tribal engagement, and building partnerships. She is an outstanding communicator and manager with a proven record of accomplishment at both the park and regional levels."

Insular And International Affairs

St. John Will Soon Be Able To Generate Its Own Power, Government House Says.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (5/16) reports that "the island of St. John will soon be able to generate its own electricity, Governor Kenneth E. Mapp assured residents Tuesday, according to Government House." The article says that "power generation units are now en route to St. John and a supplemental solar field system has already been approved." Mapp "said plans are well underway to replace the severely damaged Julius E. Sprauve School and the Myrah Keating Smith Clinic and to make St. John more self-sufficient in the event of future emergencies."

Office Of Surface Mining

US Agency Asked To Investigate Miner's Reclamation Bonds.

The [AP](#) (5/16, Brown) reports that "federal officials are being asked to investigate whether a financially-troubled coal company has posted sufficient bonds to cover future reclamation work at its mines in the U.S. and Canada." Montana-based conservation group Western Organization of Resource Councils "said Wednesday that it was concerned that a bankruptcy by Westmoreland Coal Company could leave taxpayers to cover future reclamation costs." The group asked the Interior Department to investigate. Westmoreland said "in a statement that it is in full compliance with bonding regulations for all of its mines."

US Geological Survey

Red Alert Issued As Hawaii's Kilauea Volcano Sends Ash Two Miles High.

[NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (5/16, story 6, 1:40, Holt) reported, "A red alert was issued on Hawaii's big island after the Kilauea Volcano spewed ash 12,000 feet in the air." NBC (Almaguer) added, Kilauea is "on the brink of a violent eruption," which is also described as "a catastrophic steam explosion." NBC concluded, "While many people are waiting for the crater to explode, the ground here is shaking every day."

The [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (5/16, story 6, 1:55, Glor) reported, "Boulders the size of

microwave ovens...were shooting out of the Kilauea Volcano today, and a massive plume of ash and steam two miles high put Hawaii's big island under a red alert for aviation." CBS (Begnaud) added, "Scientists say this is not the big one they were predicting, but this was relieving some pressure on Kilauea."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/16, story 6, 0:55, Muir) reported, "Authorities issuing the alert because of that giant ash cloud, rising 12,000 feet into the air." ABC (Gutman) added, "And the concern is that the sulfur dioxide blanket is moving towards the populated areas of Hawaii right now."

[USA Today](#) (5/16, Rice) reports on Vog, volcanic smog, "the haze formed by gas and fine particle emissions from volcanoes" as "sulfur dioxide gas and other air pollutants from volcanoes react with oxygen, atmospheric moisture and sunlight." Vog "can cause respiratory problems, including allergies and asthma" and even "headaches and irritation to the lungs and eyes."

Opinion Pieces

BSEE Proposes Revisions To Well Control Rule.

In an op-ed for the [Avoyelles \(LA\) Journal](#) (5/16, Angelle), Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Director Scott Angelle writes that "some recent editorials and news stories have falsely characterized regulatory review efforts currently underway at the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, apparently without having actually read the proposed revisions." Angelle asserts that his agency has not "forgotten the lessons of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon tragedy and other offshore incidents." Angelle acknowledges that "regulation will always have an important role to play in our society." However, he argues that "it should never be the case that once a regulation is written it is beyond review." Angelle writes, "Our goal is to provide America with smart regulations that ensure safe exploration for America's energy future, and we are optimistic the public comment period will further help us reach that goal."

Sen. Martin Heinrich: White Sands Should Be A National Park.

In an op-ed for the [Alamogordo \(NM\) Daily News](#) (5/15, Heinrich), Sen. Martin Heinrich writes that he has introduced the White Sands National Park Establishment Act to promote White Sands from a national monument to a national park. He notes that "because White Sands is already managed by the National Park Service, visitors to the new national park would experience no change in management." But Heinrich argues that "becoming a national park would immediately bring new attention and prominent inclusion in global and domestic travel materials." He writes that "more international and out-of-state visitors would bring in more revenue, allowing for even better resource protection, interpretation and visitor services."

Florida's New-found Muscle Against Oil Drilling.

In an editorial, the [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (5/3) observes that "opposition to offshore oil drilling is now a bipartisan issue in Florida," with "Republicans and Democrats alike...objecting to President Trump's reckless push to expand offshore drilling and change safety regulations imposed after the BP oil spill." The paper recalls that Florida Republicans expressed strong support for oil and gas drilling during the 2008 presidential campaign and argues the shift since then marks "a welcome change of heart for a state whose tourism depends on pristine beaches." The editorial concludes by calling for an amendment barring offshore drilling in the state constitution, "where it can't be changed by politicians whose views change with the tides."

Additional Reading.

- *Cory Gardner Misleads On National Park Restoration Act.* [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (5/16, Landsbach, Hoelting).
- *Some Tropical Frogs May Be Developing Resistance To A Deadly Fungal Disease.* [The](#)

[Conversation \(US\)](#) (5/16, Rollins-Smith).

- *Activist Publicity Stunt Puts Lone Rock's Employees In Danger.* [Roseburg \(OR\) News-Review](#) (5/16, Buckbee).

Top National News

Trump: North Korean Denuclearization Remains Prerequisite For Any Deal.

Responding to threats by North Korea that it will withdraw from a summit with the US next month if it insists on "unilateral nuclear abandonment," President Trump vowed Wednesday that he will continue to insist on denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Media reports cast the President as undeterred by the North Korean threats. The [New York Times](#) (5/16, Landler, Choe, Perlez), for example, says the White House "brushed aside threats by North Korea," to the [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/16, Bierman) the President "remained publicly sanguine," and on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/16, story 2, 2:45, Muir), Jonathan Karl said, "If President Trump is rattled by the latest threats from North Korea, he's not showing it." President Trump: "We'll see what happens. We'll see. Time will tell." Earlier at the White House, Press Secretary Sarah Sanders "said the latest move by North Korea came as no surprise." Sanders: "This is something that we fully expected." Nevertheless, ABC said the "change in tone is dramatic."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (5/16, story 3, 2:30, Holt) reported that while "North Korea is balking over demands over the nuclear weapons program," the President is "standing by his demand that a deal include North Korea get rid of the nuclear weapons." The [Washington Post](#) (5/16, Johnson) reports Trump said he "will continue to insist on denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," and added that North Korea "has not directly told the White House that it wants to change or cancel the summit." Said Trump, "We haven't seen anything. We haven't heard anything. We will see what happens. Whatever it is, it is." When asked whether he thinks North Korean leader Kim Jong-un "is bluffing," Trump repeated, "We'll see what happens." The [Washington Times](#) (5/16, Boyer) and [CQ Roll Call](#) (5/16, Bennett) also report his comments.

[Reuters](#) (5/16) says Trump's "relatively muted response was in marked contrast to just a few days ago when he exulted over North Korea's release of three Americans, welcoming them home with praise for Kim and an expression of high hopes that the summit would produce 'something very meaningful.'" Trump's aides, meanwhile, "were working on Wednesday to determine whether it was a negotiating ploy by Pyongyang or an attempt to scuttle the summit."

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/16, Kong, Sharp, Epstein) reports the White House "said it was proceeding with planning for the landmark meeting." Sanders told [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (5/16, 7:39 a.m. EDT) of Trump, "He'll be there, and he'll be ready. We're ready to meet, and if it happens that's great, but if it doesn't we'll see what happens. If it doesn't we'll continue the maximum pressure campaign that has been ongoing." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/16, Gordon, Youssef, Cheng) similarly reports the White House reaction in a story titled "US Brushes Off Pyongyang's Tough Talk, Proceeds With Planning for Summit."

According to the [AP](#) (5/16, Miller, Lucey), the "direction from the Oval Office to White House aides and other US national security agencies Wednesday was to downplay the North Korean threats and not 'take the bait' by overreacting to the provocation, said a senior US official." NSA Bolton told Fox News Radio Wednesday, "We are trying to be both optimistic and realistic at the same time." [CNN](#) (5/16, Liptak) reports on its website that Bolton also told Fox Radio "that he spoke early Wednesday with his South Korean counterpart to tick through the possible reasons for the warnings issued by Pyongyang."

In what the [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/16, Lauter) calls "a further public show of lack of concern," the State Department released a statement on a telephone call Secretary of State Pompeo had with the foreign minister of Singapore on Wednesday. In the call, Pompeo thanked Singapore for its "willingness to host President Trump's meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on June 12," the statement said. According to [Axios](#) (5/16, Vavra), Pompeo also "spoke with South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha last night, a State

Department official" said.

[USA Today](#) (5/16, Jackson) reports North Korea's statement earlier Wednesday "singl[ed] out" Bolton for promoting what the North Koreans called "the assertions of so-called Libya mode of nuclear abandonment" – Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi gave up his weapons of mass destruction and was later deposed and killed. Sanders, however, said that is not Administration policy: "This is the President Trump model. He's going to run this the way he sees fit." John Roberts said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (5/16) that Sanders "walked...back" Bolton's comments on Libya, "insisting any denuclearization would come from the President, and that he has his own ideas."

In a report titled "Bolton Emerges As Potential Wrecking Ball For Trump's Kim Summit," [Bloomberg News](#) (5/16, Olorunnipa) says Bolton's "desire to turn North Korea into the next Libya isn't going over so well in Pyongyang," and [Politico](#) (5/16, Crowley, Johnson), in a report titled "Trump's North Korea Nobel Buzz Could Die With John Bolton," says Bolton "is famously contemptuous of what he considers naïve US diplomacy with foreign adversaries who can only be trusted to cheat and lie. Prominent on his list is North Korea," which he has written "will never give up nuclear weapons voluntarily."

A [New York Times](#) (5/16, Mullany) analysis says Wednesday's announcement that North Korea was considering calling off Kim's planned June summit with Trump "reflected a pattern by the unpredictable regime: diplomatic outreach, followed by erratic behavior and, in many cases, an outright rejection of peace overtures."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/16, Nakamura), meanwhile, reports that "as North Korean officials abruptly cast doubt this week on Trump's planned historic summit with Kim in Singapore next month, critics fear that a president determined to declare victory where his predecessors failed will allow his desire for a legacy-making deal to override the substance of the negotiations."

Sen. Bob Menendez writes in the [Washington Post](#) (5/16) that the "improving relations between North and South Korea present a historic opportunity for denuclearization and lasting peace. And I applaud the return of American citizens held captive by North Korea. But we must be clear-eyed about the challenges ahead. The president's impulsive and erratic approach to foreign policy has left our allies confused and our adversaries emboldened. If he wants to take advantage of this critical opportunity, he needs something that he has repeatedly been incapable of providing: disciplined leadership and a real strategy."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/16) editorializes that North Korea is unlikely to walk away from the upcoming summit, but Wednesday's threat is bursting some pre-summit illusions. The Journal calls on the White House to make clear to Pyongyang that no deal will be reached unless there is complete denuclearization.

On its editorial page, the [Washington Post](#) (5/16) too says North Korea's threat "is surely a bluff, but all the same it should serve as a wake-up call for the White House." While Trump "already has all but awarded himself the Nobel Peace Prize," North Korea's "rhetorical tantrum was a reminder that the Kim regime will almost certainly" not agree to complete denuclearization. Consequently, the Post argues that the Administration "ought to be contemplating what sort of partial or phased deal with North Korea it would accept."

Intel Officials Warn North Korea Threat To Cancel Summit Calculated To Hide Nukes. The [Washington Times](#) (5/16, Taylor) reports North Korea's threat this week to pull out of the upcoming summit with President Trump "was highly calculated, according to intelligence officials who say Pyongyang wanted to harden its negotiating position against a quick 'Libya-style' surrender of its nuclear programs...and buy time to hide its nuclear weapons." While US officials "say they believe Pyongyang's threat...was also driven" by Kim's "need to show his domestic audience he won't 'roll over' to Mr. Trump, the development raised fresh questions about the scope of Pyongyang's nuclear operations and Mr. Kim's willingness to abandon them."

South Korea Offers To Mediate Amid Summit Doubts. [Reuters](#) (5/17, Lee) reports that South Korea is "seeking to mediate to bridge the gap" between the US and North Korea as they appear to have "some kind of difference in stances" ahead of a planned summit, a South Korean official said Thursday. The Blue House official said the South Korean

government intends to more actively perform "the role of a mediator" between South Korea, the US and North Korea.

Trump Financial Disclosure Report Shows Reimbursement To Cohen.

All three broadcast networks reported on the news that President Trump's 2017 [financial disclosure report](#) shows that Trump reimbursed personal attorney Michael Cohen. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/16, lead story, 2:50, Muir), which led with the story, reported that Trump "reimbursed Cohen for up to \$250,000 – the exact amount was not clear." ABC's Kyra Phillips: "Just last month, President Trump claimed he knew nothing about his lawyer Michael Cohen's hush payment to Stormy Daniels. But today, the President officially acknowledged paying back Cohen himself last year. It's buried in a footnote on page 45 of his mandatory personal financial disclosure report."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/16, story 2, 1:55), Jeff Glor said, "Read between the lines, and you'll find him reimbursing" Cohen to pay Daniels. CBS' Paula Reid: "On the same page as the President's bold signature is a reference to the previously undisclosed payment to Mr. Cohen. It's the first time President Trump has formally admitted reimbursing his personal attorney...for the \$130,000 he paid" Daniels. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/16, story 2, 2:10, Holt), Hallie Jackson reported that Trump is "now appearing to acknowledge a payoff to a porn star for the first time." The [AP](#) (5/16, Condon, Abdollah) reports that Trump "made no mention" in the disclosure report "of a \$130,000 payment" to Daniels, "but said in a footnote that he 'fully reimbursed' his personal attorney for as much \$250,000 for unspecified 'expenses.'"

The [New York Times](#) (5/16, Eder, Lipton, Protesse) reports that a letter accompanying the report sent to Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein by Office of Government Ethics Acting Director David Apol said that the OGE "had determined 'the payment made by Mr. Cohen is required to be reported as a liability.'" Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani said on [Fox News' Ingraham Angle](#) (5/16), "I think the OGE...basically agreed with us it had been fully disclosed. ... I don't believe it had to be disclosed at all."

Daniels attorney Michael Avenatti said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/16), "What the President signed today states that the reimbursements were made during the year 2017. Are they suggesting that the President reimbursed this money but didn't know about it? I don't understand. How does somebody reimburse a payment and not know about it?"

Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA) [tweeted](#), "Kind of a big omission. How does one forget a hush payment? The Trump administration continues to be the least transparent White House in modern history. And Republicans in Congress are all too eager to help cover up." Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI) [tweeted](#), "02/13/18: Cohen says he paid \$130k & wasn't reimbursed. 04/05/18: Trump says he didn't know about the payment. 05/03/18: Trump says he reimbursed Cohen. 05/16/18: Trump's financial disclosure shows he paid Cohen in 2017. What else is @realDonaldTrump hiding?"

The [Washington Post](#) (5/16, Fahrenthold, O'Connell) reports, "Earlier this year, Trump told reporters on Air Force One that he had not known about Cohen's payment to Daniels," and after the payment to Daniels was first revealed, "Cohen acknowledged making the payment himself." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/16, Bykowicz) runs a brief item under the headline "Trump Discloses Reimbursement To Michael Cohen Tied To Stormy Daniels Payment." [Reuters](#) (5/16), [Bloomberg News](#) (5/16, Olorunnipa, Melby), and [Politico](#) (5/16, Nelson), among other outlets, also have straightforward reports.

Suspicious-Activity Reports On Cohen Accounts Missing From Federal Database. Ronan Farrow writes in the [New Yorker](#) (5/16) that the "payments to Cohen that have emerged in the past week come primarily from a single document, a 'suspicious-activity report' filed by First Republic Bank," where Cohen's Essential Consultants LLC maintained an account. There were also "two previous suspicious-activity reports" that "according to the official who leaked the report...were absent from the database maintained by the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network." The official said, "I have never seen something pulled off the system. ... When something's not there that should be, I immediately became concerned."

Avenatti [tweeted](#), "What will Mr. Cohen say in response to this? Prediction – crickets."

Cohen Sought At Least \$1 Million From Qatar. The [Washington Post](#) (5/16, DeYoung, Dawsey, Helderman) reports that Cohen "solicited a payment of at least \$1 million from the government of Qatar" in late 2016 "in exchange for access to and advice about the then-incoming administration, according to several people with knowledge of the episode." Qatar declined.

FBI Appears To Be Probing Cohen's Deal With KAI. The [Washington Post](#) (5/16, Boburg, Davis) reports that the FBI appears to be "examining Cohen's contract with Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI) – one of several companies with substantial business before the US government that hired Cohen." A man who served as a translator in their discussions told the Post "that he spoke with the FBI about the arrangement 'a few weeks ago.'"

Novartis General Counsel Quits Over Cohen Payments. The [New York Times](#) (5/16, Rao, Thomas) reports, "Novartis's top lawyer is to retire from the company over payments made by the pharmaceutical giant" to Cohen. The company said that general counsel Felix Ehrat "was stepping down 'in the context of discussions surrounding Novartis's former agreement with Essential Consultants, owned by Michael Cohen.'"

Senate Intelligence Committee Says Russia Meddled In 2016 Election On Trump's Behalf.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/16, story 4, 2:10, Glor) reported, "The Senate Intelligence Committee – eight Republicans and seven Democrats – concluded today that Russia meddled in the 2016 election, partly with the goal of electing Donald Trump. The bipartisan report is at odds with the findings of House Republicans." The [New York Times](#) (5/16, Rosenberg) reports that Senate Intelligence Chairman Richard Burr "backed...the assessment by American intelligence agencies that Moscow favored" Trump, "contradicting both the president and fellow Republicans in the House." The Times calls his statement "a clear rebuke to Mr. Trump's most ardent supporters in the Republican Party and in the right-wing news media."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/16, Tau) reports that Burr said in a statement, "The first task in our inquiry was to evaluate the Intelligence Community's work on this important piece of analysis. Committee staff have spent 14 months reviewing the sources, tradecraft, and analytic work, and we see no reason to dispute the conclusions." The [Washington Times](#) (5/16, Boylan) reports that Senate Intelligence Vice Chairman Mark Warner said, "The Russian effort was extensive, sophisticated, and ordered by President Putin himself for the purpose of helping Donald Trump and hurting Hillary Clinton."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/16, Ferrechio) reports that Rep. Mike Conaway (R-TX), who headed the House probe, "said he stands by a House report that found no evidence that Russia worked with the Trump campaign to help him win." Conaway said of the Senate report, "It comports with about 90% of what we did as well. We spent thousands of hours going through the documents at the CIA and we came to a different conclusion. On just a narrow piece of it." But House Intelligence Committee ranking member Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "The Senate Judiciary Committee just released the transcripts of interviews about the Trump Tower meeting. We tried to release ALL our transcripts but were blocked repeatedly by Republicans. The public deserves to see them and judge for themselves. Release the transcripts."

Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY) [tweeted](#), "The Senate Intelligence Committee's bipartisan confirmation that Russia meddled in our election stands in stark contrast to the House investigation. Russia acted to tip the scales for Trump & we must be ready to fend off future attacks to ensure the integrity of our elections." Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) [tweeted](#), "Finally, some real bipartisan work on protecting the integrity of our democracy. The Senate intelligence committee's conclusion is clear and puts the House GOP to shame: Russia interfered...and favored Trump."

George W. Bush Administration ethics counsel Richard Painter [tweeted](#), "Americans fought and died in the American Revolution and in subsequent wars so we could choose our own government. Something like this should never happen. Americans who colluded with Russia betrayed their country."

Senate Judiciary Committee Releases Documents On Trump Tower Meeting. [Reuters](#)

(5/16) reports that the Senate Judiciary Committee has "released hundreds of pages of transcripts and other details" from its investigation of the June 2016 Trump Tower meeting "with Russians who claimed to have damaging information about Hillary Clinton." Among the [documents released](#) were interviews with Donald Trump Jr., music publicist Rob Goldstone, Fusion GPS co-founder Glenn Simpson, "Russian-American lobbyist Rinat Akhmetshin, and Moscow-based developer Ike Kaveladze," as well as "written responses to questions from the committee from Natalia Veselnitskaya, a Russian lawyer who attended the meeting, and Anatoli Samochornov, her translator."

The [New York Times](#) (5/16, Lafraniere, Fandos) reports that Goldstone, who arranged the meeting "between Trump campaign officials and a self-described Kremlin informant," told the committee that he proposed a second meeting between Veselnitskaya "and members of Mr. Trump's team in November 2016." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/16, Ballhaus, Tau, Orden) reports that the documents show that Goldstone repeatedly contacted Trump campaign and Trump Organization officials, at one point offering to arrange a meeting between Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin. The [Washington Post](#) (5/16, Rucker) reports that Goldstone said that "negotiations for a face-to-face meeting... 'went down to the wire,'" but that Trump and Putin "did not end up meeting because, according to Goldstone, Putin was too busy receiving the new king of Holland."

The [AP](#) (5/16, Jalonick, Tucker, Day) reports that in his testimony in September 2017, Trump Jr. "struck an unapologetic tone," saying that "he didn't think there was anything wrong" with meeting Veselnitskaya "or that the get-together might have been part of a Russian government effort to aid his father." The [Washington Times](#) (5/16, Dinan) reports that he also said that "he never told his father... about the meeting" because of its "lack of substance." He told the committee, "I wouldn't have wasted his time with it."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/16, story 8, 0:30, Muir) reported that Trump Jr. "admitt[ed] he took the meeting to get dirt on Hillary Clinton, insisting he didn't tell his father the meeting was taking place." [Bloomberg News](#) (5/16, Dennis, House) reports that Trump Jr. also testified, "I did not collude with any foreign government and do not know of anyone who did."

Washington Post conservative blogger Jennifer Rubin [tweeted](#), "In short, there were multiple efforts to obtain dirt on Clinton in the context of a well-orchestrated campaign to defeat her – actually two campaigns, one run from Moscow and one from Trump Tower."

Giuliani: Mueller's Team Has Concluded It Cannot Indict Trump. [CNN](#) (5/16, Bash) reports on its website that President Trump's attorney Rudy Giuliani told the network that Special Counsel Robert Mueller's team has informed Trump's attorneys "that they have concluded that they cannot indict a sitting president." On the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/16, story 3, 0:30, Glor), Paula Reid reported that Giuliani told her the same thing: "There is currently an opinion at the Justice Department that says you cannot criminally indict a sitting president. And Giuliani says that Mueller has told him that he will abide by that opinion." The [New York Times](#) (5/16, Schmidt, Haberman, Savage) reports that Giuliani said, "When I met with Mueller's team, they seemed to be in a little bit of confusion about whether they could indict. We said, 'It's pretty clear that you have to follow DOJ policy.'"

[The Hill](#) (5/16, Manchester) reports that in an appearance on Fox News on Wednesday evening, Giuliani said that if Mueller "subpoenas Trump, their team will challenge it." Giuliani told Laura Ingraham, "We're going to see what legal remedies are available to us, including if they subpoena us, challenge the subpoena."

Sen. Richard Blumenthal said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/16), "I, first of all, have a high degree of doubt that the Special Counsel is going to announce his view on this very consequential and complicated legal issue. ... I want to know what the basis is for that statement by Rudy Giuliani and whether it was just an offhand view by one of the attorneys with the Special Counsel or whether it was a pronouncement by the Special Counsel himself." Sen. James Lankford said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (5/16), "Quite frankly, that's the same thing that Jim Comey told the President a year ago. ... So I wouldn't be surprised by that."

[Politico](#) (5/16, Samuelsohn) reports, "Frustrated by the open-ended nature of Mueller's Russia probe, which hits its one-year mark on Thursday," Giuliani "says Mueller should

follow the example Comey set in 2016, when the then-FBI director investigated – and then publicly exonerated – Hillary Clinton for her use of a private email server.” Giuliani said, “When Comey closed [the case] in July – although I think it was a complete whitewash – I’d like to have them do that for us.”

Giuliani said on [Fox News’ Ingraham Angle](#) (5/16), “Mueller should now bring this to a close. It’s been a year. He’s gotten 1.4 million documents. He’s interviewed 28 witnesses and he has nothing, which is why he wants to bring the President into an interview. We are demanding from him: Tell us what you have to get from an interview that you don’t already have? Because he has all of the facts to make a decision.”

Mueller Subpoenas Stone’s Social Media Adviser. [Reuters](#) (5/16) reports that Mueller has issued two subpoenas to Jason Sullivan, “a social media expert who worked for longtime Donald Trump adviser Roger Stone” during the 2016 campaign. The subpoenas “suggest that Mueller...is focusing in part on Stone and whether he might have had advance knowledge of material allegedly hacked by Russian intelligence and sent to WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who published it.”

Mueller’s Team Clashes With Concord Management Over Evidence. The [Washington Post](#) (5/16, Hsu) reports that members of Mueller’s team “and attorneys for an indicted Russian firm run charged with funding an operation to interfere” with the 2016 presidential election “clashed Wednesday over the government’s plan to turn over massive volumes of electronic evidence.” [Bloomberg News](#) (5/16, Harris) reports that Eric Dubelier, attorney for Concord Management and Consulting, “accused the Mueller squad led by prosecutor Jeannie Rhee of failing to turn over evidence demanded five weeks ago, and for planning to deliver in electronic form about two terabytes of social media-related data without first translating it from Russian.” But Rhee “rejected defense assertions that she and her co-counsel were engaging in a ‘data dump,’ saying the information was responsive to defense requests for evidence.”

FBI Sent Agents To Meet With Australian Ambassador About Papadopoulos Meeting. In a 3,700-word feature, the [New York Times](#) (5/16, Apuzzo, Goldman, Fandos) looks “inside the early days of the FBI’s Trump investigation,” reporting that “within hours of opening an investigation into the Trump campaign’s ties to Russia in the summer of 2016,” the FBI sent two agents to London to meet with “the Australian ambassador, who had evidence” that Trump adviser George Papadopoulos “knew in advance about Russian election meddling.” Australian officials “broke with diplomatic protocol” and allowed the ambassador to meet the agents.

House Freedom Caucus Members Want Trump To Release Documents On Possible FISA Abuses. The [Daily Caller](#) (5/16, Donachie) reports that three members of the House Freedom Caucus are calling on President Trump “to order the Department of Justice to release all relevant documents regarding potential Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act abuses, the impetus for the investigation into the Trump campaign and documents that lay out the scope of the special counsel’s probe.” In a letter to Trump, they ask him “to use his authority to “instruct Attorney General Jeff Sessions to immediately produce all documents” related to House Republicans’ investigation into ‘prosecutorial and investigatorial decisions’ made the DOJ and FBI made in 2016 and 2017.”

House Republicans Push Back On Trump’s Rescission Request.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/16, Werner) reports that amid concerns that voting for the President’s request for Congress “to cut \$15 billion from programs including children’s health insurance and Ebola disaster relief,” Republicans are pushing back against the effort. While the vote could aid House Republicans “facing upcoming primary challenges from the right in states including Alabama, California, Florida and New York,” other Republicans “are balking, raising questions about whether the House will be able to pass the administration’s spending-cut request.” A vote House leaders had been planning for this week “has now been delayed and may not take place until after Congress’s Memorial Day break.” The Post adds that since “few expect” the package to pass in the Senate, it “raises even more questions for some GOP House members about why they should vote on it in the first place.”

Heller Asks Trump Not To Shut Down Government Before Midterms.

[Politico](#) (5/16, Johnson, Everett) reports that during Senate Republicans' meeting with President Trump on Tuesday, Sen. Dean Heller "pleaded, don't shut down the government over funding for a border wall before the midterm elections." Citing "an attendee and two people briefed on the meeting," Politico said Heller told the President that "picking that fight during an election season would hurt Republicans at the ballot box." Trump "was noncommittal," telling the group. "We'll see what happens."

Senate Panel Approves Haspel Nomination.

[Reuters](#) (5/16) reports that in a 10-5 vote Wednesday, the Senate Intelligence Committee approved the nomination of CIA Director-designate Gina Haspel. The committee's vote "was expected after two of its seven Democrats, Vice Chairman Mark Warner and Joe Manchin, said they would join the panel's eight Republicans in backing Haspel." Reuters says Haspel "is expected to be confirmed by the full Senate as soon as next week." The [AP](#) (5/16, Riechmann) says Senate GOP leaders "want to hold that vote before the end of the week, but she is opposed by Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky and some Democrats who could object."

President Trump [tweeted](#) Wednesday afternoon, "Gina Haspel is one step closer to leading our brave men and women at the CIA. She is exceptionally qualified and the Senate should confirm her immediately. We need her to keep our great country safe! #ConfirmGina."

Flake Says He Will Vote Against Haspel. [CNN](#) (5/16, Diaz) reports on its website that Sen. Jeff Flake on Wednesday became the third Republican to say he will vote against Haspel's nomination. Flake said in a statement, "While I thank Ms. Haspel for her long and dedicated service to the CIA, as a country we need to turn the page on the unfortunate chapter in the agency's history having to do with torture. ... Congress needs to be able to provide fully informed oversight. My questions about Ms. Haspel's role in the destruction of videotapes relevant to discussions occurring in Congress regarding the program have not been adequately answered."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"He Walked For His Right To Vote. Now He's Running For Office." The [New York Times](#) (5/16) in an editorial describes the case of David Sadler, candidate for the Alabama state Senate, district 25, who, the Times says, "probably won't win" because the electorate "is overwhelmingly Republican and white." Sadler, the Times adds, had pleaded guilty to a drug charge earlier in life on advice of an attorney and so became "a convicted felon," making him ineligible for university financial aid and "couldn't vote." He sought and received a pardon from the governor of Pennsylvania. Sadler is hoping to "energize the tens of thousands of eligible voters in the 25th District who don't usually turn out."

Washington Post.

"North Korea's Bluff Should Be A White House Wake-Up Call." On its editorial page, the [Washington Post](#) (5/16) says North Korea's threat "is surely a bluff, but all the same it should serve as a wake-up call for the White House." While Trump "already has all but awarded himself the Nobel Peace Prize," North Korea's "rhetorical tantrum was a reminder that the Kim regime will almost certainly" not agree to complete denuclearization. Consequently, the Post argues that the Administration "ought to be contemplating what sort of partial or phased deal with North Korea it would accept."

"The Post's Endorsements For Montgomery County's Council And School Board." A [Washington Post](#) (5/16, Board) editorial.

Wall Street Journal.

"Funny Business At The Trump Labor Board." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/16) in an

editorial about the National Labor Relations Board argues that Democrats have worked with the NLRB Inspector General to use ethics charges to prevent a new majority from overturning new rules adopted under President Obama. Specifically, the NLRB reversed a decision in the Browning-Ferris case in its ruling in the Hy-Brand case. Then three members of the board, using a Designated Agency Ethics Official's finding that William Emanuel should not have participated in the Hy-Brand case, reversed the decision. Hy-Brand is now seeking to overturn that reversal on the basis that the law and precedent of the NLRB do not allow for such actions. The Journal urges Chairman John Ring to hold a new vote to uphold the earlier Hy-Brand decision.

"Korean Summit Maneuvers." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/16) editorializes that North Korea is unlikely to walk away from the upcoming summit, but Wednesday's threat is bursting some pre-summit illusions. The Journal calls on the White House to make clear to Pyongyang that no deal will be reached unless there is complete denuclearization.

"Magical Thinking In Italy." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/16) warns against the plans of Italy's 5-Star Movement and the League, which are in talks to form a coalition government. The Journal criticizes plans for increasing welfare payments, reversing pension reforms, and seeking and exemption from the European Union's three percent GDP cap on annual budget deficits.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Senate Panel Backs Conclusion That Moscow Attempted To Boost Trump](#)

[Michigan State To Pay Nassar Abuse Victims \\$500 Million](#)

[Shari Redstone Moves To Defend Family's Voting Power Over CBS](#)

["I Am The Mastermind": Mohammed Bin Salman's Guide To Getting Rich](#)

[The Weirdest Job Fair Pitch: "Ask Me About Brain-Eating Amebas"](#)

New York Times:

[Code Name Crossfire Hurricane: The Secret Origins Of The Trump Investigation](#)

[Trump Discloses Cohen Payment, Raising Questions About Previous Omission](#)

[Michigan State's \\$500 Million For Nassar Victims Dwarfs Other Settlements](#)

[In Rebuke Of Trump, Tillerson Says Lies Are A Threat To Democracy](#)

[A Child Of Gaza Dies. A Symbol Is Born. The Arguing Begins.](#)

[Cannes, Where Weinstein Reigned, Reckons With #MeToo Fallout](#)

Washington Post:

[Style Vs. Substance In Summit Planning](#)

[Documents Show Roots Of Trump Tower Talk](#)

[Michigan State To Pay Nassar Victims \\$500 Million](#)

[Criticism Of Israel's Use Of Force Intensifies](#)

[A Crumbling Nation Prepares To Vote](#)

Financial Times:

[Anwar Ibrahim Faces New Political Future With Old Adversary](#)

[Total Warns Of Iran Pullout Over US Sanctions Threat](#)

[US Brushes Off North Korean Threats To Pull Out Of Summit](#)

[Italy's Populists Stir Markets With Pre-Euro Nostalgia](#)

Washington Times:

[Buying Time? North Korea Threat To Cancel U.S. Summit Calculated To Hide Nukes, Intel Officials Say](#)

[No ISIS-Related Charges In Months As Terror Recruitment Dries Up In U.S.](#)

[Democrats Fear War Authorization Update Could Give Trump Green Light For Iran Attacks](#)

[Liberal Graduation Speakers Outnumber Conservatives 12 To 1, Study Finds](#)
[Sanctuary Battle Now Pits States Against Their Own Cities And Counties](#)
[Tech Industry Spurs Alarm By Enlisting Southern Poverty Law Center To Ferret Out 'Hate'](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Trump-Financial Disclosure; US-North Korea Relations; Illinois School Shooting; California Building Explosion Investigation; Severe Weather; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; USA Gymnastics Scandal; Congress-Russia Election Meddling Investigation; UK Royal Wedding Week; Amber Alert; Texas Traffic Crash; Pro Golfer Domestic Abuse; Teacher Helps Student.

CBS: Illinois School Shooting; Trump-Financial Disclosure; Giuliani-Special Counsel; Congress-Russia Election Meddling Investigation; California Child Abuse; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; USA Gymnastics Scandal; UK Royal Wedding Week; High School Basketball Player; North Carolina Teachers Protest; Viral Video; Baby Musician.

NBC: Illinois School Shooting; Trump-Financial Disclosure; US-North Korea Relations; USA Gymnastics Scandal; Severe Weather; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; North Carolina Teachers Protest; Teen Mental Health; UK Royal Wedding Week; Lettuce Contamination; Retail-New Web Site; Police Prank; Viral Video.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump-Financial Disclosure – 6 minutes, 55 seconds

Illinois School Shooting – 5 minutes, 30 seconds

UK Royal Wedding Week – 5 minutes, 15 seconds

Hawaii Volcano Eruption – 4 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Trump Admin-Immigration Policy; Congress-Russia Election Meddling Investigation; CIA Director Nominee; Hawaii Volcano Eruption.

CBS: Congress-Russia Election Meddling Investigation; Giuliani-Special Counsel; Senate-Net Neutrality Vote; California Child Abuse; Severe Weather; Wall Street News.

FOX: Giuliani-Special Counsel; Congress-Russia Election Meddling Investigation; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Oklahoma Factory Fire.

