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

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DOI In The News

Federal Agency Pegs \$4M For Arctic Refuge Infrastructure.

The [AP](#) (6/7, Joling) reports the Interior Department will provide \$4 million to fund infrastructure projects "to support petroleum drilling within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge." The allocation was included among \$50 million in funding announced Thursday to support "U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service construction projects to repair and rehabilitate aging wildlife refuge and fish hatchery

infrastructure at refuges throughout the country." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "The President is a builder, he loves to build and he loves our public lands, so it is a natural fit that the Trump Administration is dedicating so much attention to rebuilding our aging Fish and Wildlife Service infrastructure."

[Reuters](#) (6/7, Rosen) reports the \$4 million allocation "is one of the largest single items" in the \$50 million package. Interior spokesperson Heather Swift said the "oil exploration readiness" funds "will be used to support six projects designed to improve and construct existing outbuildings, facilities and research operations."

Also reporting are the [Anchorage \(AK\) Daily News](#) (6/7, Martinson) and the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (6/7, Ruskin).

Feds To Improve Trail At Great Dismal Swamp. The [AP](#) (6/8) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Thursday announced plans "to spend \$647,000 to repair a public access trail at the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge." Zinke "said the money is part of \$50 million going to maintenance and repair projects in areas controlled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service."

From Ferrets To Fish, Colorado Projects Receive \$4.3 Million In Funding. The [Denver Post](#) (6/7) reports that "projects in Colorado that will help the black-footed ferret and people who love to fish received \$4.3 million in funding Thursday from the Department of Interior." The National Black-footed Ferret Center was "awarded the bulk of the funding with \$3.6 million." According to the article, "the remaining \$751,000 will go to projects at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge."

Trump Administration Announces \$845,000 Approved For U.S Fish And Wildlife Service Projects In Arkansas. [KFSM-TV](#) Fayetteville, AR (6/7) reports that the Interior Department announced Thursday "that the Trump administration has approved \$845,000 in funding for critical U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service infrastructures in Arkansas." The article notes that "\$650,000 will go to repair the Raceway drain areas in Norfolk National Fish Hatchery near Mountain Home, Arkansas," and "another \$195,000 will be used to repair the Woodland Pond Public Access Trail in Central Arkansas."

Washington State Gets Close To \$1 Million For Fish And Wildlife Service Project. [KXLY-TV](#) Spokane, WA (6/7, Yngelmo) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Thursday announced "\$878,000 in funding approved for critical U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service infrastructure in Washington." According to the article, "\$395,000 will go to repair the adult fish holding pond surface at the Carson National Fish Hatchery." Also, "\$422,000 will go to repair raceway decks C and D with Epoxy and to rehabilitate the production raceway covers on the D deck at the Quilcene National Fish Hatchery." In addition, "\$61,000 will be used to replace inclined screens at the Abernathy Fish Technology Center."

Yellowstone Boss Says Trump Administration Forcing Him Out.

The [AP](#) (6/7, Brown) reports Yellowstone National Park superintendent Dan Wenk "said Thursday that he's being forced out as a 'punitive action' following disagreements with the Trump administration over how many bison the park can sustain, a longstanding source of conflict between park officials and ranchers in neighboring Montana." Wenk "announced last week that he intended to retire March 30, 2019, after being offered a transfer he didn't want."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Fears) reports that in response to Wenk's offer to retire next year, the Trump administration told him to "leave your post by August or retire now." The Post says that "after Monday's reply, Wenk spoke out Thursday, saying he felt abused, according to the Mountain West News Bureau, which broke the story of the administration's response." Wenk said Thursday in an interview, "I certainly feel like this is punitive. To not even have a phone call, the courtesy of having someone sit with me and say, 'This is why we feel it's important to have you [in Washington]; these are the things we need to you to do.'"

[Reuters](#) (6/7, Zuckerman) reports that Wenk said "that he and his boss, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, had been at odds over bison but that he believed they had settled their differences." Wenk said, "I thought we were on track and I thought that he was very supportive of what we were doing and how we were doing it and that we were going to get it done."

[NPR](#) (6/7, Hegyi) reports that "according to a recent report from the Interior Department's Office of Inspector General, some senior leaders within the Park Service feel they are being reshuffled for political or punitive reasons." The article notes that "reassignments and replacements among senior leaders within the Park Service is nothing new."

Also reporting are [Wyoming Public Radio](#) (6/7, Hegyi), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (6/7, Wilkinson, Montana), the [WyoFile](#) (6/7, Thuermer), and [Axios](#) (6/7, Britzky).

Zinke Announces 20-Year Mineral Withdrawal In Johnny Behind The Rocks.

The [Wyoming Business Report](#) (6/7) reports that Interior Ryan Secretary Zinke yesterday “announced the withdrawal of public land from mining in the Johnny Behind the Rocks Recreation Zone near Lander, Wyoming.” The Bureau of Land Management will “withdraw the land for a period of 20 years for the protection of recreational and cultural resources.” The move “supports Secretarial Order 3366, signed by Zinke in April 2018, which prioritizes Interior’s recreation mission and calls for increasing access to public lands.” Zinke said, “I’ve always said that some places are appropriate for mineral development and some places are not. I think Johnny Behind the Rocks is a perfect example of this balance. The Johnny Behind the Rocks Recreation Zone will provide world class recreation opportunities and public access for American families for years to come.”

Navajo Nation Awarded Reclamation Contract For San Juan River Basin Recovery.

The [St. George & Southern Utah Independent](#) (6/7) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “announced June 4 that the Bureau of Reclamation is awarding a \$1.1 million contract that will allow the Navajo Nation Tribal Government to assist with the recovery of endangered fish as partners in the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program.” The recovery program aids “the recovery of two endangered fish that live in the river – the Colorado pikeminnow and the razorback sucker – while allowing the continued development of water and power resources throughout the Colorado River Basin.” Zinke said, “Across Indian Country, working as a true partner with tribal nations is the best way to restore trust in government. Respect for tribal sovereignty goes hand in hand with this cooperation. I look forward to working with the Navajo Nation on a government-to-government basis on this key project in the San Juan River Basin as we establish a great conservation legacy under President Trump. In addition, we know that striking a balance between habitat management, resource development, and the needs of the tribal nation will require full cooperation at every level.”

Ducks Unlimited Holds National Convention.

The [Midland \(MI\) Daily News](#) (6/8) reports that Ducks Unlimited “held its 2018 national convention from May 30 to June 3 at the J.W. Marriott in Indianapolis, drawing nearly 1,000 volunteers as well as conservation leaders and partners from the United States, Canada and Mexico.” Addressing the convention, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, “(The U.S. Department of the) Interior is a partner with you for a reason. Just being here today, I know your passion. Your passion about public lands, your passion for the legacy, to make sure our children’s children can look back and say they know what we did right.”

Firm Seeks To Buy Arizona’s Navajo Generating Station.

The [AP](#) (6/5, Snow) reports Middle River Power of Chicago announced “Thursday it is putting together a proposal to buy the coal-fueled Navajo Generating Station, a move that could forestall the plant’s scheduled closure in late 2019 and save hundreds of jobs and funding for Native American tribes.” MRP senior vice president Joe Greco “on Thursday did not disclose a possible price for the plant or provide other specifics when he addressed the board of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District.” Greco “said his company could operate the plant efficiently and economically for customers.”

Additional coverage of efforts to save the Navajo Generating Station was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (6/8, Kutz).

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Tribes Call For Speedy Action On Long-awaited Bureau Of Indian Affairs Pick.

The [Nation Sun News](#) (6/7) reports that “tribal leaders are seeking quick action on the Trump administration’s nominee to lead the Bureau of Indian Affairs.” The National Congress of American Indians, “which just wrapped up its mid-year conference, issued a statement on Thursday in support of Tara Sweeney to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.” NCAI said in the statement, “The office of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs plays a critical role in the government-to-government relationship. This vacancy has caused undue stresses on this relationship, and we urge the Senate to move swiftly to confirm Ms. Sweeney in the coming weeks.”

Report: Tribes Misused \$6.2 Million.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (6/7, Bendtsen) reports that “a failure of oversight by the Bureau of Indian Affairs allowed the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes to misuse \$6.2 million in

federal funds between 2013 and 2015, according to a draft report by the Department of the Interior." According to the Office of Inspector General, "the BIA officials in Billings, Mont., responsible for overseeing the tribes' use of federal funds were 'not familiar with how to review (financial) reports and had not received training.'" The office has "now told the BIA to 'resolve' the \$6.2 million in money the tribes misspent."

Shawnee Tribe's Okla. Gaming Compact Gets BIA OK.

[Law360](#) (6/7, Lidgett) reports that "an agreement between the Shawnee Tribe and the state of Oklahoma allowing the tribe to engage in Class III gambling has been given the stamp of approval from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, the agency said Thursday." The bureau "said in a Federal Register notice, dated Thursday and scheduled to be published Friday, that a Class III gaming compact between the tribe and the state has been approved."

Bureau Of Land Management

Gas-lease Sale In 2 Counties Nets \$1.4M On 50,000 Acres.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/8, Webb) reports that "a federal oil and gas lease sale involving more than 50,000 acres in far-northwestern Colorado netted nearly \$1.4 million Thursday, a day after the Bureau of Land Management rejected protests involving parcels offered in the sale." The BLM "said in a news release that it sold 59 parcels totaling 50,573 acres for \$1,395,024, including rentals and fees, during its quarterly oil and gas lease sale in Colorado." The agency "had offered 62 parcels in Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco and Routt counties."

Entry To Red Rock Canyon Free On Saturday.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (6/7, Michor) reports that "entry fees for Red Rock National Conservation Area will be waived on Saturday to celebrate National Get Outdoors Day." The Bureau of Land Management will "only waive amenity-related fees for the day, according to the agency."

Bureau Of Land Management To Host Free Fishing At Loon Lake.

The [Coos Bay \(OR\) World](#) (6/7) reports that "in celebration of National Get Outdoors Day, the Bureau of Land Management will host a free fishing event at Loon Lake Campground." The article adds that "the \$5 day use fee will be waived at Loon Lake on June 9 as part of the event."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Pingree's Effort To Block Federal Offshore Drilling Plan Fails.

On its website, [WMEA-FM](#) Portland, ME (6/6, Leary) reports the US House Appropriations Committee has rejected an amendment offered by Rep. Chellie Pingree's that would prevent the Interior Department from using appropriated funds to implement its plan to expand offshore drilling. According to the article, "Opponents say the amendment was too sweeping and would affect current drilling off the shores of Texas and Louisiana."

Mario Diaz-Balart Votes Against Amendment Barring Offshore Drilling. [Florida Politics](#) (6/6, Nicol) reports that of four representatives that serve on the Appropriations Committee, only one voted against an amendment "to prevent the expansion of offshore drilling into new areas, including the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and Alaskan waters." Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart was criticized by the National Resources Defense Council for his vote opposing the amendment.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Endangered Listing Recommended For Washington Butterfly.