NPR: CIA Director Nominee; USA Gymnastics Scandal; US-Japan Trade Relations; US-EU Relations.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Has lunch with the Secretary of Defense; meets with the Secretary General of NATO.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FY'19 U.S. Air Force budget – Defense Subcommittee 'Hearing to Review the FY2019 Budget Request for the Dept. of the Air Force', with testimony from Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson; and U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 192, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

10:00 AM Joint Select Committee on Solvency of Multiemployer Pension Plans hearing – Joint Select Committee on Solvency of Multiemployer Pension Plans hearing on 'The structure and financial outlook of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation', with testimony from PBGC Executive Director Thomas Reeder * Committee was created as part of the budget agreement that passed Congress in February, featuring four members from each party from each chamber, and has been tasked with reporting a bill to 'solve the pension crisis' by the end of November Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 215, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Business Meeting

Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 366, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

10:00 AM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FY'19 NIH budget – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Hearing to Review the FY2019 Budget Request for the National Institutes of Health', with testimony from NIH Director Dr Francis Collins, National Cancer Institute Director Dr Norman Sharpless, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Director Dr Walter Koroshetz, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Dr Anthony Fauci, National Institute on Aging Director Dr Richard Hodes, and National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Dr Nora Volkow Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 124, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

10:00 AM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FY'19 FCC and FTC budgets – Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee 'Hearing to Review the FY2019 Budget Request for the FCC and the FTC', with testimony from Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai; and Federal Trade Commission Chairman Joseph Simons Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 138, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including 'S. 2645, Access to Increased Drug Disposal Act of 2018', 'S. 2535, Opioid Quota Reform Act', 'S. 2789, Substance Abuse Prevention Act', 'S. 207, Synthetic Abuse and Labeling of Toxic Substances Act of 2017', 'S. XXXXX, Using Data to Prevent Opioid Diversion Act of 2018', and 'S. XXXXX, Preventing Drug Diversion Act of 2018', and nominations of Andrew Oldham to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Alan Albright to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Texas, Thomas Kleeh to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia, Peter Phipps to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Michael Truncale to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, Wendy Vitter to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, and Erica MacDonald to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:15 AM Senate Public Works Committee legislative hearing – Legislative hearing on 'S.2800, America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works R.D. James Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

11:30 AM Senate screening of new HBO documentary 'John McCain: For Whom The Bell Tolls' – Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, and Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar host Capitol Hill reception to honor the service of Republican Sen. John McCain and a special screening of HBO's new documentary 'John McCain: For Whom The Bell Tolls'. Other attendees include HBO CEO Richard Plepler, Sen. McCain's speechwriter Mark Salter, and filmmakers Peter, George, and Teddy Kunhardt Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Auditorium and Atrium, Washington, DC

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

US House: 8:30 AM Florida Congressional delegation meeting on offshore drilling – Florida Congressional Delegation Co-Chairs Democratic Rep. Alcee Hastings and Republican Rep. Vern Buchanan hold delegation meeting on offshore drilling, with panelists including Visit Florida President and CEO Ken Lawson, Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program Executive Director Mark Alderson, Air Force Materiel Command 96th Test Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Evan Dertien, and American Petroleum Institute Director of Upstream and Industry Operations Erik Milito Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2203, Washington, DC www.alceehastings.house.gov <https://twitter.com/RepHastingsFL>

9:00 AM House Intelligence Committee hearing on China's worldwide military expansion – Hearing on 'China's Worldwide Military Expansion', with testimony from American Enterprise Institute's Dan Blumenthal; Capt. (Ret.) James Fanell; International Assessment and Strategy Center's Richard Fisher Jr.; and Council on Foreign Relations' Patricia Kim Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2212, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseIntelComm>

10:00 AM House Education Committee hearing on how schools and states keep data safe – Hearing on 'Protecting Privacy, Promoting Data Security: Exploring How Schools and States Keep Data Safe', with testimony from Kentucky Office of Education Technology K-12 CIO and Associate Commissioner David Couch; Future of Privacy Forum Director of Education Privacy and Policy Counsel Amelia Vance; former Assistant Secretary of Education for Civil Rights Catherine Lhamon; and Bristol Tennessee City Schools Superintendent Dr Gary Lilly Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM House Ways and Means subcommittee hearing on the future of the Social Security Number – Social Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Securing Americans' Identities: The Future of the Social Security Number', with testimony from Social Security Administration Acting Commissioner Nancy Berryhill; Government Accountability Office Director of Education, Workforce, and Income Security Elizabeth Curda; Electronic Privacy Information Center Consumer Privacy Counsel Samuel Lester; R Street Institute Senior Fellow Paul Rosenzweig; McAfee Senior Vice President and CTO Steve Grobman; Better Identity Coalition Coordinator Jeremy Grant; and Center for Strategic and International Studies Technology Policy Program Senior Vice President James Lewis Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Small Business subcommittee hearing on 'inconsistencies in defense subcontracting' – Contracting and Workforce Subcommittee hearing on 'Hotline Truths II: Audit Reveals Inconsistencies in Defense Subcontracting', with testimony from Department of Defense Assistant Inspector General for Readiness and Global Operations Michael Roark; Office of the Secretary of the Army Office of Small Business Programs Director Tommy Marks; and Association of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers President Tiffany Scroggs Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2360, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

10:00 AM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittees joint hearing on VA research – Health Subcommittee and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee joint hearing on 'VA Research: Focusing on Funding, Findings, and Partnerships', with testimony from National Association of Veterans' Research & Education Foundations Chair of the Board of Directors Robin Rusconi; Baylor College of Medicine President, CEO, and Executive Dean Paul Klotman (on behalf of Association of American Medical Colleges); and Veterans Health Administration Executive in Charge Carolyn Clancy, and Chief Research and Development Officer Rachel Ramoni + written statements from Coalition to Heal Invisible Wounds; Vietnam Veterans of America; and Whistleblowers of America Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on 'innovative injurious species management' – Water, Power, and Oceans Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Federal Impediments to Commerce and Innovative Injurious Species Management', with testimony from Environmental Investigation Agency Executive Director Alexander von Bismarck; Keo Fish Farm Vice President Mike Freeze; and North Texas Municipal Water District Deputy Director of Operations and Maintenance Mike Rickman Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC http://naturalresources.house.gov <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM Joint Economic Committee hearing on Opportunity Zones – Hearing on 'The Promise of Opportunity Zones', with testimony from Economic Innovation Group co-founder and President John Lettieri; Enterprise Community Partners CEO Terri Ludwig; and Local Initiatives Support Corporation President and CEO Maurice Jones Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC www.jec.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/JointEconCmte>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 1911, Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2259, Sam Farr Peace Corps Enhancement Act', 'H.R. 3030, Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4989, Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act', 'H.R. 5626, Intercountry Adoption Information Act of 2018', 'H.R. 5754, Cambodia Democracy Act', and 'H.R. XXXX, BURMA Act of 2018' Location: Rayburn

House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

10:00 AM House Space Committee hearing on 'America's Human Presence in Low-Earth Orbit' – Hearing on 'America's Human Presence in Low-Earth Orbit', with testimony from NASA Associate Administrator for Human Exploration and Operations William Gerstenmaier; Institute for Defense Analysis Science and Technology Policy Institute research staff Dr Bhavya Lal; and Arizona State University Research Enterprise CEO Dr Elizabeth Cantwell Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2318, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM Markup hearing on 'FY 2019 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2118, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on TSA checkpoints – Transportation and Protective Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Assessing the TSA Checkpoint: The PreCheck Program and Airport Wait Times' Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov
<https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Program – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Relief Program – Stakeholder Perspectives', with testimony from Office of the Houston Mayor Chief Resilience Officer Stephen Costello; Harris County, TX, Commissioner Rodney Ellis; Texas General Land Office Deputy Director Heather Lagrone; Urban Institute Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center Senior Fellow Dr Carlos Martin; and Enterprise Community Partners Vice President for Public Policy Marion Mollegen-McFadden Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM Bipartisan Reps. Brian Mast and Tulsi Gabbard hold press conference with Burn Pits Accountability Act supporters – Bipartisan Reps. Brian Mast and Tulsi Gabbard and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) hold press conference with supporters of 'H.R. 5671, the Burn Pits Accountability Act', including IAVA founder and CEO Paul Rieckhoff, veterans, veteran service organizations (VSOs), and military service organizations (MSOs) Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC <https://mast.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/RepBrianMast>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee markup hearing – Health Subcommittee markup hearing on legislation including 'H.R. 5590, Opioid Addiction Action Plan Act', 'H.R. 5603, Access to Telehealth Services for Opioid Use Disorder', 'H.R. 5605, Advancing High Quality Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders in Medicare Act', 'H.R. 5798, Opioid Screening and Chronic Pain Management Alternatives for Seniors Act', 'H.R. 5804, Post-Surgical Injections as an Opioid Alternative Act', 'H.R. 3692, Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4684, Ensuring Access to Quality Sober Living Act of 2018', 'H.R. 5329, Poison Center Network Enhancement Act of 2018', 'H.R. 5580, STOP Fentanyl Deaths Act of 2018', 'H.R. 5587, Peer Support Communities of Recovery Act', 'H.R. 5797 IMD CARE Act', 'H.R. 5799, Medicaid DRUG Improvement Act', 'H.R. 5800, Medicaid IMD ADDITIONAL INFO Act', 'H.R. 5801, Medicaid PARTNERSHIP Act', and 'H.R. 5715, Strengthening Partnerships to Prevent Opioid Abuse Act' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:30 AM Hearing on 'A Sustainable Solution to the Evolving Opioid Crisis: Revitalizing the Office of National Drug Control Policy' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

11:00 AM Markup hearing on 'H.R. 2561, POLICE Act of 2017' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2141, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

12:00 PM Honduran human rights leader on Capitol Hill – Honduran human rights leader Rev. Melo Moreno, Democratic Rep. Hank Johnson Jr., and SHARE Foundation Executive Director Jose Artiga at prayer vigil and media event on Capitol Hill, with Moreno

and five other Honduran religious leaders and human rights defenders having arrived in Washington following a 10-city U.S. tour to raise awareness in faith communities about the human rights crisis in Honduras Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC

12:00 PM House expected to continue debate on Farm Bill – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include continued consideration of 'H.R. 2 – Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

1:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on global health supply chain management – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on 'Global Health Supply Chain Management: Lessons Learned and Ways Forward', with testimony from USAID Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Global Health Irene Koek; and U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and U.S. Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy Deborah Birx Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on homelessness – Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on 'An Overview of Homelessness in America', with testimony from Star House Executive Director Ann Bischoff; The Salvation Army Polk, Burnett, and St. Croix Counties Social Service Director Duana Bremer; National Alliance To End Homelessness President Nan Roman; and Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Executive Director Peter Lynn Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Federal Lands Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'H.R. 2365, Desert Community Lands Act', 'H.R. 3777, Juab County Conveyance Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4824, Rural Broadband Permitting Efficiency Act of 2018', and 'H.R. 5023, Civil War Defenses of Washington National Historical Park Act', with testimony from Bureau of Land Management Acting Associate Director for Energy, Minerals, and Realty Management Timothy Spisak; bipartisan Reps. Paul Cook, Mia Love, John Curtis, and Eleanor Holmes Norton; Apple Valley Assistant Town Manager Lori Lamson; Juab County Commissioner Byron Woodland; Natural Resources Defense Council Senior Attorney Sharon Buccino; and NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association CEO Shirley Bloomfield Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

2:00 PM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee hearing on VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program – Economic Opportunity Subcommittee hearing on 'A Review of VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program', with testimony from Veterans Benefits Administration Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service Director Jack Kammerer; Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Information and Technology Deputy CIO and Account Manager for Benefits Lloyd Thrower; Paralyzed Veterans of America Acting Associate Executive Director of Government Relations Heather Ansley; Student Veterans of America Legal and Policy Fellow Cassandra Vangellow; and Disabled American Veterans Assistant National Legislative Director Shane Liermann + written statements from The American Legion; and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

2:00 PM House Dem leadership host discussion on 'civil rights under attack during the Trump Administration' – House Democratic leadership host briefing and panel discussion on 'civil rights under attack during the Trump Administration' – on the anniversary of the 'Brown v. Board of Education' U.S. Supreme Court decision – examining current enforcement of the Civil Rights Act in U.S. schools and announcing the introduction of a new resolution to affirm support for disparate impact analysis as an enforcement tool of Title VI under the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Participants include House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, Committee on Education and the Workforce Ranking Member Bobby Scott, Committee on the Judiciary Ranking Member Jerrold Nadler, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Chair Democratic Rep. Judy Chu, and Congressional Black Caucus Chair Democratic Rep. Cedric Richmond, plus panelists Government Accountability Office representatives, UCLA Civil Rights Project's Dan Losen, NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund's Todd Cox, and Solutions Not Suspensions Minnesota's Khulia Pringle

Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2247, Washington, DC democrats-edworkforce.house.gov <https://twitter.com/edworkforcedems>

2:30 PM House Dems at '50 Years After the Kerner Report' forum – House Democratic Whip Task Force on Poverty, Income Inequality, and Opportunity and Congressional Black Caucus hold forum on '50 Years After the Kerner Report', focusing on strategies to address poverty, racial injustice, and economic inequalities that endure 50 years after the release of the Kerner Commission Report, and touching on a new book highlighting 'the persistent issues plaguing the African-American community'. Participants include House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, Task Force Chair Barbara Lee, and Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Cedric Richmond, former Sen. Fred Harris, Prosperity Now Racial Wealth Divide Senior Fellow Dedrick Asante-Muhammad, and Witnesses to Hunger member Tianna Gaines-Turner
Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-215, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

Other: 8:00 AM BakerHostetler annual legislative seminar, with remarks from GOP Rep. Paul Ryan – BakerHostetler 29th Annual Legislative and U.S. Government Policy Seminar, with speakers including House Speaker Paul Ryan and Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, Democrats Sen. Joe Donnelly and Reps. Adam Schiff, Anna Eshoo, Jim Clyburn, and Frank Pallone, and Republicans Sen. Roy Blunt and Reps. Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Greg Walden
Location: Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC www.bakerlaw.com <https://twitter.com/BakerHostetler> #BHLegSem18

9:00 AM Women in the Military Wreath Laying Ceremony – Annual Women in the Military Wreath Laying Ceremony, to honor the nation's servicewomen and women veterans for their 'courage and achievements', with attendees including Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues Co-Chairs Reps. Susan Brooks and Lois Frankel and Vice Chairs Reps. Mimi Walters and Brenda Lawrence, along with additional Members of Congress. This year's Women in Military Service honorees are Master Sgt. Christal Rheams, Master Sgt. Meghann Viggiani, Chief Petty Officer Kristina Koch, Chief Master Sgt. Lisa Arnold, and Chief Petty Officer Brynn Simonetti
Location: Arlington National Cemetery, Women In Military Service For America Memorial, Arlington, VA www.womenspolicy.org/caucus

9:30 AM Business Roundtable conversation on the cost of inaction on U.S. infrastructure – Business Roundtable hosts 'The Cost of Inaction: A Conversation on U.S. Infrastructure', on 'the need for infrastructure renewal and the mounting economic consequences of inaction', with JPMorgan Chase & Co. Chairman and CEO Jamie Dimon, Democratic Sen. Tom Carper, Bechtel Chairman and CEO Brendan Bechtel, and AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department President Larry Willis, moderated by NBC 'Meet the Press' Host Chuck Todd
Location: 300 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.businessroundtable.org/> <https://twitter.com/BizRoundtable>

9:30 AM IMF regular press briefing with Communications Department Director Gerry Rice
Location: International Monetary Fund, 700 19th St NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.imf.org> <https://twitter.com/IMFNews>

9:30 AM 'Trans-Caspian East-West Trade and Transit Corridor' CACI forum on Capitol Hill – 'Trans-Caspian East-West Trade and Transit Corridor' Central Asia-Caucasus Institute forum on Capitol Hill, on 'emerging geopolitical importance of the burgeoning energy and transportation network, as well as U.S. commercial interests arising from it'. Speakers include Afghan President's Chief Advisor Dr Mohammad Humayon Qayoumi, Azerbaijani Deputy Transport and Communication Minister Elmir Valizade, Georgian Deputy Economy and Sustainable Development Minister Genadi Arveladze, Turkish Deputy Economy Minister Fatih Metin, and a Kazakh deputy investment minister, with other attendees including Members of Congress, Congressional Staff, and delegates from the Trans-Caspian countries
Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2167, Washington, DC www.cacianalyst.org

9:30 AM Prescription medication cost and availability reform proposal released at NPC news conference – 'Healing an ailing pharmaceutical system: Prescription for reform for the U.S. and Canada' reform proposal released by physicians at NPC news conference, identifying 'seven key problems with the current system of development, approval, pricing and marketing of medications'. Speakers include Democratic Rep. Keith Ellison, Pharmaceutical Reform Working Group Co-Chair Adam Gaffney, Public Citizen Health Research Group Founder and Senior Advisor Sidney Wolfe, City University of New York

Hunter College Distinguished Professor of Public Health Steffie Woolhandler, Harvard Medical School Department of Social Medicine Senior Lecturer Marcia Angell, National Nurses United Political Director Ken Zinn, and Social Security Works Executive Director Alex Lawson Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC www.pnhp.org

11:00 AM LGBTQ leader Mark Segal donates papers and objects to the National Museum of American History – Publisher, activist, journalist, civil rights pioneer, and national LGBTQ leader Mark Segal donates papers and objects from his personal collection, documenting his almost-50-year career in LGBTQ activism, to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. Donation includes approximately 16 cubic feet of journals, flyers, posters, letters, materials, and artifacts (including the first state-issued Gay Pride Proclamation from 1975). Other ceremony participants include Democratic Sen. Bob Casey, Comcast Corporation Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer David Cohen, and Museum curator Katherine Ott and Assistant Director for Curatorial Affairs Catherine Eagleton Location: Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, Washington, DC <http://americanhistory.si.edu> <https://twitter.com/amhistorymuseum>

1:00 PM NPC luncheon with SBA Administrator McMahon – NPC Headliners Luncheon with Small Business Administration Administrator Linda McMahon, on 'The state of America's small businesses' Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://press.org/> <https://twitter.com/PressClubDC> #NPCLive

1:30 PM Federal Commission on School Safety, featuring four Cabinet members, meets – Federal Commission on School Safety, chaired by Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos and featuring Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, and Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar, holds meeting * Commission was created by President Donald Trump and charged with 'quickly providing meaningful and actionable recommendations to keep students safe at school' Location: Department of Education, Washington, DC <http://www.ed.gov/index.jhtml> <https://twitter.com/usedgov>

6:30 PM Events DC Embassy Chef Challenge 2018 – 10th anniversary Events DC Embassy Chef Challenge 2018 presented by TCMA, celebrating culinary diplomacy featuring more than 30 embassies presenting signature dishes and drinks to compete for the Judge's Choice and People's Choice awards * Participating embassies include Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cote D'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Mauritius, Moldova, Morocco, Nepal, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Slovak Republic, and Sri Lanka Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.eventsdcebassychefchallenge.com <https://twitter.com/TheEventsDC> #10thECC

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Fallon: "Today, over 2,000 pages of testimony were released about the 2016 meeting between Donald Trump Jr. and a Russian lawyer. The President heard it and was like, 'You lost me at 2,000 pages. And lost me again at Don Jr.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "In the document, Don Jr. admits he can't remember if he discussed the Russia investigation with his dad. Meanwhile, his dad admits he can't remember which one is Eric and which one is Don Jr."

Jimmy Fallon: "Kim Jong-un might cancel his meeting with Trump where they were supposed to discuss North Korea's nuclear weapons. Trump was like, 'How could someone just pull out of a nuclear agreement?' And Iran was like, 'I know, it's crazy, right?'"

Stephen Colbert: "Tomorrow is the one-year anniversary of the Mueller investigation. ... Of course, the first anniversary is typically the paper anniversary, and with any luck, that is what Mueller is going to be serving Donald Trump with."

Stephen Colbert: "A grand jury has been impaneled in Washington, and by law, it has to be a jury of Donald Trump's peers, so it's Sean Hannity, the cast of 'Shark Tank,' and a cheeseburger."

Stephen Colbert: "Now, a lot of people say that Trump's attacks on the investigation make him look guilty, but one Trump associate explains, 'No, this is Donald Trump's personality. He just has to respond. He's been so emotional. It takes a toll on him, and the way he deals with it is to lash out.' Yes, yes. Reassuring words about the man with the nuclear launch codes."

Stephen Colbert: "Trump also complains that he needs better TV lawyers to defend him on cable news. 'Jared, Jared, get me Matlock on the phone. What's that? What's that? He's dead and never really existed?'"

Stephen Colbert: Rudy Giuliani "says he and Trump are in lockstep on strategy. In fact, he says of his relationship with Trump, 'We're on the same wavelength.' Yes, they're so close, it's like they finish each other's prison sentences."

Stephen Colbert: Twitter "announced that it is going to limit the visibility of tweets from people behaving badly. Yeah, up until now, to do that, you had to unfollow Donald Trump."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump today congratulated Representative Lou Barletta for winning Pennsylvania's Republican Senate primary last night and called him a friend and a special guy and a bunch of other stuff you call somebody when you can't remember their name."

Jordan Klepper: "North Korea is going back on their word. ... What kind of maniac suddenly walks away from a nuclear deal for no specific reason, just because they can? This chubby, egomaniacal tyrant cannot be trusted. And everybody in America knows who I'm talking about right now, with his dumb hair and his bad English. Ugh! Disgusting."

Jordan Klepper: "Kim might walk away from these talks after all the work our President put into them. God, when I think of the minutes, maybe an hour even, that Trump spent planning the tweets, the long, breathy calls with Hannity about what they're wearing to work tomorrow."

Jordan Klepper: "I'm worried about Trump. What's this going to do to his upcoming campaign...to win the Nobel Peace Prize. ... I know Trump's already set aside a spot in his trophy case, right next to his homemade 'Apprentice' Emmy and the macaroni art that Don Jr. and Eric made him this morning."

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Conversation Contents

bison/buffalo funding

"Willens, Todd" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Willens, Todd" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 11 2018 10:55:37 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Scott Cameron <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
CC: "Cason, Jim" <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: bison/buffalo funding

Scott,

Can your office identify in our agency's budgets whom and how much we are putting towards buffalo/bison management or programs? Including grants and agreements. Please include the InterTribal Buffalo Council.

Thanks.

Todd Willens
Assistant Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW – MIB Room 6116
Washington, DC 20240
office: 202-208-6291

NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.

"Cameron, Scott" <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Cameron, Scott" <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 11 2018 11:16:09 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Willens, Todd" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>
CC: "Cason, Jim" <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: bison/buffalo funding

Todd,

I don't think this topic pops up explicitly anywhere in a bureau budget structure, so we'll need to do a datacall of the field. My guess is it will be a week to get back anything remotely accurate. I'll start the process.

Thanks,
Scott

Scott J. Cameron
Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget
Office of the Secretary of the Interior

Desk 202 208 4242
Cell 202 706 9031

On Fri, May 11, 2018 at 12:55 PM, Willens, Todd <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
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office: 202-208-6291

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"Cameron, Scott" <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Cameron, Scott" <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 11 2018 11:20:01 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Olivia Ferriter <olivia_ferriter@ios.doi.gov>, Denise Flanagan <denise_flanagan@ios.doi.gov>, "Moss, Adrienne" <adrienne_moss@ios.doi.gov>, Jason Freihage <jason_freihage@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: Fwd: bison/buffalo funding

I imagine we'll need to do a datacall on this. I am thinking BIA, NPS, FWS, maybe BLM. Back in a week.

Thanks,

Scott

Scott J. Cameron

Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget

Office of the Secretary of the Interior

Desk 202 208 4242

Cell 202 706 9031

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Willens, Todd** <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Fri, May 11, 2018 at 12:55 PM

Subject: bison/buffalo funding

To: Scott Cameron <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Cason, Jim" <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>

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Thanks.

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U.S. Department of the Interior
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office: 202-208-6291

NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.

Conversation Contents

Weekly Report to the Secretary

Attachments:

/5. Weekly Report to the Secretary/1.1 Weekly Report to the Secretary
May13-19.docx

"Dermody, Matthew" <matthew_dermody@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Dermody, Matthew" <matthew_dermody@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 11 2018 06:07:21 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Alan Mikkelsen <amikkelsen@usbr.gov>, Alex Sterhan <asterhan@usbr.gov>, Andrea Travnicek <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>, "Appel, Elizabeth" <elizabeth.appel@bia.gov>, Aurelia Skipwith <aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov>, Benjamin Cassidy <benjamin_cassidy@ios.doi.gov>, Billy Dove <william_dove@ios.doi.gov>, Brenda Burman <bburman@usbr.gov>, Cally Younger <cally.younger@sol.doi.gov>, Casey Hammond <casey_hammond@ios.doi.gov>, Casey Stemler <casey_stemler@fws.gov>, Catherine Gulac <catherine_gulac@ios.doi.gov>, Christina Summers <christina_summers@ibc.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>, David Bernhardt <(b) (6) - David Bernhardt.gov>, Debrah McBride <debrah.mcbride@bia.gov>, Doug Domenech <doug_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Edward Keable <edward.keable@sol.doi.gov>, Elinor Werner <elinor_werner@ios.doi.gov>, Evan Wilson <evan_wilson@ios.doi.gov>, Gareth Rees <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>, Gary Lawkowski <gary_lawkowski@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, James Voyles <james_voyles@ios.doi.gov>, Jim Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Joe Balash <joseph_balash@ios.doi.gov>, John Bockmier <john_bockmier@ios.doi.gov>, John Tahsuda <john.tahsuda@bia.gov>, Juliette Lillie <juliette_lillie@ios.doi.gov>, Kate MacGregor <kate_macgregor@ios.doi.gov>, Kathleen Benedetto <kbenedetto@blm.gov>, Katie Mills <katie_mills@ios.doi.gov>, Kerry Rae <kerry_rae@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <Laura_Rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Lori Mashburn <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, Mariagrazia Caminiti

To:

<marigrace.caminiti@sol.doi.gov>, Matthew Dermody
<matthew_dermody@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster
<maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov>, Micah Chambers
<micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, Nikolao Pula
<nikolao_pula@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell
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<timothy_petty@ios.doi.gov>, Tim Williams
<timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov>, Todd Willens
<todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, Todd Wynn
<todd_wynn@ios.doi.gov>, Vincent DeVito
<Vincent_DeVito@ios.doi.gov>, Zack Gambill
<zack_gambill@fws.gov>

Subject:

Weekly Report to the Secretary

Attachments:

Weekly Report to the Secretary May13-19.docx

All,

Attached is the weekly report to the Secretary in both Word and Google Doc formats.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Matthew Dermody
Special Assistant
Office of the Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
202-513-7778

 [Weekly Report to the Secretary May13-19.docx](#)

[UPDATE] On or around June 29, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final listing determination for the meltwater lednian stonefly and the western glacier stonefly, located in Montana and Wyoming. Interested stakeholders include WildEarth Guardians, Xerces Society, Center for Biological Diversity and the states of Montana and Wyoming. The State of Wyoming has expressed opposition to the listing. Planned outreach will include a regional news release, web updates, and congressional/stakeholder notifications. (Updated 05/09/2018)

[UPDATE] This summer, FWS in partnership with Arizona Game and Fish Department will propose expanding the black-footed ferret 10(j) designation to include all current and historical ferret habitat in Arizona. The 1996 Arizona 10(j) area was limited to the Aubrey Valley Experimental Population Area (AVEPA); successful reintroductions and subsequent population expansions has resulted in ferrets venturing outside of the AVEPA (as fully protected status). FWS consultation with affected tribes has been initiated. FWS will coordinate with AGFD to best approach and inform Arizona grassland residents and industry (livestock) groups. Communication planning will be conducted. (Updated 05/09/2018)

National Park Service

On or after May 28, the Tule Lake Unit of the WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument will open a 30-day public comment period on the Tule Lake Jail Restoration Project Environmental Assessment. The proposed action would fully restore the exterior of the building, remove the freestanding shed and chain-link fence, restore or rehabilitate the jail interior, and would also improve accessibility to and within the building. (05/02/2018)

On May 29, Golden Gate National Recreation Area is expected to release a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a competitive business opportunity to establish a waterfront community center at the Fort Baker Historic Boat Shop and Marina as an affordable recreational and gathering place. The purpose of the RFQ is to identify both private- and public-sector entities interested in operating the facility, which is currently operated by the U.S. Air Force as a military recreation facility open to the public. The NPS is seeking a long-term lease that will enable an offeror to make necessary investments in historic rehabilitation of deteriorating facilities, and the provision of public services and programs at the site. The park has kept the USAF informed throughout the lead up to this announcement, and they have express interest in participating in the RFQ process. (Updated 04/25/18).

On or after May 29, the NPS will release the Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to the public. The FWS co-manages two of three parcels that comprise the Tule Lake Unit, and the FWS has concurred with issuing the FONSI. The selected action outlines the long-term management and development for the unit established in May 2008 by President Bush. (04/25/2018)

[UPDATE] The May 30 kickoff event of the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission at Independence National Historical Park has been postponed. It may be rescheduled for early October. (Updated 05/09/2018)

By May 30, USDA APHIS will complete data analysis that will inform a schedule for bison transfer to the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes of Ft. Peck, Montana. On April 5, Yellowstone National Park and the Deputy Administrator of USDA APHIS discussed several key issues related to the park's proposed bison quarantine program. This was follow-up to a February 2018 meeting, convened and facilitated by the Secretary of the Interior, between DOI, NPS, USDA APHIS, Ft. Peck tribal leadership, and the State of Montana. Substantive progress was confirmed on several issues including the structure and signatories for agreements on quarantine facility operations, the future transfer of brucellosis-free bison to the Ft. Peck reservation, and USDA APHIS certification of the park bison quarantine facility. Yellowstone bison management and quarantine receive national public interest and media coverage. (Updated 04/18/18)

[UPDATE] On May 31, the open period to submit offers will close on a prospectus for multiple concession contracts for charter vessel services in Glacier Bay National Park (GLBA). While the park previously authorized charter vessel services under both concession contracts and Commercial Use Authorizations (CUA), it seeks to manage this service under a single and unified authorization tool to increase consistency and fairness among operators. Beginning in 2019, GLBA will cease offering charter vessel or sportfishing CUAs in the national park area and will solely authorize these services under concession contracts. As regulations dictate a vessel quota on specific marine areas of GLBA during the prime season, the new contracts implement a vessel use day cap of 552 days in Glacier Bay from June 1 through August 31. In this prospectus, the park also intends to issue a cap on vessel use days for Outer Park Waters, which is based on the highest level of activity in the last decade plus 10% for future growth. GLBA has not predetermined an exact number of contracts to award. Rather, each offeror will indicate its desired level of vessel use days and contracts will be awarded until the full allocation is met. On February 26, GLBA issued the prospectus; while the prospectus is expected to produce sizable public interest, the plan is not considered to be controversial. (Updated 5/9/2018)

On or before June 1, the Missouri Department of Agriculture will issue its findings relative to the improper use of herbicides by a private contractor to the NPS on NPS lands at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. The over application occurred in the Summer and Fall of 2016 and its effect became evident in the Spring of 2017. Some 170 trees show signs of mortality and stress. The contractor has been cooperative to date and has indicated willingness to make restitution for damages. The NPS is working to evaluate the best approach to restore resources. (Updated 05/02/2018)

[NEW] By June 1, 2018, Denali National Park and Preserve will publish the Denali Long Range Transportation Plan. The plan evaluates the current conditions of transportation, considers possible future scenarios, and presents future desired conditions and possible funding strategies. It is a document that presents the park's vision for the next 20 years as it evaluates multiple aspects of its transportation system ranging from bus transit to airstrips and trail connectivity, with particular attention given to the Denali Park Road. (5/9/2018)

Between June 1-15, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (pending Departmental approval of NOA) expects to issue a Record of Decision for the Vista Grande Drainage Basin Improvement

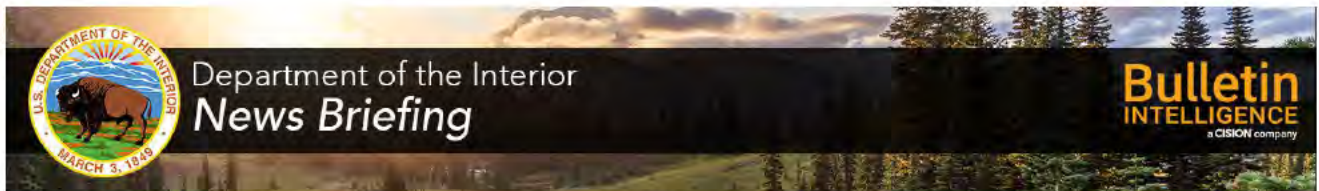
Conversation Contents

[EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Tue May 08 2018 03:59:49 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, May 8, 2018

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



DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018 6:00 AM EDT

Today's Table Of Contents

DOI In The News

- The Hill: Interior Sending Officers To Assist Patrolling The US, Mexico Border.
- E&E Publishing: Dems Warn Against Potential ESA Change For Threatened Species.
- Politico Influence: Former Zinke PAC Blames Faulty Software For Unreported Contributions.
- Montana Public Radio: Survey Shows Strong Support For Public Lands In Montana.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- American Indian Tribe Looks To Reclaim Nevada Land.
- Chinook Fate Up For Federal Hearing Tuesday.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Emergency Roundup Planned For Wild Horses In Southern Nevada.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Outlook For Vital Southwestern US River Remains Grim.
- Reclamation Begins Emergency Dilution Flows Early Monday In Klamath River.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Associated Press: Oregon Receives Grant For Endangered Species Study.
- Associated Press: Group Seeks To Protect Roundtail Chub In Arizona, New Mexico.
- Montana Public Radio: Bison Range Seeks Input On Comprehensive Conservation Plans.
- WUSF-FM Tampa (FL): Federal Wildlife Officials Conducting Review Of Threatened, Endangered Species.

National Park Service

- Honolulu Star-Advertiser: Trump Signs Bill To Add Pacific War Memorial To Honolulu WWII Sites.

- Yellowstone Insider: Yellowstone Superintendent Not Leaving Position For Now.
- Peninsula (WA) Daily News: Port Angeles City Council Prepares To Fight Park Service If Needed.
- Los Angeles Times: Parts Of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Reopen To Visitors.
- Honolulu Star-Advertiser: Arizona Memorial Tours Restricted Today Due To Loading Ramp Damage.
- Associated Press: Arizona Man Falls To His Death At Off Cliff At Glen Canyon.
- KESQ-TV Palm Springs (CA): Hikers Find Human Remains At Joshua Tree National Park.
- Hagerstown (MD) Herald-Mail Media: C&O Canal Toilet Damaged By Firecracker Blast.
- Stephenville (TX) Empire-Tribune: Downtown Historic District And Erath County Arches Named To National Register Of Historic Places And Buildings.

US Geological Survey

- NBC: Hawaii-Volcanic Eruptions.

Opinion Pieces

- Secretary Ryan Zinke Can Get It Right On Western Wildlife.
- Mashpee Wampanoag Deserve A Pathway To A Reservation.
- Will Arizona's Water Truce Lead To More Responsible Leadership?
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- CBS: Trump Slams Kerry's "Possibly Illegal" Diplomacy Ahead Of Iran Deal Announcement.
- Associated Press: Trump Tweets Allege Bias, Conflicts Of Interest In Mueller Probe.
- Washington Post: Trump Urges Republicans To Reject Blankenship In West Virginia Senate Primary.
- Washington Post: Trump To Propose \$15 Billion In Spending Rescissions.
- Washington Times: Government Sees Record Tax Collection In April.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "What Will New York Do About Its Uber Problem?"
 - "Him, Too."
- Washington Post.
 - "Hear China's Totalitarian Cruelty In This Widow's Sobs."
 - "Trump Could Invoke The Fifth. That Doesn't Mean He Should."
 - "The FDA Should Let E-Cigarettes Help Adults – But Not Hook Kids."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "A Scarlet Title IX Letter."
 - "Iran Wins In Lebanon."
 - "Mr. Najib And Mr. Trump."

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 Sending Officers To Assist Patrolling The US, Mexico Border.

[The Hill](#) (5/7, Green) reports the Interior Department is "sending its law enforcement officers to help the Department of Homeland Security secure the U.S. – Mexico border,

according to an internal email obtained by The Hill." The announcement from the US Park Police Planning Unit and National Park Service "says that officers from both agencies will assist the Border Patrol along the southwest border starting May 13 as part of 'Secretary [Ryan] Zinke's offer of assistance to the Department of Homeland Security.'" Zinke "called his decision to deploy Interior law enforcement officers to the southern border 'the first of many steps Interior will take to secure the homeland.'"

[Courthouse News](#) (5/7, Bruno) reports that U.S. Park Police officers will be "doing 21-day rotations" in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona and Amistad National Recreation Area in Texas.

Dems Warn Against Potential ESA Change For Threatened Species.

[E&E Publishing](#) (5/7, Doyle) reports that "senior Democratic lawmakers are launching a peremptory strike against a potential Fish and Wildlife Service change in how threatened species are protected." Rep. Raúl Grijalva and Sen. Tom Carper "oppose a proposed 'Removal of Blanket Section 4(d) Rule' that was submitted last month for the White House Office of Management and Budget to review." The two Democrats wrote to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Friday, "We fear FWS' intention is actually not to better address the needs of threatened species, but rather to cater exclusively and completely to oil, gas and agricultural industries that must currently avoid harming species and their habitats."

Former Zinke PAC Blames Faulty Software For Unreported Contributions.

[Politico Influence](#) (5/7, Levine, Meyer) reports that "a leadership PAC previously affiliated with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told the FEC faulty software was to blame for its failure to report \$600,000 in donations in the first half of 2017." SEAL PAC was "overseen for most of that period by Vincent DeVito, now a top aide to Zinke at the Interior Department." Zinke "disaffiliated himself from it after being selected to join President Donald Trump's Cabinet. DeVito was the PAC's treasurer until May 2017, when he joined Zinke at Interior."

Survey Shows Strong Support For Public Lands In Montana.

[Montana Public Radio](#) (5/7, Cates-Carney) reports that "a new survey commissioned by the University of Montana shows voters from every political leaning support national policy that protects and expands public land access in the state." According to the third biannual survey from UM's Crown of the Continent and Greater Yellowstone Initiative, "voters support for public lands includes the Land and Water Conservation Fund, new wilderness designation, and a new National Monument designation near Glacier National Park." In the survey of five hundred registered Montana voters, "eighty two percent of Montanans say public lands help the state's economy; and people tended to associate that value with outdoor recreation opportunities rather than opportunities for natural resource extraction."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

American Indian Tribe Looks To Reclaim Nevada Land.

The [AP](#) (5/7) reports that "an American Indian tribe wants to reclaim land near a Nevada ski resort and golf course rather than have it come under control of resort operators who are working with county officials." The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California "wants to ask Congress for nearly 0.6 square miles (1.6 square kilometers) of federal land in Incline Village." Tribal chairman Neil Mortimer said, "We just feel strongly if federal land is going to be transferred, it should be returned to its original owners. Part of who we are, part of what identifies us as a people is the land we are on."

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (5/7, SpillmanReno (nev.), Gazette-Journal).

Chinook Fate Up For Federal Hearing Tuesday.

The [Chinook \(WA\) Observer](#) (5/7, John) reports that "the Chinook Indian Nation hopes to fill a federal courtroom with Native Americans and their supporters during a Tuesday hearing

that could be pivotal in the tribe's ongoing effort to win federal recognition." Tribal Chairman Tony Johnson "hopes a strong showing will demonstrate to the judge and government attorneys that the tribe is a living, vital entity." He said, "I want [the judge] to be presented something that looks different than his usual day of work. I want him to be presented with a courtroom full of Chinook and friends of the Chinook."

Bureau Of Land Management

Emergency Roundup Planned For Wild Horses In Southern Nevada.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (5/7, Brea) reports that "for the second time in less than three years, federal authorities plan to conduct an emergency roundup of wild horses on the brink of starvation in the Spring Mountains." The U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management "announced Monday that as many as 200 horses in the Cold Creek area are in immediate need of food due to drought conditions and overpopulation." Beginning next week, the agencies "plan to gather and begin feeding the hungry animals, which have taken to eating nutrient-poor desert shrubs and the bark from Joshua trees in a desperate search for food."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Outlook For Vital Southwestern US River Remains Grim.

The [AP](#) (5/7, Elliott) reports that "the outlook for the most important river in the Southwestern U.S. remains grim this summer after April storms failed to produce much snow in the mountains that feed the waterway, forecasters said Monday." The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration "said the Colorado River is expected to carry only 43 percent of the average amount of water into Lake Powell, one of two huge reservoirs that store and distribute the river." The article notes that "it's the fifth-lowest forecast in 54 years." However, "officials have said that Lake Powell and its companion, Lake Mead, will be high enough to avoid mandatory cutbacks for water users this year."

Reclamation Begins Emergency Dilution Flows Early Monday In Klamath River.

The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (5/7, Obrien) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation "increased flows below Iron Gate Dam early Monday morning, May 7, to address disease concerns in salmon in the Klamath River." Jeff Nettleton, manager of the Klamath Basin Area Office, said, "The 2018 water year is one of the most challenging and complex water years Reclamation has had to manage. We will continue to closely coordinate with Project water users, Tribes, and our partner agencies to operate the Klamath Project consistent with the requirements of the Order and the 2013 Biological Opinion, while providing as much water as possible to the Klamath Project irrigators during this extremely dry water year."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Oregon Receives Grant For Endangered Species Study.

The [AP](#) (5/7, James) reports that "federal and state funds totaling \$1 million have been set aside to study a new endangered species protection plan in Oregon forests, a decade after a similar effort stalled amid controversy." The money is "earmarked to pay for the first step in laying out new rules for protecting endangered species in 630,000 acres of state-owned forest land west of the Cascades, including large tracts on the state's northern coast." The plan would "consider species including the spotted owl and marbled murrelet, and set guidelines for timber harvesting and recreational use." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "contributed \$750,000 with the remainder coming from the state."

Group Seeks To Protect Roundtail Chub In Arizona, New Mexico.

The [AP](#) (5/8) reports that "a nonprofit conservation group says it calling on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect a large minnow known as a roundtail chub that's found in Arizona and some parts of New Mexico." The Center for Biological Diversity on Monday announced plans "for legal action to save the chub." The group "says the chub faces threats including habitat destruction, invasive species and climate change and should be protected by the Endangered Species Act."

Bison Range Seeks Input On Comprehensive Conservation Plans.

[Montana Public Radio](#) (5/7, Ouellet) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is "hosting a series of public meetings this week to hear input on five alternative plans for future management of the National Bison Range and nearby wildlife refuges." According to the article, "alternatives for two Comprehensive Conservation Plans range from continuing management as it is now, to emphasizing visitor experience, to managing for key species, to managing for ecological sustainability, and working with tribal and local partners to increase connectivity between the refuges." Public input "on the alternatives will be accepted until May 25."

Federal Wildlife Officials Conducting Review Of Threatened, Endangered Species.

[WUSF-FM](#) Tampa, FL (5/7, Miller) reports that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials are "asking Floridians to help with a five-year review of 35 endangered or threatened fish, wildlife, and plants." Ken Warren, a spokesperson for the agency, "said they're looking for information on where species are located, how many live there, and what threats they may face." Warren said, "We can't be everywhere and we can't see everything so we really encourage people – especially those with valid scientific information, to work with us on this review."

National Park Service

Trump Signs Bill To Add Pacific War Memorial To Honolulu WWII Sites.

The [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (5/7, Schaefer) reports that President Trump signed a bill into law Monday "that was inspired by the late Adm. Lloyd R. 'Joe' Vasey, who wanted to commemorate U.S. service members who fought in the Pacific theater." The legislation "directs the National Park Service and the nonprofit Pacific Historic Parks to create a Pacific War memorial at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, which includes the USS Arizona Memorial." Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, who introduced the bill along with Rep. Rob Bishop, said the memorial will "share the stories of the brave warriors who lost their lives during World War II while fighting in the Pacific theater. It will provide their families and loved ones a place to go to pay their respects, and most importantly, to learn how they lived, and why they fought."

Yellowstone Superintendent Not Leaving Position For Now.

[Yellowstone Insider](#) (5/7, Reichard) reports that Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk has "denied rumors he will soon leave his post under orders from the Department of the Interior." Wenk also "added that he sent an email to Yellowstone employees assuring them he was not leaving Yellowstone for now." He wrote, "I will keep you informed. Let's avoid rumors."

Also reporting is the [Cody \(WY\) Enterprise](#) (5/7, Freedman).

Port Angeles City Council Prepares To Fight Park Service If Needed.

The [Peninsula \(WA\) Daily News](#) (5/8) reports that the Port Angeles City Council has "approved a \$360,000 payment to Seattle law firm to prepare a lawsuit against the National Park Service as a backup to settlement negotiations for the Elwha water treatment facilities." Rep. Derek Kilmer "raised the issue of the Elwha water treatment plant with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in a House Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on the Interior budget last month." At that hearing, Zinke pledged to "get personally involved with

it because I just want it settled."

Parts Of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Reopen To Visitors.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/7, Jones) reports that "some of the most-visited areas of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park have partly reopened after earthquakes and eruptions prompted a two-day closure." However, "many park roads and most trails remain closed because of rock slides caused by ongoing seismic activity."

Arizona Memorial Tours Restricted Today Due To Loading Ramp Damage.

The [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (5/7) reports that "visitors to the USS Arizona Memorial will not be able to disembark from their shuttle boats at the memorial itself today but will be given harbor tours nearby because of damage to the loading ramp." According to the article, "specialists at the National Park Service are assessing the problem, a crack in the supporting structure for the visitor loading ramp to the memorial, which is accessible only by boat from the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center." The National Park Service said in a news release, "We will inform the public of any changes to visitor access and make every effort to resume normal operations as soon as possible."

Arizona Man Falls To His Death At Off Cliff At Glen Canyon.

The [AP](#) (5/7) reports that "authorities say a man has accidentally fallen about 800 feet (243 meters) to his death at the Glen Canyon National Recreational Area in northern Arizona." According to sheriff's officials, "no foul play is suspected in the death of 33-year-old Zachary Wallace of Phoenix."

Hikers Find Human Remains At Joshua Tree National Park.

[KESQ-TV](#) Palm Springs, CA (5/7, Reyes) reports that "human skeletal remains were found at Joshua Tree National Park Thursday," officials confirmed yesterday. According to a news release by the National Park Service, "a group of hikers found the remains in the Stubbe Springs Loop area of the park sometime Thursday."

C&O Canal Toilet Damaged By Firecracker Blast.

The [Hagerstown \(MD\) Herald-Mail Media](#) (5/7) reports that a blast from firecrackers damaged a National Park Service portable toilet near Lock 38 of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park. The Monday incident caused damages estimated at \$500.