The [AP](#) (6/7) reports that "wildlife officials propose listing a butterfly found in a northern Washington island as an endangered species." San Juan Island's marbled butterfly "could be the 10th endangered species in Washington state." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is "proposing designating 1.3 square miles (3.4 square kilometers) on the island as a critical habitat for the species."

FWS To Prepare Draft Programmatic EIS For Pakini Nui, 3 Other Wind Farms.

[West Hawaii Today](#) (6/7) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "recently published a

notice of intent to prepare a draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement addressing the potential effects of operations and maintenance activities on the endangered Hawaiian hoary bat, Hawaiian goose and Hawaiian petrel at four wind farms in the state, including one in Ka'u." The document will "address the draft habitat conservation plan for the Pakini Nui Wind Farm, and amendments to three existing plans: Auwahi Wind and Kaheawa Wind Power II projects on Maui, and the Kawaihoa Wind Power project on Oahu."

Feds Approve Route For NC 540 Across Southern Wake County.

The [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (6/7, Stradling) reports that the Federal Highway Administration gave its "final blessing" to North Carolina's plan to build a 28.4-mile six-lane \$2.24 billion toll road across southern Wake County, NC and finish the Interstate 540 loop around Raleigh, NC. The North Carolina Department of Transportation can now seek environmental and other permits. The highway still faces opposition from the Southern Environmental Law Center and two other environmental groups who last month filed a lawsuit seeking to halt the project. The suit "claims the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service broke the law when it concluded that the highway would not threaten the existence of two endangered species of mussels that live in a creek the road would cross."

National Park Service

US Officials OK Plan To Rebuild Isle Royale Wolf Population.

The [AP](#) (6/7, Flesher) reports that "with the wolves of Isle Royale National Park on the verge of dying out, federal officials Thursday announced a plan to relocate 20-30 of the elusive predators from the mainland to the Lake Superior archipelago over the next several years, starting as early as this fall." The National Park Service "formally committed to rebuilding the island's gray wolf population after three years of study and debate, acknowledging the move was contrary to the usual hands-off approach toward designated wilderness areas." Superintendent Phyllis Green "described the move as a necessary trade-off to prevent the park's moose from becoming so abundant they overeat its trees and shrubs, damaging the environment and eventually threatening their own food supply." Cam Sholly, the park service's Midwest regional director, said, "This decision is an important step forward in attempting to obtain a proper predator-prey dynamic within the Isle Royale National Park ecosystem."

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (6/7, Marcotty) reports that Lynn McClure, senior regional director for the National Parks Conservation Association in a statement, "Now is the time to restore wolves and bring balance back to Isle Royale National Park. We encourage the National Park Service to act soon and bring more wolves to Isle Royale National Park so we might once again hear their unmistakable howls." However, "some wilderness advocacy groups argued that nature should be allowed to take its course." Kevin Proescholdt, conservation director of Wilderness Watch, "said nature has likely already determined that the island is too small to maintain a healthy wolf population, and that rapid turnover of species is characteristic of island ecosystems." He said, "This project is an immense manipulation in a designated wilderness that is supposed to be free of manipulation."

Also reporting are the [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (6/7, Flesher), the [Detroit Free Press](#) (6/7, Flesher), and [KMSP-TV St. Paul \(MN\)](#) St. Paul, MN (6/7, Johnson).

Rep. Comstock Bill For Land Exchange At Claude Moore Colonial Farm Passes Senate.

The [Fairfax \(VA\) Times](#) (6/7) reports that Rep. Barbara Comstock issued a "statement after her legislation, H.R. 1397, passed the Senate on June 6." She said, "Last Congress, I was asked by local residents, supporters, and employees of the Farm to help resolve an issue with land boundaries at Claude Moore Colonial Farm, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Central Intelligence Agency since federal land and property transfers, no matter how small, require an act of Congress. I am pleased this legislation has finally passed the Senate and will provide the needed permanent fix to address concerns about access and security at these facilities." The legislation will "transfer federal land within the boundary of the George Washington Memorial Parkway from the Department of Interior to the Department of Transportation (DOT) and from DOT to Interior federal land within the boundary of the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center of the Federal Highway Administration adjacent to the parkway."

Vicksburg National Military Park Gets \$6 Million In Repair Funds.

[WAPT-TV](#) Jackson, MS (6/7) reports that Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith announced yesterday that the National Park Service will "direct more than \$5.9 million to address deferred maintenance needs at

the Vicksburg National Military Park.” Hyde-Smith “said the \$5.9 million will address erosion and ground deterioration at the historic Vicksburg attraction.” Hyde-Smith said, “Overdue maintenance should not be allowed to threaten the Vicksburg National Military Park and its historic significance. I’m pleased funding has been appropriated for the National Park Service to address repairs needed to keep the Military Park safe and open over the long term.”

Park Service Set To Replace Septic System.

The [Coastal Review](#) (6/7) reports that the National Park Service this winter will start “construction of a new septic system for the Buxton park housing area.” The [Island Free Press \(NC\)](#) (6/7) reports that “the existing septic drain field across from the Buxton Ranger Station occasionally floods during rain and storm events and becomes unusable.” The project will “relocate the current housing septic system out of the flood prone area.”

How A Photo Of 2 Men Ignited A Storm At Joshua Tree.

[E&E Publishing](#) (6/7, Hotakainen) reports that a picture “commemorating LGBTQ Pride Month set off a ruckus when officials at Joshua Tree National Park posted it on Instagram.” As of Thursday morning, the Instagram post at Joshua Tree National Park had “attracted more than 13,000 ‘likes’ and nearly 800 comments.” Park officials have “posted an update on their account, urging commenters to tone down their language.” David Smith, the superintendent of Joshua Tree, said, “We believe national parks belong to all Americans regardless of whether they are gay or straight. As stewards of America’s treasures, civil servants welcome everyone to come and enjoy their parks.”

Castillo De San Marcos Cannons To Be Restored.

[WJXT-TV](#) Jacksonville, FL (6/7, Powers) reports that “crews with the National Park Service on Thursday started removing some of the cannons from the Castillo de San Marcos fort in St. Augustine.” The cannons will be “floated up to Jacksonville via barge to be trucked to Texas A&M University for restoration.” According to the article, “the plan is to have all 25 cannons restored, which will take five years.”

Bison Gores Woman In Yellowstone’s 3rd Recent Animal Attack.

The [AP](#) (6/7) reports that “a bison has gored a woman for the third animal attack in Yellowstone National Park this week.” According to Yellowstone officials, “a crowd got too close to the bison Wednesday in the Lower Geyser Basin.” The animal “charged the crowd, goring 59-year-old Kim Hancock of Santa Rosa, California.”

Also reporting are [CBS News](#) (6/7, Leavy), [ABC News](#) (6/7, Jacobo), and [USA Today](#) (6/7, Miller).

2 Men Die In Separate Incidents While Swimming Off Outer Banks On Wednesday.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (6/7) reports that “two men, both 55, died Wednesday while swimming in the Atlantic Ocean off Cape Hatteras National Seashore in the Outer Banks.” The incidents were “the second and third swimming deaths off Cape Hatteras National Seashore this year, all happening this week.” National Parks of Eastern North Carolina Superintendent David Hallac said, “Today has been a very hard day at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Our staff offer our sincere condolences for the loss of two visitors. We urge everyone to be very careful when swimming in the Atlantic Ocean.”

Also reporting are [WSET-TV Lynchburg \(VA\)](#) Lynchburg, VA (6/7, Tyree) and [WWBT-TV Richmond \(VA\)](#) Richmond, VA (6/7).

NPS Seeks Lessee For Oregon Inlet Marina.

The [Coastal Review](#) (6/7) reports that the National Park Service is “requesting proposals now through Sept. 5 from parties interested in a long-term lease of Oregon Inlet Marina at Cape Hatteras National Seashore in Nags Head.”

Insular And International Affairs

Interior Department Awards More Than \$800,000 For Technical Assistance In USVI.

[St. Croix Source](#) (6/7) reports that the Office of Insular Affairs “awarded the V.I. government several grants totaling more than \$800,000 from its technical assistance program, according to Delegate Stacey Plaskett (D-VI), one of two federal funding announcements Thursday.” According

to Plaskett's office, "the technical assistance grants are intended for short-term, non-capital projects and are not meant to supplant local funding of routine operating expenses of an insular government." The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also "announced a \$52,625 grant to the Department of Planning and Natural Resources to prevent petroleum and hazardous substances from being released into the environment."

OIA Opens Grant Period For Coral Reef Initiative.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (6/8) reports that the Office of Insular Affairs will "begin accepting grant applications for the Coral Reef and Natural Resources Initiative." The office has "indicated that it will prioritize projects in the insular areas that address threats to coral reef ecosystems, research on sea level rise impacts coral reefs, and applications to combat and eradicate invasive species." Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo said, "The Coral Reef and Natural Resources Initiative is an important program that will help preserve our coral reefs and combat the spread of invasive species [in] Guam and in the territories. Each year, I am proud to join my colleagues from the territories in providing congressional appropriations for OIA to support this program and other that benefit our island and the other insular areas. I encourage organizations on Guam to apply for this important grant opportunity, and I will be happy to support their applications."

US Geological Survey

Lava From Kilauea Boils Away Freshwater Lake In Hawaii.

[NPR](#) (6/7, Cheslow) reports that "lava from Kilauea volcano spilled across highways and into Hawaii's Green Lake — a major source of freshwater on Hawaii's Big Island — and evaporated all the water, according to the U.S. Geological Survey." Sally Sennert, a USGS volcanologist embedded at the Smithsonian's Global Volcanism Program, said, "The lava is quite hot, so it boiled away the water." Sennert added "that she doubts the lake will return."

Opinion Pieces

A Free Pass To Kill Migratory Birds.

In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (6/7, Hayes, Scarlett), David J. Hayes And Lynn Scarlett, both former deputy secretaries at the Interior Department, write that the language of the Migratory Bird Treaty is "clear and straightforward: Unless an individual has a valid hunting permit, 'it shall be unlawful at any time, by any means, or in any manner' to 'hunt, take, capture [or] kill' migratory birds." But "as part of the Trump administration's drive to remove 'unnecessary' regulatory 'burdens' on the energy industry, the Interior Department has advanced an alternative interpretation of the law that absolves companies from engaging in foreseeable and preventable activities that kill birds." In their view, "the implications of the Interior Department's new position on bird killings are troubling, because building owners, oil and wind energy companies and others will no longer have any legal incentive to reduce or eliminate bird deaths caused by their operations." Hayes and Scarlett have "joined with a senior group of former Interior Department appointees from both parties, as well as career conservation professionals who have worked at the department for the past half-century, to urge Secretary Ryan Zinke to suspend this misguided opinion."

Mapping The Ocean Is The First Step For Responsible Offshore Drilling.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (6/6, Porter), energy and environmental consultant J. Winston Porter argues "now is the time to proceed with seismic surveys of the Atlantic" that can "provide a better understanding of how much oil and natural gas is available offshore." According to Porter, opponents of expanded offshore energy production "ignore the fact that the U.S. Energy Information Administration expects the need for oil and gas to grow through 2040, and possibly beyond." According to Porter, the National Science Foundation has determined seismic testing has "been conducted safely for decades in the Gulf of Mexico and other areas off the U.S. coast and around the world." Meanwhile, technological advances "have made production safer, more environmentally benign, and more economically efficient."

Drilling In Arctic Refuge Makes For A Bad Deal [Opinion].

In an op-ed for the [Houston Chronicle](#) (6/7, Luzak), private investor and Wilderness Society governing council member Kevin Luzak argues drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge "would be a shameful sell out of the public's best interests" that would generate few benefits. Luzak

concludes that "Our wild public lands provide clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat and a link to our natural heritage. We cash them out or sell them off at great peril to the lasting, permanent benefits they can provide."

Additional Reading.

- *Utah's Leaders Try To Control Endangered Species Act, Take Lazy Way On Traffic Planning.* [The Hill](#) (6/7, Van Dam).
- *Don't Put Grizzlies In The Crosshairs.* [Chicago Tribune](#) (6/1).
- *Editorial: Feds Must Also Protect Klamath Farmers, Ranchers.* [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (6/7).
- *Guest Column: A Call For Help On Dead Zone.* [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (6/7, Daigle).

Top National News

Trump And Pompeo Reiterate That North Korea Must Agree To Full Denuclearization.

Media reports cast the President as sounding a positive note on his upcoming summit with North Korea's Kim Jong-Un, even as stories indicate both he and Secretary of State Pompeo made the US objective for the talks clear once again. [Reuters](#) (6/7, Oliphant) reports that Pompeo "reemphasized Washington's stance going into the talks," saying the President "will reject anything short of 'complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.'" Pompeo also said the President "is prepared to ensure a DPRK free of its weapons of mass destruction is also a secure North Korea." [Axios](#) (6/7, Treene) notes, moreover, that Pompeo said Kim "indicated to me personally that he's prepared to denuclearize, that he understands that the current model doesn't work." The [AP](#) (6/7, Miller, Colvin, Lucey) reports, meanwhile, that Trump "dangled before Kim visions of normalized relations with the United States, economic investment and even a White House visit."

In its lead story, [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/7, lead story, 2:10, Holt) also reported that Trump was "floating the possibility of a good relationship with the North Korean dictator and some day welcoming Kim to the White House." The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/7, lead story, 2:15, Glor) also led with the summit, reporting that "during a joint appearance with the Japanese prime minister," Trump said if Kim "does not denuke, sanctions will stay in place." [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/7) reported that Trump also said that "if things don't go well...he's totally prepared to walk away," but (Brown) added that "Trump had an optimistic tone speaking about the upcoming summit," saying "he believes it will be a great success." [Politico](#) (6/7, Nelson) quotes Trump as saying, "All I can say is I am totally prepared to walk away. I did it once before. You have to be able to walk away. ... I am totally prepared to walk. It could happen, maybe it won't be necessary. I hope it won't be necessary to walk, because I really believe that Kim Jong-un wants to do something that is going to be great for his people and also great for his family and great for himself."

[USA Today](#) (6/7, Jackson) describes Trump as "exuding optimism" and the [New York Post](#) (6/7, Fredericks) as "confident," but on the other hand, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/7, story 2, 2:05, Vega) cast Trump as trying "to temper expectations for the outcome." Along similar lines, [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/7) said "Trump is downplaying expectations for next week." The [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Wagner) also reports that alongside Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the White House, Trump, who the Post says "has been playing down expectations for the summit...told reporters that the meeting will be 'much more than a photo op.'" The Post notes that the President reiterated that North Korea must agree to "denuke," and that anything less "will not be acceptable."

[Bloomberg News](#) (6/7, Sink) indicates, meanwhile, that Trump "left open the possibility" that the summit "could continue for several sessions," and "said it would probably take more than one summit to reach an agreement with North Korea on its nuclear program." The [Washington Times](#) (6/7, Miller) reports Trump also disclosed that "the letter he received from...Kim...was a 'very nice' greeting."

In an analysis piece, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/7, Gordon, Donati, Cheng) cautions that those involved in past, failed negotiations with North Korea believe Trump faces an arduous path – in which a commitment to denuclearize is just the starting point. White House Director of Legislative affairs Mark Short said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/7), "We believe we have gotten to this point with the President's leadership and not just maximum pressure, but allies aligned with us, particularly, China is most helpful here and a long way to go." When asked if the President's insistence on full denuclearization and inspections is possible, Short replied, "I think that people have underestimated this President multiple times. He is anxious to have these conversations. North Korea is brought to the table because of the pressure they're under."

Steve Hayes of the Weekly Standard said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/7), "I think the kind of comments the President's making have not been helpful. He deserves credit for changing the failed policy of the previous three administrations, no doubt about it. Different conversation. We are not outsourcing to China. That's helpful. The things he's saying now, that he doesn't need to prepare, that North Korea is committed to denuclearization, that this has been an open and honorable process, those things I think are not helpful. We should be very clear with the North Koreans that they will denuclearize, we will verify it, it will be irreversible, and that's it. They have an opportunity to do this. This is their only opportunity to do it or we are walking away and they are in trouble."

Matt Schlapp of The Hill said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/7), "What President Trump deserves a lot of credit for is this ultimate pressure campaign, and the idea that China believed that the President of the United States was serious. The second issue is that by a lot of people's accounts, the Kims are out of money. They are running out of money. ... They actually need to have this go better because they have to have the spigot resources from China turned on again. I'm hopeful that the President will walk away if it's a bad deal. He doesn't have to do this immediately. If they need America's help and they need America to take the pressure of China, then he's got to get to a deal. If they've got to get to a deal, I'm happy we have a President who likes this kind of process. I think it plays to his strength, and I'm not that worried that he will walk away from a bad deal."

Sebastian Gorka said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (6/7), "Just the absurdity that this war is still really, according to the lack of a peace treaty, in effect. It's just a cease-fire. So, yeah, let's do it. Let's go there. Let's denuclearize the peninsula. This isn't a dictatorship that is going to fall tomorrow. We are not going to solve all of the peninsula's problems, but if anyone can end the war, if anyone can denuclearize it, it's President Trump."

US Officials: Pompeo And Bolton Fully Prepared Trump For Summit. Under the headline "Bolton And Pompeo Have Fully Prepared President Trump For North Korea Summit," [Townhall](#) (6/7, Pavlich) reports "White House National Security Advisor John Bolton and...Pompeo have been working closely together in preparation for the big meeting." According to "State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert, Pompeo and Bolton had breakfast Thursday morning in Washington DC and briefed...Trump together yesterday at the White House." Said Nauert, "They are working nonstop together to present their best foreign policy advice to the president." Special Assistant to President Trump and NSC spokesperson Garrett Marquis said yesterday, "The president's national security team has been preparing for this summit daily. They've had special sessions, meetings, numerous conversations. ... The president is prepared, he's ready for the summit and his national security team traveling with him are ready for Singapore."

Media Analyses: Trump Not Prepping For Summit. [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/7) said that Trump is "not exactly cramming for" the summit with North Korea, which is "not exactly the norm, especially not with a dangerous and unpredictable nuclear-armed adversary, nor is it the norm to be openly pushing allies around, sometimes even literally." [Politico](#) (6/7, Nelson, Lima), under the headline "Trump Says Kim Meeting Will Be About 'Attitude,' Not Prep Work," reports "Trump on Thursday said he doesn't feel a need to prepare for his historic meeting."

To the [AP](#) (6/7, Miller, Colvin, Lucey), meanwhile, Trump is "heading into his North Korea summit with characteristic bravado," and also notes that he said yesterday that "'attitude' is more important than preparation." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/7, story 2, 2:05, Vega) also reported Trump said the summit isn't about preparation but "attitude," and added that Pompeo "seems to be cleaning this one up, saying the President has received daily briefings from his national security team. And we're told that the Secretary of State and the President have spent 10 hours a week together in person and on the phone preparing for this summit."

[Politico](#) (6/7, Johnson) reports, meanwhile, that "Bolton has yet to convene a Cabinet-level meeting to discuss...Trump's upcoming summit with North Korea next week, a striking break from past practice that suggests the Trump White House is largely improvising its approach to the unprecedented nuclear talks."

Under the headline "The Trump-Kim Summit Is Still A Good Idea," Eugene Robinson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (6/7), "The bombastic, belligerent, inexperienced and unpredictable leader of a nuclear-armed nation, a man who flouts international norms and agreements, is scheduled to meet with...Kim...on Tuesday. What could go wrong? How much time do you have?" Trump's "on-again, off-again summit with Kim has been hastily slapped together" and "the necessary groundwork has not been laid." Moreover, "the Trump administration's stated goal...is unrealistic. ...Nonetheless, I have been and remain strongly in favor of the summit. I believe there is reason to believe it will do no harm – and reason to hope it might do some good."

Pompeo: Giuliani "Does Not Speak For The Administration" On North Korea. The [Washington](#)

[Examiner](#) (6/7, Morrongiello) reports that "Pompeo on Thursday downplayed a controversial claim by Rudy Giuliani that...Kim... 'got on his hands and knees and begged' for a meeting with" Trump. Said Pompeo, "Rudy doesn't speak for the administration when it comes to this negotiation and this set of issues."

Pompeo: Reports Of Tensions With Bolton "A Complete Joke." The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/7, Gehrke) also reports that Pompeo yesterday "swatted away reports that he is in a budding rivalry with...Bolton for influence over the administration's policy regarding North Korea." Said Pompeo, "Those articles are unfounded and a complete joke."

North Korea Destroying Key Ballistic Missile Site. [USA Today](#) (6/7, Bacon) reports "new commercial satellite imagery indicates North Korea is destroying a key ballistic missile test site ahead of next week's summit." USA Today adds that "Joseph Bermudez, an expert on Pyongyang's military technology, published a report this week on the website 38 North saying the Iha-ri test site 'represented a critical component' in development of medium range missiles and could have been used for testing larger, intercontinental missiles."

WPost A1: Korean Americans Hope Summit Will Lead To Family Reunifications. The [Washington Post](#) (6/7, A1, Fifield, Kim) reports on its front page that for many Korean-Americans, next week's summit "isn't just political. It's personal." Many are "hoping that the summit will usher in a new period of warmer relations that will pave the way for family members to be reunited, or at least find out what happened to long-lost brothers and sisters."