Downtown Historic District And Erath County Arches Named To National Register Of Historic Places And Buildings.

The [Stephenville \(TX\) Empire-Tribune](#) (5/7) reports that the National Park Service says that the Stephenville Downtown Historic District and Erath County Arches has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

US Geological Survey

Hawaii-Volcanic Eruptions.

[NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (5/7, lead story, 2:25, Holt) reported, "Our lead story again tonight comes from Hawaii, where a state of emergency remains in place after a series of earth-shattering volcanic eruptions. Molten lava destroying homes, and tonight it's unclear if the worst is still to come."

The [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (5/7, lead story, 2:50, Glor) reported, "We'll begin tonight in Hawaii. The island paradise dealing with a hellish invasion of hot lava erupting from a volcano. Dozens of homes and other buildings have been destroyed. More than 1,000 people have been forced to evacuate."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (5/7, lead story, 3:00, Muir) reported, "Good evening. And it's great to have you with us to start a new week here. And we begin tonight with the state of emergency in Hawaii. The stunning images of that slow motion disaster playing out. The

lava from inside the Kilauea Volcano, some of its emerging through cracks in the earth, miles away from the volcano. The unstoppable force of the molten rock creeping across roads, torching everything in its path, including now more than two dozen homes. The air in those neighbors, authorities now saying, is too dangerous to breathe. Tonight, our team flying over the scene, and right there on the ground beside it."

Opinion Pieces

Secretary Ryan Zinke Can Get It Right On Western Wildlife.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Examiner](#) (5/8, Rait), Ken Rait, who directs The Pew Charitable Trusts' western lands initiative, writes that open spaces are "under threat, in part because of population increases across the West during the past decade and the accompanying roads, fences, and subdivisions, all of which have encroached on habitat not only for elk, mule deer, and pronghorn, but for greater sage-grouse and hundreds of other species." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "signaled his intent to address this growing problem through a secretarial order on improving wildlife habitat quality in Western big-game winter range and migration corridors." In February, Zinke "directed Interior Department agencies, which manage much of our country's Western public domain, to conserve the wildlife corridors that allow these migrations, and to protect lands that animals need for their winter forage." Rait suggests that "one way to accomplish many of the goals of his wildlife migration order would be to fully implement the 2015 plans for sage-grouse habitat on Bureau of Land Management lands."

Mashpee Wampanoag Deserve A Pathway To A Reservation.

The [Boston Globe](#) (5/7) editorializes that "if federal law prevents the Mashpee Wampanoag from securing an Indian reservation in Massachusetts, then there's something wrong with federal law." The paper argues that "Congress should ensure that the Mashpee Wampanoag can have a reservation in the Commonwealth that they've always called home."

Will Arizona's Water Truce Lead To More Responsible Leadership?

In an editorial, the [Arizona Republic](#) (5/7) welcomes a joint statement of cooperation published last week by the Arizona Department of Water Resources and the Central Arizona Water Conservancy District. But the paper says that "it is only the first step in healing a relationship that was badly gashed in a dispute over how to best approach the looming critical shortages in the Colorado River system." The editorial asserts that "Arizona, above all, needs to be the model of collaboration, because it stands to lose the most under emergency conditions."

Additional Reading.

- *Maine Can't Afford To Give Up Its Offshore Wind Power Leadership.* [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (5/7).
- *Ruffey Rancheria Should Be Reinstated As A Tribe.* [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (5/7, Gomes).

Top National News

Trump Slams Kerry's "Possibly Illegal" Diplomacy Ahead Of Iran Deal Announcement.

As the President [tweeted](#) Monday afternoon that he will make an announcement Tuesday about the Iran nuclear deal, conservative media outlets reported on the scrutiny surrounding former Secretary of State John Kerry over his talks with world leaders about the fate of the accord he negotiated. Early on Monday, the President [tweeted](#) about reports Kerry has been meeting with foreign officials to try to salvage the deal, saying, "The United States does not need John Kerry's possibly illegal Shadow Diplomacy on the very badly negotiated Iran Deal. He was the one that created this MESS in the first place!" The [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (5/7, story 2, 2:05, Glor) – the only network to cover the story last night –

briefly reported the President's tweet and said Kerry's office confirmed the former secretary "has strategized with foreign officials about keeping the US in the agreement."

The [Washington Times](#) (5/7, Boyer) said the discussions with foreign officials "have led to accusations by some that Mr. Kerry may have violated the Logan Act." However, he spokesman said, "Secretary Kerry stays in touch with his former counterparts around the world just like every previous secretary of state. Like America's closest allies, he believes it is important that the nuclear agreement, which took the world years to negotiate, remain effective as countries focus on stability in the region." The [New York Post](#) (5/7, Moore) also reports Trump "blasted...Kerry for reaching out to" Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif to talk about how they would preserve the 2015 pact, and [Townhall](#) (5/7, Pavlich) reports Kerry "has been on an aggressive yet stealthy mission to preserve" the deal, but his actions "have not gone unnoticed" by Trump.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/7, Quinn) reports White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said the Administration "won't be taking any advice from...Kerry." Sanders told reporters Monday, "I don't think that we would take advice from somebody who created what the president sees to be one of the worst deals ever made. I'm not sure why we would start listening to him now."

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (5/7, Kredo) reports Kerry's efforts "are being met with a cool reception by the Trump administration." A "source close to the White House who advised officials on Iran policy" said, "Kerry is setting up a one-two punch to make Trump look weak. First, he's going to brag that he outmaneuvered Trump by working with the Europeans to save the deal. Second, he's going to brag that the State Department and Defense Department are going to constrain Trump in the future too, and that Iran is now open for business. The whole thing is meant to humiliate Trump politically and promote Obama's pro-Iran policies."

The [Daily Caller](#) (5/7, Johnson) reports Alan Dershowitz "[says](#) Kerry is in clear violation of the Logan Act," and "the Boston Herald has [called](#) for a full investigation into Kerry's actions." Guy Benson writes for [Townhall](#) (5/7) that "if Kerry didn't want to run the risk of his bad agreement being flushed down the toilet by the next president, he could have crafted an accord that was robust enough to attract the requisite level Congressional support to make it a legitimate treaty. He didn't."

Mollie Hemingway of The Federalist said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (5/7), "For a year-and-a-half, we've had everyone in the media and law enforcement claim with a straight face there's something call the Logan Act. ... It is clearly unconstitutional. It would never be enforced and yet it was used to query Mike Flynn. ... Here you have John Kerry, who has no role in the Administration, doing freelance work trying to save a deal that is completely contravening the goal of the Trump Administration, and all those people who were claiming that the Logan Act was real thing are oddly silent right now."

The [New York Times](#) (5/7, Qiu) reports that while Trump "did not specify what was illegal about Mr. Kerry's actions," it "appears that whether Mr. Kerry violated the law is a matter of legal interpretation." Daniel Rice, a fellow at the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection at Georgetown University, said that since the Iran deal is still in place — as of Monday — Kerry "as not undermined or opposed American foreign policy." Eric Posner, a law professor at the University of Chicago, said it "also depends on exactly what Mr. Kerry said to the foreign officials."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/7, Bierman) says Tuesday's announcement "could well be one of the most consequential of his presidency. And in typical Trump fashion, he teased it on Monday with a tweet." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/7, story 3, 0:40, Muir) reported the President tweeted he will make an announcement at "2:00 p.m. at the White House tomorrow. This is the deal he promised to tear up," but "European allies have been on a mission to convince him to stay in." One European diplomat told ABC "it seems pretty obvious President Trump will exit this deal." Jim Sciutto similarly reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/7) that a "senior European diplomat" who "had very senior meetings with Trump officials...said unless there is a surprise...the President will withdraw" from the agreement.

Calling it "the biggest foreign policy test yet for a President who campaigned on a vow

to rip up the deal," Kristen Welker likewise said on [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (5/7, story 3, 1:30, Holt) that Trump is "signaling he is eyeing the exits." Ahead of the announcement, "key global allies have been shuttling through the White House to apply pressure, including the leaders of France and Germany, and today the British Foreign Secretary," Boris Johnson, who the [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (5/7, story 2, 2:05, Glor) reported met with Secretary of State Pompeo Monday "to urge the US to remain a part of the nuclear deal," but did not meet with President Trump. However, he "may have been trying to send him a message about withdrawing by appearing on Fox News."

Appearing on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) 📺 (5/7), Johnson said, "Of course, the President is right to see flaws in it and he set a very reasonable challenge to the world. ... We have to push back on what Iran is doing in the region. We have to be tougher on Iran. We have to fix the flaws in the deal. ... The President has been right to call attention to it. But you can't do that without just throwing the baby out with the bath water, without scrapping the whole thing. If you do that, you have to answer the question, what next? What if the Iranians do rush to a nuclear weapon?" Johnson urged Trump to instead choose to "work with what we got and push back on Iran together."

Johnson, also appearing on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) 📺 (5/7, 7:26 a.m. EDT, Brzezinski), said, "I understand that people have anxieties about this deal, and they're right in the sense that it's very far from perfect, but it's the best thing that we have at the moment. ... And I think we can meet the President's challenge and be tougher on Iran...but without throwing away the heart of that Iran nuclear deal. Because...it's worked so far."

The [Washington Times](#) (5/7, Miller) reports Johnson "went on Mr. Trump's favorite TV show to urge him not to quit the Iran nuclear deal," while the [New York Post](#) (5/7, Moore) reports he also met Monday with Vice President Pence and National Security Adviser Bolton.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/7, Caralle) says the "world is watching to see what Trump does with the deal," and the [Washington Post](#) (5/7, Nakamura) says the President's announcement comes "after a flurry of entreaties from European allies...for [him] to reconsider his opposition to the deal and maintain support. But Trump has continued to rail against the 2015 agreement."

[USA Today](#) (5/7, Jackson) reports Trump tweeted out his announcement "just a minute after" White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders ended her daily briefing. Sanders told reporters at the briefing that Trump "will make an announcement on what his decision is soon," but declined "to offer a preview" of his decision. According to the [AP](#) (5/7, Miller, Lucey), "It is not immediately clear what Trump will announce Tuesday or whether he will announce the end of the deal or push for a renegotiation."

To [Reuters](#) (5/7), Trump "has all but decided to withdraw from the accord but exactly how he will do so remains unclear, two White House officials and a source familiar with the administration's internal debate" said. Citing diplomats familiar with the negotiations, the [New York Times](#) (5/7, Sanger) reports Trump "appeared inclined to scrap the deal and reimpose sanctions on Iran," but "it is unclear whether he would moderate that move, perhaps by allowing the European nations to move ahead with their economic relations with Tehran without being penalized by the United States."

Sebastian Gorka said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) 📺 (5/7), "I know it is shocking for most people that this is a politician who keeps his promises, but that is Donald Trump. He has wanted to kill the Iran deal for two years now. I expect there is not going to be any pulled punches tomorrow."

Both [Breitbart](#) (5/7, Spiering) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/7, Ballhaus), among other news outlets, also report the forthcoming announcement.

"Trump Aides" Reportedly Hired Israeli Firm To Discredit Obama Officials. [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (5/7) reported that Trump's aides have reportedly taken some "very disturbing steps to try to discredit" the nuclear agreement. Jim Sciutto explained that "just days after Trump visited Israel last May, a private Israeli intelligence firm reportedly hired by Trump aides began compiling files on Obama Administration officials" involved in the deal. The effort by the firm "was reportedly intended to discredit the officials – Ben Rhodes and Colin Kahl – in order to undermine the deal, and make it easier for Trump to withdraw."

Kahl, asked on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) 📺 (5/7) how it feels to "be at the center of

this all," replied, "It feels creepy. When you are a government official, you expect it. When you are a former government official, it is weirder. Especially creepy if it is a private firm, and even doubly so if they are coming at you through your family. Let's keep in mind for your viewers, they came at me through my wife doing volunteer work at my six-year-old daughter's elementary school."

The [New York Times](#) (5/7, Shear, Bergman) reports that "evidence has surfaced that the agreement's opponents engaged in a sophisticated effort to dig up dirt on Mr. Rhodes and his family that continued well after the Obama administration left office." A detailed report about Rhodes, compiled by Black Cube, "a private investigations firm established by former intelligence analysts from the Israeli Defense Forces, contains pictures of his apartment in Washington, telephone numbers and email addresses of members of his family, as well as unsubstantiated allegations of personal and ethical transgressions." According to the Times, it is "unclear who hired Black Cube to prepare the report on Mr. Rhodes and a similar report on Colin Kahl."

Rouhani: US Withdrawal OK If Other Nations Remain. The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/7, story 2, 2:05, Glor) reported briefly that Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Monday on state TV that "if America leaves, it would be OK, as long as the other countries preserve the terms. He added, 'Americans will be the main losers.'" The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/7, Fitch, Stancati) reports the Iranian leader's comments Monday and over the weekend signal that Tehran is unlikely to make concessions.

CBS Poll: Americans Evenly Split Over Iran Deal. The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/7, story 2, 2:05, Glor) reported that a CBS News [poll](#) finds Americans "are evenly split on what [Trump] should do, but well over half say they don't know enough about it."

Oil Prices Reach Highest Level Since 2014. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/7, McFarlane, Mukherji) reports oil prices rose to a 3½-year high on Monday, with the US benchmark breaking above \$70 a barrel. According to the Journal, oil prices have risen over 10% in the past month ahead of President Trump's decision on the Iran nuclear deal. The [New York Times](#) (5/7, Phillips, Reed) reports prices rose "as investors factored in the prospect of President Trump pulling the United States out" of the nuclear agreement.

Johnson: Trump Deserves Nobel Prize If He Solves Iran, Korea Crises. [Politico Europe](#) (5/7, Zampano) reports British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said Monday that President Trump "would be a deserving winner of the Nobel Peace Prize if he can solve problems in Iran and on the Korean peninsula." Johnson told Sky News, "If Trump can fix North Korea and the Iran nuclear deal then I don't see why he's any less of a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize than Barack Obama."

Trump Tweets Allege Bias, Conflicts Of Interest In Mueller Probe.

President Trump tweeted four times on Monday morning about Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, messages media reports portray as aggressive and even taunting. At 7:27 a.m., the President [tweeted](#), "The Russia Witch Hunt is rapidly losing credibility. House Intelligence Committee found No Collusion, Coordination or anything else with Russia. So now the Probe says OK, what else is there? How about Obstruction for a made up, phony crime. There is no O, it's called Fighting Back". At 7:39 a.m., the President [tweeted](#), "The 13 Angry Democrats in charge of the Russian Witch Hunt are starting to find out that there is a Court System in place that actually protects people from injustice...and just wait 'till the Courts get to see your unrevealed Conflicts of Interest!"

The President returned to the subject two hours later. At 9:29 a.m., the President [tweeted](#), "Lisa Page, who may hold the record for the most Emails in the shortest period of time (to her Lover, Peter S), and attorney Baker, are out at the FBI as part of the Probers getting caught? Why is Peter S still there? What a total mess. Our Country has to get back to Business!" At 9:35 a.m., the President [tweeted](#), "Is this Phony Witch Hunt going to go on even longer so it wrongfully impacts the Mid-Term Elections, which is what the Democrats always intended? Republicans better get tough and smart before it is too late!"

The [AP](#) (5/7) reports that Trump "said Monday he was 'Fighting Back' against the Russia probe and warned the '13 Angry Democrats' on the special counsel's team to 'just wait 'till the Courts get to see your unrevealed Conflicts of Interest!'" The AP says Trump

"repeated his earlier claim that Mueller's team is made up of Democrats," though [NPR](#) (5/7, Ewing) says in an online report that "Mueller is a Republican."

The [New York Times](#) (5/7, Sullivan) reports that Trump "trained his rancor on federal investigators...and appeared to warn that negative material would emerge" about Mueller's team. In his tweets, the President "said the investigation was being run by Democrats and raised the question of whether the special counsel's work was being drawn out to influence the outcome of the upcoming midterm congressional elections." The Times says the President's "veiled threat" to Mueller "and the suggestion of bias comes at a time when Mr. Trump's legal team seems to be struggling to present a consistent message to the American public."

[USA Today](#) (5/7, Jackson) reports that Trump "appeared to taunt" Mueller's team, "referencing a federal judge's questions as to whether they are prosecuting former campaign aide Paul Manafort simply in an effort to get at Trump." USA Today says the President "has stepped up his attacks on the Mueller investigation." [Politico](#) (5/7, Okun) reports that the tweets "followed two judicial challenges to Mueller late last week." On Friday, US District Court Judge T.S. Ellis III criticized the prosecution team over the Manafort indictment, and on Saturday, a different US district court judge "denied Mueller's attempt to delay an arraignment this week in his case against Russian troll farms and citizens accused of sowing online discord" during the 2016 campaign. The [Daily Caller](#) (5/6, Pollock) says that Ellis "could be the ultimate nightmare" for Mueller, since a dismissal of the Manafort charges "could be a major wrecking ball to Mueller's overall case."

[CNN](#) (5/7, De Vries) reports on its website that Trump "also asked why FBI special agent Peter Strzok is still at the bureau." The [Washington Times](#) (5/7, Persons) reports that the President tweeted about ex-FBI lawyer Lisa Page, who resigned last week. The [New York Times](#) (5/7, Qiu) reports under the headline "Trump Wrongly Links Departures Of Two F.B.I. Officials To Russia Investigation" that though Trump is "seeming to suggest" that the departures of Page and another ex-FBI official, James Baker, "had something to do with their roles in the Russia investigation...their departures were voluntary and unrelated." [The Hill](#) (5/7, Shelbourne) also reports on the President's tweets.

Giuliani: Legal Team Hopes To Decide On Mueller Interview By May 17. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/7, Nicholas) reports that Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani said Monday that the President's legal team hopes to decide whether he should testify in the Mueller probe by May 17, which will be the one-year anniversary of Mueller's appointment. The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/7, story 4, 1:35, Glor) reported, "It's been nearly three weeks since Rudy Giuliani joined the President's legal team with the stated goal of wrapping up the special counsel's Russia investigation within a week or two. The President has said he wants to testify, but Giuliani is cautioning him against that." Giuliani: "I hope we get chance to tell him the risk that he's taking. So he may testify, and we may actually work things out with Robert Mueller, because working with him directly is good."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/7) says in an editorial that Giuliani does not believe that Trump should sit down with Mueller "and simply tell the truth. ... Giuliani may be right as a lawyer (though he hasn't exactly inspired confidence with his legal advice over the past week), but he has it wrong as a citizen." While the Fifth Amendment "indeed offers an essential right against self-incrimination to the ordinary client," the issue "is not what should be expected from an average client, or even a famous one. It is what the public should expect of the president of the United States in a probe involving serious questions of national interest."

Regarding the possibility of Trump asserting Fifth Amendment privilege, Kenneth Roth of Human Rights Watch [tweeted](#), "It'd be ironic if the ever-voluble Trump suddenly went mum in response to Mueller's questions about collusion with Russia and obstruction of justice."

Politico: Trump Has Been "Gripping" About Giuliani. [Bloomberg News](#) (5/7, Pettypiece) reports that Giuliani said in an interview that "the president and his legal team are pursuing a more public and aggressive strategy toward Robert Mueller's investigation as they try to pressure the special counsel to wrap up quickly." Giuliani said, "The President is being harmed in his ability to conduct the business of his presidency." But [Politico](#) (5/7, Johnson,

Karni, Samuelsohn) reports that Trump is "still not happy" with his legal team. Politico says Trump "has been griping to associates" that Giuliani "has failed to shut down the Stormy Daniels hush money saga. And he has expressed frustration that Giuliani's media appearances are raising more questions than they are answering. ... Some aides said they expect the president to fire Giuliani if his behavior doesn't change." Heidi Przybyla of NBC News [tweeted](#), "Wait, I thought he just started?"

On [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (5/7), Joe Scarborough said Giuliani "seemed completely out of control" in his appearances over the weekend. Scarborough claimed that in late 2016 and early 2017, Trump and "those around him" let it be known that Giuliani had "lost quite a few steps" and "would fall asleep in the middle of meetings, actually five minutes into meetings, and his head would be rested on his chest." According to Scarborough, Giuliani is "completely humiliating himself."

The Washington Post's Max Boot [tweeted](#), "My admiration for 'America's mayor' remained undiminished – until Giuliani decided to become an apologist for a president who has spent a lifetime obliterating the kind of ethical red lines that he had spent his own career enforcing."

Stone Says He Had Little Contact With Gates. The [New York Times](#) (5/7, Haberman) reports that Roger Stone "sought on Monday to portray his contact" with Trump campaign aide and Manafort associate Rick Gates "as minimal in response to a report that the special counsel is scrutinizing their ties." Stone told the Times, "The Gates story is somewhat perplexing. I only have a record of one dinner with Rick Gates."

Nunes Says He Wants To Talk With Sessions. House Intelligence Chairman Devin Nunes appeared on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (5/7) to discuss his threat to hold Attorney General Sessions in contempt of Congress. Nunes said, "We sent a letter two weeks ago to the Department of Justice. ... They ignored that letter. We had to issue a subpoena last week. We issued a subpoena. Finally, on Thursday they got back to us and said they weren't going to comply with the subpoena. ... Attorney General Sessions said he wants to discuss things. That is good. I want to talk to him."

Earlier on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/7), Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX) was asked if Nunes' effort to hold Sessions in contempt will succeed. Castro said, "My sense is that it won't succeed and that it won't go anywhere." Castro added that "this probably wouldn't be happening unless the White House somehow gave its blessing to go around and somehow punish Jeff Sessions through the Congress. There are a lot of games that are being played by the White House and by Devin Nunes."

Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/7) that "there's a difference between Congress doing oversight and Congress meddling in an active investigation. What Devin Nunes is doing is meddling in an active investigation. ... It is a really bad idea what Devin Nunes is doing." On [CNN's New Day](#) (5/7, 8:18 a.m. EDT, Camerota), Rep. Jim Himes (D-CT) said of the contempt threat, "It is beyond crazy" and "not going to happen."

Four House GOP "Warriors" Pleasing Trump With Their Defense. [Politico](#) (5/7, Cheney) reports on the "band of four House Republicans defending Trump with a relentless counterattack against the Justice Department's Russia investigation that thrills the president even as it unsettles some House GOP colleagues who think they're going too far": Reps. Ron DeSantis (R-FL), Matt Gaetz (R-FL), Jim Jordan (R-OH), and Mark Meadows (R-NC). Trump called the four "absolute warriors" in a Fox News interview last month, and "their emergence underscores a reality of the Trump era: power and prominence on Capitol Hill these days often flow not to the most senior lawmakers but to Republicans who display allegiance to a president who prizes loyalty."

Ex-CIA Officer Criticizes Brennan Over Speculation About Trump Being Blackmailed. The [Washington Times](#) (5/7, Taylor) reports that Daniel Hoffman, a former CIA officer, said in an interview that ex-CIA Director John Brennan has "jeopardized national security by publicly insinuating that Russian President Vladimir Putin may be blackmailing" Trump. Hoffman said, "What I found cringeworthy is that Brennan was insinuating that Vladimir Putin could control President Trump and that Brennan's choice of the word 'speculate' would be lost on the audience because of his previous position as director of the CIA."

Sarah Sanders Says She Is "Not Aware" Of Payments To Women Other Than Daniels. [ABC](#)

[World News Tonight](#) (5/7, story 2, 2:50, Muir) reported that White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders was asked Monday whether Trump attorney Michael Cohen made payments to women other than Stormy Daniels for the President. Sanders replied, "I'm not aware of any other activity, but I would refer you to Rudy Giuliani to respond to any of those questions." ABC's Cecilia Vega: "But you've been in his circle for a long time now, you were on the campaign. Is there anything that came across your desk?" Sanders: "Again, I'm not aware of anything like that."

Aaron Blake of the [Washington Post](#) (5/7, Blake) writes, "If there's one rule of thumb when it comes to the Stormy Daniels saga, it's this: That which the Trump team won't fully deny will probably turn out to be true. ... The White House and Trump's legal team seem more interested in avoiding questions and muddying the waters than getting out in front of a bad story."

Rebecca Ballhaus of the Wall Street Journal [tweeted](#), "Asked whether Cohen paid off any other women on Trump's behalf, @PressSec says: 'I'm not aware of any other activity.' She said last week she wasn't aware that Trump had reimbursed Cohen for the Stormy Daniels payment until Rudy Giuliani said so on live TV."

Model Says She Saw Trump Cheat On Then-Pregnant Maples. The [New York Post](#) (5/7, Perez) reports that German model Elke Jeinsen "claims to have been in the same room with Donald Trump during an alleged romp he had with Playboy Playmate Barbara Moore" at the time that Trump's "then-fiancee Marla Maples was pregnant with daughter Tiffany." Last month, Moore "claimed to have had a six-month affair with Trump while he was with Maples."

Trump Urges Republicans To Reject Blankenship In West Virginia Senate Primary.

Amid Republican fears that West Virginia Senate candidate Don Blankenship could cost them an opportunity to pick up a Democrat-held seat, President Trump weighed in on the GOP race one day ahead of the primary, [tweeting](#), "To the great people of West Virginia we have, together, a really great chance to keep making a big difference. Problem is, Don Blankenship, currently running for Senate, can't win the General Election in your State...No way! Remember Alabama. Vote Rep. Jenkins or A.G. Morrissey!" Media coverage of the President's tweet is heavy, with many reports highlighting that Trump referred to last December's special Senate election in Alabama, where Republican Roy Moore lost in a surprise upset to Democrat Doug Jones.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/7, Wagner, Scherer) reports that Trump was "echo[ing] a growing concern among Republicans: A Blankenship win in Tuesday's primary could jeopardize the party's hopes of beating incumbent Sen. Joe Manchin III (D-W.Va.) in the general election this fall." According to the Post, Blankenship "has referred to Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao's father – the Shanghai-born chairman of a global shipping company – as a 'wealthy China-person,'" and "also stepped up his attacks on Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), accusing him of creating 'millions of jobs for China people.'"

According to the [New York Times](#) (5/7, Martin), Trump's "decision to speak out came after" McConnell "urged the president to weigh in against Mr. Blankenship's candidacy, according to Republican officials familiar with the conversation." The Times reports that "White House aides and Senate Republicans have been discussing for the last week whether the president should comment on the primary, and agreed he should do so if it became clear Mr. Blankenship could win." The Times says a Blankenship win would be "highly embarrassing to Mr. Trump, coming on the heels of his inability to lift party nominees in Pennsylvania this year and in Alabama in December." [Politico](#) (5/7, Nelson) says the Alabama race is "fresh on the minds of Republicans amid the West Virginia primary."

The [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (5/7, Zuckerman) says Trump "seemingly co-endorsed" GOP candidates Rep. Evan Jenkins and West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey, both of whom "issued statements Monday touting the co-endorsement from the president." [WOWK-TV](#) Charleston, WV (5/7, 5:30 p.m. EDT) reported that Trump "is now taking sides on the US Senate race in West Virginia. Well, sort of," and the campaigns "are reacting." Jenkins: "I think what the President is saying is, what the real goal and mission is to make sure that we have a candidate that defeats Joe Manchin." Morrissey: "I don't want

to see Don Blankenship as the Republican nominee because I think it would lead to a sure-fire loss against Joe Manchin in the fall." The [Washington Times](#) (5/7, Persons) says Morrisey's campaign "tried to use Mr. Trump's tweet in an early morning email blast to supporters alleging that the president urged voters to support him, despite the fact that the tweet did not give a preference to either Mr. Morrisey or Mr. Jenkins."

[WDTV-TV](#) 📺 Bridgeport, WV (5/7, 5:20 p.m. EDT) reported that Trump "urged West Virginia voters to reject Don Blankenship," while [WOAY-TV](#) 📺 Bluefield, WV (5/7, 5:04 p.m. EDT) reported that Trump "urged voters to stay away from Blankenship." [The Hill](#) (5/7, Shelbourne) says Trump "slammed" Blankenship with the tweet, amid what the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/7, Hughes) says are concerns that the former coal executive could cost Republicans an opportunity to pickup a Democrat-held seat in November. [USA Today](#) (5/7, Jackson) describes West Virginia as "a key state" as Republicans "seek to hold their slim Senate majority in the November elections."

Blankenship Says He's "Trumpier Than Trump." [WTOV-TV](#) 📺 Steubenville, OH (5/7, 5:13 p.m. EDT) reported that Blankenship "had this to say in response, quote, 'The President is a busy man and doesn't know me and doesn't know how flawed my two main opponents are in this primary.' He goes on to say, quote, 'Tomorrow, West Virginia will send the swamp a message – no one, and I mean no one, will tell us how to vote.'" [CNN](#) (5/7, Merica, Vazquez) reports on its website that in his statement, Blankenship declared himself "Trumpier than Trump."

CQ Roll Call (5/7, Garcia) reports that in a Facebook post Monday, Blankenship "suggested that establishment Republicans are 'misinforming'" Trump and urging him to oppose his campaign "because they do not want me to be in the U.S. Senate and promote the president's agenda."

The [AP](#) (5/7) reports that a "defiant" Blankenship said in a statement, "I will win the primary and I will beat Joe Manchin. Neither of my opponents can beat Joe Manchin without my support, but I will beat Joe Manchin even without the support of the establishment." [Bloomberg News](#) (5/7, Dopp) reports that, "in a paid program on a community-access television station in West Virginia," Blankenship said, "We all really like President Trump's policies but we know that he doesn't get things right. He recommended that people vote for a guy that was basically accused of pedophilia in Alabama." A video on the [New York Times](#) (5/7, Times) website under the headline, "The Candidate Who's Too Trump-Like Even For Trump," describes Blankenship as "the Trump-like candidate...that even Donald Trump can't get behind."

McCarthy Echoes Trump's Criticism Of Blankenship. House Majority Leader McCarthy, asked on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) 📺 (5/7, 8:35 a.m. EDT, Doocy) about Trump's tweet, pointed out that Blankenship "is actually a constituent of Nevada" and "can't even vote in this election." McCarthy added, "I think the President is right here. He is leading. Let's be smart. Let's look long term. Let's not have the internal battles. Put the very best person forward that we can get a majority. Look what is happening inside the Senate. They are stopping everything. ... The Democrats are trying to stop everything. So what the President is saying, 'let's help this country. Put America first. Find the very best person in West Virginia and not have a situation where we can't even compete in November.'"

Blankenship Blames Government For Deadly Mine Explosion. [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (5/7, story 6, 2:00, Muir) reported that Blankenship, who spent a year in prison after 29 people were killed in a 2010 explosion in one of his mines, "says it was obvious that the...explosion was caused by the government." Blankenship: "It's as obvious as can be that the Upper Big Branch explosion was caused by the government." The [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (5/7, story 6, 2:10, O'Keefe) reported that Blankenship "blames his conviction on an Obama-era conspiracy. But Republicans like President Trump fear his role in the tragedy will make Blankenship un-electable in the fall."

Internal Polls Show Blankenship In The Lead. The [Weekly Standard](#) (5/7, McCormack) says Republicans "are panicking as internal polls show Don Blankenship...surging into the lead" in the primary. An "internal campaign poll conducted for one rival Senate campaign on Saturday and Sunday" showed Blankenship leading with 31 percent, followed by Jenkins with 28 percent, and Morrisey with 27 percent. Another "internal poll conducted Friday and

Saturday" found Blankenship with 28 percent, Morrissey with 27 percent, and Jenkins with 14 percent.

Citing the internal polls, Dana Milbank writes in the [Washington Post](#) (5/7) that Blankenship moved into the lead after he "uncorked a racist and demagogic jeremiad about" McConnell "and his Asian American wife, Elaine Chao, who happens to be a member of President Trump's Cabinet." Milbank argues that the race "confirms that this sort of vulgar demagoguery is becoming routine. Trump's election was no aberration." Trump "exploited deep problems in American politics that had been building for years – and others, following his example, will exploit those same problems after he's gone."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/7, Scherer, Weigel, Wagner, Sullivan) says in an analysis that the West Virginia and Indiana primaries "are set to shape the future of Donald Trump's anti-establishment political revolt on Tuesday, while testing the president's own ability to steer the passions he helped unleash." Like Blankenship, Mike Braun in Indiana "is running against two more well-established GOP incumbents, who have spent much of the campaign attacking each other, as they calculated the outsider would face a traditional ceiling of support." The outcome of the races "could help shape not just the future of the Republican Party but the odds of Democratic control of the Senate."

Trump To Propose \$15 Billion In Spending Rescissions.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/7, Paletta, Werner) reports that with an eye on "temper[ing] conservative angst over ballooning budget deficits," the President "is sending a plan to Congress that calls for stripping back more than \$15 billion in previously approved spending." Nearly half of the cuts "would come from two accounts within the Children's Health Insurance Program that White House officials said either expired last year or aren't expected to be drawn upon," and an additional "\$800 million in cuts would come from money created by the Affordable Care Act in 2010 to test innovative payment and service delivery models." In all, the White House is proposing "more than 30 programs" for rescission.

[Reuters](#) (5/7, Cowan, Mason) says that according to "senior aides," the rescissions "will likely encompass cuts in the range of \$11 billion to \$15 billion," which is "well short of the \$60 billion in reductions Republicans floated a few weeks ago." This, "after party elders, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, warned against cuts that would unravel a two-year budget deal enacted with the help of Democrats in February."

[USA Today](#) (5/7, Fritze, Jackson) reports that the Administration "has been working for weeks with House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., on the 'rescission' package, which would claw back billions Congress set aside but that federal agencies never spent." The [Washington Times](#) (5/7, Dinan) says the proposal comes "months after the White House was stung by criticism from conservatives furious at the \$300 billion funding hike Mr. Trump signed into law."

Government Sees Record Tax Collection In April.

The [Washington Times](#) (5/7, Dinan) reports that according to the CBO, the federal government "took in a record tax haul in April en route to its biggest-ever monthly budget surplus...as a surging economy left Americans with more money in their paychecks – and this more to pay to Uncle Sam." The government "collected \$515 billion and spent \$297 billion, for a total monthly surplus of \$218 billion," which "swamped the previous monthly record of \$190 billion, set in 2001."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"What Will New York Do About Its Uber Problem?" In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (5/7) calls for New York City leaders to "come up with an effective strategy to deal with" the problems caused by ride-hailing services, which have "helped lay waste to the livelihoods of taxi drivers and turn New York's already busy streets into glorified parking lots."

"Him, Too." The [New York Times](#) (5/7, Board) editorializes that "New York's Attorney

General Eric Schneiderman was a public champion of the #MeToo movement" until "The New Yorker magazine published an article in which four women accused him of abusing them physically and emotionally." Schneiderman resigned late Monday, but "admitted no wrongdoing." The Times writes, "Schneiderman joins a sorry list of once-rising stars in New York's Democratic Party whose careers imploded amid allegations of personal misconduct, including former Gov. Eliot Spitzer and former Congressman Anthony Weiner." The Times says Schneiderman's successor "should be tough and independent, willing to stand up" to President Trump and Gov. Andrew Cuomo, "and – it should go without saying, but now it needs to be said – be a decent human being."

Washington Post.

"Hear China's Totalitarian Cruelty In This Widow's Sobs." The [Washington Post](#) (5/7) editorializes that "for an example of gratuitous cruelty in the service of 21st-century totalitarianism, listen to the sob-choked voice of China's Liu Xia," the widow of Nobel Peace Prize laureate and dissident Liu Xiaobo. Liu was "recently recorded by a friend as she described her despair at being denied sanctuary in Germany and subjected to a seemingly endless continuation of the house arrest she has endured since 2010 — even though her husband died 10 months ago and she has never been charged with a crime." The Post says the "fault lies with a regime that appears bent on crushing the spirit of a woman simply because her husband was recognized for what the Nobel committee called 'his long and nonviolent struggle for fundamental human rights in China.'"

"Trump Could Invoke The Fifth. That Doesn't Mean He Should." The [Washington Post](#) (5/7) says in an editorial that Rudy Giuliani does not believe that President Trump should sit down with special counsel Robert Mueller "and simply tell the truth. ... Giuliani may be right as a lawyer (though he hasn't exactly inspired confidence with his legal advice over the past week), but he has it wrong as a citizen." While the Fifth Amendment "indeed offers an essential right against self-incrimination to the ordinary client," the issue "is not what should be expected from an average client, or even a famous one. It is what the public should expect of the president of the United States in a probe involving serious questions of national interest."

"The FDA Should Let E-Cigarettes Help Adults – But Not Hook Kids." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/7) welcomes the Food and Drug Administration "stepping in more forcefully to encourage the positive effects...and discourage the drawbacks" of e-cigarettes, which have "addicted a generation of new nicotine users." While the Post calls for the FDA to "view e-cigarettes as a viable substitute" to smoking, it warns this "cannot come at the cost of hooking more teenagers for life."

Wall Street Journal.

"A Scarlet Title IX Letter." [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/7) editorializes on a case in which the North Carolina Court of Appeals ruled last month that the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill must release the names of anyone who, since January 1, 2007, has been found responsible for rape or sexual assault. According to the Journal, the case demonstrates why Title IX has been unfairly used to punish students wrongly accused of sexual misconduct with little evidence. The Journal argues that the court's ruling would create the Title IX equivalent of a sexual offender registry, and urges North Carolina lawmakers to protect unjustly accused students by passing legislation that explicitly prohibits the release of their names.

"Iran Wins In Lebanon." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/7) editorializes that with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah and its allies securing more than half of the seats in Lebanon's parliament, the outcome of Sunday's election is a setback that seemingly went unnoticed in the Administration. The Journal calls on President Trump to reconsider his Administration's treatment of Lebanon as a functioning, democratic nation and acknowledge the country for what it is: a subsidiary of Tehran and Hezbollah, Iran's local proxy.

"Mr. Najib And Mr. Trump." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/7) says if Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak is reelected on Wednesday, he will most likely continue his crackdown on civil liberties and appeasement of China and its expansion in the

disputed South China Sea. The Journal says Najib has long manipulated US Presidents to the detriment of American interests, and President Trump should no longer allow himself to buy into Najib's manipulations.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump To Announce Decision On Iran Deal On Tuesday](#)

[Citigroup Targeted By ValueAct In Rare Activist Move On Major Bank](#)

[US Pushes Mexico To Raise Wages For Its Auto Workers](#)

[A Private-Market Deal Gone Bad: Sketchy Brokers, Bilked Seniors And A Cosmetologist](#)

New York Times:

[Accused Of Abuse, Eric Schneiderman Resigns As New York Attorney General](#)

[Unswayed By Allies, Trump Is Expected To Leave Iran Deal, Diplomats Say](#)

[Gina Haspel Has The Experience To Run The C.I.A., And That May Be Her Biggest Problem](#)

[Bitcoin Sees Wall Street Warm To Trading Virtual Currency](#)

[Trump Weighs In On West Virginia Senate Race In Sign Of Republican Anxiety](#)

[E.P.A. Emails Show An Effort To Shield Pruitt From Public Scrutiny](#)

Washington Post:

[As MS-13 Becomes 'Americanized,' More Girls Want To Join](#)

[Southern Baptists' #MeToo Moment](#)

[Trump Expected To Impede Iran Deal](#)

[Long Undercover, CIA Pick Now Under Microscope](#)

[NY Attorney General Quits After Abuse Claims](#)

Financial Times:

[Walmart Takes On Amazon In India With Flipkart Deal](#)

[Vladimir Putin Sets Out Ambitious Economic Goals For Fourth Term](#)

[Nestlé To Pay \\$7bn For Starbucks' Products](#)

[Hizbollah And Allies Win More Than Half The Seats In Lebanon Vote](#)

Washington Times:

[Ex-CIA Officer: Brennan's Attacks On Trump 'Cringe-Worthy,' Put National Security At Risk](#)

[Trump To Demand Congress Cut \\$15B In Spending 'Rescission' Package](#)

[NRA Taps 'Legendary Warrior' Oliver North To Lead Fight Against Gun Control Movement](#)

[Trump Slams Kerry Over 'Possibly Illegal' Private Talks With Iran](#)

[Nikolas Cruz Was In Obama-Backed Discipline Diversion Program, Broward School District Admits](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Trump Attorney-Media Blitz; Iran Nuclear Deal; Missouri Road Rage Murder; Graduation Ceremony Controversy; WV Midterm Primaries; McCain New Memoir; Brain Dead Boy Recovers; Texas Police Rescue; University Student Murder; JetBlue Flight Incident; Cruise Ship Malfunction; American Paint Company.

CBS: Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Iran Nuclear Deal; CIA Nomination Confirmation; Trump Attorney-Media Blitz; First Lady Platform Revealed; WV Midterm Primaries; Telemarketing Lawsuit; Brain Dead Boy Recovers; Turkey-Flash Flood; Montana Flooding; Obamacare Forecast; NRA New President; Waffle House Shooting Victims; Vatican-Swiss Guard.

NBC: Hawaii Volcano Eruption; First Lady Platform Revealed; Iran Nuclear Deal; CIA Nomination Confirmation, North Korea; Trump Admin-Immigration Policy; Graduation Ceremony Controversy; Acquitted Inmate Commits Crime; Portland Opioid Crisis Response; Fast Food Calorie Label; Portland-Bike Friendly Policy; High School Homeless Charity.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hawaii Volcano Eruption – 8 minutes, 15 seconds

Trump Attorney-Media Blitz – 4 minutes, 25 seconds

Iran Nuclear Deal – 4 minutes, 15 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: New York AG Resignation; WV Midterm Primaries; Trump Attorney-Media Blitz.