White House Unveils Ad Campaign Targeting Opioid Abuse Among Young People.

Mostly favorable media coverage of the Administration's "Stop Youth Opioid Abuse" ad campaign included a report on [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (6/7, story 8, 2:55, McFadden) and generated substantial local TV attention, with more 100 broadcasts noting the story throughout the day Thursday. [AdWeek](#) (6/7, Rittenhouse) says "the concept is similar to how" the Truth Initiative "approached its anti-smoking ads, which first made waves in the late 1990s and featured former smokers showing the devastating impact tobacco had on their bodies." According to AdWeek, Ad Council CEO and president Lisa Sherman said the Council is in it "for the long haul." Sherman is quoted as saying, "This is truly a national public health emergency, and we know we have the right team in place to make a difference and move the needle." [CNN](#) (6/7, Vazquez) reports ONDCP Deputy Director Jim Carroll said "'very few government dollars had to be spent on this' but did not have the specific amount used for the campaign on hand." He also "noted that the campaign has not needed the \$10 million appropriated in the last omnibus bill." [The Hill](#) (6/7, Sullivan) reports Sherman said "the ad space will likely be worth more than \$30 million."

[NPR](#) (6/7, McCammon) said the images "are graphic and, White House officials say, based on true stories that highlight how easily people can become addicted." NPR says the four ads all feature young people intentionally hurting themselves. Robin Koval, CEO of Truth Initiative, "a public health organization working on the ad campaign, said more than 150 possible anti-opioid messages were considered and tested for their effectiveness." However, Casey Newmeyer, an assistant professor of marketing at Case Western Reserve University, "said research on effectiveness of public health campaigns is mixed."

The story was widely covered in local TV newscasts. [WDTN-TV](#) 📺 Dayton, OH (6/7, 4:32 p.m. EDT), for example, reported on the "four new ads about real people with real stories," and noted "many media companies have volunteered to place these ads online or on TV for free." Kellyanne Conway was shown saying, "These are true stories, and good for those individuals for sharing their stories so that others may learn." [WRAX-TV](#) 📺 Raleigh, NC (6/7, 12:10 p.m. EDT) referred to "public service ads telling powerful true stories with the hope of showing teens and young people just how dangerous the drugs are," and [WCAU-TV](#) 📺 Philadelphia (6/7, 4:35 p.m. EDT) to "a powerful new public health campaign," which the White House "says...is just the beginning of a wide range of initiatives."

[WLOS-TV](#) 📺 Asheville, NC (6/7, 11:26 p.m. EDT) , "The White House launches a multi-million dollar as campaign to fight opioid use among teens and young adults." Conway "said she hopes the campaign sparks conversations." First Lady Melania Trump "also included combating the opioid epidemic into her 'Be Best' initiative." [KDKA-TV](#) 📺 Pittsburgh (6/7, 6:29 p.m. EDT) reported that "'The Truth About Opioids' will be featured on radio, on TV, and also on social media." KDKA added, "More than 40,000 people dies of opioid overdoses in 2016." Similar reports ran on [WHBO-TV](#) 📺 Memphis, TN (6/7, 9:10 p.m. CDT), [WYFX-TV](#) 📺 Youngstown, OH (6/8, 10:07 p.m. EDT), and [KMSB-TV](#) 📺 Tucson, AZ (6/7, 9:12 p.m. MST) among other stations.

[NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (6/7, story 8, 2:55, McFadden) was "invited to the White House for an interview about the new campaign," and reported last night that "for an administration often accused of polarizing the country, this issue they say must rise above politics. ... The ads certainly

transcend politics, produced over the past 7 months in partnership with the Truth Initiative, known for its extremely effective 19-year anti-smoking campaign." Conway was shown saying, "We must, must see this as a non-partisan issue looking for bipartisan solutions." Surgeon General Jerome Adams said, "My baby brother Phillip is in prison due to crimes he committed to support his addiction." [WSAZ-TV](#) (6/7, 4:30 p.m. EDT) referenced the report from NBC News' Cynthia McFadden who reported that Conway, who is "the White House point person on the crisis," and Adams invited her to the White House to view the "bold new public education campaign."

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (6/7, Lehman) notes Conway said "the ad campaign will target primarily opioid abuse and dependency among Americans 18 to 21," but she also "suggested that an additional "halo" audience of Americans 15 to 34 would be the target of data-driven ad service." Said Conway, "Our goal is to show young Americans the danger of misusing opioids, and how quickly one can become addicted to opioids."

[USA Today](#) (6/7, O'Donnell) also reports that for Surgeon General Jerome Adams, "the 'Truth about Opioids' ads hit home especially hard as his younger brother, Phillip, became addicted to opioids after trying a pill at a party when he was in his early 20s." Adams' brother "is now incarcerated in a Maryland state prison." Adams is quoted as saying, "It can happen to anyone and you can do things you never imagined yourself capable of."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/7, Miller) reports "Trump has made combating opioid addiction epidemic a priority since taking office," and the [AP](#) (6/7, Thomas) that he "declared the opioid crisis a public health emergency last October."

Trump Defends Trade Policies Ahead Of G7, Will Leave Summit Early For Singapore.

President Trump took to Twitter Thursday to defend his recent trade moves ahead of this weekend's G7 summit, which is expected to focus on trade. Trump [tweeted](#), "Please tell Prime Minister Trudeau and President Macron that they are charging the US massive tariffs and create non-monetary barriers. The EU trade surplus with the US is \$151 Billion, and Canada keeps our farmers and others out. Look forward to seeing them tomorrow." In a second [tweet](#), Trump said, "Prime Minister Trudeau is being so indignant, bringing up the relationship that the US and Canada had over the many years and all sorts of other things...but he doesn't bring up the fact that they charge us up to 300% on dairy – hurting our Farmers, killing our Agriculture!" In a third [tweet](#), he wrote, "Why isn't the European Union and Canada informing the public that for years they have used massive Trade Tariffs and non-monetary Trade Barriers against the US Totally unfair to our farmers, workers & companies. Take down your tariffs & barriers or we will more than match you!"

The [AP](#) (6/5, Gillies), meanwhile, reports that Trump is "cutting short" his trip to Canada this weekend. Late Thursday, the White House announced he would be leaving the summit Saturday morning, "after a session on women's empowerment but well before it wraps up." Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said, "The President will travel directly to Singapore from Canada in anticipation of his upcoming meeting with North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un Tuesday." The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/7, Leach) also reports Sanders' statement.

The [New York Times](#) (6/7, Shear) reports the President departs today for Quebec where he will meet "with the leaders of America's closest allies for a summit meeting that usually ends with a moment of global camaraderie – the 'family photo' that captures presidents and prime ministers smiling for the camera. This year there won't be many grins." The Times says the "anger of American allies, especially about Mr. Trump's decision to impose tariffs, is palpable." [Politico Europe](#) (6/7, Gillies) says this year's meeting will "largely serve as a showcase of just how thoroughly Trump has shaken things up, fomenting disagreement and disarray on topics that had long given the world's industrialized powers common cause and purpose."

[Reuters](#) (6/7, Ljunggren) reports that G7 leaders are "more divided than at any time in the group's 42-year history, as" Trump's "America First" policies "risk causing a global trade war and deep diplomatic schisms." According to Reuters, French President Emmanuel Macron, "who has invested in a warm personal relationship with Trump, said that the other G7 nations should remain 'polite' and productive but warned that 'no leader is forever,' a sign that Europe would not surrender meekly to the US president."

Macron, the [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Paletta, Lynch, Long) reports, "threatened to join with other world leaders to issue a rare rebuke of the United States" at this weekend's summit. Macron said Trump "could be excluded from joining with other leaders in a joint declaration of unity at the end of a global summit here, a very unusual move that was meant to isolate Trump's recent burst of trade threats aimed at numerous US allies." Macron tweeted, "The American President may not mind being isolated, but neither do we mind signing a 6 country agreement if need be. Because these 6 countries represent values, they represent an economic market which has the weight of

history behind it and which is now a true international force."

Kudlow: G7 Leaders Should Take Notice Of Trump's Pro-Growth Reforms. National Economic Council Director Lawrence Kudlow writes in the [Washington Post](#) (6/7) that President will be attending the summit "as the leader not just of the largest and fastest-growing G7 economy in the world but also as the most important pro-growth reformer of our times. The cynics and the doubters said it couldn't happen. But just 500 days into his presidency, President Trump has demolished the fashionable and fatalistic theories of permanent secular stagnation." Trump, he argues, "reminds us that a rising tide lifts all boats. Perhaps the other participants will take notice."

Short: Trump Seeking Level Playing Field In Trade. White House Director of Legislative affairs Mark Short said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/7), "I think this President recognizes the trade deals for decades have created an unlevel playing field, and the President's trying to make it a fair and free trade that allows us more access to international markets."

Short: Tariffs' National Security Grounds Not Aimed At Canada. When asked about why the US is citing national security grounds in tariffs on Canada, White House Director of Legislative affairs Mark Short said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/7), "The reality of losing a manufacturing base in the United States that's essential to national security. That's what it's about. Not targeted on Canada."

Putin: Trump's Tariffs Teach Europe A Lesson. The [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Troianovski) reports that "as he watches Europe's confrontation with President Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin appears to be enjoying an 'I told you so' moment." Putin said Thursday during his nationally broadcast annual call-in show that European leaders "long ignored his warnings about the dangers of a world dominated by the United States," and with Trump's new metals tariffs Europeans are "finally getting their comeuppance for showing excessive deference to Washington."

Administration Won't Defend ACA Against States' Legal Challenges.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Goldstein) reports that in "a dramatic break from the executive branch's tradition of arguing to uphold existing statutes," the Trump Administration "said Thursday night that it will not defend the Affordable Care Act against the latest legal challenge to its constitutionality." [Politico](#) (6/7, Rayasam) says the DOJ filing "says it agrees with states bringing the suit that the individual mandate is unconstitutional, as are two of the law's major insurance provisions meant to protect people with expensive medical conditions."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/7, Howell) reports that the Department's stance "means it will be up to Obamacare fans such as Democratic governors to step in and defend the Affordable Care Act against on onslaught from GOP attorneys general, who say after Congress nixed the individual mandate at the heart of the law, the rest of it should follow." The [New York Times](#) (6/7, Pear) says that if the federal court accepts the Justice Department argument, "it could eviscerate major parts of the Affordable Care Act that remain in place despite numerous attacks by President Trump and his administration."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/7, Klein) says the "legal move still faces an uphill climb," but "it creates another cloud of uncertainty for insurers in the coming months as they finalize rates for the new year." The Examiner adds that the move is "sure to embolden Democrats who plan to make healthcare a central part of their strategy to retake Congress in this fall's elections by arguing that Republicans led by President Trump are sabotaging Obamacare."

Ryan Promises House Vote On Immigration Reform Bill.

The [New York Times](#) (6/7, Kaplan, Fandos) reports that House Speaker Ryan "promised" Thursday "that House Republicans would draft legislation on immigration for a floor vote in the coming weeks." Following "a lengthy meeting with his conference to discuss immigration, Mr. Ryan stressed that pursuing a compromise bill would be a better course than forcing the issue with Democratic support." Ryan "argued that if rank-and-file lawmakers were to go ahead with forcing immigration votes, the resulting measure would not become law." However, the Times says "it remained unclear if the negotiations on a compromise would satisfy Republican lawmakers who are eager to see the House address the fate of the Dreamers." The [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Debonis) says Ryan is trying "to avoid an internal showdown that threatens to split the GOP and alienate midterm voters."

[Breitbart](#) (6/7, Munro) casts Ryan's comments in a negative light, saying the Speaker said "he hopes to quickly write up an amnesty bill and get it passed through the House." According to Breitbart, the bill "would reportedly provide an amnesty to at least 1.4 million illegals, and it does not include a cap to prevent fraud or subsequent waves of migrants hoping to join the next amnesty."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/7, McLaughlin, Howell, Dinan) says House Republicans left a meeting on immigration Thursday saying "they are committed to writing a bill that matches President Trump's four pillars of reform — but didn't make much headway on settling big issues such as whether illegal immigrants will get full citizenship rights." The Times says "a number of Republicans" have said they delay signing "a petition that would force Democrats' preferred alternative onto the floor and instead will give Republican leaders until early next week to write a bill that can bridge the deep divides within their party."

Rep. Steve King said on [Fox News' Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (6/7), "I don't see a lot of upside and I don't see it because in every single plan or plans...there is a significant aspect of amnesty in every one of them and I believe every one of them is greater than the amnesty that Barack Obama unconstitutionally provided with DACA, that's the downside. ... My argument is you start this path now and you give amnesty to two or three million or more, who is going to be the next and most sympathetic group of illegal aliens in America that will be deified again and traded for another measure of security? At some point everybody in America that's here illegally gets amnesty and what's the border security for in the first place? We need to be willing to send people back or they will keep coming, that just a simple equation of history and humanity."

Denham: Tentative Immigration Deal With Conservatives Has Emerged. Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (6/7, Fram, Mascaro) reports that Rep. Jeff Denham, "a leader of House moderates said Thursday that a tentative deal with conservatives has emerged to help young 'Dreamer' immigrants stay in the US legally." While Denham stressed that the "details remained unclear and nothing has been finalized," he "said that under the offer from the hard-right House Freedom Caucus, young immigrants brought illegally to the U.S. as children could get a new visa that would let them stay in the country for eight years." However, he "said he was unclear what the pathway to remaining legally after that would be." The AP adds that it is unclear if the offer "represented a breakthrough in the long-running GOP divide between moderates and conservatives on immigration, or would devolve into the latest failed attempt to bridge that gap."

Short: Democrats "No Longer Coming To The Table" On Immigration. White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short, asked on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/7) how close the Administration is to a deal that would allow the Dreamers to remain in the US and have a path to citizenship in exchange for increased border security, said, "We're working with House Republicans on those same four pillars we laid out to you before: providing certainty for the DACA population, getting border security, ending chain migration, and addressing the diversity lottery program. We think those are essential. What's changed in the last six months unfortunately, is the courts have ruled in what Democrats view as in their view in saying the DACA population is protected for now. So, Democrats are no longer coming to the table. We've actually tried many times to find a deal here. As you know, we need 60 votes in the United States Senate. Without Democrat cooperation it's difficult for us to get there."

House Takes Up White House Rescissions Package.

The [AP](#) (6/7, Taylor) reports "the House on Thursday took up a White House plan to cut almost \$15 billion in unused government money, a move that's designed to demonstrate fiscal discipline in Washington even though it wouldn't have much of an impact on spiraling deficits." The bill "would take a mostly symbolic whack at government spending because it would basically eliminate leftover funding that wouldn't have been spent anyway."

Alice Johnson Thankful To Trump After Sentence Commutation.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/7, story 5, 2:30, Glor) reported that after "more than 20 years behind bars," Alice Marie Johnson "was released from federal prison in Alabama late yesterday after President Trump commuted her life sentence on a drug conviction." Trump [tweeted](#) Thursday, "Good luck to Alice Johnson. Have a wonderful life." CBS (Diaz) added that Johnson, whose commutation came after Kim Kardashian West "lobbied President Trump for Johnson's clemency" last week, is "thankful to the man who gave her a second chance." Johnson: "I just knew him from 'The Apprentice' and other things and he was always funny to me. I love hearing him say, 'You're fired.' He just told me, 'You're free.'"

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/7, story 4, 2:35, Thomas) reported, "Sources tell ABC News, the White House is working on a growing list of eligible Americans, including people without celebrity status or support. ... Expect more pardons and commutations. There are no real limits on the President's power. And breaking with tradition, he has taken this action without consulting the Justice Department."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Fair Housing's New Champions." The [New York Times](#) (6/7) editorializes that HUD, under Secretary Carson, "is turning away from its historic mission as the guarantor of fair housing access for the poor." The Times argues that both parties in Congress are now "standing up for the principle of economic integration, supporting a House bill that would require the Department of Housing and Urban Development to remove some of the barriers that trap low-income families in impoverished communities, casting long shadows over their lives." The Times concludes that the "enthusiasm" shown by both parties towards the idea of economic integration is "encouraging," and calls on the Senate to "embrace the House version of the legislation and push this promising experiment forward."

"The Cult Of Trump." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/7) says "the name of the game for Republican candidates this primary cycle has been to flaunt their Trump love. And woe unto anyone deemed insufficiently smitten." While this weeks primaries "underscored the striking degree to which President Trump has transformed the Republican Party from a political organization into a cult of personality," Democrats "show signs of taking a more pluralistic approach, fielding candidates who are willing and even eager to break with their national leaders — the House minority leader, Ms. Pelosi, in particular."

Washington Post.

"A Political Prisoner In Russia Is Starving. The World Should Take Notice." The [Washington Post](#) (6/7) editorializes that four years after Russia "invaded and illegally annexed the Crimea region of Ukraine, the crime and its victims get little attention. One of them, a courageous activist and filmmaker named Oleg Sentsov, is determined to change that." Last month, Sentsov, who is imprisoned in Siberia, "embarked on a hunger strike to demand the release of 64 Ukrainian political prisoners held by Russia; he did not include himself." The Post argues that Russia "ought to be shamed into freeing Mr. Sentsov."

"Betsy DeVos's Gunless Gun Violence Study Is Irresponsible – And Unsurprising." The [Washington Post](#) (6/7) editorializes that Education Secretary DeVos' "disclosure that the federal commission on school safety established in response to the Parkland, Fla., high school massacre will study gun violence without actually looking at guns" is "misguided," "irresponsible," and "given this administration's cowardly deference to the national gun lobby – unsurprising." The Post argues that even President Trump "didn't seem to think discussion of guns would be off the table, given that the White House news release describing the commission's work said an area of focus would be looking at 'age restrictions for certain firearm purchases.'" The Post concludes that "ignoring the central role that guns play in school shootings makes a mockery of the commission and its promise to make schools safer."

"Outside Money Funds A Dishonest Smear Campaign In Prince George's." A [Washington Post](#) (6/7) editorial says that in the Democratic primary race for Prince George's County executive, Angela D. Alsobrooks, "the county's top prosecutor since 2008, has raised money from thousands of county residents and is running a no-nonsense, substantive, grass-roots effort," while former Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards "has mainly outsourced her campaign to a coalition of special interests that has injected nearly \$1 million since March into getting her elected." Edwards' campaign "is striking not just for its superficiality but also for the fact that she's not the driving force behind it. Labor unions are." The Post concludes that Alsobrooks "would be the better choice for the county's top elected job."

Wall Street Journal.

"Congress vs. Trump On Tariffs." Arguing that Congress has, over time, given too much of its constitutional trade authority to the President, a [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/7) editorial praises the effort by a bipartisan group in the Senate to push back against the President's trade policies.

"Latin Americans Against Venezuela." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/7) editorializes that the OAS voted 19-4 Tuesday to suspend Venezuela's membership for its violations of democracy and human rights. The Journal praises the vote, which it says reflects a shift in the region.

"Kate Spade, Entrepreneur." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/7) editorial.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[The Hard Part For Trump: Making North Korea Keep Summit Promises](#)
[Lawmakers Take Aim At Chinese Tech Firms](#)
['Get Moving': How Trump Ratcheted Up The Trade Battle With China](#)
[McDonald's Plans Corporate Job Cuts, 'Eliminating Layers'](#)

New York Times:

[Anger Flares Up As Group Of 7 Heads To Quebec](#)
[Trump Strikes Deal To Save China's ZTE As North Korea Meeting Looms](#)
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Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: ATF Agents Ambushed; Arizona-Police Brutality; US-North Korea Relations; WH-FLOTUS Speaks Out; Trump-Kardashian Pardon; Guatemala-Volcano Eruption; US Consulate-China Illness; Kate Spade-Suicide; Severe Weather; Florida-Training Flight Emergency Landing; Starbucks Price Increase; California-Road Rage; Adopted Teen Graduates.
CBS: US-North Korea Relations; ATF Agents Ambushed; Arizona-Police Brutality; CDC Suicide Report; EPA Chief-Abuse of Power; Trump-Kardashian Pardon; ICE-Pizza Delivery Man Detained; Hawaii-Volcano Eruption; Social Security Report; Severe Weather; NASA-Mars Discovery.
NBC: US-North Korea Relations; Trump-Giuliani Goes Rogue; Guatemala-Volcano Eruption; EPA Chief-Abuse of Power; US Consulate-China Illness; ICE-Pizza Delivery Man Detained; Severe Weather; Opioid Crisis; Kate Spade-Suicide; Airline Prices Increase; California-Road Rage; Facebook-Privacy Breach; Florida-Training Flight Emergency Landing; Nashville-CMA Festival.

Network TV At A Glance:

US-North Korea Relations – 6 minutes, 30 seconds
Severe Weather – 1 minute, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: NHL Stanley Cup Finals; Trump-DOJ Investigation-Wolfe Indictment; US-North Korea Relations; Wall Street.
CBS: US-North Korea Relations; Dreamer Legislation; ICE-Immigrants Transported To Prisons; NHL Stanley Cup Finals; Severe Weather-Wildfires.
FOX: US-North Korea Relations; Fox Midterm Poll.
NPR: Trump-Japanese Prime Minister Meeting; US-North Korea Relations; Google And Twitter Data Share With Chinese Firms; NHL Stanley Cup Finals.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — participates in an expanded bilateral meeting with the President of the French Republic; participates in the official welcome of the G7 Summit; participates in a working lunch and Session I of the G7 Summit; participates in the leaders' family photo at the G7 Summit; participates in Session II of the G7 Summit; participates in an expanded bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Canada; participates in a working dinner and Session III of the G7 Summit; participates in a cultural event at the G7 Summit.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: No schedule announced.