CBS: New York AG Resignation; Iran Nuclear Deal; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; WV Midterm Primaries.

FOX: New York AG Resignation; Iran Nuclear Deal; CIA Nomination Confirmation.

NPR: New York AG Resignation; Bill Cosby Trial; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; NRA New President.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with Republican Members of the Senate; has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence and the Secretary of Homeland Security; gives remarks on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action; speaks at Federal Judges Association reception.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Has lunch with the President and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Senate Armed Services CLOSED briefing – Meets to receive a closed briefing on the Niger investigation and report. Location: SVC-217, The Capitol <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Energy Committee hearing on Puerto Rico's electric grid – Hearing 'To Examine Puerto Rico's Electric Grid', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of Energy for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability Bruce Walker; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Director of Contingency Operations and Homeland Security Charles Alexander Jr.; Puerto Rico Government Development Bank President and Fiscal Agency & Financial Advisory Authority Chairman of the Board Christian Sobrino-Vega; Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority CEO Walter Higgins; Comision de Energia de Puerto Rico Comisionado Asociado-Presidente Interino Jose Roman Morales; and Puerto Rico Manufacturers Association President Rodrigo Masses Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 366, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate Aging Committee hearing on insulin – Hearing on 'Insulin Access and Affordability: The Rising Cost of Treatment', with testimony from American Diabetes Association Chief Scientific, Medical, and Mission Officer William Cefalu; Paul Grant, whose son has Type 1 diabetes; retiree Lois Ondik; and Johns Hopkins University's Dr Jeremy Greene Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 562, Washington, DC <http://aging.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Transportation subcommittee hearing on safe integration of unmanned aircraft systems into the airspace – Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Keeping Pace with Innovation – Update on the Safe Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems into the Airspace', with testimony from Federal Aviation Administration Office of Unmanned Aircraft Systems Director Earl Lawrence; Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International President and CEO Brian Wynne; Helicopter Association International President and CEO Matthew Zuccaro; and BNSF Railway Company Director of Technology Services Todd Graetz Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

12:00 PM Jewish Heritage Month Capitol Hill celebration – Jewish Heritage Month Capitol Hill celebration, 'Tribute to American Jewry', with Democrats Sens. Richard Blumenthal, Sherrod Brown, Maria Cantwell, Ben Cardin, and Chris Van Hollen and Reps. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Joseph Kennedy, and Brad Schneider, and Republican Rep. John Faso Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 325, Washington, DC

<http://www.jewishamericanheritagemonth.us>

2:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on the Ukraine. – The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe/Helsinki Commission meets to receive a briefing on ending the war in Ukraine. Location: 106 Dirksen Senate Office Building <http://www.csce.gov>

2:00 PM Helsinki Commission hosts briefing on ending the war in Ukraine – ‘Ending the War in Ukraine’ Helsinki Commission briefing, featuring U.S. Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations Kurt Volcker, who explores the way ahead for U.S. and international policy on Ukraine in the wake of Russian President Vladimir Putin’s re-election Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 2016, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

2:30 PM DHS Secretary Nielsen testifies Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FY’19 budget – Homeland Security Subcommittee ‘Hearing to review the Fiscal Year 2019 funding request and budget justification for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’, with testimony from Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 192, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

2:30 PM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FY’19 LOC and AOC budgets – Legislative Branch Subcommittee ‘Hearing to review the Fiscal Year 2019 funding request and budget justification for the Library of Congress and the Architect of the Capitol’, with testimony from Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden and Architect of the Capitol Stephen Ayers Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 124, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

4:00 PM Bipartisan, bicameral lawmakers hold panel discussion on apprenticeships and the skills gap – Democrats Sen. Chris Coons and Rep. Donald Norcross and Republicans Sen. Jerry Moran and Rep. David McKinley hold panel discussion and reception on addressing the skills gap in America through apprenticeships, with experts from PBS show ‘This Old House’, including Host Kevin O’Connor, carpenter Norm Abram, plumbing and heating expert Richard Trethewey, general contractor Tom Silva, landscape contractor Roger Cook and Generation Next’s Nathan Gilbert. Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown also speaks Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 902, Washington, DC <https://twitter.com/SenCoonsOffice>

US House: 9:00 AM Congressional Black Caucus Twitter town hall on ‘Community Policing and Police Accountability’ – Congressional Black Caucus Twitter hosts ‘CBCDemandsJustice – A Twitter Town Hall on Community Policing and Police Accountability’, with Caucus Chairman Democratic Rep. Cedric Richmond and members using Twitter’s video-reply technology to respond to questions and comments from constituents, celebrities, activists, and advocates Location: TBD <https://cbc.house.gov/> [#CBCDemandsJustice](https://twitter.com/OfficialCBC)

10:00 AM Hearing on ‘Challenges and Solutions in the Opioid Abuse Crisis’ Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2141, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on Iran – Hearing on ‘Confronting the Iranian Challenge’, with testimony from former Assistant Secretary of State for Political Military Affairs Lincoln Bloomfield Jr.; former Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control and Assistant Secretary for International Security and Nonproliferation Stephen Rademaker; and former Rep. Jane Harman Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACRepublicans>

10:00 AM House Workforce subcommittee hearing on implications of the opioid epidemic – Workforce Protections Subcommittee hearing on ‘The Opioid Epidemic: Implications for the Federal Employees’ Compensation Act’, with testimony from Inspector General Scott Dahl; CompPharma President Joe Paduda; Congressional Research Service Acting Section Research Manager Scott Szymendera; and Workers Compensation Research Institute Executive Vice President and Counsel Ramona Tanabe Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM House Ways and Means subcommittee hearing on the Medicare Advantage

Program – Health Subcommittee hearing on ‘The Current Status of and Quality in the Medicare Advantage Program’, with testimony from University of Miami Business School Health Sector Management & Policy Associate Professor Karoline Mortensen; Clover Health Chief Technology Officer Andrew Toy; Independence Blue Cross Senior Markets Senior Vice President Daphne Klausner, and Georgetown University Health Policy Institute’s Jack Hoadley Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC
<http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee on the opioid epidemic – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on ‘Combating the Opioid Epidemic: Examining Concerns About Distribution and Diversion’, with testimony from Cardinal Health Executive Chairman of the Board George Barrett; AmerisourceBergen Corporation Chairman, President, and CEO Steven Collis; McKesson Corporation Chairman, President, and CEO John Hammergren; Miami-Luken Chairman of the Board Dr Joseph Mastandrea; and former H.D. Smith Wholesale Drug Company President and CEO J. Christopher Smith Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC
<http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Veterans Affairs Committee Business Meeting, markup hearing – Business Meeting, to assign new member to subcommittees * Immediately followed by markup hearing on ‘H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017’; ‘H.R. 1972, the VA Billing Accountability Act’; ‘H.R. 2147, the VA Treatment Court Improvement Act of 2017’; ‘H.R. 3642, the Military SAVE Act’; ‘H.R. 3832, the Veterans Opioid Abuse Prevention Act’; ‘H.R. 4245, the Veterans’ Electronic Health Record Modernization Oversight Act of 2017’; ‘H.R. 4334, the Improving Oversight of Women Veterans’ Care Act of 2017’; ‘H.R. 4451, as amended, the Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2017’; ‘H.R. 4635, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the number of peer-to-peer counselors providing counseling for women veterans, and for other purposes’; ‘H.R. 4830, as amended, the Servicemembers Improved Transition through Reforms for Ensuring Progress Act’; ‘H.R. 4958, the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2018’; and other bills Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM House Appropriations Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on ‘FY 2019 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill’ and ‘FY 2019 Defense Appropriations Bill’ Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2359, Washington, DC
<http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Transportation subcommittee hearing on use of new maritime technologies – Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee hearing on ‘Blue Technologies: Use of New Maritime Technologies to Improve Efficiency and Mission Performance’, with testimony from U.S. Coast Guard Assistant Commandant for Acquisition & Chief Acquisition Officer Rear Adm. Michael Haycock; Coastal Observing Research and Development Center Scripps Institution of Oceanography Eric Terrill; The Maritime Alliance President Michael Jones; International Ocean Science and Technology Industry Association Member Chris Coyle; Autonomous Surface Vehicles LLC CEO Thomas Chance; Oregon State University, College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences’ Tuba Ozkan-Haller; and Consortium for Ocean Leadership President Rear Adm. (Ret.) Jonathan White Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2167, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM House Technology subcommittees joint hearing on blockchain tech, supply chains, and combating counterfeiting – Research and Technology Subcommittee and Oversight Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘Leveraging Blockchain Technology to Improve Supply Chain Management and Combat Counterfeit Goods’, with testimony from Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate Cyber Security Division Director Dr Douglas Maughan; Nuby Law IPR counsel Bob Chiaviello; Maersk Head of Global Trade Digitization Michael White; and UPS Vice President for Global Customs Brokerage Staff Chris Rubio Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2318, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:15 AM House Energy subcommittee on policy implications of electric and conventional vehicles – Environment Subcommittee hearing on ‘Sharing the Road: Policy

Implications of Electric and Conventional Vehicles in the Years Ahead', with testimony from Automobile Club of Southern California Automotive Engineering Manager Megan McKernan (on behalf of AAA); Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers President and CEO Mitch Bainwol; Electric Drive Transportation Association President Genevieve Cullen; Renewable Fuels Association President and CEO Bob Dinneen; Pacific Gas and Electric Company President and CEO Geisha Williams; American Petroleum Institute Downstream and Industry Operations Group Director Frank Macchiarola; Union of Concerned Scientists Clean Vehicles Program Senior Engineer David Reichmuth; and Global Partners LP Senior Vice President Dylan Remley (on behalf of the National Association of Convenience Stores and Society of Gasoline Marketers of America) Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:15 AM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 221, Hydrographic Services Improvement Amendments Act', 'H.R. 1791, Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Act', 'H.R. 2591, Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3535, Ruffey Rancheria Restoration Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4032, Gila River Indian Community Federal Rights-of-Way, Easements and Boundary Clarification Act', 'H.R. 4506, Jobs for Tribes Act', 'H.R. 4689, To authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska', 'H.R. 5317, To repeal section 2141 of the Revised Statutes to remove the prohibition on certain alcohol manufacturing on Indian lands', 'H.R. 5655, Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument Act' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

11:00 AM House Small Business subcommittee hearing on travel and tourism – Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access Subcommittee hearing on 'Travel and Tourism: A Small Business Angle', with testimony from Virginia Tourism Corporation President and CEO Rita McClenny; Travel Tech President Steve Shur; NEMO Equipment founder and CEO Cam Brensinger (on behalf of Outdoor Industry Association); and Wealth Protection Strategies President and CEO Jagruti Panwala (on behalf of Asian American Hotel Owner's Association) Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2360, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

12:00 PM Jewish Heritage Month Capitol Hill celebration – Jewish Heritage Month Capitol Hill celebration, 'Tribute to American Jewry', with Democrats Sens. Richard Blumenthal, Sherrod Brown, Maria Cantwell, Ben Cardin, and Chris Van Hollen and Reps. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Joseph Kennedy, and Brad Schneider, and Republican Rep. John Faso Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 325, Washington, DC <http://www.jewishamericanheritagemonth.us>

12:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including consideration of 'H.R. 3170 – Small Business Development Center Cyber Training Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4668 – Small Business Advanced Cybersecurity Enhancements Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4754 – Change Order Transparency for Federal Contractors Act', 'H.R. 1700 – SCORE for Small Business Act of 2018', 'H.R. 1680 – Women's Business Centers Improvements Act of 2018', 'H.R. 1702 – Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act of 2018', 'H.R. 4111 – Spurring Business in Communities Act of 2017', 'H.R. 5236 – Main Street Employee Ownership Act of 2018', and 'H.R. 4743 – Small Business 7(a) Lending Oversight Reform Act of 2018' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

1:00 PM Health Subcommittee hearing on improving substance use disorder treatment – Health Subcommittee hearing on 'Improving the Coordination and Quality of Substance Use Disorder Treatment', with testimony from Democratic Rep. Earl Blumenauer; Santa Clara University Public Health Program Dean's Executive Professor Dr H. Westley Clark; Greensfelder, Hemker, and Gale, P.C., Officer Gerald DeLoss; Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation Public Affairs and Advocacy Manager Jeremiah Gardner; National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio Director of Policy Dustin McKee; and Faces and Voices of Recovery

Executive Director Patty Metcalf Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

1:00 PM Hearing on 'Progress Report on the 2020 Census' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:00 PM Helsinki Commission hosts briefing on ending the war in Ukraine – 'Ending the War in Ukraine' Helsinki Commission briefing, featuring U.S. Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations Kurt Volcker, who explores the way ahead for U.S. and international policy on Ukraine in the wake of Russian President Vladimir Putin's re-election Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 2016, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

2:00 PM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee hearing on VA logistics modernization – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'VA Logistics Modernization: Examining the RTLS and Catamaran Projects', with testimony from Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health for Administrative Operations Tammy Czarnecki, accompanied by Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Information and Technology Deputy Chief Information Officer and Account Manager for Health Alan Constantian; and Department of Veterans Affairs Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations Nicholas Dahl, accompanied by Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General Information Technology and Security Audits Division Director Michael Bowman Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

2:30 PM ADF International policy briefing on 'The Global Crisis in Religious Freedom' – 'The Global Crisis in Religious Freedom' Alliance Defending Freedom International policy briefing, on how to 'counter the steady rise of religious persecution of Christians and other minorities around the world', with Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback, Republican Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, EU Special Envoy Jan Figel, Legal Consultant to ADF International in India Balakrishnan Baskaran, and ADF Legal Counsel Kellie Fiedorek Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm, 340, Washington, DC www.adfmedia.org

3:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 3053 – Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2018' Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

4:00 PM Bipartisan, bicameral lawmakers hold panel discussion on apprenticeships and the skills gap – Democrats Sen. Chris Coons and Rep. Donald Norcross and Republicans Sen. Jerry Moran and Rep. David McKinley hold panel discussion and reception on addressing the skills gap in America through apprenticeships, with experts from PBS show 'This Old House', including Host Kevin O'Connor, carpenter Norm Abram, plumbing and heating expert Richard Trethewey, general contractor Tom Silva, landscape contractor Roger Cook and Generation Next's Nathan Gilbert. Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown also speaks Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 902, Washington, DC coons.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/SenCoonsOffice>

Other: 8:00 AM Dem Rep. Nancy Pelosi speaks at POLITICO Playbook interview – POLITICO Playbook interview with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi speaking with Playbook Co-authors Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman on the Democratic congressional agenda, along with policy, politics and news of the day Location: The Liaison Capitol Hill, 415 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC www.politico.com <https://twitter.com/POLITICOEvents>

8:00 AM Anti-Defamation League Leadership Summit concludes – Anti-Defamation League Washington DC Leadership Summit (aka Shana Amy Glass National Leadership Summit). Final day speakers include Democratic Rep. Joe Kennedy III, Republican Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, NAACP CEO Derrick Johnson, rDialogue CEO and founder Phil Rubin, 92nd Street Y President and CEO Henry Timms, and ADL CEO and National Director Jonathan Greenblatt Location: Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H Street Northwest, Washington, DC <http://www.adl.org/> https://twitter.com/ADL_National

8:00 AM Annual Humans to Mars Summit – Annual Humans to Mars (H2M) Summit, with Explore Mars bringing together experts and space enthusiasts to discuss the possibility of putting the first humans on Mars and how to achieve this goal. Day one speakers include

Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, Democratic Rep. Ed Perlmutter, Google Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist Vint Cerf, and Astronaut Takuya Onishi Location: George Washington University, Washington, DC <http://exploremars.org/> <https://twitter.com/exploremars> #HumansToMars

9:00 AM Joe Biden speaks on the middle class at Brookings – ‘The future of the middle class’ Brookings Institution Future of the Middle Class Initiative and Biden Foundation forum, featuring remarks from former Vice President Joe Biden Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst> #FutureMiddleClass

9:00 AM Former FBI Director James Comey speaks at The Washington Post – Former FBI Director James Comey speaks at The Washington Post, in conversation with Investigative Reporter Carol Leonnig, discussing his tenure as head of the FBI, his handling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation, his relationship with President Donald Trump, his firing a year ago tomorrow, the investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election, the probe by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, and the legal challenges facing the Trump presidency * Comey’s book, ‘A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies, and Leadership’, was released 17 Apr Location: The Washington Post, 1301 K St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.washingtonpost.com/> <https://twitter.com/washingtonpost> #PostLive

9:30 AM DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee meeting – Democratic National Committee Rules and Bylaws Committee meeting, to review the Unity Reform Commission report and address other party business * At a full DNC meeting in March, members voted to accept the Rules and Bylaws Committee report that calls for reducing the influence of unpledged delegates, aka ‘superdelegates’, in the presidential nominating process, expanding the use of primaries, taking steps to protect the right to vote, making caucuses more accessible, increasing transparency in the party and increasing grassroots participation Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.democrats.org/> <https://twitter.com/TheDemocrats>

10:00 AM ‘Making America First in the Digital Economy’ Atlantic Council discussion – ‘Making America First in the Digital Economy: The Case for Engaging Europe’ Atlantic Council discussion, with keynote speaker European Union Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. David O’Sullivan. Other speakers include National Economic Council Special Assistant to the President for Technology, Telecommunications, and Cybersecurity Policy Abigail Slater, Information Technology Industry Council President and CEO Dean Garfield, and Atlantic Council Future Europe Initiative Distinguished Fellow Dr Frances Burwell Location: Baker McKenzie, 815 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/> <https://twitter.com/AtlanticCouncil>

11:00 AM Annual Washington Conference on the Americas – 2018 Washington Conference on the Americas (aka Council of the Americas 48th annual conference). Speakers include U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Amb. Nikki Haley, Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, Republican Sen. Ben Sasse, Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs David Malpass, Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Ted McKinney, World Bank Group International Finance Corporation CEO Philippe Le Houerou, and Financial Times columnist Edward Luce Location: State Department, Washington, DC <http://www.as-coa.org/> [#2018WCA](https://twitter.com/ASCOA)

12:00 PM GOP Reps. Tom McClintock and Ralph Norman speaks at Heritage Foundation on farm subsidies – ‘The Case for Reforming Farm Subsidies’ Heritage Foundation discussion with Republican Reps. Tom McClintock and Ralph Norman speaking on ‘why farm subsidy reform is important’ and ‘how key reform ideas could help move Congress in the right direction’ Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

1:00 PM Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget conference call with Congressional Budget Office Director Dr Keith Hall Location: TBD crfb.org <https://twitter.com/BudgetHawks>

2:00 PM GOP Rep. Doug Collins keynotes U.S. Chamber event on ‘Innovation and IP’ – ‘Innovation and IP: Building a Strong Foundation’ U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Center IP policy program, hosted in partnership with the Center for

Intellectual Property, on the meaning of innovation policy, its importance to U.S. competitiveness and economic growth, and relevant trends in the innovation policy space. Includes keynote from Republican Rep. Doug Collins Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H Street Northwest, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com
<https://twitter.com/USChamber>

V-E Day Ceremony at the World War II Memorial – V-E Day Ceremony at the World War II Memorial, hosted by Friends of the National WWII Memorial and the National Park Service to mark the anniversary of the Allied Forces victory in Europe Location: World War II Memorial, 1750 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC www.wwiimemorialfriends.org
<https://twitter.com/WWIIMemorial>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Trevor Noah: “[Rudy] Giuliani says he’s new and he doesn’t know the facts, but then he also says, for a fact, Trump didn’t break any laws. You can’t do that. It’s like a detective walking into a crime scene and immediately saying, ‘I don’t know what happened here, but I’m going to say he’s innocent.’”

Conan O’Brien: “According to a new article on Melania Trump that just came out, most evenings Melania does not have dinner with President Trump. Yeah. Melania said, ‘Occasionally, I’ll join him during his third breakfast.’”

Conan O’Brien: “[Rudy Giuliani] was on TV this weekend and he said President Trump may take the Fifth. Yeah, it’s unclear if Giuliani is referring to amendments or wives. No one is quite sure.”

Conan O’Brien: “Today, Sarah Huckabee Sanders says she is unaware of hush-money payments made by President Trump to other women. Yeah. Then Sanders opened an envelope full of cash and said, ‘I’m sorry, I can’t talk anymore.’”

Jordan Klepper: “Today, Melania Trump announced her new First Lady platform – departing from her old platform of clenched silence.”

Jordan Klepper: “It’s called ‘Be Best’ and it encourages kids to be positive online. It is a great title. ‘Be Best.’ Finally, childhood happiness is a competition. Kid, do you want to be best in positivity? Easy, go find someone who is more positive and tweet that they are ugly in all caps. The worst that happens is that you end up becoming President.”

Jimmy Kimmel: “Did you hear about that old very scary volcano that erupted over the weekend? Well, his name is Rudy Giuliani.”

Jimmy Kimmel: “So with Rudy running amok on TV, the President is busy making this country great again. Trump will reportedly be hosting not just one, but two summits at the White House to discuss race relations in America. According to pastor Darryl Scott, one of the summits will be with athletes. The other will be with musicians. It’s ‘famous people only.’ No exceptions. The possible guest list includes Kanye West, Mike Tyson, Colin Kaepernick, Evander Holyfield, and Jim Brown. That isn’t a race summit. That’s season 45 of ‘Dancin’ With The Stars.’”

Jimmy Kimmel: “But at this summit, they’re planning to cover a host of topics, including their plan to revitalize poor urban neighborhoods, a plan that is led by Jared Kushner. And who better to lead that than Jared? They say he’s ready to meet a black person and he’s learning how to high-five.”

Jimmy Kimmel: First Lady Melania Trump “unveiled her official platform at the White House

this afternoon. As you know, Michelle Obama's focus when she was First Lady was on healthy eating and exercise, and Melania's focus is on helping children too. It's very meaningful to her. You know, her husband is a child."

Jimmy Kimmel: "So this campaign to help stop bullying is a good cause. It's someone everyone can agree on, whether you're a Republican like Little Marco or Lyin' Ted or a Democrat like Crooked Hillary or Crazy Bernie."

Stephen Colbert: Rudy Giuliani "has been everywhere, saying everything, in no particular order."

Stephen Colbert: "Of course, it's not easy lying for Donald Trump because he keeps changing his story."

Stephen Colbert: "Meanwhile, it was a big day for Melania Trump. She unveiled her platform. We all remember Michelle Obama's was children's fitness, Laura Bush's was child literacy, and Melania's is 'the overall well-being of children.' That's kind of vague. ... It's like spending all year planning your Halloween party, and you decide the theme is candy."

Jimmy Fallon: "My guess is you either spent your weekend yelling at a horse because of the Kentucky Derby, yelling at a bar because of Cinco de Mayo, or, if you're the President, yelling at the TV because of Rudy Giuliani."

Jimmy Fallon: "Giuliani said Trump might plead the Fifth. Legal experts say this would be a shocking development: the first time in history Trump has chosen to stop talking."

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that over the weekend, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos told a group of college graduates to embrace the mess in their lives. By the way, 'Embrace the Mess' is also Trump's 2020 campaign slogan."

Seth Meyers: "Rudy Giuliani said that he feels pretty good about his recent media appearances and believes it all worked out. What? I've seen men on 'To Catch a Predator' with better media appearances."

Seth Meyers: "According to reports, people close to Sen. John McCain have told the White House that McCain does not want President Trump to attend his funeral. You know it's bad when you're afraid someone's presence will bum people out at your funeral."

Seth Meyers: "The White House announced Friday that Dr. Oz will serve on President Trump's Council on Sports, Fitness and Nutrition. This, after Trump was turned down by Doctors Phil, Dre, No, Doom, Strange, J, and Zhivago."

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Conversation Contents

Re: Monthly Meeting: Slides

Attachments:

/7. Re: Monthly Meeting: Slides/1.1 5-9-18 PMB input.pptx

"Cameron, Scott" <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Cameron, Scott" <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon May 07 2018 12:32:49 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Boulton, Caroline" <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>, "Thiele, Aaron" <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Monthly Meeting: Slides
Attachments: 5-9-18 PMB input.pptx

Caroline,
Here you go.

Thanks,
Scott
Scott J. Cameron
Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget
Office of the Secretary of the Interior
Desk 202 208 4242
Cell 202 706 9031

On Fri, May 4, 2018 at 3:46 PM, Boulton, Caroline <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
All,

On Wednesday we will have our next Monthly Meeting with Assistant Secretaries and Directors. Everyone's slides are due to **Aaron** by noon on Tuesday. Please plan ahead as I know many of you will be offsite that day.

The slides submitted for the cancelled April meeting are attached.

Also if you are unable to attend, you are still responsible for your slides, and please let Downey and Scott know who will be presenting on your behalf.

Thanks,
Caroline

--

Caroline Boulton
Special Assistant to the Secretary
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.5403



Monthly Policy Briefing for Secretary Zinke



Special Projects



Special Projects

Yellowstone Bison

- Players: NPS, USDA-APHIS, Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes

• [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- 2018 Target Population: 3,600 before calving; 4,200 after



Special Projects

Yellowstone Bison

- Quarantine Update

(b)(5) deliberative process privilege

- Transfer of yearlings to Ft. Peck, CY2018
 - APHIS will review data, generate time schedule

(b)(5) deliberative process privilege

Conversation Contents

Weekly Report to the Secretary, May 6-12

Attachments:

/9. Weekly Report to the Secretary, May 6-12/1.1 Weekly Report to the Secretary May 6-12.docx

"Dermody, Matthew" <matthew_dermody@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Dermody, Matthew" <matthew_dermody@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 04 2018 13:00:58 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Alan Mikkelsen <amikkelsen@usbr.gov>, Alex Sterhan <asterhan@usbr.gov>, Andrea Travnicek <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>, "Appel, Elizabeth" <elizabeth.appel@bia.gov>, Aurelia Skipwith <aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov>, Benjamin Cassidy <benjamin_cassidy@ios.doi.gov>, Billy Dove <william_dove@ios.doi.gov>, Brenda Burman <bburman@usbr.gov>, Cally Younger <cally.younger@sol.doi.gov>, Casey Hammond <casey_hammond@ios.doi.gov>, Casey Stemler <casey_stemler@fws.gov>, Catherine Gulac <catherine_gulac@ios.doi.gov>, Christina Summers <christina_summers@ibc.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>, David Bernhardt <(b) (6) - David Bernhardt gov>, Debrah McBride <debrah.mcbride@bia.gov>, Doug Domenech <doug_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Edward Keable <edward.keable@sol.doi.gov>, Elinor Werner <elinor_werner@ios.doi.gov>, Evan Wilson <evan_wilson@ios.doi.gov>, Gareth Rees <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>, Gary Lawkowski <gary_lawkowski@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, James Voyles <james_voyles@ios.doi.gov>, Jim Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Joe Balash <joseph_balash@ios.doi.gov>, John Bockmier <john_bockmier@ios.doi.gov>, John Tahsuda <john.tahsuda@bia.gov>, Juliette Lillie <juliette_lillie@ios.doi.gov>, Kate MacGregor <kate_macgregor@ios.doi.gov>, Kathleen Benedetto <kbenedetto@blm.gov>, Katie Mills <katie_mills@ios.doi.gov>, Kerry Rae <kerry_rae@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <Laura_Rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Lori Mashburn <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, Mariagrazia Caminiti

To:

<marigrace.caminiti@sol.doi.gov>, Matthew Dermody
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<Vincent_DeVito@ios.doi.gov>, Zack Gambill
<zack_gambill@fws.gov>

Subject:

Weekly Report to the Secretary, May 6-12

Attachments:

Weekly Report to the Secretary May 6-12.docx

All,

Attached is this week's report to the Secretary in both Word and Google Doc formats.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Matthew Dermody
Special Assistant
Office of the Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
202-513-7778

 [Weekly Report to the Secretary May 6-12.docx](#)

**WEEKLY REPORT
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MAY 6-12, 2018**

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt will be on official travel from May 8-11 in Sacramento, CA.

Assistant Deputy Secretary Todd Willens will be in the office all week.

Immediate Announcements and Actions (within the next 14 days)

No updates to report.

15-60 Day Look-Ahead

No updates to report.

Awareness

No updates to report.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Congressional Hearings, and Travel

Nothing to report.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

NEW CASES:

Nothing significant to report.

15-60 Day Look-Ahead

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

[UPDATE] Between May 20-25, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposed rule and open a 30-day public comment period on the 2018-19 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. The proposed rule would open up to 30 various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others. Outreach is planned to include a national news release when the *Federal Register* notice is published and notifications to members of Congress in affected districts, with some stakeholder outreach. (Updated 05/02/2018)

On or around May 31, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to delist the Colorado butterfly plant due to recovery. This species is located in Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming. This action is not expected to be opposed. Outreach plans include a national news release, and an if-asked FAQs. Key stakeholders include private landowners, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, the City of Fort Collins, Colorado, and the BLM. (Updated 04/11/2018)

On or around May 31, FWS and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) plan to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to revise the regulations pertaining to interagency cooperation pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (50 CFR 402) and the procedures for listing of species and designation of critical habitat pursuant to section 4 of the Act (50 CFR 424). FWS will also propose to end the use of the 'blanket' 4(d) rule for newly listed threatened species (50 CFR 17) to recognize the difference between endangered and threatened species and align with NMFS' current practice. Planned outreach includes a national news release, emails and phone calls to congressional offices and stakeholders. The rules are currently undergoing interagency review through OMB-OIRA. (04/25/2018)

[UPDATE] In late May, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on the proposal to reclassify Kuenzler hedgehog cactus, a plant species endemic to New Mexico, from endangered to threatened. This reclassification is not expected to be controversial. Primary stakeholders include the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. Planned outreach includes a regional news release, emails to stakeholders, social media, and web postings. (Updated 05/02/18)

By May 30, USDA APHIS will complete data analysis that will inform a schedule for bison transfer to the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes of Ft. Peck, Montana. On April 5, Yellowstone National Park and the Deputy Administrator of USDA APHIS discussed several key issues related to the park's proposed bison quarantine program. This was follow-up to a February 2018 meeting, convened and facilitated by the Secretary of the Interior, between DOI, NPS, USDA APHIS, Ft. Peck tribal leadership, and the State of Montana. Substantive progress was confirmed on several issues including the structure and signators for agreements on quarantine facility operations, the future transfer of brucellosis-free bison to the Ft. Peck reservation, and USDA APHIS certification of the park bison quarantine facility. Yellowstone bison management and quarantine receive national public interest and media coverage. (Updated 04/18/18)

By May 31, the NPS intends to award multiple concession contracts for mountaineering guide services at Denali National Park and Preserve. Applicant submissions have been scored and rated. The selection process is currently in the matching phase where, one by one, prospective concessioners with ANILCA preferences have an opportunity to match the best offer. New contracts will have a term of 10 years, beginning January 1, 2019. (Updated 03/27/18).

[UPDATE] On or before June 1, the Missouri Department of Agriculture will issue its findings relative to the improper use of herbicides by a private contractor to the NPS on NPS lands at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. The over application occurred in the Summer and Fall of 2016 and its effect became evident in the Spring of 2017. Some 170 trees show signs of

mortality and stress. The contractor has been cooperative to date and has indicated willingness to make restitution for damages. The NPS is working to evaluate the best approach to restore resources. (Updated 05/02/2018)

Between June 1-15, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (pending Departmental approval of NOA) expects to issue a Record of Decision for the Vista Grande Drainage Basin Improvement Project Environmental Impact Report /Environmental Impact Statement prepared in cooperation with the City of Daly City, California. This project would allow Daly City to take project actions at Fort Funston to address storm-related flooding in the Vista Grande Drainage Basin. [PEPC link](#) (04/04/18).

On June 2, construction crews will begin temporary stabilization repairs on Arlington Memorial Bridge. The project start was delayed to accommodate the Rolling Thunder special event over Memorial Day weekend. This repair work is designed to keep the bridge open to traffic during its full rehabilitation (beginning in fall 2018). Work crews will repair bridge deck supports in the drawbridge span and the road deck in the westbound roadway. This work will require intermittent single lane closures on the bridge beginning after Memorial Day weekend. (Updated 04/11/18).

On June 14, the U.S. Mint will release the America the Beautiful Quarters Program coin honoring Voyageurs National Park. A ceremony will be held in International Falls, Minnesota. (04/04/18).

On June 15, Yosemite National Park's Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias will reopen to the public, following a 3-year \$40 million project funded through the NPS and Yosemite Conservancy matching funds. A new parking lot and welcome center has been constructed at the South Entrance, a shuttle bus will take visitors to the big trees, a handicap accessible boardwalk has been constructed, trails have been improved, and new restrooms have been installed. The dedication ceremony to mark the completion of the project is slated for June 14. <https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/mariposagrove.htm> (03/07/18)

[NEW] (Close Hold) On June 18, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park will host King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of Spain for a tour of Mission San Jose. The City of San Antonio Office of International Relations is coordinating the park tour as part of a three-day visit by the royal family to commemorate the Tri-centennial of the founding of San Antonio, Texas, as a Spanish mission in 1718. A public announcement about the visit will be made at a later date. Park employees involved in the planning effort have signed a modified confidentiality agreement (reviewed by our solicitor) with the City of San Antonio to coordinate planning efforts and keep the visit confidential. (05/02/2018)

[NEW] On June 26, the Acadia National Park Draft Transportation Plan and EIS public comment period will close. The comment period is open concurrently with the published EPA Notice of Availability. Public comment will be received through the PEPC website, standard mail, and during Open House events. Press interest in this public comment period is expected to be very high. The communication plan has been shared with NPS Comms. (05/02/2018)

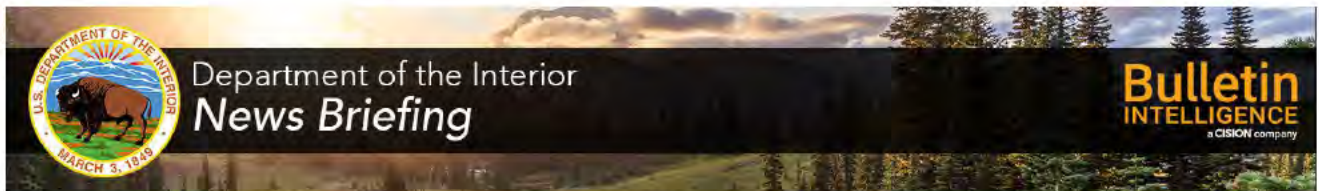
Conversation Contents

[EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, May 4, 2018

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Fri May 04 2018 04:02:01 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, May 4, 2018

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DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2018 6:00 AM EDT

Today's Table Of Contents

DOI In The News

- The Atlantic: A Pruitt Aide's Attack On Zinke Angers The White House.
- WBND-TV South Bend (IN): Lawmakers, Industry Leaders Attend RV Industry Power Breakfast.
- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: Environmental-Review Policy Draws Fire | Western Colorado | Gjsentinel.com.
- Law360: Slawson To End North Dakota Drilling Suit After Permit Win.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Bridgeport Lawmakers Not Giving Up On Casino Legislation.
- BIA Must Look Again At Tribal Trust Land, DOI Panel Says.

Bureau Of Indian Education

- Continued Friction Over Indian Education Funding?

Bureau Of Land Management

- Washington Post: Interior Agency Blocks Group Of Archaeologists From Attending Scientific Conference.
- E&E Publishing: The Many Lives Of BLM Methane Litigation.
- Associated Press: BLM Wants To Sell 430 Acres Of Federal Land Near Ely.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- BOEM's Director Says Agency Continues To Carry Out Trump's Offshore Agenda.
- New Fears Over Oil Exploration.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Courthouse News: Tribal Pastor Fights US On Eagle Feather Restrictions.

- Texas Observer: Unpublished Federal Report Projects Bleak Future For Texas Mussels, Rivers.
- Great Falls (MT) Tribune: Fire Sparks New Grassland Growth At Benton Lake Refuge.
- Nisqually Valley (WA) News: Independent Biologists Look To Speed Up Gopher Screening.
- KARE-TV Minneapolis: Minnesota Requests BP Oil Spill Money To Help Loons Recover.
- Nisqually Valley (WA) News: Service Seeks Public Comment On Proposed Wind Facility.
- El Defensor Chieftain (NM): Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge Seeks Public Comment On Hunt Plan.
- San Jose (CA) Mercury News: California Man Pleads Guilty To Smuggling Asian Arowana, The Most Expensive Aquarium Fish In The World.

National Park Service

- WSET-TV Lynchburg (VA): Warner, Kaine Secure \$2.1 Million Grant For 2 Battlefields, Including Appomattox.
- Flathead (MT) Beacon: New Hiring Policy Threatens Seasonal Employees At National Parks.
- Yellowstone Insider: Officials Ponder How To Handle High Visitation To Yellowstone.
- Bangor (ME) Daily News: Traditional Sweetgrass Harvest May Return To Acadia National Park.
- Santa Fe New Mexican: Park Service, Forest To Increase Fire Restrictions.

Insular And International Affairs

- Judge Denies Motion For Summary Judgment In Landowner's Lawsuit Against Government, CUC.

US Geological Survey

- Associated Press: Hawaii Volcano Erupts; County Issues Evacuation Orders.
- Additional Reading.

Opinion Pieces

- Address National Parks Maintenance Backlog Now.
- Want To Save The Environment? Support Offshore Drilling.
- BLM Should Trim Horse Herds.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- Wall Street Journal: Trump: Daniels Payment Involved No Campaign Funds.
- Washington Post: Giuliani Says Mueller Probe "Dead," Calls On Sessions To Bring It To An End.
- ABC: Trump, Giuliani Hint At Imminent Release Of US Prisoners From North Korea.
- Bloomberg News: White House Scales Back Plans To Recoup Already-Approved Federal Spending.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "What Keeps American Troops In the Yemen War?"
 - "When The Republicans Are Honest About Their Policies."
 - "Should The European Sanction Illegally."
- Washington Post.
 - "A Defense Of The Rule Of Law."
 - "How Would We Answer Today?"
 - "What's Wrong With The FAA Bill."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "The Nafta Ultimatum Strategy."
 - "Governments Steal Emergency Money."
 - "The Stormy Daniels Damage."

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

A Pruitt Aide's Attack On Zinke Angers The White House.

[The Atlantic](#) (5/3, Plott) reports that "as Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt faces a seemingly endless stream of scandal, his team is scrambling to divert the spotlight to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke." In the last week, the article says, "a member of Pruitt's press team, Michael Abboud, has been shopping negative stories about Zinke to multiple outlets, according to two sources with direct knowledge of the efforts, as well as correspondence reviewed by The Atlantic."

[Business Insider](#) (5/3, Relman) reports that "several reporters rejected the stories that Abboud shopped, citing a lack of evidence, even as it was published by Patrick Howley of Big League Politics, a right-wing website founded by former Breitbart News employees." The Interior Department's White House liaison "reportedly complained about Abboud's behavior to the White House Presidential Personnel Office, where officials were 'enraged.'"

Also reporting are the [New York Daily News](#) (5/3, Sommerfeldt), the [Daily Beast](#) (5/3), [Government Executive](#) (5/3, Plott), [The Week](#) (5/3, Alters), and [Vox](#) (5/3, Golshan).

Lawmakers, Industry Leaders Attend RV Industry Power Breakfast.

[WBND-TV](#) South Bend, IN (5/3, Fixler) reports that "the 6th Annual RV Industry Power Breakfast was held Thursday morning at the Northern Indiana Event Center." According to the article, "more than 900 people attended the breakfast to show their support and the new success of the business." The [Goshen \(IN\) News](#) (5/3, Selman) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was "scheduled to speak but had to stay in Washington." Zinke sent Rick May, his senior national adviser, in his stead.

Additional coverage was provided by [WBND-TV](#) South Bend, IN (5/3, Corak).

Environmental-Review Policy Draws Fire | Western Colorado | Gjsentinel.com.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (5/4, Harmon) reports that "an Interior Department official said Wednesday in Grand Junction that the Trump administration was moving to speed up the time agencies have to deal with environmental studies, specifically through the National Environmental Policy Act." But "the move to require federal agencies to conduct environmental analyses within a year and cap reports to 100 pages 'flies in the face of common sense and only further promotes conflicts between public lands stakeholders,' said Jace Woodrum, communications director for Conservation Colorado." Woodrum said, "This administration has adopted the point of view that public involvement and public comments on federal actions is a burden to their short-sighted agenda of 'Energy Dominance.'"

Slawson To End North Dakota Drilling Suit After Permit Win.

[Law360](#) (5/3, Phillis) reports that "Slawson Exploration Co. Inc. on Thursday notified a North Dakota federal court it was ending its suit against the U.S. Department of the Interior after an administrative hearing favored the company and allowed it to continue oil and gas drilling in the state in the face of a challenge by the Mandan Hidatsa and Arikara Nation." U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland "gave Slawson permission to file a notice with the court dismissing the case on Thursday."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Bridgeport Lawmakers Not Giving Up On Casino Legislation.