US House:

9:00 AM House expected to vote on FY'19 appropriations bill – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of 'H.R. 5895 – Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2019' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC

Other:

9:00 AM CSIS press briefing ahead of Trump-Kim summit – Center for Strategic and International Studies press briefing ahead of the summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore on Monday. Speakers include CSIS Senior Adviser and Korea Chair Victor Cha, CSIS Senior Vice President for Asia and Japan Chair Michael Green, CSIS Korea Chair Senior Fellow Sue Mi Terry, and CSIS China Power Project Senior Adviser for Asia and Director Bonnie Glaser Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC

10:00 AM Bipartisan Policy Center hosts 'Healthy Homes Equal Healthier Lives' discussion with HUD Secretary Carson – Bipartisan Policy Center hosts 'Healthy Homes Equal Healthier Lives' discussion with Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson, followed by panel discussion with Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future President and CEO Eileen Fitzgerald, The Commonwealth Fund Executive Vice President for Programs Donald Moulds, and Bon Secours Baltimore Health System CEO Samuel Ross Location: Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 I Street Northwest, Washington, DC

10:00 AM Heritage Foundation discussion on 'U.S.-Indonesia Relations and the Rise of China' – 'U.S.-Indonesia Relations and the Rise of China' Heritage Foundation discussion, featuring an address by former Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs Rizal Ramli. Speakers also include former U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia Amb. Cameron Hume, and Center for Strategic and International Studies Southeast Asia Program Deputy Director and Fellow Brian Harding Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC

12:00 PM EESI co-hosts briefing on 'The State of Germany's Energy Transition' – 'The State of Germany's Energy Transition' Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) / Embassy of Germany briefing, 'showcasing how Germany has been successfully integrating renewable energy into its electrical grid and decoupling energy demand from economic growth'. Speakers include German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy Director-General OF Energy Policy, Heating and Efficiency Thorsten Herdan, Siemens Distributed Energy Systems Senior Business Development Director Todd Thurlow, and Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) President Lisa Jacobson Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm G50, Washington, DC

2:00 PM Cardin to Brief Media After Speaking with Students on Gun Violence – Senator Ben Cardin will host a short media availability following a conversation with students at Argyle Middle School in Silver Spring, Md. Hundreds of students from the school recently wrote and invited the senator to discuss their concerns related to gun and school safety. MEDIA may RSVP to cardinpress@cardin.senate.gov Location: Argyle Middle School, 2400 Bel Pre Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20906

SCOTUS Justice Sotomayor speaks at American Constitution Society National Convention – American Constitution Society for Law and Policy 2018 National Convention continues, bringing together over 1,000 of the nation's leading lawyers, judges, law students, policymakers, scholars, and activists to discuss critical legal and public policy issues, and to network with lawyers and company representatives from around the country. Speakers today include U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and her former law clerk Professor Melissa Murray Location: Capital Hilton, 1001 16th St NW, Washington, DC

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: "We are just days away from Donald Trump's summit with Kim Jong-un. It's truly historic. The stakes are almost as high as Trump's and Kim's cholesterol."

Stephen Colbert: "Quick reminder: The fallout of this meeting could be actual fallout."

Stephen Colbert: "Good news, everyone – Melania Trump was seen in public yesterday. She also saw her shadow. That means at least six more weeks of marriage."

James Corden: "While President Trump took questions from reporters at the White House today, he said he doesn't have to prepare for next week's summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un because, 'it's about the attitude.' This brings to mind the iconic words of Sir Winston Churchill before his pivotal meeting with Josef Stalin and Franklin Roosevelt. I believe he said, 'Ahhh, I'll just wing it!'"

James Corden: "Good to see President Trump prepare for this pivotal summit with the same energy we all used for that job interview at Domino's back in high school."

James Corden: "In other Trump news, during a tense phone call with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, President Trump tried to make a joke, saying, 'Didn't you guys burn down the White House?' In fact, what Trump was referring to was the War of 1812, when the White House was burned down by Britain, not Canada. See? No preparation needed! It's all attitude."

James Corden: "This is quite the accomplishment, because Trump isn't just the worst President in history – he's the worst President *at* history. It's an amazing thing to be able to accomplish."

James Corden: "Trump got the facts wrong, but since Trudeau is Canadian, he is still the one who apologized."

Trevor Noah: "No one in Washington has been as consistently caught in scandal as EPA chief Scott Pruitt. Surprisingly, his scandals haven't come from him working to destroy the environment. They've come from his little side hustles. Normally when you find out about corruption in DC, it makes you mad. Millions in bribes! But with every Pruitt revelation you go, 'Wait, what?'"

Trevor Noah: "I will be honest, this is not the fast Fort Hood scandal I saw coming out of the White House. If anything, I thought it would be Trump getting in trouble for pardoning the Hamburglar."

Trevor Noah: "Think about this for a second – you're the head of a major government agency with influence over some of the biggest corporations in the world, and you decide to abuse your position to get your wife a chicken store. My man, focus!"

Conan O'Brien: "Very, very strange story about President Trump today. Some sources are saying that President Trump has been complaining that he can't watch porn at the White House. ... When he heard this, Bill Clinton said, 'Wow, thank God Hillary lost, man.'"

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump is busy, though. Today he met with [Shinzo] Abe, the Prime Minister of Japan. Trump said he'd only lift trade tariffs if Abe could introduce him to Godzilla."

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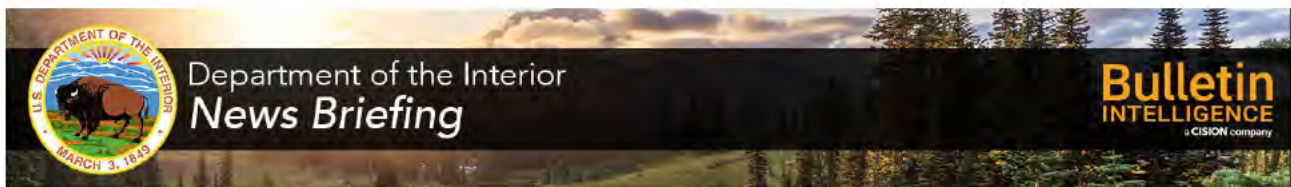
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[EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, June 4, 2018

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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DOI In The News

Zinke Cites 'Environmental Disaster' In Sending Park Police To Border.

[The Hill](#) (6/3, Green) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "doubling down on his decision to send law enforcement officers from his department, including from the National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Park Police (USPP), to help apprehend immigrants in the country illegally along the U.S.-Mexico border." According to article, in a string of interviews last week, "Zinke heavily promoted his decision to send 22 officers to patrol two national parks in Arizona and Texas." In an appearance on the Fox Business Network on Thursday, Zinke "called the state of the border an 'environmental disaster.'" Zinke "provided more details on his decision in an interview with Breitbart News Radio on Monday, saying the decision was strategic because his patrol officers could make arrests."

Montana Tribes To Feds: Help Our Community Fight Meth Addiction.

[The Fix](#) (6/1, Burch) reports that "Native American tribes in Montana are asking the federal government to help them confront methamphetamine addiction in their communities, which they say is causing health consequences and putting many children in foster care." According to the article, "members of the tribal executive board for the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes met with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on May 20 in Poplar, Montana to ask for assistance in confronting addiction on the Hi-Line reservation." Zinke "said that one way to break that cycle is to focus on treatment for mothers and grandmothers, who can then focus on raising the next generation so that they are not as heavily impacted by drugs." Zinke said, "The fabric of the tribe is moms and grandmas. And when moms and grandmas are addicted, then the whole fabric of the tribe begins to rip. Then kids get transferred over to uncles and different relatives, and that's a new set of challenges. We think that focusing on moms and grandmas on rehabilitation in a community is a priority, and it won't solve the problem, but I think it's the best solution up front."

Northwest Colorado Volunteers Honored At BLM Making A Difference Awards Ceremony.

The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (6/3) reports that "the Bureau of Land Management recently recognized the winners of the 2018 Making a Difference National Volunteer Awards; among the recipients, volunteers working in Northwest Colorado through the Great Escape Mustang Sanctuary were honored." The award recipients were "honored during a ceremony that connected winners across the country via video teleconferences at BLM offices in several states and Washington, D.C." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "Through the years, volunteers on our public lands have ensured that Teddy Roosevelt's ideal – the American conservation ethic – would endure. The BLM volunteers being celebrated today are champions of this conservation ethic, and it is an honor to recognize them for their extraordinary efforts."

Interior Is Using Drones To Save People Trapped By Hot Lava.

[NextGov](#) (6/2, Corrigan) reports that "drones have become a critical part" the Interior Department's "response to volcanic eruptions, as well as hurricanes, wildfires and other natural disasters," according to Mark Bathrick, director of Interior's Office of Aviation Services. Their capabilities were demonstrated on May 27, when the agency deployed a fleet of drones to help an individual "surrounded by molten rock flowing from the Mount Kilauea volcano in Hawaii." Bathrick said, "We're able to do our mission, which is often running towards those natural disasters, in a much safer fashion through the use of unmanned aircraft."

Also providing coverage is the [Aero-News Network](#) (5/27).

US Interior Sees Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Lease Sale As Soon At July 2019: Assistant Secretary Balash.

[Platts](#) (6/1, Bradner) reports that "a lease sale in the US Arctic National Wildlife Refuge could come as early as July 2019, according to a top Interior Department official." Balash, assistant

interior secretary for lands and minerals, said that “the ‘scoping’ process for an environmental impact statement for ANWR is now underway and will be completed in June.” Balash said. “We will hold the lease sale when the EIS is completed.”

First Round Of Treaty Talks Wrap Up On Columbia River.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (6/3, Scott) reports that “the first two days of negotiations on modernizing the Columbia River Treaty between the U.S. and Canada wrapped up last week as the neighboring countries worked to reconfigure a model for sharing natural resources for flood management, hydropower operations and conservation.” According to the article, “during the two days of talks in Washington, D.C., the U.S. and Canadian negotiators discussed objectives and reaffirmed the spirit of cooperation between the two countries.” The article notes that “the U.S. negotiation team included representatives of the Interior Department, the State Department, the Bonneville Power Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.”

What’s Next For Coal?

The [Kingsport \(TN\) Times-News](#) (6/3, Hayes) reports on the recent Virginia Coal & Energy Alliance/Southern States Energy Board 39th annual conference and expo, where some of the “prime topics” were “opportunities for metallurgical coal, a new framework for coal markets and efficient coal power technologies.” Interior Department Policy Advisor Tucker Davis “talked about the new optimism within the industry since President Donald Trump had taken office.” Davis said, “We are working to restore the promise of the American dream to coal miners and their families.” He declared, “The war on coal is over. We are committed to getting government out of your way. America is open for business. This is what change looks like.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

BIA Met Secretly With Energy Cos. To Break Lease: Developer.