The [AP](#) (5/3) reports that Connecticut lawmakers pulled a bill that could lead to an

additional Connecticut casino because "it became apparent discussion in the House would continue into the next day." However, Rep. Steven Stafstrom is "confident leaders of the House of Representatives will call the bill for a vote, likely on Friday." The legislation "requires the commissioners of Consumer Protection and Economic and Community Development to develop and issue a request for proposals from developers interested in developing, managing and operating a possible casino." The bill does not specifically authorize a new casino. The [New Haven \(CT\) Register](#) (5/4, Munson) reports that House Majority Leader Matt Ritter described the reasoning behind stopping debate for the day. "It just got late," he said. "Our plan was always to have a vote, just tonight wasn't the right night." Stafstrom vowed to fight through a potential filibuster of the bill on Friday. "I'll stand here all day if I have to," he said. MGM Resorts International Senior Vice President and Legal Counsel Uri Clinton said, "MGM has been unwavering in our commitment to build a destination resort in Connecticut. ... We remain ready and willing to participate in an open, transparent, competitive process."

Additional coverage is provided by the [Connecticut Mirror](#) (5/4, Phaneuf), the [Connecticut Post](#) (5/3, Cummings), and the [CT News Junkie](#) (5/4, Stuart).

BIA Must Look Again At Tribal Trust Land, DOI Panel Says.

[Law360](#) (5/3, Westney) reports that the Interior Board of Indian Appeals on Wednesday "again undid a Bureau of Indian Affairs' decision to take land in San Diego into trust for the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, saying the agency had failed to address the same concerns about nearby landowners' property rights that led the board to send the case back to the BIA three years ago."

Bureau Of Indian Education

Continued Friction Over Indian Education Funding?

[Politico](#) (5/3, Hefling) reports that "Interior Department officials based in Washington, including Bureau of Indian Education Director Tony Dearman, opted to skip a tribal consultation organized April 22 in Albuquerque by the Education Department to discuss federal education issues." Faith C. Vander Voort, a spokeswoman for the Interior Department, "noted in an email that the consultation was organized by the Education Department. She said Dearman and John Tahsuda III, the department's principal deputy assistant secretary, weren't able to adjust their schedules to attend because of the 'short lead time.'" However, "she said some local BIE school personnel attended 'at least part of the session.'"

Bureau Of Land Management

Interior Agency Blocks Group Of Archaeologists From Attending Scientific Conference.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/3, Grandoni) reports that the Bureau of Land Management "blocked at least 14 of its staff archaeologists and other specialists from attending a major scientific conference this year, at a time when archeological sites have become a flashpoint in the debate over public lands protection." According to the article, "the archeologists and other BLM employees, many working and living in Western states, were originally scheduled to attend the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, the largest organization of professional archaeologists in the Western Hemisphere." However, "officials at BLM's headquarters in Washington only authorized the attendance of three archaeologists, citing 'the potential travel and other costs' of the trips." BLM spokeswoman Amber Cargile said, "The decision was made after reviewing the conference topics and agenda, and we sent the people who could best represent the BLM. We value our professional relationship with SAA and the important role our archaeologists play in the Bureau's multiple use mission."

Also reporting is [KBSC-FM](#) Boise, ID (5/3, Peacher).

The Many Lives Of BLM Methane Litigation.

[E&E Publishing](#) (5/3) reports outlines the various court cases over Obama-era methane regulations for the oil and gas industry on public lands. The article notes that the "Western Energy Alliance and Independent Petroleum Association of America have led the legal battle against BLM's rule since Day 1." They claim the rule is "is too costly and doesn't credit drillers for the work they've already done to slash emissions in recent years." The American Petroleum Institute has also gotten involved in some phases of the litigation, making similar claims.

BLM Wants To Sell 430 Acres Of Federal Land Near Ely.

The [AP](#) (5/3) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is "proposing selling about 430 acres of federal land in east-central Nevada under a program intended to help protect natural resources." The BLM "said Wednesday it will accept public comment until May 21 on plans to sell three parcels in White Pine County near U.S. Highway 50 about 60 miles west of the Utah line." The sale is "proposed in accordance with the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act of 2006."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

BOEM's Director Says Agency Continues To Carry Out Trump's Offshore Agenda.

[World Oil](#) (5/3, Abraham) reports that during a luncheon speech this week at the 2018 Offshore Technology Conference, acting Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Director Dr. Walter Cruickshank "delivered an update on the state of offshore activity and regulation." Referring to the American First Offshore Energy Executive Order issued last April, he said, "We are making progress in implementing the components" of it. He also touted current OCS activity, and "said that offshore projects continue to add considerable value to U.S. energy assets." He stated, "The OCS supports \$55 billion in spending and 350,000 jobs," and that "we estimate that undiscovered resources total 90 Bbbl of oil and 327 Tcf of natural gas."

New Fears Over Oil Exploration.

[Greenwire](#) (5/3) reports that opponents of offshore oil and gas drilling are now warning energy exploration efforts could disrupt "long-buried radioactive and toxic waste," the location of which is not always known. For example, a 7,000-pound nuclear bomb accidentally dropped in 1958 near Georgia's Tybee island is now considered "irretrievably lost" by the U.S. military, and 55-gallon drums of radioactive waste were "routinely dumped into the Atlantic Ocean in the 1950s." Frank Knapp Jr., president and CEO of the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce, warned, "The radioactive material is still there, and we don't know what will happen under seismic testing. ... This is nothing to play with."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Tribal Pastor Fights US On Eagle Feather Restrictions.

[Courthouse News](#) (5/3, Ryan) reports that "a Native American feather dancer asked the U.S. government Thursday to end its restrictions on tribes using eagle feathers in religious ceremonies." The article notes that "the petition by Robert Soto, vice-chairman of the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas, comes more than a decade after an undercover federal agent raided his powwow and confiscated roughly 50 eagle feathers." Soto, who serves as pastor of the McAllen Grace Brethren Church, "says the current arrangement 'leaves millions of religious believers in legal jeopardy' and violates the Fifth Amendment, as well as the free exercise and establishment clauses of the First Amendment."

Additional coverage was provided by [Law360](#) (5/3, Westney).

Unpublished Federal Report Projects Bleak Future For Texas Mussels, Rivers.

The [Texas Observer](#) (5/3, Sadasivam) reports that "if the state's population continues to balloon and climate change worsens, four Central Texas mussels could face near-certain extinction, according to an internal analysis by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) obtained by the Observer." The FWS has "already decided to add one species – the Texas hornshell – to the endangered species list." Now, the agency is "reviewing whether to also add protections for four other whimsically named mussels (the Texas fatmucket, Texas pimpleback, Texas fawnsfoot and false spike) found only in the Brazos, Guadalupe, Colorado and Trinity rivers."

Fire Sparks New Grassland Growth At Benton Lake Refuge.

The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (5/3, Puckett) reports that 1,700 acres of grassland was ignited at Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Kevin Beck, fuels assistant fire manager with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said, "We want to burn the decadent grass layer to regenerate the grasslands." According to Beck, "each year, about 2,000 acres of 'habitat maintenance' is conducted at the refuge in which grassland is intentionally set afire to mimic natural fire and bison grazing that once disturbed and regenerated the grass."

Independent Biologists Look To Speed Up Gopher Screening.

The [Nisqually Valley \(WA\) News](#) (5/3, Kollar) reports that "after years of dealing with a slow gopher review process, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Service (WFWS) will allow the county to hire private consultants to help speed up the process for builders." According to the article, "the previous interim process required a biologist of WFWS to conduct gopher surveys, which led to a backlog of permit applications due to a limited number of surveyors." USFWS Deputy State Supervisor Brad Thompson said, "There's a lot of people who are trying to build right now with the strong economy. Since the species was listed in 2014, our agency has been the only one in unincorporated Thurston County doing the studies. It's been updated for more local control of the building permit review."

Minnesota Requests BP Oil Spill Money To Help Loons Recover.

[KARE-TV](#) Minneapolis (5/4, Erdahl) reports that Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources has "filed a request with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, in hopes of helping the Common Loon recover from the lasting impact of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010." Carrol Henderson, supervisor of the Minnesota Nongame Wildlife Program, said, "We were the only state that made a case for damages done to migratory wildlife in the northern region." Henderson said, "The contamination showed in loons coming back to Minnesota. They were carrying it in their blood, and of more concern, we discovered that those contaminants were being passed on in the eggs that they were laying."

Service Seeks Public Comment On Proposed Wind Facility.

The [Nisqually Valley \(WA\) News](#) (5/3) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking public input "as part of the development of an Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed wind energy project in Lewis and Thurston counties." The proposed Skookumchuck Wind Energy Project "would consist of up to 38 commercial wind turbines and associated infrastructure." Comments may be submitted through June 4.

Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge Seeks Public Comment On Hunt Plan.

The [El Defensor Chieftain \(NM\)](#) (5/3) reports that the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge seeks public comments "on the newly revised Sevilleta NWR Hunt Plan, Environmental Assessment (EA), and Compatibility Determination (CD)." The comment period ends June 1.

California Man Pleads Guilty To Smuggling Asian Arowana, The Most Expensive Aquarium Fish In The World.

The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (5/3, Emery) reports that a California man "admitted Wednesday to breaking federal law by helping to smuggle Asian arowana fish, identified as the most expensive aquarium fish in the world, into the United States from Indonesia." Shawn Naolu Lee, "during a hearing at a federal courthouse in Los Angeles, pleaded guilty

to breaking the Endangered Species Act by importing a species of fish facing extinction." According to the article, "in his plea agreement, Lee admitted to working with co-defendant Mickey Tanadi, who was located in Indonesia, to transport the fish, despite warnings from Tanadi that the Asian arowana fish are illegal in the United States and would have to be smuggled into the country."

National Park Service

Warner, Kaine Secure \$2.1 Million Grant For 2 Battlefields, Including Appomattox.

[WSET-TV](#) Lynchburg, VA (5/3, Langlitz) reports that "two Virginia battlefields will be preserved for years to come after getting a \$2.1 million grant." Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine "secured funding for the Yorktown and Appomattox Courthouse Battlefields through the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program." The program is funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The [Williamsburg Yorktown \(VA\) Daily](#) (5/3) reports that the senators said, "Virginia is home to some of America's most historic sites, and the National Park Service and localities have worked hard to protect them from encroaching development. Virginia's battlefields also play a key role in tourism, open space preservation, and boosting local economies. It's important to preserve them so that future generations can visit, reflect on our history, and learn from the past."

New Hiring Policy Threatens Seasonal Employees At National Parks.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (5/3, Franz) reports that a change in how the National Park Service interprets a hiring rule threatens the jobs of seasonal employees. Sen. Jon Tester has "sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Office of Personnel Management Director Jeff Pon urging them to help the impacted employees." National Park Service Chief Spokesperson Jeremy K. Barnum "told the Beacon that the Park Service is continuing to comply with the new interpretation while simultaneously helping seasonal employees." He said, "We will continue to develop regular communications to ensure that affected seasonal employees and hiring officials have clear and consistent information to support their careers and workforce planning."

Officials Ponder How To Handle High Visitation To Yellowstone.

[Yellowstone Insider](#) (5/3, Reichard) reports that a "record-breaking summer" expected at Yellowstone National Park has "some park officials worried." The [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#) (5/3, Baker) reports that "park officials have said surveys suggest half the people who visit Yellowstone only want to see Old Faithful." One idea brought up "an early April gathering of federal, state and local leaders in the Yellowstone area that focused on transportation needs" was to encourage "the millions of annual tourists to visit Cody, Bighorn Canyon and other areas outside the park."

Traditional Sweetgrass Harvest May Return To Acadia National Park.

The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (5/3, Curtis) reports that "tribal basket makers" could be "allowed to harvest sweetgrass in Bass Harbor Marsh within" the Acadia National Park. According to the article, "for three seasons now, park officials and tribal members have been working to figure out if a sustainable sweetgrass harvest could happen at the park."

Park Service, Forest To Increase Fire Restrictions.

The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (5/3) reports that the National Park Service will "step up wildfire restrictions at parks and monuments in the area Friday, and the Santa Fe National Forest will impose similar restrictions forestwide Monday morning as the fire danger increases across the region." The article notes that "Bandelier National Monument, Valles Caldera National Preserve, Pecos National Historical Park and Fort Union National Monument are all affected by the Park Service's tougher fire rules."

Insular And International Affairs

Judge Denies Motion For Summary Judgment In Landowner's Lawsuit Against Government, CUC.

[Marianas Variety](#) (5/4, Manabat) reports that Superior Court Judge Kenneth L. Govendo has "denied the CNMI government's motion for summary judgment in a lawsuit filed by a landowner against the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the government." In his order Govendo said the "plaintiff has put forth sufficient allegations that the CNMI government potentially authorized the construction of the Maui IV water tank and fences. Whether or not it did so is a genuine issue of material fact to be determined at a trial. Additionally, this court finds that CUC is a part of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for purposes of this lawsuit."

US Geological Survey

Hawaii Volcano Erupts; County Issues Evacuation Orders.

The [AP](#) (5/3, Jones) reports that "Hawaii's Kilauea volcano erupted Thursday, releasing lava into a residential neighborhood and prompting mandatory evacuation orders for nearby homes." [CNN](#) (5/4, Park, Sutton) reports that "the eruption affected Leilani Estates, a subdivision in the lower East Rift Zone of Kilauea volcano, according to the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory."

Also reporting is the [Big Island \(HI\) Video News](#) (5/3).

5.0 Magnitude Earthquake Rattles Hawaii As Residents Ready For Possible Lava Eruption.

[NPR](#) (5/3, Romo) reports that "a 5.0 magnitude earthquake on Thursday rocked several communities on the Big Island that are already bracing for a possible volcanic eruption after hundreds of small earthquakes jolted the region." The Hawaiian Volcano Observatory "said the quake, which struck at 10:30 a.m. local time, 'caused rockfalls and possibly an additional collapse' into the Pu'u O'o, a crater on the Kilauea volcano that has been slowly crumbling." According to geologists, "the ongoing temblors – more than 600 in the past three days – are an indication that lava could break through the surface at any time."

Also reporting is the [AP](#) (5/3, Jones).

Additional Reading.

- *U.S. Government Struggles To Track Some Of Its Own Social Media Accounts.* [Wall Street Journal](#). (5/3, Bansal, Barry)
- *Yellowstone's Largest Geyser Erupts 3 Times, Puzzling Scientists.* [NPR](#) (5/3, Raphelson).

Opinion Pieces

Address National Parks Maintenance Backlog Now.

In an op-ed for the [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (5/3, Gardner), Sen. Cory Gardner writes in support of the National Park Restoration Act, "a bipartisan, commonsense proposal that will use the federal share of revenues from energy production on federal lands to help pay for the more than \$11 billion maintenance backlog at our national parks." Gardner also notes the legislation protects the Land and Water Conservation Fund and "does not take one dollar from existing conservation programs." Gardner urges Congress "to pass the National Park Restoration Act and make a long-term commitment to our National Parks."

Want To Save The Environment? Support Offshore Drilling.

In an op-ed for the [Daily Caller](#) (5/3, Marcum), Bethany Marcum, the executive director of the Alaska Policy Forum, pushes back against claims by offshore drilling opponents that it "threatens our environment and our economy." Marcum argues that "the proposal would create jobs for Americans and boost our economy while posing minimal risk to the environment." In fact, she writes, "the plan would reduce overall carbon emissions by

increasing production of natural gas, which burns cleaner than coal.”

BLM Should Trim Horse Herds.

In an editorial, the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (5/3) says that the Bureau of Land Management has “come up with a variety of solutions” to the wild horse problem “that would see herds reduced dramatically over the next decade or so.” It urges Congress to “get behind the agency and give it the legal power to do what needs to be done.”

Additional Reading.

- *The Parable Of The Sage Grouse.* [The Economist](#) (5/5).
- *Tight Budgets Open Gates At National Parks For Volunteers.* [Ada \(OK\) News](#) (5/3, David, Scott).
- *Our View: Park Fees Tamed, Which Should Help Keep The Public’s Love.* [Havasut \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (5/4).

Top National News

Trump: Daniels Payment Involved No Campaign Funds.

In the aftermath of Rudy Giuliani’s interview on [Fox News’ Hannity](#), President Trump took to [Twitter](#) yesterday morning, and wrote that attorney Michael Cohen “received a monthly retainer, not from the campaign and having nothing to do with the campaign, from which he entered into, through reimbursement, a private contract between two parties, known as a non-disclosure agreement, or NDA. These agreements are... very common among celebrities and people of wealth. In this case it is in full force and effect and will be used in Arbitration for damages against Ms. Clifford (Daniels). The agreement was used to stop the false and extortionist accusations made by her about an affair... despite already having signed a detailed letter admitting that there was no affair. Prior to its violation by Ms. Clifford and her attorney, this was a private agreement. Money from the campaign, or campaign contributions, played no roll in this transaction.”

Media coverage was extremely unfavorable toward both the President and Giuliani, casting their statements as opening the door to additional legal woes for Trump. In an editorial this morning, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/3) disagrees with that line of reasoning but still takes Trump and Giuliani to task, arguing that while their comments may well lessen Cohen’s legal troubles, they inflicted serious political damage on the President by undermining his credibility. The [Washington Times](#) (5/3, Morton), meanwhile, reports “a major Fox News Channel figure laid into...Trump on Thursday – and it wasn’t Shepard Smith or Juan Williams.” Neil Cavuto “said Mr. Trump’s history of inaccurate statements...is his own personal ‘swamp.’” [Said](#) Cavuto, “Let me be clear, Mr. President. How can you drain the swamp if you’re the one that keeps muddying the waters? You didn’t know about the \$130,000 payment to a porn star until you did.”

Many reports, including the lead stories on all three major network newscasts, also highlight the apparent contradiction between the President’s tweets and earlier statements he made in response to reporters’ questions – in which he denied knowing anything at all about the payments. For example, Dan Balz asks in a front-page [Washington Post](#) (5/3, A1) story, “Does it bother anyone that...Trump has been caught lying? Does it bother anyone that this is not new? Does it bother anyone that the president has been shown to be a liar? These questions are again front and center before the country.” While “people will answer them differently, depending on their views about Trump...the questions won’t go away. They are part of the fabric of this presidency.” Balz adds that “thanks to...Giuliani...Trump has been exposed flat out.”

In a similar analysis titled “New Revelations Suggest A President Losing Control Of His Narrative,” Peter Baker writes in the [New York Times](#) (5/3) that “even in the current political environment that some derisively call the post-truth world, the past few days have offered a head-spinning series of revelations.” Baker adds that “whether called lies or misstatements, Mr. Trump’s history of falsehoods has been extensively documented, but the string of

factual distortions that came to light this week could come back to haunt him." While "as a matter of politics, the latest contradictions may not matter much, at least not yet...under the unforgiving glare of federal prosecutors...misrepresentations carry far greater jeopardy."

📺[NBC Nightly News](#) (5/3, lead story, 2:55, Welker) referred to a "presidential flip-flop," 📺[ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/3, lead story, 4:15, Karl) reported that "last month, the President flatly denied knowing anything about the hush money," and the 📺[CBS Evening News](#) (5/3, lead story, 2:00, Glor) showed Stormy Daniels' attorney Michael Avenatti saying, "It's an outrage, frankly, that the President of the United States would stand on Air Force One on videotape and blatantly lie to the American people. The President and his advisers are making this up as they go along. They realize they are in a heap-load of trouble." Avenatti told 📺[CNN's The Lead](#) (5/3), "These are not half truths or possibly being mislead – these are outright lies to the American people."

Another [New York Times](#) (5/3, Sullivan, Apuzzo, Haberman) story also says that Trump's tweets "had far more formal and legalistic language than his typical morning messages to the world," but they "directly contradicted his earlier statements." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/3, Ballhaus, Palazzolo) reports on the tweets along similar lines, while [Bloomberg News](#) (5/2, Olorunnipa) says Trump "changed his account" and [USA Today](#) (5/3, Jackson) that he is "changing his story" and "contradicting previous statements." [The Hill](#) (5/3, Fabian) casts him as "contradicting past claims," while the [Washington Post](#) (5/3, Wagner) notes that "Trump did not say whether he knew about the payments to Cohen when they were made" and the [Washington Times](#) (5/3, Persons) highlights that he insisted "none of the money used to pay...Daniels came from campaign cash."

To the [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/3, Bierman), Trump "tried to contain the legal and political fallout from...Giuliani's revelations," but his "postings are unlikely to answer multiple questions." The [Washington Post](#) (5/3, Lee) reports that according to Richard Hasen, "election law expert" at the University of California at Irvine, "if the payment were 'wholly personal, as in made to help Trump's marriage but not his campaign,' it would not amount to a campaign finance violation," but "experts say" that "the fact that it was made so close to the election raises questions." Along those lines, [Reuters](#) (5/3) reports "the claim of repayment is significant because a payment by Cohen could be seen as an illegal campaign contribution." [Bloomberg News](#) (5/3, Olorunnipa, Allison) also reports "Trump and his lawyers face a new set of legal challenges," the [AP](#) (5/3, Sherman) that "Giuliani may have added to the legal headaches of his new law client and old friend," and [USA Today](#) (5/3, Schouten) that "if Trump knew about Cohen's payment to Daniels but didn't disclose it as a loan on his campaign's filings with the Federal Election Commission, that could amount to a 'knowing and willful' violation of election law and a criminal statute that prohibits making false statements to the government." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/3, Bykowicz, Palazzolo) runs a similar story under the headline "Trump's Payment To Stormy Daniels Raises Campaign-Finance Questions."

📺[ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/3, lead story, 4:15, Karl) reported that Giuliani is "saying this had nothing to do with protecting Trump, nothing to do with the campaign, but then" he "also said, 'Imagine if this came out in the middle of the last debate with Hillary Clinton.' How do you reconcile the two?" Jonathan Karl replied, "It's not easy. What they're saying is that this was about protecting the President, or then the candidate, from personal embarrassment, not political damage. That's an important distinction, because if this was for political reasons, the payment could have violated campaign finance law." 📺[NBC Nightly News](#) (5/3, lead story, 2:55, Welker) showed Adav Noti of the Campaign Legal Center saying, "There was a knowing and willful attempt to evade campaign finance disclosure and that could make the scheme criminal activity."

Giuliani appeared on 📺[Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (5/3, 7:32 a.m. EDT, Doocy) yesterday morning and spoke to the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/3, Ballhaus, Palazzolo) and [BuzzFeed](#) (5/2), recounting that Cohen "'complained to some people' after the 2016 election that he'd not been fully paid by Trump," and "at some point – Giuliani said he did not know when or where specifically – Cohen met with Trump and told him of his complaint." Giuliani says Trump "told Cohen, 'We'll cover your expenses,' and agreed to pay him \$35,000 a

month 'out of his personal funds' over the course of a year-long period that began in the first few months of 2017 and has since ended. 'It clearly was a payment to reimburse expenses,' Giuliani said – adding the caveat, 'I'm almost certain that there wasn't an itemized bill.'" Giuliani also spoke to [USA Today](#) (5/3, Jackson), saying of the current investigations, "It's going to take some time, but I think we're going to be OK." Of Cohen's payment, he said, "No one ever thought of it as a campaign contribution. ... It was a personnel settlement."

The [AP](#) (5/3, Lucey, Colvin) says that while "Giuliani's revelation appeared to take many in the West Wing by surprise," it was actually "no accident." The AP notes that former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said yesterday, "You know, there's an old saying in the law, 'Hang a lantern on your problems.' ... So the fact is that Rudy has to go out there now and clean it up. That's what lawyers get hired to do." Along those lines, the [New York Times](#) (5/3, Shear) notes that "asked about his remarks after finishing the Fox News interview" Wednesday night, Giuliani "said that what might have seemed to some viewers – including, perhaps, Mr. Hannity – like a slip of the tongue, was actually a planned disclosure." The [Washington Post](#) (5/3, Rucker, Dawsey, Costa, Parker) reports that in an interview, Giuliani said "he discussed the issue with Trump a few days ago and that they agreed that he would reveal details about the reimbursement." Said Giuliani, "He was well aware that at some point when I saw the opportunity, I was going to get this over with." Tony Carbonetti, "a longtime friend and adviser to Giuliani, said he was dining with the former New York mayor on Manhattan's Upper East Side on Wednesday night before he went on Fox," and "warned that those lampooning Giuliani are mistaken." Said Carbonetti, "If you've been around Rudy, there's always a reason for it. ... If you knew a narrative was coming out, wouldn't you want to tell the story on your terms? ... He wanted to get ahead of it."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/3, A1, Ballhaus, Nicholas) runs a front-page analysis titled "Trump Gambit Stuns Staff," in which it reports that Giuliani also dined with Corey Lewandowski ahead of his Hannity interview. The [Washington Post](#) (5/3, Rucker, Dawsey, Costa, Parker), meanwhile, reports Giuliani "may have had a strategy" ahead of last night's Hannity appearance, but he "hatched it almost entirely in secret." The Post adds "the White House counsel had no idea. Neither did the White House chief of staff, nor the White House press secretary, nor the new White House lawyer overseeing its handling of the Russia investigation." They "watched, agog, as Giuliani...freestyled on live television," and "aides and advisers to the president...expressed a mixture of exasperation and horror." The Post adds "one White House official" texted "a reporter a string of emoji characters in response, including a tiny container of popcorn." A "second White House official...said of the president, 'His story is obviously not consistent anymore.'"

The [AP](#) (5/3, Lucey, Colvin) also reports the revelations "appeared to take many in the West Wing by surprise," and "in briefings and media appearances, White House aides have sought to avoid staking out a clear position on the matter, directing reporters to Trump's own comments." The [New York Post](#) (5/3, Fredericks) says White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders "was grilled about the contradictions coming from the West Wing, with reporters asking her repeatedly about numerous statements from her and from the commander-in-chief that later turn out to be false." [Politico](#) (5/3, Schwartz) quotes Sanders as saying, "We give the very best information that we have at the time." Adds Politico, "That was...Sanders' response when ABC reporter Jonathan Karl asked her during Thursday's press briefing how the American people could trust a president and White House that 'show what appears to be a blatant disregard for the truth.'" It was "a line she repeated again and again in her 17 minutes of taking questions from reporters."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/3, Decker) reports Sanders said "Trump did not know about a \$130,000 payoff to an adult film actress who claimed she'd had a sexual affair with him even as he paid tens of thousands of dollars to the New York attorney who made the payments," and [The Hill](#) (5/3, Fabian) that she "sought to explain why...Trump claimed he didn't know about a hush money payment to...Daniels," telling reporters, "This was information the president didn't know at the time, but eventually learned."

Rep. John Garamendi said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/3), "I know there are cases without congressional campaigns in which money was funneled into a campaign

surreptitiously, secretly. It is entirely possible that the President and Cohen had an agreement, a deal that money would be paid, the President would pay it back to effect the campaign. If one assumes that the payment to hush money was for campaign purposes and the President knew about that and had decided to funnel the money secretly through Cohen, not directly through Cohen but through a new LLC, created in Delaware to further hide the money, people have gone to jail for that. If the facts line up, yeah, it's a crime, and it is punishable by jail."

Rep. Eric Swalwell said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/3), "One, it shows me Donald Trump is not being straight with the American people. Two, that he's willing to act as a shadowy operator. I don't give a rip about what happened with Miss Daniels, what's more important to me are the real questions around his involvement with the Russians, whether it was personally, politically, or financially. And if he wasn't straight with the country about what happened with Miss Daniels, I think we can conclude that he's probably acted in a shadowy way, in an operative way, and payoffs with other individuals around what's happened with Russia. So he should sit down in Bob Mueller's chair, come straight with the American people, so we can move beyond this. "

Media Analyses: Giuliani Media Blitz Backfiring. A number of media analyses paint a highly unfavorable picture of Giuliani's performance as Trump's attorney. [Politico](#) (5/3, Nelson, Gerstein) reports Giuliani is "causing new migraines for the White House," and under the headline "Giuliani: The President's Attack Dog Who May Have Bitten Trump," the [New York Times](#) (5/3, Shear, Steinhauer) calls Giuliani "loose-lipped, intemperate, confrontational and supremely confident that he knows better than anyone else." The Times adds that "on Wednesday night," he "seemed reduced to America's grouchy dinner guest," and "found himself undermining his new client." The [Washington Post](#) (5/3, Zapotosky, Barrett, Leonnig, Lee) reports "Giuliani's media blitz...might have backfired, giving investigators new leads to chase and new evidence of potential crimes, legal analysts said." The [Washington Times](#) (5/3, Boyer) runs a similar story, titled "Rudy Giuliani's Media Blitz Provides Ammunition For Trump Foes."

Joe Scarborough writes in the [Washington Post](#) (5/3) that Giuliani has "joined Trump's team of misfit lawyers," and adds that "why America's Mayor would now allow himself to become Trump's chump is beyond me."

Judge Andrew Napolitano, appearing on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (5/3), said, "If Rudy wants the public to believe that Donald Trump reimbursed Michael Cohen \$130,000 and didn't know what it was for, didn't know that it was going to silence Stormy Daniels, that is unworthy of belief. It is hard to believe that of Donald Trump, a man who knows where every one of his nickels has gone. ... It's up to the American public whether to believe that somebody like Donald Trump would just pour money down a hole to Michael Cohen... without asking to whom the money was going and for what purpose – how would Michael Cohen know if Stormy Daniels needed to be silenced."

Appearing on [CNN's New Day](#) (5/3), legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin said, "How stupid do they think we are? They have been lying about this from day one. I am not clear there was any criminal violation here. ... I don't know if there was a criminal element to it even if it was campaign related – that is a very esoteric crime that is rarely prosecuted. But...everyone involved in this, starting with the President, has been lying about this from day one. It is just so extraordinary – and the absence of any kind of sheepishness about that, that to me is the real story. ... Until you see the canceled checks or however the money passed, I certainly wouldn't believe anything these people say."

Jonathan Turley, writing in [USA Today](#) (5/3), "There is now a growing chasm between Trump and Cohen. The obvious problem for Trump is that if Cohen gets lonely enough, he could find a new friend in Mueller." Turley adds that "after tweeting again this morning, the president made his way to a prayer breakfast. Hopefully, that is not the final option left to him by his legal team. Prayer can be redemptive but, in both life and litigation, 'God helps those who help themselves.' None of this is helpful."

NBC Issues Correction After Reporting Investigators "Wiretapped" Cohen Call To White House. Citing "two people with knowledge of the legal proceedings involving Cohen," [NBC News](#) (5/3) reported on its website yesterday that "federal investigators...wiretapped"

Cohen's "phone lines." NBC added that "it is not clear how long the wiretap has been authorized," but "was in place in the weeks leading up to the raids on" Cohen and "at least one phone call between a phone line associated with Cohen and the White House was intercepted." NBC goes on to report that "after the raid, members of Trump's legal team advised the president not to speak to Cohen," and "two sources close to" Giuliani "say he learned that days after the raid the president had made a call to Cohen, and told Trump never to call again out of concern the call was being recorded by prosecutors."

Sean Hannity said in his opening monologue on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (5/3), "Once again we learned that a major component of this report was, once again, 'fake news.' NBC was forced to issue a, quote, 'correction.'" The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/3, Kasperowicz) reports that NBC "issued a correction saying that his phones weren't tapped after all." According to [CNN](#) (5/3), "The correction was announced on MSNBC during 'Meet the Press Daily' by the story's lead reporter, Tom Winter," who "said US officials had told him that it 'was not a wiretap' but instead a 'pen register.'" Winter is quoted as saying, "In plain English, that means it was a log of phone calls that were made from specific phone line – from a specific phone line or specific phone lines." CNN says Winter "explained that a pen register meant authorities were 'not able to listen in in real-time or record his conversations.' Instead, they were only able to monitor incoming and outgoing calls."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/3, story 2, 0:45, Glor) also reported "two federal officials tell CBS News there are no wiretaps, there are no transcripts, there are no phone recordings of any of...Cohen's telephone conversations, including any he may have had with the President." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/3, story 2, 2:10, Phillips), meanwhile, said "it's unclear how long before the raids investigators started tracking Cohen's phone calls, but sources tell ABC News, Cohen and the President spoke just days after the raids, meaning, that phone call could be on investigators' radar." [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/3, lead story, 2:55, Welker) mentioned the matter briefly at the end of its report on the Cohen story last night, saying that "adding to the concerns NBC News learned federal investigators were keeping a log of...Cohen's phone calls and identified at least one call placed from a Cohen phone line to a White House line."

Under the headline "Giuliani Was Right: Cohen's Calls Weren't Tapped By Feds," the [New York Post](#) (5/3, Golding) reports "Giuliani cast doubt Thursday on a report that the feds wiretapped...Cohen – and he was right." Speaking to the [Daily Beast](#) (5/3, Woodruff), Giuliani said of the original NBC story, "Us lawyers have talked about it, we don't believe it's true. ... We think it's going to turn out to be untrue because it would be totally illegal. You can't wiretap a lawyer, you certainly can't wiretap his client who's not involved in the investigation." In an interview with [The Hill](#) (5/3, Stanage), Giuliani also "called for Attorney General Jeff Sessions to intervene in the...Cohen case and put the people behind the probe 'under investigation.'" Said Giuliani, "I am waiting for the Attorney General to step in, in his role as defender of justice, and put these people under investigation."

Daniels: Cohen Unqualified To Clean "My Horse's Manure." The [New York Post](#) (5/3, Moore) reports "Stormy Daniels blasted...Cohen as unqualified to clean up 'my horse's manure' and tussled with Twitter users on Thursday after...Giuliani dropped a bombshell about a \$130,000 payment she received weeks before the 2016 election." [Tweeted](#) Daniels, "I don't think Cohen is qualified to 'clean up' my horse's manure. Too soon? #basta #TeamStormy."

Comey Objects To Giuliani's FBI "Stormtroopers" Comment. The [New York Post](#) (5/3, Moore) reports "Giuliani and former FBI Director James Comey clashed on Thursday after the former mayor accused the FBI of behaving like 'stormtroopers' when they raided...Cohen last month." Comey said on [Twitter](#), "I know the New York FBI. There are no 'stormtroopers' there; just a group of people devoted to the rule of law and the truth. ... Our country would be better off if our leaders tried to be like them, rather than comparing them to Nazis."

Rep. Ruben Gallego said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/3), "I'd just like to kind of remind people of a Democratic president or had it come under Barack Obama's Administration the public would have been losing their mind. Payments to an adult film star, campaign finance violation, and personal attorney calls our, you know, FBI agents and our

federal agents in general basically Nazis. The fact that this is not even a big story tells you how dysfunctional this whole Administration is. And to what degree of chaos that this president's caused."

Appearing on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (5/3, Brzezinski), Sen. Richard Blumenthal also took issue with what he described as Giuliani's "denunciation of the FBI." Blumenthal said, "To call [FBI agents] 'Gestapo storm troopers' or whatever is very sad and shameful." Blumenthal added, "The denunciation of the FBI will come back to haunt Rudy Giuliani, as it will many of his cohorts in this enterprise, and I think it will come back to haunt my colleagues in Congress if they fail to stand up and speak up. History will judge them at this point because nothing less than the rule of law is at stake."

Giuliani Says Mueller Probe "Dead," Calls On Sessions To Bring It To An End.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/3, Wagner) reports that on Thursday, Rudy Giuliani "asserted that the original aim of the special counsel – to investigate possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia in the 2016 campaign – is now 'dead.'" In an appearance on [Fox Business](#) (5/3), Giuliani argued Attorney General Sessions "should bring the investigation to an end," saying, "Sessions should step in and close it and say enough is enough." In regards to a potential interview with Robert Mueller and his team, Giuliani said, "They're going to have to convince us they're going to be objective and they are not out to get us. ... They should be able to do this, if they have a case, in two or three hours." In an interview with [ABC News](#) (5/3, Santucci), Giuliani said he "is already anticipating one possible battle – a subpoena for...Trump to testify." Said Giuliani, "I think it's 50/50. ... But I got to prepare for that 50 percent."

Sean Hannity said in his opening monologue on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (5/3), "We had a interview with Rudy Giuliani and reports insight in the legal team. And now Rudy Giuliani called out Robert Mueller's witch hunt." After showing clips from the interview, Hannity added, "All of those crucial developments that you just watched and we aired live on this program, were largely ignored by the abusive, biased news media."

[USA Today](#) (5/3) editorializes that "Mueller wants to ask the president about possible collusion between the Trump campaign and the Russian government in the 2016 presidential election," and the Stormy Daniels "disclosure exposes Trump's willingness to lie publicly about pending legal matters. (Presumably, he is coming clean now because he knows that information seized by authorities from attorney Michael Cohen will reveal the Daniels-related reimbursements.) That only reinforces the urgent need to have him testify under oath in the Russia matter." USA Today adds that "if Trump declines to appear voluntarily, he should be subpoenaed. Nothing brings out the truth like testifying under oath before a criminal grand jury." Alan Dershowitz, also in [USA Today](#) (5/3), writes that in his "experience, subjects of criminal investigations rarely help themselves by speaking to prosecutors or testifying before a grand jury. Far more often, they hurt themselves by falling into a perjury trap carefully set by prosecutors. ... All in all, I think the president is probably better off litigating than testifying, though he might end up doing both."

Judge Andrew Napolitano, appearing on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (5/3), said, "I don't know as much about this as Rudy does, obviously, and I have great respect for him," but "I don't think it's wise to be negotiating in public or on television. It sometimes insults the other side. You want to cut a deal with Bob Mueller." Napolitano added, "You think that Jim Comey is a liar? A lot of people think Jim Comey is a liar," but "that's the kind of argument you make to your adversary in private and you demonstrate why you think that is. You don't necessarily go on national television and say it."

Latest Addition To Mueller Team Also A Registered Democrat, Clinton Contributor. The [Daily Caller](#) (5/3, Ross) reports "the latest addition to...Mueller's team of prosecutors contributed to Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign." Uzo Asonye, "an assistant US Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, is joining Mueller's stable of prosecutors to work as local counsel on the case against Paul Manafort." He is a registered Democrat who "donated \$900 to Clinton's presidential campaign," and "has not donated to any other national political campaigns since then." The DC adds "Asonye is just the latest Democrat to join Mueller's team," where "none" of the "prosecutors, which number nearly 20 in all, are

registered Republicans. As of February, 13 Mueller lawyers were registered Democrats," and "at least 12...have donated to Democratic political candidates." The DC also notes "Andrew Weissmann, a Justice Department lawyer handling the Manafort case for Mueller's team, reportedly attended Hillary Clinton's election night party," and "has donated \$6,600 to the Democratic National Committee and the Clinton and Obama campaigns."

NYTimes Analysis: Giuliani Contradicted Trump On Comey Firing. The [New York Times](#) (5/3, Schmidt) reports that in his Hannity interview, Giuliani "contradicted Mr. Trump's rationale for firing" FBI Director James Comey, "saying he was dismissed because he would not say publicly what he had told the president privately: that Mr. Trump was not under scrutiny in the Russia investigation at the time." Said Giuliani, "He fired Comey because Comey would not, among other things, say that he wasn't a target of the investigation. ... He's entitled to that." The Times adds that "Giuliani's comments about Mr. Comey were overshadowed by his disclosure that Mr. Trump reimbursed" his personal attorney Michael Cohen on an unrelated matter, but his "assertion contradicted the myriad explanations that the president and his aides have given for the firing, and was the first public acknowledgment by a Trump adviser for what Mr. Comey has maintained: that he was fired for his handling of the Russia investigation."

Law Professor Worked For FBI For 19 Months As He Defended Comey In The Media. [Fox News](#) (5/3, Herridge) reported this afternoon that Columbia law professor Daniel Richman, who Comey "used as an intermediary to help leak details of sensitive memos, worked as an FBI 'special government employee' for at least 19 months – during which time he repeatedly defended the FBI director in media interviews amid the Hillary Clinton email probe." According to Fox, "Sources familiar with Richman's FBI status said he was assigned to 'special projects' by Comey, and had a security clearance as well as badge access to the building."

Mueller Requests 70 Blank Subpoenas. The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/3, Cohen) reports "Mueller on Thursday filed a request for 70 blank subpoenas in the Eastern District of Virginia, where...Manafort lives." The Examiner adds "the two-page filing reveals little, but says that that each subpoena recipient must appear in the Alexandria, Va., courthouse on July 10 to testify in the case."

Manafort Attorney: Mueller Has Disclosed It Has No Evidence Manafort Communicated With Russia. The [Washington Times](#) (5/3, Scarborough) reports "a defense attorney in a court filing says...Mueller has disclosed he has no evidence that...Manafort communicated with Russian government officials." The Times adds that "if the attorney is accurate, it delivers another credibility blow to the Democratic Party-financed dossier, which accuses Mr. Manafort of orchestrating Trump-Russia collusion." Attorney Kevin Downing "filed the brief April 30 in the special counsel's money-laundering case against his client. Those charges are confined to millions of dollars he earned as a political consultant for Ukrainian politicians."