[Law360](#) (6/1, Westney) reports that “oil and gas developer Prima Exploration Inc. has hit the Bureau of Indian Affairs and two rival developers with a suit in North Dakota federal court, alleging the agency worked secretly with the companies to end Prima’s lease on land within the Fort Berthold Reservation and let the other companies develop the land instead.”

Nooksack Tribal Chair Says Disenrolled Should ‘Move Along’.

The [AP](#) (6/3, Shapiro) reports that Ross Cline Sr., the newly elected Nooksack tribal chairman, wants the “Nooksack 306” to “move along.” Cline said, “As far as I’m concerned, the battle with the 306 is now over. They’re no longer tribal members. So that’s history.” Cline “said he is mulling ideas, including charging homeowners among them rent for the tribal property on which their houses sit.”

Bureau Of Land Management

NMSU Faculty Collaborate On Grant To Study OMDP National Monument.

The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (6/2, Huntsman) reports that “an interdisciplinary team of anthropologists, geologists, biologists and geographers from New Mexico State University is helping the New Mexico Bureau of Land Management by locating and recording natural and cultural resources on the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.” The research project is “funded through a five-year grant from the BLM, which will use the information collected by the team to better manage these resources for the public.”

BLM Removes 650 Trees From Popular Camp Site Due To Disease.

The [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (6/1, Poehler) reports that “approximately 650 trees were removed” from the Fishermen’s Bend Recreation Site “between February and April because they were a hazard after a mass die-off, according to the Bureau of Land Management, which operates the area.” The site was “closed while the work was completed from March 5 through April 15, though the campground remained closed until May 1.” Jennifer Velez, spokesperson for the Bureau of Land Management, said, “Really the focus was ... any tree that was identified that was a safety risk to visitors had to go.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Hunting Won't Be Expanded On South Dakota Wildlife Refuge.

The [AP](#) (6/1) reports that the Interior Department is "not moving forward with a proposal to expand waterfowl hunting at Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern South Dakota." The department "cited overwhelming public opposition for its decision, saying the refuge northeast of Aberdeen is widely valued as a sanctuary for migratory birds and other wildlife." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "opened a 60-day comment period in November for public input on the proposed expansion."

McEachin Visits Wildlife Refuge, Engages Local Groups About Land And Water Conservation Fund.

The [Petersburg \(VA\) Progress-Index](#) (6/1, Adam) reports that Rep. Donald McEachin "visited the James River Wildlife Refuge on Friday in an effort to learn more about the refuge, and to engage local conservation groups in a conversation about the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)." McEachin said, "We cannot lose one of our most powerful tools used to protect natural treasures around the country – such as the James River and the wildlife refuge we toured." McEachin, a member of the House Committee on Natural Resources, is "a co-sponsor of a bill (H.R. 502) which would permanently reauthorize the the LWCF."

Once Threatened, This Rare Plant Is Recovering In Southern California.

The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (6/1, James) reports that the Hidden Lake bluecurl has "recovered to a point that officials have determined the species no longer needs protection under the Endangered Species Act and is being removed from the list." The Fish and Wildlife Service "proposed removing the plant from the list of threatened species last year and announced its delisting on Thursday." The article notes that "as part of the conservation plan, seeds from the plants were collected starting in the late 2000s and are now stored in a seedbank at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, functioning as a backup for the species if the plants again become threatened in the wild."

Endangered Listing Proposed For Rare San Juan Island Butterfly.

The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (6/3, Cauvel) reports that the island marble butterfly is "an increasingly rare species that may soon become the 10th endangered species – and the second butterfly with that protection – in Washington state." The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service "proposes listing the island marble butterfly as endangered and designating 812 acres on the island as critical habitat for the species." According to the article, "despite voluntary conservation efforts on behalf of federal, state and local agencies, the island marble butterfly population has continued to decline in the 20 years since it was discovered on San Juan and Lopez islands."

Latest Surveys Show No Smelt In The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (6/1, Sabalow, Kasler) reports that "state biologists have found hardly any Delta smelt in their sampling nets in the past two years" and "consecutive surveys in late April and early May found no smelt at all." Biologists say the California Department of Fish and Wildlife surveys "provide disappointing evidence that the critically endangered fish are edging closer to extinction." However, "the federal government doesn't have any specific criteria it would use to declare the fish extinct, said Shane Hunt, a spokesman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." Hunt "said his agency hasn't yet begun the Delta smelt's death watch."

Wildlife Experts Are Concerned About Osprey Nest On Construction Crane In Southwest D.C.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/1, Hedgpeth) reports that "local wildlife supporters said they are concerned about what may happen to an osprey nest located on top of the counterweights of a construction crane in the Wharf area along the Southwest Waterfront." According to the Fish and Wildlife site, ospreys are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. However, "that Web page was last updated on April 20 of last year, and wildlife experts are concerned that, as with many environmental rules and laws, the Trump administration has changed the guidelines of the century-old mandate."

Trout Stocked For Fort McCoy Fishing Season.

The [Westby \(WI\) Times](#) (6/3, Robson) reports that "personnel with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Genoa National Fish Hatchery at Genoa planted more than 15,000 rainbow trout in several waterways throughout the post, including Suukjak Sep, Sandy, Stillwell, and Big Sandy

lakes and in Sparta and Swamp ponds." The fish were "stocked in time for the new fishing season, which began May 5, and the fish average size is 10 inches long."

Bald Eagle Shot At Close Range And Stuffed In Bucket: 'We Need To Find Out Who Did It'.

[USA Today](#) (6/1, Shannon) reports that "after a bald eagle was shot at close range and left in a bucket near a dirt road in Maine, officials are offering a reward to help find the bird's killer."

[WAGM-TV](#) Presque Isle, ME (6/1) reports that "under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering a reward of up to \$2,500 for information leading to conviction."

Also reporting are the [New York Post](#) (6/2, Dorn), [WGME-TV Portland \(ME\)](#) Portland, ME (6/1), and [WHDH-TV Boston](#) Boston (6/1, O'Laughlin).

Info Sought After Grizzly Bear Shot Near Libby.

[KPAX-TV](#) Missoula, MT (6/1) reports that "authorities are looking for information after a grizzly bear was found shot to death in Northwest Montana." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks are "seeking information on the shooting death of a sub-adult male grizzly bear that was found dead on Forest Road 4859 in the Kootenai National Forest north of Libby."

Also reporting are the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (6/1), the [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (6/1), [Montana Public Radio](#) (6/1, Ouellet), and [KRTV-TV Great Falls \(MT\)](#) Great Falls, MT (6/2).

Houston Businesswoman Admits She Illegally Imported Nearly 2,000 Snakeskin Products.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (6/2, Banks) reports that "a Houston woman who ran a fashion business specializing in python pillows, purses, sandals and bracelets pleaded guilty in a Houston federal courtroom Thursday to illegally importing more than 1,800 undeclared items made of python or stingray skin in more than a dozen DHL shipments from Indonesia over a two year period."

Annsley Popov pleaded guilty "to smuggling the goods into the country." She is "set to be sentenced Sept. 4 before Chief U.S. District Judge Lee H. Rosenthal, at which time she faces a maximum of 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000."

National Park Service

Park Service Boss Apologizes To Staff For 'Inappropriate' Behavior.

[The Hill](#) (6/1, Cama) reports National Park Service Director P. Daniel Smith in an email on Friday apologized to employees of the agency for behaving "in an inappropriate manner in a public hallway" earlier this year. The Hill says the Washington Post in March reported an employee anonymously complained to Interior Secretary Zinke that they "witnessed Smith grabbing his own genitalia in a hallway at the Interior headquarters in January," although "it wasn't clear to the employee whether or not he intended the gesture to be sexual." Smith stated, "I hope that my mistake and this apology are a lesson for leaders and employees at every level of the National Park Service. Workplace culture is our shared responsibility. We must conduct ourselves in a manner that reflects the great pride we all have for the extraordinary parks and programs we represent."

Fee Increase Takes Effect Friday At National Parks.

[KMGH-TV](#) Denver (6/1, Brady) reported that national parks were set on Friday to "start charging higher entrance fees." The fee hikes are "seen as necessary to help chip away at an \$11.6 billion maintenance backlog for the National Park Service." The fees are estimated to "raise an additional \$60 million in annual revenue."

Also reporting are the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/1, Jones), the [Loveland \(CO\) Reporter-Herald](#) (6/1, Woodcock), [KDVR-TV Denver](#) Denver (6/1, Hickey), and [KFSN-TV Fresno \(CA\)](#) Fresno, CA (6/1, Contreras).

National Park Service To Relocate Western Regional Office To Vancouver.

The [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (6/2, Vogt) reports that the National Park Service is "planning to relocate a western regional office to Vancouver in a move that could save almost \$4 million a year." The National Park Service Pacific West Regional Office staff in San Francisco was "told during the week that the unit is expected to move out of the Financial District building it has been stationed at since 2011." They will be transferred to a building at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

Facing Reassignment Under Trump, Top Yellowstone Official Instead Retires.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/1, Fears) reports Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Daniel Wenk, "a highly respected National Park Service executive who engineered the reopening of the Statue of Liberty after the 2001 terrorist attacks and settled the contentious issue of snowmobile use in Yellowstone National Park," on Thursday announced his retirement, but asked to delay his departure until March 30, 2019 "for several reasons, including sealing agreements with the state of Montana and a Native American tribe to move bison from Yellowstone to Fort Peck, 400 miles away." According to the Post, the Interior Department had identified Wenk for a transfer, which "people close to him called...a 'punitive' and 'political' move by an administration that demands loyalty over issues of deep concern to Wenk, such as wilderness preservation and conservation."

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (6/1, Brown), the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (6/1, Koshmrl) and [Wyoming Public Radio](#) (6/1, Hegyi).

Galipeau Retires From Leading Channel Islands National Park After 40-year Career.

The [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (6/2, Carlson) reports that Channel Islands National Park superintendent retired on Friday "after a 40-year career with the National Park Service." Speaking "of the work from re-establishing the landscape to bringing island foxes back from near extinction," Galipeau said, "I'm proud of the ecological restoration we did."

Tower At Flight 93 Memorial To Open By 9/11 Anniversary.

The [Washington Times](#) (6/3, De Groot) reports that "the final phase of the Flight 93 National Memorial is underway and on track to open on the 17th anniversary of plane's crash into a Pennsylvania field during 9/11." According to the article, "the final phase of memorial will include a 93-foot tower (28-meter) at the entrance with wind chimes for each of the victims and a grove of trees, called the Tower of Voices." Stephen Clark, the park's superintendent, said, "So many are looking forward to the dedication of this tower because it will be a sense of completion."