Caputo: Mueller Appears To Be "Completely Focused On Collusion With Russia." [ABC's Good Morning America](#) (5/3, Roberts) reported on former Trump adviser Michael Caputo's description of being interviewed by Special Counsel Robert Mueller's team. Pierre Thomas reported that Caputo "said the agents knew so much about his life, it scared him." Caputo: "They know everything. They know more about what I did in 2016 than I do. They're talking about the timing of some things that happened at the campaign and at the convention. I think they're completely focused on collusion with Russia. ... I believe that they think they're on to something. What that is, I don't know, but they're not messing around." Thomas went on to report that Caputo "says they peppered him with questions about his friend, the President's personal attorney Michael Cohen, Paul Manafort who has been indicted on money laundering charges, and Roger Stone." However, Caputo said, "It was remarkable to me that the President wasn't brought up. Nobody with the last name Trump came up at all."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/3, Correll) reports that Caputo also told [Fox News](#) host Martha MacCallum that Mueller "has more knowledge about the Trump campaign than any staff member of the campaign, and has a plethora of documentation." Said Caputo, "They have all the documents that were produced. ... They've got further documentation from people who worked outside the campaign – their emails, their texts. They have the entire

campaign's texts." Caputo added that "it doesn't sound like' investigators have uncovered proof the Trump campaign colluded with the Kremlin during the 2016 election."

DeSantis Blasts Rosenstein For Failing To Hand Over Material On Clinton Investigation To Congress. Appearing on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (5/3, Kilmeade), Rep. Ron DeSantis claimed that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein is "showing contempt for Congress and our constitutional oversight responsibility. ... We have been going for these documents for months and months and months. And what do they do? They stonewall, stonewall, trickle some out. We say, 'well, maybe we'll do contempt,' and they trickle some more out." DeSantis added, "If you remember the Nunes memo, people like Rod were saying we can't do a Nunes memo because that will devastate American national security. It had nothing to do with that. ... We have a right to this information. ... We want everything from the end of the Hillary case through Peter Strzok – McCabe, Comey, the whole lot of them."

Asked about House Republicans sharing information they received from the Department of Justice regarding the Russia probe with the White House, Rep. Eric Swalwell said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/3), "Now you see the Republicans in Congress who are essentially acting as Mr. Trump's fixers in Congress by trying to obstruct Mr. Rosenstein's information by asking for information about an ongoing investigation. Anderson, you know it is long standing protocol in our country, you do not tell anyone about the details about an ongoing investigation because you don't want to jeopardize it." He added, "I think it's appropriate that only the investigators know about the evidence in the case. ... When [suspects] know the information, they destroy evidence or change their stories." He also said, "I do think the effort is to get information in the hands of the President and his team. Or to just do all they kind to give Donald Trump the cover to fire Rob Rosenstein."

WPost: President With Respect For Rule Of Law Would Want Ongoing Investigation Details Kept Secret. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/3) writes on "what a more presidential president might say" if they had "respect for the rule of law": that sensitive details of ongoing Justice Department investigations "must be kept secret, even from – especially from – political leaders." The Post adds that such a president would also say, "This principle of independent, apolitical law enforcement is what distinguishes us from a banana republic, where police powers are wielded to benefit or punish one party or another."

Hayden Says 2015 Campaign Convinced Russia To Step Up Online Disinformation Push. [USA Today](#) (5/3, Stanglin) reports that ex-CIA director Michael Hayden said on MSNBC's Morning Joe on Wednesday that Russia "decided to go all-out in attacking the US political system after successfully using bots and disinformation to convince many Texans in 2015 that a US military exercise there was a cover for President Obama's plan to round up political dissidents." Hayden "said the operation linked Russian bots and the American alt-right media to spread disinformation through social media."

Trump, Giuliani Hint At Imminent Release Of US Prisoners From North Korea.

Media reports Thursday continued to cast President Trump and his attorney, Rudy Giuliani, as indicating that three American prisoners held in North Korea will soon be released. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/3, story 6, 2:00, Muir), for example, said Trump and Giuliani are "raising hopes" that the hostages will be released. Giuliani on Thursday morning said, "We got Kim Jong-Un impressed enough to be releasing three prisoners today," while Trump [tweeted](#) Wednesday evening, "The past administration has long been asking for three hostages to be released from a North Korean labor camp, but to no avail. Stay tuned." ABC (Raddatz) added that the "State Department would not confirm anything about the release of the prisoners, but a local activist is reporting that the men have been moved from a labor camp to a medical facility."

NBC Nightly News (5/3, story 9, 2:00, Holt) reported that the "White House [is] not confirming the Americans are being let go, but saying their release would be a sign of goodwill." Regardless, Giuliani's apparent "preview [of] an imminent development" and Trump's "tantalizing hint" about the three prisoners was "promising news for Sol Kim, whose father Tony Kim has been missing in North Korea for a year."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/3), Paula Hancocks reported from the Korean Peninsula

where "an official whose familiar with the ongoing negotiations is saying the release of the three is imminent. There's no more specific timing, but that it is imminent." Hancocks added that the release "has been months in the making. We understand from this official that" North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho "went to Sweden in March...and...proposed releasing these three detainees, although the US does not want it linked to denuclearization."

While the network reports on the prisoners did not mention Secretary of State Pompeo, Brian Todd reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/3) that "by all indications," Pompeo "played a major role" in the potential release of the prisoners during his secret meeting with Kim Jong-Un at the beginning of April when he was still CIA director. A "US official says [Pompeo] raised that issue of the detained Americans then. The people that really know about the negotiations say they have no doubt Pompeo's trip got this moving. It might have been the decisive factor in the release, if it indeed happens soon." Noting that the news about the hostages comes ahead of a possible sit-down between Trump and Kim Jong-Un, [Fox News' Special Report](#) (5/3) reported that Pompeo is "now leading preparations" for that summit, while Vice President Pence has canceled a Latin America trip "to focus on the meeting."

Garamendi: Pompeo Should Be Announcing Prisoners' Release, Not Giuliani. Rep. John Garamendi said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/3) that it was "inappropriate" for Giuliani to be discussing the prisoners, adding, "this is the new Secretary of State's territory. Certainly if we had heard that from Secretary Pompeo, I think we would all be elated...and hopefully Secretary Pompeo will carry through on what was his initial effort...not only with regard to the three Americans but also setting up the eventual summit between" Trump and Kim.

Hannity: Media Ignoring "Hopeful News" On North Korea. Sean Hannity said in his opening monologue on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (5/3), "We have actual news of three Americans long held hostage with Kim Jong-un, Little Rocket Man. President Trump is working on their release and hinting of hopeful news on Twitter. ... And your major media is yawning and Kim Jong-un is making concessions and talking about denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and historic unemployment and the media yawns and Americans receiving unemployment is lowest since 1973, and the media could care less. ... Do you need more proof that the media in this country doesn't care about the truth and doing their job and you? They care about their liberal left-wing agenda. And like a huge massive echo chamber with overpaid spoiled brat anchors that do not do their job."

[Washington Post](#) (5/3) columnist David Ignatius writes that President Trump "deserves credit for seizing the moment for negotiations with North Korea. But some little-noticed documents reveal that Kim Jong Un has been planning his denuclearization offer and opening to the United States for the past five years." According to Ignatius, "it appears that Kim has been the main driver...relentlessly pursu[ing] a dual strategy: to obtain a usable nuclear weapon, and then pivot toward dialogue and modernization of his economy." He says that while "we'll never know" if Kim would "have moved toward negotiations regardless of who was president," there is "no denying that Trump's confrontational approach created an opportunity for crisis diplomacy – and that he was bold enough to embrace Kim's offer of direct talks."

Trump Orders Pentagon To Consider Reduction Of Forces In South Korea. The [New York Times](#) (5/3, Landler) reports President Trump has "ordered the Pentagon to prepare options for drawing down American troops in South Korea, just weeks before he holds a landmark meeting with North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-un, according to several people briefed on the deliberations." Officials said reduced troop levels are "not intended to be a bargaining chip in Mr. Trump's talks with Mr. Kim," but they "acknowledged that a peace treaty between the two Koreas could diminish the need for the 28,500 soldiers currently stationed on the peninsula." Officials declined to say whether Trump was seeking options for "a full or partial reduction of troops, though a full withdrawal was unlikely."

WPost Analysis: Moon Looking For Ways To Help North's Economy Without Violating Sanctions. The [Washington Post](#) (5/3, Fifield) reports that the "ink on the inter-Korean agreement is barely dry and the definition of 'complete denuclearization' is far from clear, but there is already plenty of talk in Seoul about how to help North Korea's economic

development." According to the Post, Moon has ordered officials "to start figuring out what economic engagement projects can be undertaken without contravening existing sanctions and to look at what should be delayed until after Kim and Trump meet." The move, however, is "already causing heartburn among hard-liners in Washington who view the South Korean president as too willing to take Kim at his word."

Kim Tells Chinese FM He Is Committed To Denuclearization. Citing China's foreign ministry, [Reuters](#) (5/3, Brice) reports that on Thursday, Kim Jong Un "told the Chinese government's top diplomat, State Councilor Wang Yi...that he is committed to denuclearization. ... 'Kim Jong Un said achieving the denuclearization of the peninsula is the firm position of the North Korean side,' China's foreign ministry said after Wang met Kim in Pyongyang." The [AP](#) (5/3) reports Wang "congratulated...Kim...on his moves to reduce tensions with South Korea, China said."

South Korean National Security Adviser In US To Meet Bolton. [Reuters](#) (5/3) reports South Korean National Security Adviser Chung Eui-Yong is in Washington to meet with National Security Adviser Bolton ahead of the expected summit between Trump and Kim. A South Korean presidential official told reporters Friday that the National Security Council "asked Chung...to fly to the United States to discuss matters related to the summit." That official, who declined to be identified, added that the US "had asked that the visit be kept quiet due to the issues to be addressed at meetings there." A "senior Administration official" confirmed Chung's visit and his meeting with Bolton.

Messer: Trump Deserves Nobel Peace Prize. Appearing on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (5/3, Doocy), Rep. Luke Messer (R-IN), who is among those who have formally nominated President Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize, said, "Events on the Korean Peninsula...would have been unimaginable just a few weeks ago. Frankly, the response from many in the media has been muted. And I think President Trump is showing that peace through strength is working, and the only reason that the evil dictator from North Korea is coming to the table is because this President has stared him down. And as peace comes to the Korean Peninsula, do I believe President Trump deserves the Nobel Peace Prize."

Rasmussen: Trump Must Avoid "Usual Bluster" With North Korea. Former NCTC Director Nicholas J. Rasmussen writes in the [Washington Post](#) (5/3) that the Administration "finds itself with a genuine opportunity to produce a positive outcome" with North Korea, but "taking advantage of that opportunity will require patience and discipline – traits typically not associated with Trump administration foreign policy – and will also require the president to be willing to show increased range and flexibility in how he employs the various tools in his diplomatic toolbox."

White House Scales Back Plans To Recoup Already-Approved Federal Spending.

Citing "two GOP congressional aides," [Bloomberg News](#) (5/3, Fitzpatrick, Wasson) reports that the White House is "scaling back its plan to seek cuts from already-passed spending bills in the face of resistance from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and spending panel Republicans." Bloomberg says OMB Director Mulvaney "plans to ask Congress on Monday to cancel \$11 billion in unspent money from prior years, a much lower figure than the \$63 billion request originally floated to Congress last month." Bloomberg adds that "the new request won't touch the \$1.3 trillion fiscal 2018 spending bill Trump reluctantly signed in March."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"What Keeps American Troops In the Yemen War?" The [New York Times](#) (5/3) editorializes that the Pentagon and the Administration "apparently have misled Americans about growing military involvement in a war in Yemen that we should have nothing to do with." The Times argues that "such significant military decisions require public debate to force presidents and their generals to justify their decisions and be held accountable for the consequences." It goes on to call on Congress to cut off military aid to Saudi Arabia and vote "to bar the use of American troops against the Houthis in Yemen."

"When The Republicans Are Honest About Their Policies." In an editorial headlined "When Republicans Are Honest About Their Policies," the [New York Times](#) (5/3) highlights Sen. Marco Rubio's recent comment that there is "no evidence whatsoever" that in the wake of the 2017 tax cut, business' savings have "been massively poured back into the American worker." The Times also highlights ex-HHS Secretary Tom Price's admission that "Congress's decision to eliminate the health insurance mandate that 'drives up the cost' of insurance." The Times writes, "With their recent comments, Mr. Rubio and Mr. Price unwittingly highlighted the yawning gap between what Republicans say they want to achieve and what their proposals actually do."

"Should The European Sanction Illegally." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (5/3) writes that new European Union members in Central Europe "blatantly flouting" Western democratic values is "a matter of obvious irritation and concern to older members." The Times adds it is "tempting" to embrace a proposed plan to linking EU aid to "an independent judiciary as a prerequisite for sound financial management," but this is "not a very good idea," as "financial sanctions have a poor track record in altering regime behavior." Such a move "would inevitably reinforce the sense among many in the former Soviet bloc countries of being second-class citizens" and strengthen the current regimes' rules. The Times argues the EU needs to persuade "citizens of the new members that their rights, dignity and status as full-fledged fellow Europeans are being trampled when populist demagogues curtail their freedoms or the rule of law."

Washington Post.

"A Defense Of The Rule Of Law." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/3) writes on "what a more presidential president might say" if they had "respect for the rule of law": that sensitive details of ongoing Justice Department investigations "must be kept secret, even from – especially from – political leaders." The Post adds that such a president would also say, "This principle of independent, apolitical law enforcement is what distinguishes us from a banana republic, where police powers are wielded to benefit or punish one party or another."

"How Would We Answer Today?" In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/3) writes that the a new special exhibition at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, "Americans and the Holocaust," is "one of the most important since the museum opened," raising "disturbing and complex questions about the years leading up to the" Holocaust and with answers that "resonate today." The exhibit makes clear that Americans were aware of the Nazi persecution of the Jews but did not allow more to emigrate to the country. While now "we have vastly improved tools to discover violence against a whole people," the Post concludes, "our response mechanism has not improved along with our technology."

"What's Wrong With The FAA Bill." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/3, Board) writes that it is "depressing" that the generally "welcome" bill reauthorizing the Federal Aviation Administration does not contain "a plan for fundamental reform of the air traffic control system." Shifting air traffic control from the FAA to a government-owned air traffic control corporation supported by user fees and governed by stakeholders would allow "much-needed technological modernization" and "let the FAA focus exclusively on its safety regulation mission." The Post attributes the lack of such a plan to the actions of "the corporate-jet and private-plane lobbies," concluding, "Score one for the swamp."

Wall Street Journal.

"The Nafta Ultimatum Strategy." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/3) criticizes USTR Lighthizer's NAFTA negotiations, noting that he pushed back talks despite upcoming elections in the US and Mexico making ratifying the amended agreement more challenging. The Journal adds that the problem in the talks is that the US demands an end to multilateral arbitration panels, a sunset provision, and demands for higher wages for auto workers. The Journal argues such conditions would cause capital flight, hurting workers. The Journal concludes that Lighthizer plans to hand Congress an ultimatum to approve the changes, lest President Trump allow NAFTA to expire. The Journal warns that while Lighthizer predicts Democrats will help the deal pass Congress, the Journal predicts they will allow NAFTA to

end and then blame Trump and Republicans for the ensuing economic damage.

“Governments Steal Emergency Money.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/3) writes Democrats are using the 911 fees collected by states and towns “for purposes other than safety,” condemning this as income redistribution. The Journal suggests such practices cause Americans to not trust progressives on healthcare and education and calls for political candidates to challenge incumbents on the practice.

“The Stormy Daniels Damage.” In an editorial this morning, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/3) disagrees with that line of reasoning but still takes Trump and Giuliani to task, arguing that while their comments may well lessen Cohen’s legal troubles, they inflicted serious political damage on the President by undermining his credibility.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Laser From Chinese Base Aimed At US Military In Africa’s Skies](#)

[Trump Gambit Stuns Staff](#)

[How Morgan Stanley Got Its Mojo Back](#)

[Lower Tax Bills Fuel Best Earnings Quarter Since 2011](#)

New York Times:

[Giuliani May Have Exposed Trump To New Legal And Political Perils](#)

[New Revelations Suggest A President Losing Control Of His Narrative](#)

[Trump Orders Pentagon To Consider Reducing US Forces In South Korea](#)

[Army Special Forces Secretly Help Saudis Combat Threat From Yemen Rebels](#)

[Tariff Impact Colors A Key House Race In Boeing Country](#)

[De Blasio Moves To Bring Safe Injection Sites To New York City](#)

Washington Post:

[Again, Trump Is Caught In A Lie. Will It Change Anything?](#)

[Giuliani Story Of Payoff May Fuel Prosecutors’ Case](#)

[Surprise Legal Strategy Stuns White House Officials](#)

[Influential Outsiders Played A Key Role In Pruitt’s Travel](#)

[Across US, Republicans’ Efforts To Arm Teachers Stall](#)

[CBS Managers Were Told About Rose](#)

Financial Times:

[KKR Restructures To Make Most Of Trump Tax Boost](#)

[Trump Says He Reimbursed Lawyer For Porn Star “Hush Money”](#)

[Richard Branson Moves Into Private Equity World](#)

Washington Times:

[Rudy Giuliani’s Media Blitz Provides Ammunition For Trump Foes](#)

[Illegal Immigration Surges 230 Percent In April On Southwest Border](#)

[NRA Members Grow Impatient As GOP Fails To Deliver](#)

[National Day Of Prayer Seeks To Unify US, But Some Say It Sows Discord And Division](#)

[Senate Critics Use Gina Haspel’s “Black Site” Work In Attempt To Defeat Her CIA Nomination](#)

[Cracks In The FARC Peace Deal: Violence, Cocaine Production Surge In Colombia](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Trump Attorney-Adult Film Star; FBI Cohen Wiretap; Miami Police Violence; Severe Weather; Georgia-Military Plane Crash; North Korea-US Prisoners; Florida Child Kidnapping Trial; Charlie Rose-Sexual Allegations; House Chaplain Reinstated; Connecticut Standoff Explosion; Parking Deck Collapse; Twitter Password Warning; Organ Donor Gift.

CBS: Trump Attorney-Adult Film Star; FBI Cohen Wiretap; FBI Cohen Wiretap-Expert Comment; Nashville Shopping Mall Shooting; Georgia-Military Plane Crash; McCain Memoir-Trump Comment; Charlie Rose-Sexual Allegations; Eye Cancer Connection; California Serial Killer Investigation; Connecticut Standoff Explosion; House Chaplain Reinstated; Programming Note; Thrill Seekers.

NBC: Trump Attorney-Adult Film Star; House Chaplain Reinstated; Severe Weather; Georgia-Military Plane Crash; NFL Cheerleaders Scandal; Charlie Rose-Sexual Allegations; Bill Cosby Trial; Twitter Password Warning; North Korea-US Prisoners; Fallen US Soldier Body Returned; NASA Event Racial Attacks; Ground Beef Recall; Small Plane Crash; Car Stuck Mid-Air; Auto Mechanic Education.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump Attorney-Adult Film Star – 9 minutes, 10 seconds

Charlie Rose-Sexual Allegations – 5 minutes, 15 seconds

Georgia-Military Plane Crash – 4 minutes, 30 seconds

House Chaplain Reinstated – 2 minutes, 50 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Trump Attorney-Adult Film Star; Russia Probe-Trump; North Korea-US Prisoners.

CBS: Trump Attorney-Adult Film Star; Missouri Governor Scandal; VW Diesel Gate-Indictment; Charlie Rose-Sexual Allegations.

FOX: FBI Cohen Wiretap; Trump Attorney-Adult Film Star; Missouri Governor Scandal.

NPR: Trump Attorney-Adult Film Star; House Chaplain Reinstated; Hawaii Volcano; US-China Trade Relations.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Addresses NRA Annual Meetings – National Rifle Association Annual Meetings and Exhibits.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Addresses NRA Institute for Legislative Action – National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action Leadership Forum.

US Senate: On recess until 7 May.

US House: 12:30 PM HASC background briefing – House Armed Services Committee Majority Staff will host a background briefing on the Chairman's Mark and give press an opportunity to learn more about the provisions in the bill before the markup. The background briefing is off-camera and open to media with congressional credentials only. RSVP to nick.mikula@mail.house.gov. Location: 2216 Rayburn House Office Building
On recess until 7 May.

Other: 9:15 AM 2018 Atlantic Council-East Asia Foundation Strategic Dialogue – 2018 Atlantic Council-East Asia Foundation Strategic Dialogue, titled 'Scaling the Summits: The Future of a Denuclearized Korean Peninsula', with policymakers and U.S. experts sharing their views on the inter-Korean dialogue and what it might signify for the U.S.-North Korea summit just on the horizon. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Ed Markey, South Korean President's Special Adviser for Unification, Foreign, and National Security Affairs Dr Moon Chung-in, South Korean lawmakers Park Beom-kye and Kim Jong-dae, Atlantic Council Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security Director Barry Pavel, and CSIS International Security Program Senior Adviser and Project on Nuclear Issues Director Rebecca Hersman
Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th St NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/> <https://twitter.com/ACScowcroft> #ACAsia

American Foreign Service Association Memorial Plaque Ceremony – American Foreign Service Association annual Memorial Plaque Ceremony, paying tribute to those who have lost their lives while serving overseas in the Foreign Service in the line of duty, or under heroic or other inspirational circumstances. Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan and outgoing Under Secretary for Political Affairs Thomas Shannon deliver remarks Location:

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "We have a new bombshell in the Stormy Daniels hush investigation thanks to former New York Mayor and current Donald Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani. This is really something. You remember how last month, a reporter on Air Force One asked Trump if he knew about the \$130,000 payment his lawyer, Michael Cohen, made to Stormy Daniels to keep her quiet about the affair they didn't have, and he said he didn't know about it? Well, now he did know about it."

Jimmy Kimmel: "And remember how Michael Cohen said he used his own money to make that payment, was never reimbursed by Donald Trump? Well, now he was reimbursed by Donald Trump."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Rudy Giuliani took to the warm confines of Fox News last night to contradict just about every claim his client has made on this subject."

Jimmy Kimmel: "The President repaid Michael Cohen for the hush money he didn't know anything about. Which almost makes you think maybe he did know something about it. And he funneled it, which doesn't sound suspicious. That's how I pay my porn stars too, through a funnel."

Jimmy Kimmel: "If I bothered the President every time I made a six-figure payment to a porn star, he wouldn't be able to watch Fox News 11 hours a day."

Jimmy Kimmel: "By the end of the week, Rudy Giuliani is going to implicate Trump in the Lincoln assassination."

Stephen Colbert: "What he's trying to ship here is the idea that Cohen gets \$35,000 a month for Trump and out of that he deducts all the hush money he pays. All the porn stars you want to silence for one low monthly fee. Cohen calls the service Netchix."

Stephen Colbert: "Trump is claiming that he paid Cohen a monthly fee to hush up all the affairs he wasn't having. So anyone can just say they had an affair with Trump and leave with \$130-grand? In that case, I had sex with Donald Trump."

Stephen Colbert: "Sir, firing the guy because he won't announce you're not the target of the investigation is illegal. That's Obstruction of Justice 101, which I believe was a class they offered at Trump University."

James Corden: "Last night on Fox News, President Trump's new legal adviser, Rudy Giuliani, admitted that Trump repaid his personal lawyer for the hush money he paid to Daniels, even though Trump has repeatedly claimed to know nothing about it. Now, forget all the lying. The most shocking part of this story is that Donald Trump actually repaid someone."

James Corden: "If you remember, when Giuliani joined the legal team, he said that he'll wrap up this case in two weeks. Now, I didn't realize he meant 'I'm going to go on TV and prove that Trump was guilty.'"

James Corden: "Here's how bad it is: This morning, Trump gave Giuliani \$130,000 to shut the hell up."

James Corden: "Giuliani said Trump 'knew the general arrangement,' but not the 'specifics.'"

You know, kind of how Trump understands foreign policy and domestic policy... And the Constitution and the English language."

Trevor Noah: "The big news of the day, the Stormy Daniels affair. When we last left the story, the official Trump version was that Michael Cohen, without Trump knowing, paid Daniels \$130,000 to keep quiet about an affair that allegedly never happened. Cohen said it, Sarah Sanders said it, and Trump himself said it. Two weeks ago, Trump hired his good friend Rudy Giuliani to join his ever-changing legal people. ... Rudy! Rudy! What are you doing?! You're now saying President Trump did pay Stormy Daniels? This is big news! It's so big, it's so big that you probably didn't even hear that Kanye West said he wants to design new robes for the KKK."

Trevor Noah: "Imagine a PR crisis so bad that your best move is to admit you paid hush money to a porn star. So just so we're all on the same page, everyone pretended Trump had nothing to do with this payment, but now that the FBI raided Michael Cohen's office, they're afraid the truth is about to come out, so they want to get ahead of it first."

Trevor Noah: "The worst part of this whole story is if Trump had just paid Stormy Daniels and didn't try and hide it, the story would have just been Donald Trump had an affair. Let's be honest, no one would have cared. Even Melania would have been like, 'Better her than me.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "It was 90 degrees here at New York today. People were sweating like President Trump watching Rudy Giuliani on Hannity."

Jimmy Fallon: "Last night, Rudy Giuliani went on Fox News and revealed that Trump knew about and paid for Stormy Daniels' hush money. Even Kanye was like, 'You should probably stop talking.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Giuliani said that Trump knew about and paid for Stormy Daniels' hush money. Which explains Trump's newest idea: paying Rudy Giuliani \$130,000 in hush money."

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that when John Kelly became Trump's chief of staff, the Secret Service Director emailed him saying, 'Congratulations, I think.' This is the same thing everyone said to Melania at her bridal shower."

Seth Meyers: "Rudy Giuliani was interviewed last night by Fox News host Sean Hannity. And I don't want to say Giuliani screwed Trump, but Michael Cohen gave him \$130,000."

Seth Meyers: "During his interview last night, Rudy Giuliani said if Special Counsel Robert Mueller's team goes after Ivanka Trump, the whole country will turn on Mueller. Yeah, 'Can we just drop the Ivanka stuff?' said Nordstrom."

Seth Meyers: "Rudy Giuliani also said last night that the list of questions Special Counsel Robert Mueller wants to ask President Trump are designed to trap him in some way. Though you don't have to work that hard to catch Trump in a lie. You really only need a DVR."

Seth Meyers: "A New York state Supreme Court judge ruled today that a Trump-branded building in the city has the right to remove the President's name and replace it with something less embarrassing."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump's top-shelf legal team is at it again. His lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, went on TV last night and defended him by telling everyone he lied about paying hush money to a porn star."

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump's former doctor is describing himself as frightened and

sad. Experts say that is a common reaction to touching Donald Trump's prostate."

Conan O'Brien: "White House insiders say that President Trump feels comfortable with Rudy Giuliani because they are from the same generation. Giuliani says, 'We share common values – things like hard work, patriotism, and ditching your first two wives.'"

Jordan Klepper: "Trump has hired personal lawyer, America's mayor, Rudy Giuliani. Who, in spite of what I have speculated in the past, is not an enchanted jack-o-lantern."

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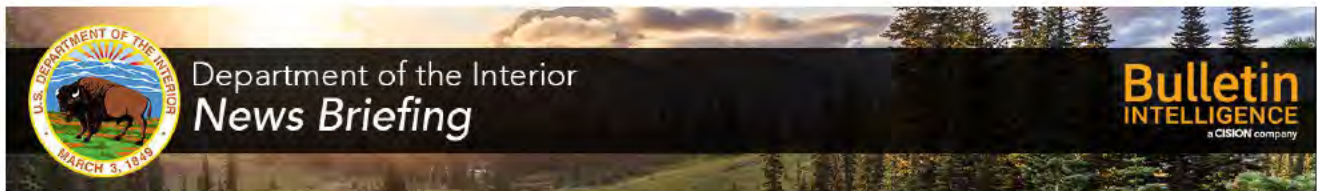
Conversation Contents

[EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, April 27, 2018

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Fri Apr 27 2018 04:00:04 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, April 27, 2018

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DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018 6:00 AM EDT

Today's Table Of Contents

DOI In The News

- Associated Press: Offshore Revenue-Sharing: \$188M To 4 States, Coast Counties.
- GrayDC: Secretary Zinke Is Celebrating National Park Week.
- KDRV-TV Medford (OR): Lawmakers Lobby Secretary Zinke For Protection Of Chetco River.
- Times of San Diego: House Passes Rep. Davis Amendment Protecting Emergency Crews From Drones.
- Associated Press: Militia Leader Pleads Guilty In Attempted Cabin Explosion.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Bureau Of Indian Affairs Director Resigns After Just 6 Months On The Job.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Associated Press: Bureau Of Land Management Approves Mine Project Near Cody.
- Carlsbad (NM) Current-Argus: BLM Proposes Lease Sale Of Land Near Carlsbad Caverns.
- Associated Press: Environmentalists Sue Over Western Colorado Oil-Gas Drilling.
- Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal: Nevada Senator Says Drilling Would Threaten 'Pristine' Ruby Mountains.
- Associated Press: Management Plans Advance For Central Idaho Wilderness Areas.
- Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: 'Every Kid In A Park' Comes To Battle Mountain.
- KTVZ-TV Bend (OR): 'Kids Curate' Exhibit Set To Open At High Desert Museum.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- U.S.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Denver Post: Evergreen Man Guilty Of Shooting Endangered African Elephant In Zimbabwe.

National Park Service

- Cronkite News: Grand Canyon Works To Add Diverse Visitors To National Park.
- Associated Press: University Fined For Violating Indian Remains Law.
- Associated Press: After Years Of Talks, Former Girl Scout Camp Protected.
- Pensacola (FL) News Journal: National Park Service, Escambia County In Talks To Preserve Pensacola Beach.
- Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle: Yellowstone, Tribes Moving Forward On Quarantine.
- Mount Desert (ME) Islander: Acadia Plan Calls For Ocean Drive, Cadillac Reservations.
- Pensacola (FL) News Journal: Pensacola Bay Ferry Service Start Delayed By National Park Service.
- Monroe (MI) Evening News: River Raisin Battlefield Funding Increases, Staff Added.
- San Francisco Chronicle: Rogue Aquatic Park Yachtsman Convicted Of Anchoring Without A Permit.
- Powell (WY) Tribune: Bighorn Canyon Admission Will Be Free This Year.
- Marin (CA) Independent Journal: Muir Woods Fees To Jump 50 Percent Next Year.
- Associated Press: Community Building In Robinson Added To National Register.

Insular And International Affairs

- U.S. Department Of Labor Continues Hurricane Recovery-Related Outreach To U.S.V.I. On Wage Enforcement.

US Geological Survey

- Associated Press: Small Earthquakes Shake Residents In Northern Oklahoma.

Opinion Pieces

- We Love Our National Parks So Much They're In Disrepair And Both Parties Agree On A Fix.
- Inviting Disaster: Ignoring The Lessons Learned From Deepwater Horizon.
- Your Turn: Refinery Must Be Challenged To Protect Olympic National Park.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- ABC: Media Analyses: Trump Distances Himself From Cohen, Boosts Prosecutors In Fox Interview.
- Washington Post: Trump Threatens To Get More Involved In DOJ Decision-Making.
- Washington Post: Pompeo Leaves For Europe Immediately After Being Sworn In As Secretary State.
- Wall Street Journal: Pruitt Dismisses Allegations As Attacks From Critics Of Trump's Policies.
- Washington Times: Jackson Withdraws Nomination, Calls Allegations Against Him "Completely False And Fabricated."
- New York Times: Fed Beginning To Show Concern About Economy Overheating.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "Out Of The City And Into Fresh Air."
 - "A Reckoning For Cosby – Now For Others?"
 - "Mr. Macron Comes To Washington."
 - "El Salvador's Chance To Save Women's Lives."
- Washington Post.
 - "Press Freedom Is In Retreat Around The World – Including Here."
 - "Why Trump's Travel Ban Should Lose At The Supreme Court."
 - "Our Veterans Require Great Care. Trump Hasn't Shown Any."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "Europe, Trump And The Iran Deal."
 - "Victory For The Bitkovs."

- "Road Testing The 2019 Resistance."

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

Offshore Revenue-Sharing: \$188M To 4 States, Coast Counties.

The [AP](#) (4/26) reports that "four Gulf of Mexico states and their coastal counties are getting nearly \$188 million in revenue-sharing funds as the offshore leasing areas involved expand." The [Newton County \(AR\) Times](#) (4/26) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "Under President Trump's America-First energy strategy, we've increased energy revenue by a billion dollars nationally in the first year alone, which creates more funding for important conservation projects in the Gulf. Offshore energy production means less oil needed from foreign countries and more jobs for the American people. This \$188 million will be dedicated to coastal restoration and other projects important to many communities in the Gulf."

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (4/26, Schleifstein) reports that because of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, "Louisiana will receive \$82 million in Gulf of Mexico offshore revenue in the next few months...representing the first large payment under the revenue sharing program created by Congress in 2006." The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority "will oversee the spending of \$65.6 million of the money, while 20 coastal parishes will split \$16.4 million." Alabama, Mississippi and Texas "will split the remaining \$106 million in offshore revenue generated during the first year of GOMESA's larger Phase II distribution."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (4/26, Stole).

Secretary Zinke Is Celebrating National Park Week.

In an interview with [GrayDC](#) (4/26, Zampa), Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke marked National Park Week. Zinke encouraged families to come and "enjoy our lands." He also noted that parks are an "economic driver." Zinke talked about the importance of tackling the maintenance backlog at national parks and investing in infrastructure so that "future generations enjoy the same experience."

Lawmakers Lobby Secretary Zinke For Protection Of Chetco River.

[KDRV-TV](#) Medford, OR (4/26, Parfitt) reports that "four Oregon and California lawmakers sent off a letter to Trump Administration officials on Wednesday, urging them to extend environmental protections for the Chetco River that are set to expire on July 25 of this year." Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, along with Reps. Pete DeFazio and Jared Huffman "signed the letter and addressed it to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue." If the current protection is not extended, they wrote, "we will lose precious ground in protecting this world-class salmon and steelhead river and source of clean drinking water for two communities while Congress considers our legislation to make the withdrawal permanent."

House Passes Rep. Davis Amendment Protecting Emergency Crews From Drones.

The [Times of San Diego](#) (4/26, Sklar) reports that "the House on Thursday passed an amendment authored by Rep. Susan Davis to protect emergency responders from illegal drone use during disasters." The amendment "directs the federal government to work with state and local entities to educate the public about the dangers of flying unmanned aircraft

into areas with temporary flight restrictions." It was "passed unanimously as part of legislation to reauthorize programs within the Federal Aviation Administration."

Militia Leader Pleads Guilty In Attempted Cabin Explosion.

The [AP](#) (4/26, Whitehurst) reports that "a Utah militia group leader pleaded guilty Thursday to trying to blow up a federally owned cabin in Arizona in what prosecutors call a case of domestic terrorism." William Keebler was "angry about federal management of public lands and wanted to retaliate against the government, federal prosecutors said." Keebler "came under investigation after joining Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy's armed 2014 standoff over grazing fees amid hot debate over federal control of public land in the West."

Also reporting are [NPR](#) (4/26, Siegler), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (4/26, Romboy), and the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (4/26, Manson).

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Bureau Of Indian Affairs Director Resigns After Just 6 Months On The Job.

The [Huffington Post](#) (4/26, D'angelo, Waldron) reports that "Bryan Rice has resigned just six months after Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke appointed him to lead the Bureau of Indian Affairs, multiple sources familiar with the situation told HuffPost." The BIA has "made no official announcement about Rice's departure." BIA spokeswoman Nedra Darling said, "It is our policy not to discuss DOI personnel matters in the press."

[The Hill](#) (4/26, Greenwood) reports that "the resignation from bureau head Bryan Rice came just over two weeks after the Interior Department's inspector general released a report saying that the agency had failed to gather sufficient information to determine whether the reassignments of dozens of senior officials were legal."

Also reporting is the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (4/26, Smith).

Bureau Of Land Management

Bureau Of Land Management Approves Mine Project Near Cody.

The [AP](#) (4/26) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has "authorized a proposed bentonite mine project in northern Wyoming." The BLM "gave approval Monday for the plan by Wilson Brothers Construction Inc. to mine about 48 acres of federal land in the Diamond Basin area about 7 miles (11 kilometers) southwest of Cody." According to the agency, "the project expects to mine about 140,000 tons of bentonite over three to five years."

BLM Proposes Lease Sale Of Land Near Carlsbad Caverns.

The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (4/26, Hedden) reports that "a future lease sale of federal land conducted by the Bureau of Land Management could include numerous parcels just miles from Carlsbad Caverns National Park." A 10-day public comment period "to gather public comments on the sale to be leased to oil and gas companies" ended on April 20. BLM spokesman Derrick Henry said, "The BLM will consider all substantive comments received during the public scoping period, to ensure the potential environmental consequences are analyzed in a manner that allows the BLM to make an informed decision about the proposed competitive lease."

Environmentalists Sue Over Western Colorado Oil-Gas Drilling.

The [AP](#) (4/26) reports that "environmental groups have asked a federal judge to block oil and gas drilling at 53 sites on public land in western Colorado, saying the U.S. Department of Interior didn't fully analyze the risks to people and the climate." The lawsuit filed Thursday in U.S. District Court in Denver "challenges decisions by the Interior Department in 2016 and 2017 to sell drilling rights on a total of about 70 square miles (185 square kilometers)."

Additional coverage was provided by [Courthouse News](#) (4/27, Pampuro).

Nevada Senator Says Drilling Would Threaten ‘Pristine’ Ruby Mountains.

The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (4/26, Spillman) reports that Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto “said she agrees with people urging the U.S. Forest Service to reject a proposal seeking opportunities for oil and gas leases” in Nevada’s Ruby Mountains. In a letter to the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest office in Elko, Cortez Masto said “expansive oil and gas drilling will threaten this pristine and sensitive area, which welcomes thousands of annual visitors to utilize its public spaces for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation.” The Bureau of Land Management last year “asked the Forest Service to analyze the environmental impact of making about 54,000 acres in the range available for oil and gas leasing.”

Management Plans Advance For Central Idaho Wilderness Areas.

The [AP](#) (4/26, Ridler) reports that “three new central Idaho wilderness areas could have management plans in place this year.” Federal officials “released the Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness Management Plan covering 183 square miles (474 square kilometers) earlier this month, and are taking comments from those who have previously participated in the process through June 4.” Emily Simpson said, a wilderness planner with the Bureau of Land Management, said, “Most of the direction here is going to help with preserving the setting that people enjoy.” Simpson is “also assisting with plans for the 138-square-mile (357-square-kilometer) Hemingway-Boulders Wilderness and the 142-square-mile (368-square-kilometer) Cecil D. Andrus White Clouds Wilderness.”

‘Every Kid In A Park’ Comes To Battle Mountain.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (4/26) reports that “the Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain District, visited fourth-graders at the Battle Mountain Elementary School on April 19 to give a classroom presentation and distribute park passes to each student which allows them and three additional family members free access to all state and national parks across the country for a year.” It was “made possible through an interagency program titled Every Kid in a Park that was established in 2015.” The article notes that “this is the first year of implementing the program in Battle Mountain but the district already has plans to expand this learning opportunity in the fall with the goal of providing every fourth-grader in the entire district with a free park pass.” Jon Sherve, field manager for the Mount Lewis Field Office, said, “With so much public land in Nevada, educating our youth about the BLM’s multiple use mission is important. This program provides a perfect opportunity to teach children about different uses of the land like recreation, mining, conservation, exploration or livestock grazing, while impressing the importance of balancing between them so that all can remain for future generations.”

‘Kids Curate’ Exhibit Set To Open At High Desert Museum.

[KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (4/26) reports that “Kids Curate, an exhibition celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, opens Thursday, May 3.” Fifth-grade students from Crooked River Elementary School created the exhibition in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management and the High Desert Museum. The panels, “which are featured in the museum’s exhibition through June 3, will be permanently placed by the BLM along the Wild and Scenic portion of the Lower Crooked River in the fall.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

U.S.

Extends Comment Period For Beaufort Sea Drilling. [UPI](#) (4/26, Graeber) reports that “concerned parties have another 30 days to weigh in on U.S. plans to open up the Arctic waters off the coast of Alaska to drillers, the government said.” The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management “solicited the information on a proposed lease in the Alaskan waters of the Beaufort Sea next year.” BOEM “said it has extended the call for information for another 30 days, setting the expiration at one minute before midnight EDT on May 30.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Evergreen Man Guilty Of Shooting Endangered African Elephant In Zimbabwe.

The [Denver Post](#) (4/26, Mitchell) reports that "a 63-year-old Evergreen man has pleaded guilty to violating the Endangered Species Act after he poached an African elephant inside the Gonarezhou National Park." U.S. Magistrate Judge Scott Varholak "sentenced Paul Ross Jackson to pay a maximum fine of \$25,000, according to a news release by U.S. Attorney Bob Troyer and Special Agent in Charge Steve Oberholtzer of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." Troyer said in a news release, "When American hunters violate the laws of foreign countries in the unethical pursuit of trophies, they don't just undermine the conservation efforts that make hunting possible. They break the law."

National Park Service

Grand Canyon Works To Add Diverse Visitors To National Park.

[Cronkite News](#) (4/26, Fingert) reports that the National Park Service is "working to become more inclusive of racial and ethnic groups, said Vanessa Ceja-Cervantes, outreach coordinator at Grand Canyon National Park." The agency's "goal to increase diversity of visitors and bring more people from different backgrounds to places like the Grand Canyon, but they are also trying to increase the diversity of their own staff, hoping that helps bring more people to the parks." Ceja-Cervantes "said park employees have participated in outdoor expos, conferences, and parades to increase the awareness of public lands."

University Fined For Violating Indian Remains Law.

The [AP](#) (4/26, Raby) reports that Marshall University in West Virginia has been "fined \$4,999 for failing to complete inventories of American Indian remains and artifacts in its possession." The Interior Department "notified Marshall University President Jerome Gilbert of the fine in a letter this week." The letter "said Marshall officials knew about the requirements of a 1990 federal law but failed to complete the inventories until long after a deadline."

After Years Of Talks, Former Girl Scout Camp Protected.

The [AP](#) (4/26) reports that "advocates for a former Girl Scout camp dotted with waterfalls and wetlands no longer have to fear outside development on the land now that it has been transferred to the National Park Service." According to the article, "more than 1,000 acres along Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains" was "acquired by the Conservation Fund in 2017 and this week was given to the National Park Service. It will be incorporated into the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area."

National Park Service, Escambia County In Talks To Preserve Pensacola Beach.

The [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (4/26, Gabriel) reports that "an Escambia County Commissioner is proposing to place a large swath of undeveloped Pensacola Beach land into a permanent conservation easement with the National Park Service." Commissioner Grover Robinson, "whose district includes the beach, has drafted a resolution to preserve most undeveloped areas of the beach, as well as roads, parking lots and beach access points." Robinson, "a longtime commissioner who is running for mayor of Pensacola, said his goal is to ensure the beach, which was deeded to Escambia County by the federal government after World War II, remains open to the public."

Yellowstone, Tribes Moving Forward On Quarantine.

The [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (4/26, Wright) reports that Yellowstone National Park officials "hope to send a group of brucellosis-free bison to the Fort Peck Indian Reservation by the end of this year, a move that would come more than two years after the park first proposed quarantining animals there." Yellowstone superintendent Dan Wenk "said at a

meeting here Wednesday that federal agriculture officials had given verbal approval to the park's quarantine corrals and that he expects a regional director of the National Park Service to sign off on the plans in early May." The park is "holding 98 bison in quarantine corrals at its Stephens Creek Capture Facility outside Gardiner, just inside the northern boundary of the park, and Wenk hopes at least some of those could be sent to Fort Peck this year after completing a brucellosis testing program."

Acadia Plan Calls For Ocean Drive, Cadillac Reservations.

The [Mount Desert \(ME\) Islander](#) (4/26, Broom) reports that "during the park's peak visitor season, reservations would be required to drive on the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road and the Cadillac Mountain summit road and to park in the North lot at Jordan Pond House, according to the park's long-range transportation plan released Thursday by the National Park Service (NPS)." Park officials "said it is very unlikely that the reservation system and other proposals in the plan could be implemented before 2020, and it might take longer." The public has until June 26 to give comments.

Also reporting is the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (4/26, Kong, Ring).

Pensacola Bay Ferry Service Start Delayed By National Park Service.

The [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (4/26, Gabriel) reports that the National Park Service has "pushed back the start date for ferry service between Gulf Islands National Seashore, downtown Pensacola and Pensacola Beach." Dan Brown, superintendent of Gulf Islands National Seashore, "said Thursday that ferry service will not start on May 18, the previously announced start date." Brown "said he did not know exactly when the two, 150-passenger ferries will begin shuttling passengers between downtown, Pensacola Beach and Fort Pickens."

River Raisin Battlefield Funding Increases, Staff Added.

The [Monroe \(MI\) Evening News](#) (4/26, Portteus) reports that the National Park Service funding for operations at River Raisin National Battlefield Park has "climbed to just more than \$800,000." Scott Bentley, park superintendent, said, "This reflects a tremendous increase over our first eight years and is a direct result of the strong community support and efforts of the Battlefield Foundation."

Rogue Aquatic Park Yachtsman Convicted Of Anchoring Without A Permit.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (4/27, Whiting) reports that "rogue yachtsman Bryan Pennington was convicted in federal court Thursday of illegally anchoring his boat in Aquatic Park Cove, putting at least a temporary end to a six-month standoff with park police and swimmers who say Pennington was polluting the bay with sewage." The verdict from U.S. Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler "came after a three-hour bench trial during which Pennington, who represented himself, tried to destroy the credibility of a supervising park ranger." According to the article, "during an hour of cross-examination, Pennington challenged the legality of the federal laws that govern the cove, challenged the way Beeler ran her courtroom, demanded a jury trial, and ultimately refused to cooperate any further, citing an unspecified disability." The judge "convicted Pennington of three counts of anchoring his yacht, a Searunner 34 trimaran, without a permit in federal waters on three occasions this year and last: Sept. 26-Oct. 9, Nov. 11-20 and Dec. 4-Feb. 9."

Bighorn Canyon Admission Will Be Free This Year.

The [Powell \(WY\) Tribune](#) (4/26, Davis) reports that Bighorn Canyon National Recreation area will be "free to enter, starting on May 25." According to the article, "after completing a cost benefit analysis, park officials found they were actually losing money by collecting entrance fees." Park officials "said Bighorn Canyon spent \$194,892 collecting fees and only brought in \$95,538."

Muir Woods Fees To Jump 50 Percent Next Year.

The [Marin \(CA\) Independent Journal](#) (4/26, Prado) reports that the price to visit Muir Woods

National Monument will “climb to \$15 on Jan. 1, 2019, under a plan announced by the National Park Service this week. Parking reservations are also now required at Muir Woods, which adds \$8 to the cost.” In addition, “the current entrance fee is \$10. An annual pass for Muir Woods will go from \$40 to \$45. Those under 15 and under will continue to get in for free.” Laura Joss, superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, said in a statement, “Visitor entrance fees play an important role in helping the park better serve the public by ensuring national treasures, like Muir Woods, are cared for and can be enjoyed for generations to come. The newly restored Hawk Hill Trail in the Marin Headlands is just one visible example of park entrance fees put to use for public enjoyment.”

Community Building In Robinson Added To National Register.

The [AP](#) (4/26) reports that Robinson Hall, a community building in North Dakota, has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Insular And International Affairs

U.S. Department Of Labor Continues Hurricane Recovery-Related Outreach To U.S.V.I. On Wage Enforcement.

The [St. John Source](#) (4/26) reports that “the U.S. Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division (WHD) continues to investigate wage issues on St. Croix and St. Thomas and provide compliance assistance related to recovery efforts following hurricanes Maria and Irma.” Jose R. Vazquez, Wage and Hour Division Caribbean district director, said, “The U.S. Department of Labor will ensure that employees performing hurricane recovery work receive the wages and benefits they have legally earned. The Department provides numerous tools to help employers understand their legal responsibilities, and Department officials are available to answer any questions they may have.”

US Geological Survey

Small Earthquakes Shake Residents In Northern Oklahoma.

The [AP](#) (4/26) says the US Geological Survey has reported “several small earthquakes in northern Oklahoma, including three near the tiny town of Renfrow near the Kansas border and about 100 miles (161 kilometers) north of Oklahoma City.” The largest “temblor was magnitude 3.0 and struck at 9:45 p.m. Wednesday while magnitude 2.6 and 2.3 quakes were also recorded Wednesday night and Thursday morning.” The AP adds that “many of the thousands of earthquakes in Oklahoma in recent years” have been “linked to the underground injection of wastewater from oil and natural gas production.”

[Fox News](#) (4/26, Pappas) reports there have been 2,724 earthquakes of 3.0 “magnitude or more since 2010” in Oklahoma. The spike “in quakes and subsequent fall bolsters the findings that Oklahoma’s foundations are moving because of oil and gas activities, said Jeremy Boak, the head of the state’s geological survey.”

Opinion Pieces

We Love Our National Parks So Much They’re In Disrepair And Both Parties Agree On A Fix.

In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (4/27, Schrader, Simpson), Kurt Schrader, a Democratic congressman from Oregon, and Mike Simpson, a Republican congressman from Idaho, write in support of the National Park Restoration Act, which is also backed by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Angus King, I-Maine, as well as Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The legislation will “redirect unused revenues from a variety of energy sources on federal lands into a new fund called the National Park Restoration Fund,” which will “then be used to bring down the maintenance backlog throughout our parks, restoring trails, roads, campgrounds and water systems for generations to come.” They assert that the bill “does nothing to require, incentivize or change any aspect of energy production across our federal lands,” and will

help “to rebuild and restore our parks to the condition they ought to be — the crown jewels of our great nation.”

Inviting Disaster: Ignoring The Lessons Learned From Deepwater Horizon.

For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (4/26, Price), Rep. David Price writes that since the Deepwater Horizon spill, “the federal government has taken a number of steps to prevent future disasters through the creation of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) to monitor drilling activities and to implement commonsense regulations to improve safety on offshore oil rigs.” However, Price is dismayed that the Trump Administration seems to be quietly undoing “the progress we’ve made and has announced plans to expand drilling to nearly every coast in America, further lining the pockets of the oil and gas industry at the expense of our coastal communities.” Price asserts that “the rolling back of regulations mixed with the expansion of drilling sites is a recipe for disaster, the blame for which the Trump administration will certainly own.”

Your Turn: Refinery Must Be Challenged To Protect Olympic National Park.

In an op-ed for the [Kitsap \(WA\) Sun](#) (4/26, McNulty), environmental activist Tim McNulty argues that the expansion of a British Petroleum refinery threatens Olympic National Park. He notes that the National Park Service “anticipates that BP’s expansion at the Cherry Point facility will further degrade air quality, making bad air days more likely and more severe.” McNulty applauds National Parks Conservation Association for “challenging the permit for BP’s expanded Cherry Point refinery to process dirty tar sands crude oil.”

Additional Reading.

- *Why Florida And Montana Escape Trump’s Environmental Plunder.* [National Memo](#) (4/26, Harrop).
- *HARROP: Trump’s People Would Dirty Everyone’s Nest But Their Own.* [Panama City \(FL\) News Herald](#) (4/26, Harrop).
- *Offshore Drilling Is The Unenviable Canary In The Coal Mine.* [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/25).
- *H. Roger Younts: Explore Offshore In North Carolina.* [Lexington \(NC\) Dispatch](#) (4/27, Younts).
- *The State Of New Jersey Isn’t Waiting For The Feds: Frank Knapp Jr. Guest Column.* [South Strand News \(SC\)](#) (4/27, Knapp).
- *Don’t Relax Oil Drilling Regulations.* [Gulf Breeze \(FL\) News](#) (4/26).
- *Editorial: Offshore Well Rules Should Be Made Law.* [Gainesville \(FL\) Sun](#) (4/27).
- *Remembering The BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.* [TribTalk \(TX\)](#) (4/27, Metzger).
- *Zinke: Press Pause On Bears Ears & Grand Staircase Management Plans Until Courts Speak.* [KRWG-FM](#) Las Cruces, NM (4/26).
- *Robert Thorson: U.S. Backs Big Oil Against Tiny Arctic Tribe.* [Hartford \(CT\) Courant](#) (4/24, Thorson).
- *Protecting Darkness In The CVNP.* [West Side \(OH\) Leader](#) (4/26, Vasarhelyi).
- *Support For Oregon’s National Treasures Is Support For State’s Economy.* [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (4/26, Brandt).
- *Dana Wilde: The Decline Of The Birds.* [Central Maine](#) (4/26, Wilde).
- *Spreading The Manure On Crazy Mountains Access.* [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (4/26, Schoonen).
- *Yosemite Valley Is Under Siege From Tourists. Can It Be Saved?* [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (4/27, Thomas).
- *Don’t Let Developers Degrade This Historic Underground Railroad Stop.* [Philly \(PA\)](#) (4/26, Zove).
- *Montana View: As Yet Another Natural Disaster Strikes, Government Must Perform.* [Montana Standard](#) (4/26).

Media Analyses: Trump Distances Himself From Cohen, Boosts Prosecutors In Fox Interview.

To very unfavorable media reviews, President Trump yesterday used a phone interview on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) to comment extensively on the investigation of his attorney Michael Cohen. Media analyses painted a picture of Trump flying off the handle as he distanced himself from his long-time lawyer and made admissions that boosted the prosecutors' case.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (4/26, story 3, 3:40, Muir), for example, referred to "an outburst on live TV" and to Trump "admitting for the first time that...Cohen did represent him in the 'crazy Stormy Daniels' ordeal." ABC's Cecilia Vega said Trump sounded "like a man who needed to vent," and played audio of Trump saying of Cohen, "He represents me like with this crazy Stormy Daniels deal, he represented me. And you know, from what I see, he did absolutely nothing wrong. There were no campaign funds going into this." Trump also said, "I would say probably the big thing is his business, and they're looking [at] something having to do with his business. I have nothing to do with his business. I can tell you. He is a good guy." To ABC News, Trump "distanced himself from Cohen" – a line of analysis that permeates throughout the coverage. Thus [Bloomberg News](#) (4/26, Dopp, Olorunnipa) says Trump "sought to distance himself" from Cohen, the [New York Times](#) (4/26, Baker, Sullivan), [Reuters](#) (4/26) and [The Hill](#) (4/26, Fabian) that he "distanced himself" from him, and the [New York Post](#) (4/26, Musumeci) headlined its report "Trump Begins Distancing Himself From Cohen After FBI Raid." Eugene Robinson, meanwhile, in a [Washington Post](#) (4/26) column titled "Trump Sure Doesn't Sound Like He Has Cohen's Back," writes that "Cohen reportedly said he'd rather jump out of a building than turn on...Trump. I wonder what he's thinking as the floors whiz by."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/26, Decker) describes the interview as "rambling" and "grievance-filled," and the [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Parker, Wagner) as "freewheeling and defiant." [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/26, story 4, 2:20, Alexander) said "federal prosecutors" are "arguing anything you say on Fox and Friends can be used against you." NBC went on to report that Trump said Cohen handled "a tiny, tiny little fraction" of his legal affairs, and noted that statement was "cited" in a "new filing," with "prosecutors...insisting if Mr. Trump's relationship to Cohen was so limited, they should be able to expedite the review of the documents seized in the raid this month."

[Politico](#) (4/26, Gerstein) also says "prosecutors quickly seized on...Trump's remark...as an indication that paper records and electronic files taken from Cohen...are unlikely to contain many attorney-client communications." Likewise, [USA Today](#) (4/26, Schouten) reports "two sets of lawyers – the federal prosecutors pursuing a criminal case against Cohen and Daniels' lawyer Michael Avenatti," both "seized on Trump's statements to bolster their legal arguments." Avenatti, in an email to USA Today, "said Trump's reversal demonstrates that Trump and Cohen have tried to mislead the public." Wrote Avenatti, "Mr. Trump and Mr. Cohen previously represented to the American people that Mr. Cohen acted alone and Mr. Trump knew nothing about the situation with my client. ... As I predicted, that has now been shown to be completely false."

The [New York Times](#) (4/26, Baker, Sullivan) also points out that Avenatti, "quickly seized on the president's comments, suggesting they would help her lawsuit trying to nullify the 2016 nondisclosure agreement by proving Mr. Trump's involvement in the effort to keep her quiet before the election." The Times notes Avenatti "went on MSNBC and CNN to reinforce his point," telling [CNN](#) (4/26): "This case gets better every day, every hour, and one of the reasons why it gets better is that they step in to every trap that we lay. ... The president's statements this morning are very, very damaging to him in our case."

The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Barrett, Helderman) similarly reports that prosecutors' "speedy incorporation of Trump's Fox interview into legal documents provided a vivid illustration of the strategic downsides of the president's media interviews and off-the-cuff remarks and tweets." Likewise, Jake Tapper, on [CNN's The Lead](#) (4/26), said the Fox

News interview was an example of the President's "governance by gut causing indigestion...for his own White House."

In a story headlined, "'Boss, I Miss You So Much': The Awkward Exile Of Michael Cohen," the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/26, Rothfeld, Berzon, Palazzolo) reports that despite their long relationship, Cohen has privately complained about being excluded from the White House and about Trump's failure to repay him for the \$130,000 he allegedly paid Daniels. Cohen declined an interview offer from the Journal and replied to a list of emailed questions writing, "Completely inaccurate." The Journal cites unnamed sources who say Cohen at one point considered turning on Trump, and describes a conversation between Trump and Cohen in which the attorney told him, "Boss, I miss you so much. I wish I was down there with you. ... It's really hard for me to be here."

Judges Appoints Special Master To Review Materials Seized From Cohen. The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/26, story 3, 0:45, Glor) reported that "in New York, a federal judge appointed a special master review want documents seized from...Trump's personal attorney," who "says he'll plead the Fifth." The [New York Times](#) (4/26, Weiser, Feuer) the special master will be "Barbara S. Jones, a lawyer who served as a federal judge in Manhattan."

[The Hill](#) (4/26, Wheeler) reports "the quick decision came after" the judge "received a letter Thursday morning from federal prosecutors in Manhattan withdrawing their objection to Cohen's request for a special master." Prosecutors "had initially pushed for the use of a Justice Department 'taint team' to perform the review, but cited new developments in changing their position." The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Barrett, Helderman), [Politico](#) (4/26) and [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/26, Hong, O'Brien), among other news outlets, also report the story.

[Bloomberg News](#) (4/26, Berthelsen), meanwhile, profiles assistant US attorney Thomas McKay, 32 who is "leading the criminal investigation of" Cohen. Bloomberg says McKay "could garner as many headlines as his famous predecessors." According to Bloomberg, McKay, who was "hired directly after clerkships for federal judges in New York and on the Washington, D.C., appeals court," is a graduate of Princeton and Georgetown Law School.

Davidson "Cooperating" With Investigation. The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Reinhard, Brown, Sellers) reports "the relationship between...Cohen and Keith Davidson is drawing public scrutiny as federal authorities investigating Cohen examine payments made to women whose stories could have damaged...Trump's presidential campaign." Davidson "is cooperating with the probe and has provided investigators with 'certain limited electronic information,' according to the lawyer's spokesman." Cohen "and Davidson, a Los Angeles lawyer, have crossed paths at least five times in the past two years. In the most recent instance, Cohen collected a fee said to be hundreds of thousands of dollars in a deal Davidson helped orchestrate," and "new attorneys for Davidson's former clients, Stormy Daniels and Karen McDougal, both of whom allege they had affairs with Trump years ago, say the relationship between Cohen and Davidson has seemed too cozy." Said Avenatti, "This is supposed to be an adversarial process. ... These guys should not be in the same bedroom, let alone the same bed."

NYTimes, Politico Analyses: Trump Associates Often Find Themselves Disgraced. Citing the cases of former VA Secretary nominee Dr. Ronny Jackson and Cohen, a [New York Times](#) (4/26, Baker, Haberman) analysis says a "ride on President Trump's bullet train can be thrilling, but it is often a brutal journey that leaves some bloodied by the side of the tracks." After 15 months as President, Trump "has burned through a record number of advisers and associates who have found themselves in legal, professional or personal trouble, or even all three." Many "who arrived with stellar careers and independent reputations...ended up losing so much."

A [Politico Magazine](#) (4/26, Kruse) analysis says Jackson "is only the latest to join the ever-growing scrap heap of the Trump administration – people who volunteered or were summoned to serve, only to find themselves discarded and disgraced." Politico says that while there has "always been a Trump World scrap heap...it's never been like the past 15 months."

Trump Threatens To Get More Involved In DOJ Decision-Making.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Parker, Wagner) reports that in his interview with the hosts of [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#), President Trump yesterday "hinted that he may get more deeply involved in the management of his Justice Department." Trump "said that he tries to 'stay away from' intervening in the Department of Justice, before adding, 'But at some point I won't.'" The Post says that comment "brought a sharp rebuke from Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.), who called Trump's interview 'so unbecoming of a president, unbecoming of a democracy.'" [Bloomberg News](#) (4/26, Dopp, Olorunnipa) notes that when "asked if he'd sit down with [Special Counsel Robert] Mueller's team," the President said he "would be willing to if he was able, although he said that some of the people involved are 'conflicted.'"

CNN chief political correspondent Dana Bash said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (4/26) that "it's odd he is talking about the senior leadership of the Justice Department considering they're his appointees and under normal circumstances, it would be odd. In this circumstance, it's the same kind of venting that we have been reporting for months that he has been doing behind closed doors to his friends and to his allies and to his aides. He is precisely talking about not necessarily the career people but his own very appointees, namely the top of the list there is of course...Sessions."

The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Zapotosky) reports that after Trump's warning, "department alums are fighting back with increasing vigor – signing petitions, holding public events and taking direct aim at a man they fear will do lasting damage." These "alums fear the president is laying groundwork to fire the attorney general, deputy attorney general or special counsel Robert S. Mueller III in an effort to end investigations that might affect him personally." For example, "John Bellinger, a former Justice Department official who more recently worked as a legal adviser to the State Department and National Security Council in the George W. Bush administration," said Trump's "attacks also might have significant consequences, undermining public faith in the Justice Department, the FBI and the force of the law."

Former FBI Director James Comey said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (4/26), "I hope he didn't mean that he is going to decide by executive fiat to direct the actions of what is supposed to be an impartial law enforcement function. Lady Justice has a blindfold. It should stay on."

Alan Dershowitz said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (4/26), "Obviously he made a vague, general statement intended to convey different points to different people. It may have been just musing about whether he has the power to do things with regard to the Justice Department but he's not going to exercise that power. I don't know what he thinks he gains by making statements like that. I don't think he picks up support among his followers with these kinds of statements. I don't think he increases his legal vulnerability, but he certainly doesn't seem to help his case when he makes statements like this."

Rep. Denny Heck was asked on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (4/26) about Trump's comments about the Justice Department during his Fox News interview Thursday. Heck said, "When the President makes those kinds of assertions I think they're completely immaterial. What they clearly are, frankly, is somebody engaging in a political defense and posturing for the public's sake. But as I like to remind my friends, many of whom get very frustrated and angry about this, is it is irrelevant to the actual investigation under way. The President continues to make the mistake of thinking this is all about a public relations war and not about a legal and potentially criminal matter. Period. Full stop."

Rep. Eric Swalwell said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (4/26) that Trump's comments were "very concerning." Swalwell added, "He continues to attack the rule of law. The President should follow his own advice whether it is the advice that he gave to Bill Cosby or the advice that he gave to Hillary Clinton during the campaign which is if you are suspected of doing something wrong and you are innocent, you should just talk. I can't imagine what families are thinking who are counting for him to fight for their kids, to fight for our infrastructure, to fight for their healthcare security and they listen to him just go off they way he did this morning on Fox and Friends. He is distracted. He should just be forthcoming so we can get this behind us."

Sessions: Mueller Probe "Needs To Conclude." The [Washington Times](#) (4/26, Dinan) reports Attorney General Sessions "said Thursday that an ongoing probe into President Trump 'needs to conclude' in order to let him focus on North Korea, the US-Mexico border and other world negotiations." Sessions also "said he expects the Justice Department inspector general to finish his investigation into the department's and FBI's handling of investigations into Hillary Clinton during the 2016 election in a 'few weeks,' saying that will provide more information for decisions on whether there was wrongdoing." The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Zapotosky) says the comments "seemed to be a veiled swipe at Robert S. Mueller III," and added that they were "striking, suggesting Sessions might privately share some of the president's frustration with the Mueller investigation." The Post adds, "Asked to clarify Sessions's exchange with Jenkins, a Justice Department spokeswoman said, 'I'd imagine he was saying that it's in the public interest to have the special counsel's investigation concluded as soon as possible.'"

[Reuters](#) (4/26, Lynch) reports that speaking to a House appropriations panel "during a routine budget hearing, Sessions told lawmakers that the Justice Department needed to 'be disciplined and stay within our classical procedure and rules' before rushing to hire more special counsels." Responding to "a laundry list of frustrations aired by West Virginia Republican Congressman Evan Jenkins" about the Clinton email probe, Sessions said, "I do not think we need to willy-nilly appoint special counsels."

Four Republicans On Senate Judiciary Panel Vote To Protect Special Counsels. Under the headline, "In Warning To Trump, Senators Advance Bill To Protect Mueller," the [New York Times](#) (4/26, Fandos) reports that on Thursday, the Senate Judiciary Committee "fired a political warning shot at the White House" by "advancing on a bipartisan vote long-stalled legislation to allow special counsels such as Robert S. Mueller III to appeal their firing to a panel of judges and possibly be reinstated." However, the Times adds that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell "has stated unequivocally that he will not bring the bill to the Senate floor for a vote." Nevertheless, the Times says that "with four Republicans, including the committee's chairman, Charles E. Grassley of Iowa, joining Democrats to vote in favor it, the measure sent a clear message to President Trump that senators are serious in their warnings not to fire Mr. Mueller."

[The Hill](#) (4/26, Carney) reports that in addition to Grassley, Republican Sens. Thom Tillis, Lindsey Graham and Jeff Flake voted to approve the legislation. Republican Sens. Orrin Hatch, Mike Lee, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Ben Sasse, John Kennedy and Ted Cruz opposed it. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/26, Tau), [Reuters](#) (4/26), [Washington Times](#) (4/26, Swoyer), [CO Roll Call \(DC\)](#) (4/26, Ruger), [Politico](#) (4/26, Schor), [AP](#) (4/26, Day, Jalonick) and [The Hill](#) (4/26, Carney), among other news outlets, run similar reports this morning.

CNN senior political reporter Nia Malika-Henderson said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (4/26) that the Senate committee's approval of the legislation "does send a message and this is movement because before you had most of the republicans saying essentially this would never happen. Donald Trump would never fire Bob Mueller so there was no need for this type of legislation. So for them to move forward knowing full well it's not going anywhere, a, because Mitch McConnell is not going to bring it up and, b, Donald Trump would probably veto it if it ever got to his desk it does send quite a message to where Republicans are. It basically says this is a red line. You can't fire Mueller. You probably can't fire [Rod] Rosenstein, either."

Republicans Looking Over 49 Additional Pages Of Strzok-Page Texts. Sean Hannity said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (4/26), "As we speak, the House of Representatives is pouring through 49 brand new additional pages of newly uncovered text messages between Peter Strzok and Lisa Page. You might remember, these messages were a part of the six months of missing texts that somehow, well, were lost because of an alleged technical issue with the FBI-issued Samsung phones. Fox News can confirm that many of these unearthed texts have incomplete information and some are totally incomprehensible."

Rep. Ron DeSantis said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (4/26), "I think this is incomplete production. We know their texting habits, of how often they were texting in other periods. This is the period December 2016 during the trump transition all the way up to the firing of James Comey and then the appointment of Robert Mueller as a special counsel. If there's

only 40 some pages there, there's gaps. Some of the stuff is incomplete. So I don't think this is a full production. I think there's more questions that this raises and we're going to have to go back to the Justice Department and ask them why they weren't able to recover the full Strzok-Page text messages."

In his appearance on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (4/26, 7:17 a.m. EDT, Kilmeade) Jordan was asked about Comey saying he is "embarrassed and ashamed" of the Republican Party. Jordan said: "This is ridiculous. The American people are so fed up with this two standards. One standard for us regular folk and a different standard if your name is Clinton, Comey, Loretta Lynch, Lerner. ... The American people thought the fix was in on the Clinton investigation. But since we got a hold of the Page-Strzok text messages, we know the fix was in. That's what should concern James Comey."

Comey Says Dossier Not At Core Of FISA Warrant Request. Comey said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (4/26) that he became aware of the Steele dossier in the fall of 2016. Asked when he learned that the DNC and the Clinton campaign had funded Steele's work, Comey said, "I still don't know that for a fact. ... I have read that in the media but didn't know for a fact and didn't know while I was at the FBI which exact opponent of the President's funded that." Comey was also asked on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (4/26) why he used the dossier, which he called unverified and salacious, in the FISA Court to obtain a warrant to surveil Carter Page. Comey said, "That's not my recollection. ... My recollection was it was part of a broader mosaic of facts that were laid before the FISA judge to obtain a FISA warrant. ... My recollection was there was a significant amount of additional material about Page and why there was probable cause to believe he was an agent of a foreign power. And the dossier was part of that but was not all of it or a critical part of it."

Rep. Trey Gowdy said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (4/26), "The part of it not being part of the FISA application, why did you use it at all? ... They lead with it and it occupied a disproportionately large part of that. I go back and ask if it wasn't important, then why did you use it? Why did you use it and why did you lead with it?"

Rep. Jim Jordan said on [Fox News The Ingraham Angle](#) (4/26), "They didn't tell the court two things. They didn't tell the court who paid for it, namely the Democrat National Committee and the Clinton campaign. They didn't tell the court that the author of the document, Christopher Steele, had his relationship with the FBI terminated. They didn't tell the court that. When we go to the court, we have to tell them the whole truth, not part of the truth, the whole truth. They didn't to that."

Comey Says He Didn't Disclose Having Hired Richman "Because It Wasn't Relevant."

Comey was asked on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (4/26) what he leaked to Dan Richman. Comey said, "I sent Mr. Richman a copy of a two-page unclassified memo and asked him to get the substance of it out to the media." Asked why he did not reveal that he hired Richman at the FBI, Comey said, "Because it wasn't relevant." Comey was also [asked](#) (4/26) about Trump's claim that he leaked classified information. Comey said, "He is just wrong. Facts really do matter, which is why I'm on the show to answer your questions. That memo was unclassified then. It's still unclassified. It's in my book. The FBI cleared that book before it could be published. That's a false statement."

In an appearance on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (4/26, 7:17 a.m. EDT, Kilmeade) prior to President Trump's interview, Rep. Jim Jordan was asked about revelations that Richman was an unpaid "special government employee" of the FBI under then-director James Comey and that Comey may have provided his memos about his interactions with Trump to other individuals. Jordan said, "Comey never told Congress that he wasn't just leaking this information through a 'friend' to the New York Times. This friend was a special government employee, SGE, [and] had access to the FBI. We presume he had full clearance. So he didn't disclose that. ... Frankly, there is no one on Capitol Hill who thinks this was the first and only time James Comey used Daniel Richman to leak information to the press. My guess is, it happened lots of times."

Meadows: Comey Needs To Provide More Information About Lynch's Involvement In Clinton Email Probe. In an op-ed for the [Washington Examiner](#) (4/26, Meadows), Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) lists five questions that he says former FBI director James Comey "needs to answer." The questions are: 1 "Did Comey and his FBI improperly coordinate with former

Attorney General Loretta Lynch and the Department of Justice during the height of the Clinton email investigation?"; 2 "Why did Comey leave out pertinent facts when he briefed then-President-elect Trump on the Russian dossier?"; 3 "Did Comey and James Clapper coordinate to give the Russian dossier credibility and leak its contents to the media?"; 4 "Why did Comey fail to mention he had secretly hired his friend, law professor Daniel Richman, as a 'special employee' of the FBI?"; and 5 "Did Comey give his memo to anyone else?"

Appearing on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (4/26, 8:39 a.m. EDT, Scarborough), Sen. Jeff Flake was asked to respond to Trump's criticism of the "corruption at the top of the FBI" and warning that he may no longer "stay away from" the Justice Department if it continues to focus on the "nonsense of collusion with Russia." Flake said: "That is not normal and should not be accepted as normal. It undermines our institutions." Flake went on to say, "When the President really goes out of bounds, I think it's our responsibility to stand-up and say so. He is going out of bounds with regards to the FBI and his criticism of it. This is out of bounds, it really is."

Pompeo Leaves For Europe Immediately After Being Sworn In As Secretary State.

Media coverage of Mike Pompeo's confirmation as the next US Secretary of State highlights the 57-42 tally, a departure from past lopsided, bipartisan endorsements. Overall, however, reports draw a mostly favorable picture of Pompeo, pointing out his strong working relationship with the President and his accomplishments during his time in the Army, Congress and the CIA. The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Demirjian, Morello), for example, says "Pompeo is expected to strike a dramatically different tone with Trump than his predecessor, Rex Tillerson, who had a testy relationship with the president that often left them publicly at odds." The [Washington Times](#) (4/26, Sands) similarly indicates "the West Point grad and former Kansas Republican congressman won high marks for his management of the CIA and for forging a close bond with...Trump that his predecessor...never enjoyed," and [Politico](#) (4/26, Toosi) that his "15 months at the CIA's helm, along with his personal relationship with Trump, has already put him at the center of the administration's foreign policy action, making for what sources close to him called a smooth adjustment to his new diplomatic role."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/26, Wilkinson) quotes Pompeo as saying in a statement, "I'm delighted to be secretary of State and completely humbled by the responsibility. ... I'm looking forward to serving the American people and getting to work right away." Trump "said Pompeo has his trust and support," declaring, "Having a patriot of Mike's immense talent, energy, and intellect leading the Department of State will be an incredible asset for our country at this critical time in history."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (4/26, story 6, 0:20, Holt) and the [CBS Evening News](#) (4/26, story 9, 0:15, Glor) mentioned Pompeo's confirmation last night, and [ABC World News Tonight](#) (4/26, story 6, 0:25, Muir) briefly noted he was "already on his way to a NATO meeting in Brussels." The [AP](#) (4/26, Lederman, Lee) reports that "with Pompeo's confirmation imminent, the plane was held on the tarmac until" he "could arrive and swap in." The State Department "said no secretary of state had ever traveled abroad so soon after being confirmed." Pompeo "will attend a NATO foreign ministers summit" in Brussels "and meet with the top diplomats from Turkey and Italy. ... From there, the State Department said Pompeo planned to fly to the Middle East for stops in Saudi Arabia, Israel and Jordan." The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Morello) notes "Pompeo arrived in Brussels before dawn on Friday, in a sprightly start to his job as the administration's top diplomat," and [Politico](#) (4/26, Toosi) quotes "a person close to the new secretary said of Pompeo's quick start" that "it is entirely his style. ... Mike is very mission-focused and is always two steps ahead. He jumps right in."

[Breitbart](#) (4/26, Wong) describes the 57-42 Senate tally as "a departure from what has historically been a rubber stamp vote," with "the majority of Democrats" voting against Pompeo, but the [New York Times](#) (4/26, Harris, Kaplan) says the vote "lacked the drama of other nail-biting confirmation votes in the Trump era" as "seven members of the Senate Democratic caucus – five of whom face re-election this year in states that Mr. Trump won in

2016 – joined a united Republican conference to support Mr. Pompeo's confirmation." According to the Times, "For Democrats who will be on the ballot in Trump states, a vote against Mr. Pompeo could have exposed them to attacks from the Republicans, including Mr. Trump, eager to label them obstructionists." [The Hill](#) (4/26, Carney) calls Pompeo's confirmation "a setback for liberals, who wanted to force Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) to try to discharge Pompeo's nomination from the committee," which "would have required 60 votes and given Democrats an opening to try block Pompeo." The Hill adds "red-state Democrats faced intense pressure from both sides, with progressive groups urging them to block Trump's 'war cabinet' and conservatives arguing opposition was a sign they were too liberal for their home states."

[CO Roll Call \(DC\)](#) (4/26, Lesniewski) points out "Democrats in the most competitive 2018 races delivered a split decision on the current CIA director. ... The five 'yes' votes came from Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, Joe Donnelly of Indiana, Joe Manchin III of West Virginia, Bill Nelson of Florida and Claire McCaskill of Missouri," while "the five 'no' votes came from Sherrod Brown of Ohio, Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, Jon Tester of Montana and Bob Casey of Pennsylvania."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/26, Tau, Schwartz) notes that 14 Democrats and an independent voted to confirm Pompeo as CIA director last year. The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Demirjian, Morello) says Pompeo was confirmed "despite lingering objections from Democrats who've questioned his record of hawkish policy positions and past controversial statements about minority groups." The Post goes on to report that Pompeo will "have a prominent role also in...addressing Russian aggression." The Post says Pompeo "has advocated more punitive actions than the president has been willing to mete out" in regards to Russia. The Post also reports Pompeo "will have his hands full filling crucial jobs," as "eight of the nine senior staff positions at State are unfilled, as are 60 ambassadorships and 10 of the 22 assistant secretary positions." The State Department is also "the only agency in the Trump administration that still has a hiring freeze in place."

[USA Today](#) (4/26, Dorell) notes Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn, R-Texas said "after the 57-42 vote that Pompeo will play an important role in upcoming negotiations between the United States and North Korea." Said Cornyn, "In fact he's already played a role as director of the CIA." The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Gearan) reports that in an interview with [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (4/26) Thursday morning, President Trump said Pompeo "was not originally slated to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during his secret trip to Pyongyang." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/26, Bender) also notes Trump's revelations in regards to Pompeo's trip to North Korea.

Lewandowski: Trump Is Now Surrounded By People He Has "Strong Relationships" With. Appearing on [Fox News Outnumbered](#) (4/26), former Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski said Pompeo is "supremely qualified" and has a "strong relationship with the President," which Lewandowski said is "a clear difference between this secretary of state and the previous secretary of state." Lewandowski added: "I love the moves of John Bolton coming in, Rudy Giuliani coming in, Larry Kudlow...people that have long relationships or strong relationships with the President. If you're going to work in an administration, particularly at the highest levels of the administration, you have to have candid and honest conversations with the President. And what we've seen in the past is those weren't taking place."

Marcus: Sanders Comment On Pompeo Confirmation Battle Exemplifies "Decency Deficit." Ruth Marcus bemoans in the [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Marcus) the "decency deficit, etched in acid sound bites and accusatory tweets that forsake stating facts for impugning motive. This deficit of decency, of course, is trickle-down, with...Trump as its most masterful practitioner." Marcus goes on to criticize White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders for telling Fox News, with regard to the Pompeo nomination, that "at some point, Democrats have to decide whether they love this country more than they hate this president." To Marcus, "this is not acceptable. ... That is the vilest calumny." Marcus concedes, however, that she has "gone down the patriotism road myself, reluctantly and deliberately, in writing about Trump and his negligent response to Russian election interference."

Kansas Politicos Certain Pompeo Will Run For Elective Office Again. [McClatchy](#) (4/26,

Wise, Shorman, Burgess) reports that "to those back in Kansas who've monitored Pompeo's political career, the question isn't whether he will run again for elected office but when and for which one." Jean Schodorf, "a one-time Republican primary opponent of Pompeo's who is now a Democrat," tells McClatchy, "We have been kidding about wondering if he was getting his presidential campaign in order." Pompeo "briefly flirted with a run for House speaker in 2015, before Paul Ryan agreed to take the job," and in 2016 he "floated a possible run for the Senate against Kansas Sen. Jerry Moran, a popular incumbent from his own party." Moreover, "before his nomination as CIA director in November 2016, Pompeo's name had been in the mix as a likely 2018 Kansas gubernatorial candidate."

Pruitt Dismisses Allegations As Attacks From Critics Of Trump's Policies.

Media coverage of EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's testimony before Congress was markedly unfavorable, sounding a skeptical note on his claims that allegations against him are motivated by opposition to the President's environmental agenda. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/26, Vogt, Radnofsky) quotes Pruitt as saying: "They want to attack and derail the president's agenda. I am simply not going to let that happen." On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (4/26, story 5, 2:35, Muir), for example, reporter Mary Bruce said last night, "After six hours of testimony, the one question still unanswered: Mr. Administrator, why not take responsibility? Doesn't the buck stop with you? This is your agency, Mr. Pruitt?" ABC added, "Mary Bruce asking the questions, no answer there." Bruce later said that "sources in the White House say this is a tough day for Pruitt," but "they say he was speaking to an audience of one, the President. And...it's his support that matters most."

[Reuters](#) (4/26) says "Trump administration officials have become increasingly frustrated by news reports on Pruitt ranging from his spending on first-class air travel and security, to his rental of a room in a high-end Washington condo linked to an energy lobbyist." Jake Tapper, on [CNN's The Lead](#) (4/26), said although Pruitt "appears to be on thinner and thinner ice," it is also the case that "many conservatives seem to like Pruitt's deregulatory regime quite a bit." According to Tapper, "Many White House sources acknowledge he would not have lasted so long in any other administration," and is "still there because...Trump likes Pruitt and continues to defend him in private, even against the advice of top aides who see Pruitt as undermining the Trump Administration."

In fact, some believed Pruitt's performance would dictate whether or not he survives in his post. For instance, late Thursday morning, Fox News' Chief White House Correspondent John Roberts [tweeted](#) (4/26): "Scott Pruitt just told a Congressional Committee he gave his COS the green light to give raises to two EPA officials. That – in direct defiance of the WH – and contradicting what he told @FoxNews – that he wasn't aware of the raises. This may be the end of the line" Shannon Vavra of [Axios](#) (4/26, Vavra) reports that Pruitt acknowledged that he "gave his Chief of Staff, Ryan Jackson, the go-ahead to give controversial raises to two trusted aides at the EPA." According to Vavra, "This issue is particularly fraught because the White House had initially denied the raises." Vavra adds, "To the extent Pruitt admits he defied the White House, it could be more damaging to him than the various spending controversies."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/26, story 5, 2:10, Cordes) reported that "with his job on the line... Pruitt claimed he wasn't to blame for a series of spending and ethics lapses, starting with the huge raises for two of his close friends at EPA." Ultimately, "it isn't Congress but the White House that will decide whether Pruitt stays or goes, and we've seen a marked downshift in White House support recently, especially after a deputy EPA director was confirmed, someone...could step into Pruitt's shoes temporarily if he leaves."

To the [New York Times](#) (4/26, Schwartz, Davenport, Friedman), Pruitt's "job may be hanging by a thread." The Times reports that he "delivered a typically lawyerly performance" on Thursday, and "as Democrats opened an aggressive, coordinated line of questioning – on Mr. Pruitt's spending, housing arrangements, security team and raises for political appointees – he stayed quiet and calm, never raising his voice or his temper, but rarely giving direct answers to those questions." The Times says Republicans "also chastised Mr. Pruitt in opening remarks," although "their questions tended to be much more gentle."

[Politico](#) (4/26, Adragna, Snider, Guillén), however, reports "Democrats unleashed on

Pruitt...while Republicans rallied to his defense, deriding the criticisms as a 'shameful' political show designed to undermine his rollback of the Obama EPA's environmental rules." The [Washington Times](#) (4/26, Wolfgang) similarly says "Democrats unleashed weeks of pent-up fury at...Pruitt," and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/26, Halper) that it was Pruitt who lashed "out at critics, accusing them of fabricating stories about him." The [AP](#) (4/26, Biesecker, Knickmeyer) describes the EPA chief as "yet another Trump administration official with his job on the line over ethical concerns," and adds that "the public grilling at back-to-back House hearings, called formally to consider EPA's budget, came as support has appeared to erode for Pruitt among fellow Republicans."

The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Dennis, Eilperin) says that although Pruitt's job is "increasingly on the line," he was "unapologetic," and "attributed the vast majority of allegations about his ethics and management decisions to policy critics." According to the Post, Pruitt "remained calm and measured throughout the more than two-hour hearing, even during the most direct grilling about his expenditures and ethics decisions." But the Post says Pruitt "also avoided the 'yes or no' questions from some lawmakers and steadfastly refused to acknowledge any personal wrongdoing."

Robert Redford: Pruitt A "Risk To The Air We Breathe, The Water We Drink And The Food We Eat." Actor Robert Redford, writing in the [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Redford), urges Trump to "follow the suggestion of many – including some within his own party, and reportedly even his chief of staff – and replace...Pruitt," whose "conduct as head of the EPA is beyond disappointing; it's disgraceful." To Redford, "Pruitt's failings in ethics and judgment are only part of a much larger problem: Pruitt has failed at the core responsibility of his job. He's not protecting the environment" and "has become a one-man public-health risk to the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat."

Jackson Withdraws Nomination, Calls Allegations Against Him "Completely False And Fabricated."

Coverage of the announcement that the White House has withdrawn the nomination of White House physician Ronny Jackson to be VA secretary highlights the unverified accusations lodged against him. Reports also note President Trump's continued defense of the former nominee, who he described as "an admiral, highly respected, a real leader," in an interview with Fox News' Fox & Friends yesterday morning. The [Washington Times](#) (4/26, Miller) notes that Jackson yesterday called the allegations against him "completely false and fabricated," and [Politico](#) (4/26, Lima) that he also said he would "forever be grateful for the trust and confidence President Trump has placed in me by giving me this opportunity."

Jake Tapper, on [CNN's The Lead](#) (4/26), said, "Of course, as we all know, the White House did no vetting of this candidate and was utterly, shockingly – unfairly to Dr. Jackson – unprepared for these charges against him, ones the President called 'fake.'" The [New York Times](#) (4/26, A1, Fandos, Baker) says the decision to withdraw was made "after lawmakers went public with a torrent of accusations leveled against [Jackson] by nearly two dozen current and former colleagues from the White House medical staff." The Times says the President "lamented the loss of his nomination, and said that Senator Jon Tester of Montana, the top Democrat on the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, would 'have a big price to pay' for undercutting Dr. Jackson." According to the Times, "The question on Thursday was whether Dr. Jackson could continue in his role as the president's physician, one he has filled since 2013." The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/26, story 4, 0:20, Glor) noted "Jackson was accused of misconduct, including drinking on the job and over-prescribing drugs, allegations he denies," and [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/26, story 5, 0:30, Holt) reported, "The question now, will Jackson remain on as the President's doctor."

However, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/26, Bierman) reports "the White House said he would remain in his current job, at least for now." At any rate, says the [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Lamothe), the allegations "threatened Thursday to derail his military career and promotion to two-star admiral, even after Jackson withdrew his name from consideration for the Cabinet post." The Post adds that "several entities could potentially investigate Jackson. The most likely is the Defense Department inspector general," but "the Navy itself also has an inspector general, and the Navy's surgeon general, Vice Adm. C. Forrest Faison III, has

an interest in the case as the chief of the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/26, Nicholas) notes that on Thursday morning, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said, "Admiral Jackson is a doctor in the United States Navy assigned to the White House and is here at work today." The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Rein, Wagner, Dawsey) says that in addition to the allegations of improper behavior, including the claim that Jackson "had wrecked a government vehicle after getting drunk at a Secret Service going-away party," some "veteran advocates and many lawmakers also had expressed concerns about Jackson's lack of management experience, and some have worried that he would capitulate to Trump's goal of outsourcing more veteran services."

Former Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski, appearing on [Fox News Outnumbered](#) (4/26), said: "This is the worst that Washington has to offer. You have now maligned an individual who served our nation, both overseas and here in the White House, and not just under President Trump, but under President Obama and George W. Bush as well." Lewandowski added, "If you look at the qualifications of Dr. Jackson, a man who by all accounts was a professional, understands the medicine side of this, has served in the military and knows, because he's served with so many people who are now using the VA system, what those needs are – I don't know if we'll find a better person."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/26) accuses Tester of subjecting Jackson to unfair leaks and smears, and accuses Democrats of acting against Trump nominees as part of their campaign strategy. The Journal urges Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to acquiesce to Trump's request for the Senate to work weekends to address the backlog in stalled nominations.

WPost: Trump Blaming Democrats For His Own "Rashness And Incompetence." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (4/26) urges Trump "to recall what is paramount: the welfare of the men and women who have selflessly served their country." After the Jackson fiasco, "it should not be too much to ask that care be taken in selecting a leader with the competence, experience and vision to manage and improve a department that has struggled to meet the needs of veterans. Certainly, such care did not go into Dr. Jackson's selection." The Post concludes that "instead of blaming Democrats for his own rashness and incompetence, Mr. Trump should direct his energy toward finding someone, finally, qualified to lead VA."

Ryan Wants Additional Review Of Jackson's Record. [Reuters](#) (4/26, Holland, Rampton) reports that House Speaker Paul Ryan "said the allegations [against Jackson] warranted further review." Ryan is quoted as saying, "Whether or not there's merit to these allegations, we should find if there's merit to these allegations, and if there are, then the proper oversight should be done."

Tapper: How Jackson Earned "Glowing" Reviews From Obama Is A "Legitimate Question." Appearing on [CNN's Newsroom](#) (4/26), CNN's Jake Tapper said Jackson's withdrawal is "the consequence of governing by gut." Tapper asserted that President Trump nominated Jackson, "not on Admiral Jackson's ability to preside over a large bureaucracy, any experience, but just that he liked him." According to Tapper, "The administration sent up the nomination without the vetting that needs to be done." Tapper said both Democrats and Republicans on the Senate Veteran Affairs Committee "started doing research on [Jackson], research that the White House should have done." Tapper went on to say that the question, "how did [Jackson] get through the Obama years with all those glowing reports" is "a legitimate question."

Fed Beginning To Show Concern About Economy Overheating.

The [New York Times](#) (4/26, Tankersley) reports that "Federal Reserve officials are beginning to worry about a possibility that seems remote to workers who still feel left behind: the danger of the economy's running too hot, destabilizing financial markets and setting off a rapid escalation in wages and prices that could force the central bank to slam the brakes on growth." Fed concerns center on the prospect of the US economy "overheating," which the Times describes as "a condition when abnormally low unemployment can trigger spikes in inflation and destabilize financial markets." The Times adds that while certain Fed officials concerned with overheating "are pushing a faster pace of increases, other officials say it's

way too early to turn down the heat on the economy – and on workers who are still waiting for big wage increases to show up.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Out Of The City And Into Fresh Air.” The [New York Times](#) (4/26) praises the efforts of the Fresh Air Fund to send low-income city children to live with host families for two weeks in the summer and encourages donations to the group.

“A Reckoning For Cosby – Now For Others?” The [New York Times](#) (4/26) editorializes that Bill Cosby “was convicted of sexual assault on Thursday,” and that “about five dozen women have accused the once-beloved comedian in a half-century pattern of violence so routine that a judge let five of them testify against him at trial, where he was found guilty of drugging and sexually assaulting Andrea Constand.” Cosby’s first trial “ended with a hung jury last year,” and “the conviction was won this time after” the five women “were allowed to bolster Ms. Constand’s testimony, demonstrating his signature pattern of abuse.” The Times argues that “this exception both proves the rule – power provides protection – and shows that that shield is not impenetrable,” and contends that “the verdict and the prosecution should make clear that women need to be listened to and their accusations need to be taken seriously.”

“Mr. Macron Comes To Washington.” The [New York Times](#) (4/26), in an editorial, writes that French President Macron’s visit to the US is unlikely to have changed President “Trump’s mind in any meaningful way,” but Macron said the point of the trip “was to position himself as an ‘honest broker’ for the aftermath” of the US dropping the Iran nuclear deal, which the Times adds, “won’t be a bad outcome from the meeting.” The Times adds Macron sought “to establish his credentials before the American public,” and hopes that the trip “will help alleviate” his lack of partners in the US and Europe.

“El Salvador’s Chance To Save Women’s Lives.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (4/26) blasts El Salvador’s “draconian” abortion law as causing “horrific outcomes.” The Times calls on the country’s legislators to “stand up to the religious activists” and approve exemptions to the law. The Times argues such changes have popular support and “passing this legislation would be the right thing to do – a positive step toward recognizing the human rights of Salvadoran women and girls.”

Washington Post.

“Press Freedom Is In Retreat Around The World – Including Here.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (4/26) laments the results of this year’s World Press Freedom Index, compiled by Reporters Without Borders, which found “not only that journalists face increasing obstacles but also that democracy in many places is ill.” The Post highlights that the US under President Trump “fell two notches in the rankings, to 45th overall, in part because of Mr. Trump’s attacks on journalists,” and says that while press-freedom concerns are often “dismissed as special-interest complaining,” they are “much more than that.” When “the press is silenced, when journalists are killed, a deeper sickness is afoot. Unfortunately, it seems to be spreading.”

“Why Trump’s Travel Ban Should Lose At The Supreme Court.” The [Washington Post](#) (4/26) editorializes that the Supreme Court this week had to weigh whether a national security policy can be legal even if it “is irrational and inspired by religious bias” as “it considered a challenge to President Trump’s travel ban.” According to the Post, “morally and practically, there is no question the ban is a bad idea,” but “legally, the Trump administration may yet prevail.” The Post argues that “statement after statement – mostly before the campaign but also after – suggests that Mr. Trump sought to implement a Muslim ban as far as possible in the guise of this travel ban,” and contends that “the common-sense conclusion from this record is that the travel ban is inspired by anti-Muslim animus and irrational on national security grounds.”

“Our Veterans Require Great Care. Trump Hasn’t Shown Any.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (4/26) urges President Trump “to recall what is paramount: the welfare of

the men and women who have selflessly served their country.” After the Dr. Ronny Jackson fiasco, “it should not be too much to ask that care be taken in selecting a leader with the competence, experience and vision to manage and improve a department that has struggled to meet the needs of veterans. Certainly, such care did not go into Dr. Jackson’s selection.” The Post concludes that “instead of blaming Democrats for his own rashness and incompetence, Mr. Trump should direct his energy toward finding someone, finally, qualified to lead VA.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Europe, Trump And The Iran Deal.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/26) writes that French President Emmanuel Macron’s state visit to Washington is significant in that he appears to support changing the Iran nuclear deal to strengthen inspections and address Iran’s ballistic missiles, which the Journal casts as flaws allowed by former President Obama and former Secretary of State John Kerry. The Journal also welcomes what it casts as Macron following Trump strategy to contain Iran. The Journal argues that even a revised deal is too good for Iran to refuse, and would reinforce Western unity in the face of Russia, show that the West doesn’t support Obama-Kerry policies, and strengthen the US’s position in upcoming negotiations with North Korea.

“Victory For The Bitkovs.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/26) calls on Congress to determine what happened in the case of Igor, Irina and Anastasia Bitkov, who fled persecution in Russia only to be jailed in Guatemala after being convicted charges of fraud, money laundering, and using fake documents stemming from accusations by the Russian state bank VTB. The Journal says Congress should determine what role the UN’s International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala played in the matter.

“Road Testing The 2019 Resistance.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/26) accuses Sen. Jon Tester of subjecting Dr. Ronny Jackson to unfair leaks and smears, and accuses Democrats of acting against Trump nominees as part of their campaign strategy. The Journal urges Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to acquiesce to President Trump’s request for the Senate to work weekends to address the backlog in stalled nominations.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Amazon More Than Doubles Its Profit](#)
[Companies Feel The Impact Of Rising Oil Prices](#)
[Wells Fargo’s 401\(k\) Practices Probed By Labor Department](#)
[‘Boss, I Miss You So Much’: The Awkward Exile Of Michael Cohen](#)

New York Times:

[Bill Cosby Found Guilty Of Sexual Assault In Retrial](#)
[Cliff Huxtable Was Bill Cosby’s Sickest Joke](#)
[Korea Talks Begin As Kim Jong-Un Crosses To South’s Side Of DMZ](#)
[For Many, Life In Trump’s Orbit Ends In A Crash Landing](#)
[In Just A Week, ‘Nicaragua Changed’ As Protesters Cracked A Leader’s Grip](#)
[Isolation Of White House Medical Unit Hid Ronny Jackson From Scrutiny](#)

Washington Post:

[Memo Urges Policy That Would Separate Families](#)
[Cabinet Chaos Envelops Trump](#)
[Jackson Out As VA Pick, But Scrutiny Remains](#)
[NBC Faces Skepticism On Harassment Reforms](#)
[Cosby Is Convicted Of Sexual Assault](#)

Financial Times:

[Football Association In Talks To Sell Wembley Stadium](#)

[Deutsche Bank Abandons Global Investment Banking Ambitions](#)

[Relief For Greece? The Debt Dilemma Facing Creditors](#)

[Michel Barnier Quashes UK Hopes Of Special Access To EU Markets](#)

Washington Times:

[MS-13 Members Game U.S. Immigration System By Claiming They're Underage](#)

[Bill Cosby's Stunning Fall: 'America's Dad' First Celebrity Convicted In #MeToo Aftermath](#)

[North Korean Defectors Watch Kim Jong-Un's Visit To South Korea With Dread](#)

[Pharmaceutical Companies, Activists Battle Over Cost, Effectiveness Of Opioid Takebacks](#)

[VA Nominee's Withdrawal Sets Off New Round Of Finger-Pointing: 'Welcome To The Swamp'](#)

[Trump Gets His Man As Senate Confirms Mike Pompeo For State Department](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Bill Cosby Trial; Trump Personal Attorney Investigation; California Serial Killer Arrested; EPA Pruitt Controversy; State Sec. Confirmation; Flight Medical Distress Lawsuit; Michigan Oil Refinery Explosion; Teachers Protest; Maine-Police Shooter; NFL News; Ambulance Birth.

CBS: Bill Cosby Trial; Trump Personal Attorney Investigation; VA Pick Withdrawal; EPA Pruitt Controversy; Michigan Oil Refinery Explosion; Maine-Police Shooter; California Serial Killer Arrested; State Sec. Confirmation; North-South Korea Summit; Shooting Attempt Trial; Toronto Van Attack-New Video; JFK Files Release; NFL News.

NBC: Bill Cosby Trial; Trump Personal Attorney Investigation; VA Pick Withdrawal; State Sec. Confirmation; Teachers Protest; North-South Korea Summit; Michigan Oil Refinery Explosion; California Serial Killer Arrested; Autism Study; Amazon Prime Membership Hike; Police Rescue.

Network TV At A Glance:

Bill Cosby Trial – 12 minutes, 20 seconds

Trump Personal Attorney Investigation – 6 minutes, 45 seconds

EPA Pruitt Controversy – 4 minutes, 45 seconds

Michigan Oil Refinery Explosion – 2 minutes

State Sec. Confirmation – 1 minute

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: North-South Korea Summit; State Sec. Confirmation; Bill Cosby Trial; NBC Reporter-Sex Allegation

CBS: North-South Korea Summit; Bill Cosby Trial; NBC Reporter-Sex Allegation; California Serial Killer Arrested.

FOX: North-South Korea Summit; NBC Reporter-Sex Allegation; Bill Cosby Trial.

NPR: North-South Korea Summit; Bill Cosby Trial; EPA Pruitt Controversy; California Serial Killer Arrested.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Welcomes the U.S. Winter Olympians and Paralympians to the White House; welcomes German Chancellor Merkel to the White House; hosts the 2018 White House Correspondents' Association Scholarship Winners.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a phone call with the President of Afghanistan; joins the President for a working lunch with the Chancellor of Germany; joins the President as he hosts the 2018 White House Correspondents' Association Scholarship Winners.

US Senate: 9:15 AM Helsinki Commission hearing on Russia and the U.N. International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala – Helsinki Commission hearing on 'The Long

Arm Of Injustice: Did a UN Commission Founded to Fight Corruption Help the Kremlin Destroy a Russian Family?', on the case of Igor and Irina Bitkov and their daughter Anastasia, who fled Russia in 2008 and began a new life with new identities in Guatemala, but are now in jail over alleged paperwork irregularities. Witnesses include the family's attorneys Victoria Sandoval and Rolando Alvarado, as well as Global Magnitsky Campaign for Justice founding director William Browder. Hearing examines the questions 'Did the Kremlin enlist CICIG in its vendetta to destroy the Bitkovs?', 'Is this another example of the frightening reach of Russian President Vladimir Putin's govt and its ability to co-opt institutions designed to further the rule of law?', 'Has the Russian Govt corrupted a United Nations anti-corruption agency?', and 'What does this teach about the Russian Govt, the U.N., and the global fight against the scourge of corruption?' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov>

10:00 AM CANCELED: Senate Committee on the Judiciary nominations hearing Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>
Congress breaks for District Work Period until May 7.

US House: 9:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on robocalls – Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on 'Do Not Call: Combating Robocalls and Caller ID Spoofing', with testimony from Nomorobo founder Aaron Foss; RoboKiller Chief Product Officer Ethan Garr; First Orion Corporation Executive Vice President for Technology and Solution Development Scott Hambuchen; and Consumers Union Policy Analyst Maureen Mahoney Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

9:00 AM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda for the week including 'H.R. 4 – FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018' and 'H.R. 3144 – To provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time, and for other purposes', plus consideration of 'H.R. 5447 – Music Modernization Act', as amended, under suspension of the rules Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

9:15 AM Helsinki Commission hearing on Russia and the U.N. International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala – Helsinki Commission hearing on 'The Long Arm Of Injustice: Did a UN Commission Founded to Fight Corruption Help the Kremlin Destroy a Russian Family?', on the case of Igor and Irina Bitkov and their daughter Anastasia, who fled Russia in 2008 and began a new life with new identities in Guatemala, but are now in jail over alleged paperwork irregularities. Witnesses include the family's attorneys Victoria Sandoval and Rolando Alvarado, as well as Global Magnitsky Campaign for Justice founding director William Browder. Hearing examines the questions 'Did the Kremlin enlist CICIG in its vendetta to destroy the Bitkovs?', 'Is this another example of the frightening reach of Russian President Vladimir Putin's govt and its ability to co-opt institutions designed to further the rule of law?', 'Has the Russian Govt corrupted a United Nations anti-corruption agency?', and 'What does this teach about the Russian Govt, the U.N., and the global fight against the scourge of corruption?' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov>

9:15 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on FinCEN Customer Due Diligence Rule – Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee hearing on 'Implementation of FinCEN's Customer Due Diligence Rule – Financial Institution Perspective', with testimony from The Clearing House Association President Greg Baer; Crowell & Morning partner Carlton Greene; The FACT Coalition Executive Director Gary Kalman; and International Bank of Commerce Executive Vice President Dalia Martinez (on behalf of Mid-Size Bank Coalition) Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

Congress breaks for District Work Period until May 7.

Other: 8:30 AM Advance estimate GDP Location: TBD <http://www.bea.gov> https://twitter.com/BEA_News

8:45 AM RNLA National Policy Conference – Republican National Lawyers Association National Policy Conference, with speakers including Secretary of Labor Alex Acosta Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.rnla.org> <https://twitter.com/TheRepLawyer>

9:30 AM Israeli defense minister speaks at The Washington Institute – ‘Between Syria and Gaza: Urgent Challenges for Israel’s Security’ The Washington Institute Policy Forum, with Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman Location: The Washington Institute, 1111 19th St NW, Washington, DC www.washingtoninstitute.org
<https://twitter.com/washinstitute>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: [On President Trump’s Fox & Friends interview] “This interview was insane. It was rambling. It was so loud. It sounded like he was shouting the whole time. I just had the image of an unbathed Donald Trump shambling around in his bathrobe. Neither Fox nor friends could get a word in edgewise.”

Stephen Colbert: “But in their defense, they had to rush the leader of the free world off the phone to get to their actual next news segment: ‘Buck’s Famous Scrambled Eggs!’ The secret ingredient is changing the subject.”

Stephen Colbert: Ex-VA secretary nominee Ronny Jackson “denies the charges and says he’s bowing out because ‘these false allegations have become a distraction for this president.’ To be fair, jangly keys are a distraction for this president.”

James Corden: “Trump says he’s too busy to give a birthday present to Melania. I mean, how much effort does it take to just leave the back door open and say, ‘You’re free! I let you go’?”

Jimmy Fallon: “President Trump did a live phone interview with Fox & Friends. It was tough for Trump. He didn’t know whether to focus on the questions or watch himself on TV.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Melania made a wish, blew out her candles, opened her eyes and said, ‘Oh, crap, he’s still here.’”

Jimmy Kimmel: “The President celebrated this morning with a bonkers 30-minute-long phone call to Fox & Friends.’ ... Told them he got her [the First Lady] a beautiful card. A beautiful green card.”

Jimmy Kimmel: “And then during the interview, Trump accidentally admitted that Michael Cohen did represent him in the Stormy Daniels please-be-quiet-now case. So, happy birthday, honey!”

Jimmy Kimmel: EPA Administrator Pruitt “says he intends to stay at his job until he gets the average temperature of the earth up to a cozy 98 degrees.”

Seth Meyers: “Bill Cosby has been found guilty on all counts, and now faces 10 years in prison for each of his three crimes. Oh man, please tell me his lawyer is Michael Cohen.”

Seth Meyers: “In an interview today, President Trump said that he’s been too busy to buy First Lady Melania Trump a birthday gift. Oh please, I mean, it wouldn’t take that long. I’m sure the only gift she wants is an open White House door, and a 10-minute head start.”

Seth Meyers: “The Senate today confirmed CIA Director Mike Pompeo as secretary of state. Trump says he’s excited and looks forward to working with him for the next week or so.”

Seth Meyers: “President Trump said today that he would rather have an election based on the popular vote, and when Hillary [Clinton] heard that, she laughed so hard her pantsuit changed colors.”

Seth Meyers: "That was the first time in history that a TV show had to change its phone number because of a stalker. ... [Shows a clip of the Fox & Friends hosts] Look at those faces. ... That's the way scientists who test zombie viruses on monkeys look when they see the cage is open and the monkey is gone."

Seth Meyers: [On Trump's statement to Fox that he has many attorneys] "You have so many attorneys, and not one of them told you to keep your mouth shut? Which one of them told you it was a good idea to call a TV show on three hours sleep?"

Seth Meyers: "You picture prosecutors digging for evidence, now all they need is a remote control. I bet this morning, one of them said, 'Hey, should I print out the brief?', and another one said, 'Oh, let's hold off, he's on TV. I bet he's going to say something.'"

Trevor Noah: "It's officially over for Bill Cosby now, because whether he goes to jail or not, the shameful title of sexual predator will hang over his head forever. So he can't do anything now, except maybe run for president."

Trevor Noah: [On Trump getting a birthday card for Melania] "I would pay anything to know what he wrote inside that card that he definitely didn't actually get. Like, 'Roses are red, love it is a mystery. I had a historic electoral college victory.'"

Trevor Noah: "I can safely say that I've never seen a news anchor try to bail on an interview with the president of the United States. How is it that he's the commander in chief, but it's the couch people who have better things to do?"

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Conversation Contents

Weekly Report to the Secretary, April 29-May 5

Attachments:

/12. Weekly Report to the Secretary, April 29-May 5/1.1 Weekly Report to the Secretary April 29-May 5.docx

"Dermody, Matthew" <matthew_dermody@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Dermody, Matthew" <matthew_dermody@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Apr 26 2018 16:37:45 GMT-0600 (MDT)
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Subject:

Weekly Report to the Secretary, April 29-May 5

Attachments:

Weekly Report to the Secretary April 29-May 5.docx

All,

Attached is the Weekly Report to the Secretary in Google Doc and Word formats. Please let me know if you have questions.

Thanks,

Matthew Dermody
Special Assistant
Office of the Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
202-513-7778

 [Weekly Report to the Secretary April 29-May 5.docx](#)

**WEEKLY REPORT
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
APRIL 29-MAY 5, 2018**

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt will be in the office all week.

Assistant Deputy Secretary Todd Willens will be on official travel April 29 - May 3. He will be holding meetings with NPS and FWS employees, partners, and gateway communities in or around San Juan, Puerto Rico and Houston, Texas.

Associate Deputy Secretary Jim Cason will be in the office all week.

Immediate Announcements and Actions (within the next 14 days)

In late April or early May, consistent with the President's commitment to improved permitting, the Department plans to distribute additional guidance to its Assistant Secretaries, Bureau Directors, and NEPA Practitioners to facilitate compliance with E.O. 13807 and S.O. 3355. This guidance builds on CEQ and Department regulations that require Environmental Impact Statements to be completed within 150 pages (300 pages for complex circumstances), replaces the EIS sunaming process with a briefing schedule, and directs Decision Files to be compiled contemporaneously to EIS development and drafting.

15-60 Day Look-Ahead

No updates to report.

Awareness

No updates to report.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Congressional Hearings, and Travel

Chimney Tops Fire Briefing for Tort Claims Attorneys

(b) (5)



[UPDATE] By June 1, Cape Hatteras National Seashore plans to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to lease Oregon Inlet Marina. The marina is operated under a concession contract, which has been extended on an annual basis since 2000. A lease has been determined to be the appropriate method for managing the property in order to provide for facility maintenance and continued public use of this locally-important and internationally-known charter fishing marina. The RFP is expected to garner attention from multiple interested parties, including the current operator, the local media, and elected officials. (Updated 04/25/18). **(embargoed until public announcement)**

On or before June 1, FWS plans to publish in the *Federal Register* the final 2018-19 hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds. FWS annually prescribes frameworks, or outer limits, for dates and times when hunting may occur and the number of birds that may be taken and possessed in hunting seasons. These frameworks are necessary to allow state selections of seasons and limits and to allow recreational harvest at levels compatible with population and habitat conditions. Planned outreach includes congressional and stakeholder notifications. No news release is planned. Responsive talking points will be available for if asked questions. (04/11/2018)

On or around June 1 or later, the FWS anticipates the draft supplemental environmental impact statement for expanded public access to Rattlesnake Mountain on Hanford Reach National Monument will be available for public review and comment. This is part of the required regulatory processes to provide public access to Rattlesnake Mountain, consistent with a mandate in the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA; P.L. 113-291). Section 3081 of the NDAA states “the Secretary of the Interior shall provide public access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain for educational, recreational, historical, scientific, cultural, and other purposes, including (1) motor vehicle access; and (2) pedestrian and other non-motorized access.” The FWS established a Tribal Working Group with four local tribes and held public scoping meetings to address cultural concerns and to work through the process of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The FWS is addressing National Environmental Policy Act compliance by drafting a supplement to the 2008 Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Monument. Expanded public access will be controversial with tribes. FWS will continue outreach efforts to the tribes, media, and the public. A local news release is planned to alert cape public to comment period. (Updated 03/28/2018)

[NEW] On June 1 and 2, representatives from FWS, U.S. Forest Service, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and other partners will celebrate the proposal to delist Kirtland’s warbler. The current Kirtland’s warbler population is estimated to be over 2,000 pairs, more than double the recovery goal. The Kirtland’s warbler population continues to grow and has exceeded recovery goals for the past 16 years. FWS is accepting comments on the proposal through July 11. (04/25/2018)

On or around June 15, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* an action designating critical habitat for three plant species on Hawaii island and is correcting the maps for existing designations for an additional four species. FWS intends to exclude lands owned or managed by the Queen Liliuokalani Trust, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, and other private

landowners under 4(b)(2) of the Act. This action is not controversial. Interested stakeholders include the state of Hawaii and multiple state agencies, the county of Hawaii and various private landowners. Outreach includes a regional news release, social media, emails and phone calls to congressional offices and stakeholders mentioned above. (Updated 04/18/2018)

[NEW] In response to a petition to delist the species, on or around June 15, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to reclassify the American burying beetle from an endangered species to a threatened species. While the primary threats to the species have been ameliorated, ongoing threats remain. FWS will also propose a rule under section 4(d) tailoring prohibitions to those most likely to harm the American burying beetle and its habitats. The American burying beetle currently occurs in Arkansas, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Texas. This finding will likely be opposed by the Center for Biological Diversity and Center for American burying beetle conservation. It is also likely to be opposed by the petitioners, American Stewards of Liberty, the Independent Petroleum Association of America, the Texas Public Policy Foundation, and Dr. Steven W. Carothers, as they petitioned us to delist, not downlist the species. Outreach plans include a regional news release and Congressional notifications. (04/25/2018)

As early as June, FWS in partnership with Arizona Game and Fish Department will propose expanding the black-footed ferret 10(j) designation to include all current and historical ferret habitat in Arizona. The 1996 Arizona 10(j) area was limited to the Aubrey Valley Experimental Population Area (AVEPA); successful reintroductions and subsequent population expansions has resulted in ferrets venturing outside of the AVEPA (as fully protected status). FWS consultation with affected tribes has been initiated. FWS will coordinate with AGFD to best approach and inform Arizona grassland residents and industry (livestock) groups. Communication planning will be conducted. (04/18/2018)

In June, pending approval by the Department, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a Notice of Intent to prepare a draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) addressing the potential impacts from four similar wind energy project habitat conservation plans in Hawaii. The HCPs were submitted to the Service in support of requests for permits authorizing the take of endangered or threatened species, under the Endangered Species Act. Due to similarities in the geography, impact, covered species, and proposed mitigation measures between these four wind energy projects the Service has determined that a combined PEIS is the most efficient and comprehensive approach for considering the cumulative impacts of these actions on the human environment. When the PEIS publishes, outreach is planned to include local public notifications through the web and social media, and notifications to members of Congress in Hawaii, with targeted stakeholder outreach. (Updated 04/11/2018)

National Park Service

By May 15, pending Departmental approval, the NPS will publish a Federal Register notice announcing that the Department has authorized the preparation of a World Heritage nomination for the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks in Ohio. It is recirculating for surname. With nine component properties including those that form Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, and others managed by the State of Ohio, this series of geometric mounds is approximately 2,000

years old. The nomination file, which will take more than a year to draft, will be developed by local proponents in Ohio with guidance from the NPS. Upon completion and review, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks will determine whether the nomination will be submitted to the World Heritage Committee. (Updated 04/18/18).

[UPDATE] By May 15, Olympic National Park's 2017 Natural Resource Condition Assessment will be published as a National Park Service Resource Report. This report is jointly funded by the USGS and the NPS. A joint NPS-USGS news release will be issued announcing the report. (Updated 04/25/18)

On May 15, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore expects to host public meetings and online engagement related to uses and crowding at the most heavily visited portions of the park. This public input will be used to guide the development of a visitor use management plan for the park. (03/27/18)

On May 15, Rock Creek Park will issue a prospectus and begin accepting proposals from vendors to provide equestrian and related services at the park's horse center in Washington D.C. under a new 10-year concession contract. Services sought include private horse boarding, therapeutic riding programs, instructional camps, guided trail rides and riding lessons. Contract offers must be received by June 15. (04/11/18).

On May 15-16, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Advisory Council will hold a public meeting in Jamestown, Virginia. This will be the Council's final meeting since trail advisory councils are only authorized for 10 years under the National Trails System Act. Deputy Director Dan Smith plans to attend the first day. (04/12/18)

[UPDATE] By May 18, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) expects to issue the Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Muir Woods National Monument Salmon Habitat Enhancement and Bridge Replacement Project. The selected alternative will restore aquatic habitat degraded by riprap that was placed along the creek banks in the 1930s and replace four deteriorated pedestrian bridges that were installed in the 1990s. The project implements part of the 2014 General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. The projects themselves are not expected to be controversial, but there is public interest in ensuring that NPS schedules its projects to reduce cumulative impacts from planned construction work in the area by the Marin County Department of Public Works and the Federal Highways Works Administration. (Updated 04/25/18)

By May 20, National Capital Parks-East, via the Federal Highway Administration, will award a contract to repair the roads in Fort Dupont and Fort Davis Parks. This paving project will completely reconstruct the most deteriorated sections and resurface the roads. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton has been interested in the project. Public notifications will begin in the coming weeks and work is expected to begin in summer 2018. (04/04/18).

[NEW] On May 21, Mount Rainier National Park will issue a news release announcing the availability of the Paradise Cellular Environmental Assessment (EA) Finding of No Significant Impact. The selected action will issue right-of-way permits to Verizon Wireless and T-Mobile,

and provide conditional approval of AT&T's proposal to co-locate wireless communication facilities in the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise. The cellular facilities will be concealed in the attic of the visitor center and will not involve the construction of towers. The NPS received 893 comments on the EA, with approximately 70% opposed to the service. Comments opposed to the proposal emphasized the protection of national parks and wildernesses from wireless signals, with many assuming a cell tower would be constructed. Those in favor emphasized safety, and the benefits of improved communication including convenience, coordination, education, and timely notification of hazards. The NPS determined that cellular service at Paradise will benefit the public by improving communication between the NPS and the public, and between park visitors, in the most intensely used and developed district of the park. (04/25/2018)

[UPDATE] On May 23, the public comment period will close on Antietam National Battlefield's Visitor Access and Circulation Plan/Environmental Assessment (Plan/EA). The purpose of the Plan/EA is to evaluate the implementation of strategies to improve visitor access and circulation at the park. This Plan/EA also serves as an amendment to the 1992 Antietam National Battlefield General Management Plan, taking into account newly acquired lands not previously considered in the general management plan and evolving management decisions regarding the visitor center and several Battlefield tour roads. <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ANTICirculationPlan> (Updated 04/25/2018)

[UPDATED] On May 29, Golden Gate National Recreation Area is expected to release a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a competitive business opportunity to establish a waterfront community center at the Fort Baker Historic Boat Shop and Marina as an affordable recreational and gathering place. The purpose of the RFQ is to identify both private- and public-sector entities interested in operating the facility, which is currently operated by the U.S. Air Force as a military recreation facility open to the public. The NPS is seeking a long-term lease that will enable an offeror to make necessary investments in historic rehabilitation of deteriorating facilities, and the provision of public services and programs at the site. The park has kept the USAF informed throughout the lead up to this announcement, and they have express interest in participating in the RFQ process. (Updated 04/25/18).

[NEW] On or after May 29, the NPS will release the Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to the public. The FWS co-manages two of three parcels that comprise the Tule Lake Unit, and the FWS has concurred with issuing the FONSI. The selected action outlines the long-term management and development for the unit established in May 2008 by President Bush. (04/25/2018)

On May 30, it is anticipated that Independence National Historical Park will hold the kick-off meeting for the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission. Meeting participants will officially begin planning programs and activities commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. The Commission has many representatives from various organizations and corporations. Eight members of Congress serve on the Commission. (04/11/18).

By May 30, USDA APHIS will complete data analysis that will inform a schedule for bison transfer to the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes of Ft. Peck, Montana. On April 5, Yellowstone

National Park and the Deputy Administrator of USDA APHIS discussed several key issues related to the park's proposed bison quarantine program. This was follow-up to a February 2018 meeting, convened and facilitated by the Secretary of the Interior, between DOI, NPS, USDA APHIS, Ft. Peck tribal leadership, and the State of Montana. Substantive progress was confirmed on several issues including the structure and signators for agreements on quarantine facility operations, the future transfer of brucellosis-free bison to the Ft. Peck reservation, and USDA APHIS certification of the park bison quarantine facility. Yellowstone bison management and quarantine receive national public interest and media coverage. (Updated 04/18/18)

By May 31, the NPS intends to award multiple concession contracts for mountaineering guide services at Denali National Park and Preserve. Applicant submissions have been scored and rated. The selection process is currently in the matching phase where, one by one, prospective concessioners with ANILCA preferences have an opportunity to match the best offer. New contracts will have a term of 10 years, beginning January 1, 2019. (Updated 03/27/18).

Between June 1-15, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (pending Departmental approval of NOA) expects to issue a Record of Decision for the Vista Grande Drainage Basin Improvement Project Environmental Impact Report /Environmental Impact Statement prepared in cooperation with the City of Daly City, California. This project would allow Daly City to take project actions at Fort Funston to address storm-related flooding in the Vista Grande Drainage Basin. [PEPC link](#) (04/04/18).

On June 2, construction crews will begin temporary stabilization repairs on Arlington Memorial Bridge. The project start was delayed to accommodate the Rolling Thunder special event over Memorial Day weekend. This repair work is designed to keep the bridge open to traffic during its full rehabilitation (beginning in fall 2018). Work crews will repair bridge deck supports in the drawbridge span and the road deck in the westbound roadway. This work will require intermittent single lane closures on the bridge beginning after Memorial Day weekend. (Updated 04/11/18).

On June 14, the U.S. Mint will release the America the Beautiful Quarters Program coin honoring Voyageurs National Park. A ceremony will be held in International Falls, Minnesota. (04/04/18).

On June 15, Yosemite National Park's Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias will reopen to the public, following a 3-year \$40 million project funded through the NPS and Yosemite Conservancy matching funds. A new parking lot and welcome center has been constructed at the South Entrance, a shuttle bus will take visitors to the big trees, a handicap accessible boardwalk has been constructed, trails have been improved, and new restrooms have been installed. The dedication ceremony to mark the completion of the project is slated for June 14. <https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/mariposagrove.htm> (03/07/18)

Expected to last through June or the end of the dry season, Burnett Oil Company will continue seismic operation within Big Cypress National Preserve. The Nobles Grade 3D Seismic Survey, a proposal that the National Park Service and Burnett examined and refined for more than two

years before it was approved in May 2016, originally began in March of 2017 and suspended operations by June 2, 2017, when conditions became too wet to continue. Burnett is using a vibroseis technique to acquire geologic data to assess the potential for oil drilling within Big Cypress National Preserve. It is expected the exploration will continue this year through the south Florida dry season which should end by June 2018. Work began on March 29. (Updated 04/11/18).

July 3 is the deadline for the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to submit a nomination to the Keeper of the Ch'u'itnu Historic District Traditional Cultural Property nomination submitted by the Native Village of Tyonek (NVT). On April 4, 2018, the Alaska Historical Commission (Commission) approved the nomination submitted by the NVT, a federally recognized tribe that has lived within the proposed district for many generations. The District encompasses ca. 109,000 acres of land within Alaska's Ch'u'tnu River watershed approximately 90 miles west of Anchorage. The nomination is opposed by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources as well as some private organizations/commercial entities. An accord can only be submitted to the Keeper by the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and only after it has been reviewed by the Alaska Historical Commission. It is the Keeper's understanding that despite approval of the nomination by the Commission, the SHPO remains strongly opposed to it. Failure of the SHPO to meet the 90 day/ July 3 deadline will likely result in the filing of a third appeal by NVT directly to the Keeper to review the nomination and list the property in the NR. (04/18/18)

Between July 19-31, the American Indian Movement (AIM) will hold its 27th annual Sundance at Pipestone National Monument. The Sundance is the central sacred ceremony for the Lakota Tribes. On April 2, the NPS received a proposal from AIM to improve the grounds used for the Sundance. The NPS will begin working through the compliance process for the proposed improvements and has introduced possible alternatives to meet AIM's needs. (Updated 04/11/18).

By August 2018, the NPS and the National Park Foundation (NPF) will complete their joint Impact Investment Study. The Impact Investing Study is being funded by the NPF and will analyze how federal agencies have developed third-party financed infrastructure construction, operations, revitalization, and recapitalization programs over the past 20 years. The study will also identify potential new or modified authorities or policies required to implement alternative financing strategies to help the NPS move forward with the construction, repair, and ongoing maintenance of bureau infrastructure. (03/14/18).