Remaining Wreckage Of Flight 93 To Be Buried At Memorial. The [Washington Times](#) (6/1, De Groot) reports that "the remaining wreckage of United Flight 93 will be returned this year to the Pennsylvania memorial marking where it crashed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, officials said Friday." According to Flight 93 National Memorial Superintendent Stephen Clark, "the wreckage – stored in shipping containers – will be buried in a restricted area of the park that's accessible only to loved ones of the victims." Clark said, "Now that we are nearing the completion of the major design components of the memorial, we are ready to return the remaining wreckage to this hallowed ground."

Also reporting is the [Gant \(PA\) Daily](#) (6/2).

Two Climbers Fall To Their Deaths At Yosemite National Park.

[CNN](#) (6/2, Vera, Hackney) reports that "two climbers fell to their deaths Saturday morning at Yosemite National Park in California, according to spokeswoman and Park Ranger Jamie Richards." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/2, Chang) reports that "the two fell about 8:15 a.m. while climbing the Freeblast route on the sheer granite rock, according to a statement from the National Park Service." They were "identified as Jason Wells, 46, of Boulder, Colo., and Tim Klein, 42, of Palmdale, Calif., according to the park service."

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (6/2), [CBS News](#) (6/2), [Fox News](#) (6/2, Zwirz), [Reuters](#) (6/3, Gorman), [BBC News Online \(UK\)](#) (6/3), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (6/3), and [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (6/3, Beaumont).

Yellowstone Bison Could Be Shipped To Fort Peck Tribes By End Of 2018.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (6/3, French) reports that "disease-free male bison quarantined in Yellowstone National Park could be shipped to the Fort Peck Reservation as early as November or December." Yellowstone National Park superintendent Dan Wenk "addressed the Environmental Quality Council in a wide-ranging discussion Wednesday during the second day of the group's meeting in Helena."

Officials Consider Whether Lake Trout Swam To Yellowstone.

The [AP](#) (6/3) reports that "a new culprit is under suspicion in the unsolved case of who 'stocked' Yellowstone Lake with nonnative trout, an ecological disaster now costing the government millions of dollars to control." According to the article, "the conventional theory explaining the unwelcome newcomer, backed by some hard data, has been that a 'bucket biologist' scooped lake trout out of nearby Lewis Lake and dumped them into Yellowstone Lake." But "an emerging theory suggests the vandals might be the fish themselves." Yellowstone's chief fisheries biologist, Todd Koel,

"suspects that some of the scores of lake trout that wash out of Jackson Lake Dam in Grand Teton National Park swam up Pacific Creek, the first major drainage downstream of the dam's spillway."

Tule Lake Plan Approved By NPS, But Change Will Be Slow.

The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (6/3, Juillerat) reports that "a general management plan that outlines how the Tule Lake Unit will be managed over the next 20 to 25 years has been approved by the National Park Service," but "major changes" are not expected any time soon. The article notes that "the plan does not recommend any boundary adjustments to the three sites that are part of the Unit, including 37 acres of the former Tule Lake Detention-Segregation Center." Also, "the plan recommends congressional legislation to change the unit's name, from the Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, to the Tule Lake National Historic Site and making it a stand-alone unit." Larry Whalon, superintendent for the Tule Lake Unit and Lava Beds National Monument, said, "The completion of the plan is a significant milestone for the Tule Lake Unit. However, it's important for everyone to know that implementing the plan will not happen all at once. It's likely to take many years, as funds and resources become available."

Yosemite National Park Employee Earns National Award For Safety.

The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (6/1, RODRIGUEZ-DELGADO) reports that "a Yosemite National Park assistant helicopter foreman was honored for his 'exemplary' aviation safety skills and dedication to his job, the national park service announced." Andrew Davenport, assistant helitack foreman, was awarded the 2018 Wright Brothers National Aviation Safety Award "for promoting aviation safety during his work during the busy wildfire and search-and-rescue seasons." Davenport was "recognized for his help in the Detwiler, South Fork and Empire fires and other rescue operations." Yosemite Chief Ranger Kevin William said "Davenport embodies all the qualities that this award recognizes both in the air and on the ground."

Woman Accused Of Reporting False Attack To Park Rangers.

The [AP](#) (6/3) reports that "authorities say a woman who claimed that two men attacked her on a historic trail in Mississippi had fabricated the story." The National Park Service told media outlets in a statement Friday that "charges are pending against Kannaya Jackson for making a false report." The NPS "says the Lexington resident told rangers she stopped May 24 on the Natchez Trace Parkway and had fired several shots from her handgun to defend herself from the attackers."

Human Remains Found In Joshua Tree National Park.

[KESQ-TV](#) Palm Springs, CA (6/3, Widner) reports that "homicide detectives are investigating after human remains were found in Joshua Tree National Park Saturday morning." According to Riverside County sheriff's Sgt. Ben Ramirez, "the discovery was made at 9:15 a.m. by a park ranger in the area of Big Horn Pass Road and Park Boulevard." Ramirez said, "Due to the suspicious circumstances regarding this incident, the Central Homicide Unit assumed the investigation."

Insular And International Affairs

Interior Dept. Funds Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, Utrok Healthcare Programs.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (6/4) reports that the Interior Department "provided last week a \$713,359 grant for the Four Atoll Healthcare program in the Marshall Islands, which serves the people of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrok." The money "supplements the \$721,320 provided in December 2017 and fulfills the program's fiscal year 2018 request of \$1.4 million." Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech said, "We continue to depend on the U.S. Congress to help us meet these important commitments on behalf of the U.S. Government for the people of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrok."

V.I. To Receive Preservation Grant.

The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (6/4, Carlson) reports that "the Virgin Islands will receive \$419,485 in grant funding for historic preservation efforts, according to a news release from the U.S. Interior Department, which announced Friday that \$3.2 million in funding is being made available to the U.S. territories and freely associated states." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "The Department of the Interior and the National Park Service are committed to preserving U.S., island,

and tribal history heritage. Fees collected from drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf help fund important conservation tools like these grants. Through valuable partnerships we are able to assist communities across the U.S., tribes, and the U.S.-affiliated islands in the Pacific and Caribbean in ensuring the diverse historic places, culture and traditions that make our country unique are protected for future generations."

A Virgin Islands National Park Struggles To Recover From Hurricanes.

[NPR](#) (6/2, Allen) reports that "eight months after it was devastated by twin hurricanes, the national park on St. John in the Virgin Islands is still recovering." Volunteers are working "to help clear trails and rebuild."

US Geological Survey

Hawaii Police Ordered To Arrest People Refusing To Leave Evacuation Zone As Kilauea Eruptions Continue.

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (6/2, story 5, 2:00, Ninan) broadcast with continuing coverage of the Kilauea eruptions on Hawaii's Big Island, saying that "police have been ordered to arrest people who refuse to evacuate" the areas threatened by lava flows and fissures. With "the lava zone...becoming increasingly dangerous," the state has already evacuated "thousands" of people before lava covered the final escape routes from their homes. The broadcast also reported on the eruptions' impact on the local tourism industry.

[Maui \(HI\) Now](#) (6/2) reports "people trying to get close-up views of lava in Lower Puna were cited" by authorities over the weekend. The story says that "since the beginning of the East Rift Zone eruption in early May," the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement at DLNR "has been assisting Hawai'i County Police, the Hawai'i County Civil Defense Agency and the National Guard in manning check-points and conducting patrols to keep people out of dangerous areas."

[Hawaii Public Radio](#) (6/1, Harlow, Hiraishi) reports with live updates on the situation, saying that "a total of 22 fissures have appeared since May 3rd in Leilani Estates," with the eruption having "destroyed at least 70 homes, and lava has covered more than 2,000 acres of land."

Residents Near Kilauea Fissures, Lava Flows Given Final Evacuation Warnings.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/1, story 5, 2:05, Glor) broadcast with continuing coverage of the Kilauea eruptions on Hawaii's Big Island, saying that "people who live in the path of lava from Hawaii's Kilauea volcano have also been warned to get out," with those refusing to evacuate by noon on Friday facing "arrest and the possibility that no one will be there to rescue them in an emergency."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (6/1, story 5, 1:45, Snow) broadcast the eruption is even "creating its own weather patterns, with mini-tornadoes and clouds of ash." [Hawaii Public Radio](#) (6/1, Harlow, Hiraishi) reports the "eruption has destroyed at least 40 homes, and lava has covered more than 2,000 acres of land." Hawaii Public Radio continues to follow the story with live updates.

[KGMB-TV](#) Honolulu (6/1) reports "state transportation officials say Chain of Craters Road is expected to be ready as an evacuation route through Hawaii Volcanoes National Park as early as Saturday should lava cut off Highway 130."

Learning More About Montana's Natural Treasures: Bozeman Center.

[KXLF-TV](#) Butte, MT (6/2, Babb) reports that "on Saturday, the Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center in Bozeman opened up its door to help the community learn more about what they do." The center works as part of the US Geological Survey. Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center employee Suzanna Soileau said, "We want them to know about how our work is relevant to grizzly bear populations and fisheries and bat populations and pikas and glaciers receding in Glacier National Park. We want them to understand that in their backyard, they have this scientific group of people who are doing this work to help better understand our natural resources and protect them for future generations."

Opinion Pieces

Lessons From The Oil Boom Will Benefit N.D.

In an editorial, the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (6/3) is encouraged by the speakers at the Williston Basin Petroleum Conference, who painted a bright future for oil development in North Dakota, and

hopes that the predictions by speakers will be correct. It notes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, the conference's keynote speaker, "emphasized that the government wants to be a partner with the oil industry." Zinke also "cited steps taken by the Trump administration that will help the industry." The paper concludes that "residents should feel good about the outlook in the oil patch and its impact on the state."

'Here Is Your Country'.

In an op-ed for the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/3, Hendrickson, Roybal, Swanson), Maryann Hendrickson, Commander, U.S. Navy, Retired, Ruben Roybal, U.S. Marine, Retired, and Jeff Swanson, Veteran and Military Chaplain, write about the importance of protected public lands to veterans returning from duty. They note about the significance of Antiquities Act to continued protection of public lands, and raise concerns about the attacks on the law by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The authors conclude that in celebrating the 112th anniversary of the Antiquities Act, the hope of veterans is that Zinke will "finally begin to lead like Theodore Roosevelt."

Support The Land And Water Conservation Fund.

In an op-ed for the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (6/1, Clynes), Danny Clynes, who commissioned in the Marine Corps in 2012 after attending Virginia Military Institute, writes that "our public lands access is not only a great quality-of-life provider, it is a huge economic generator." Clynes warns that "if Congress does not act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund will expire this fall." Clynes believes that it is his "duty to support the Land and Water Conservation Fund because I understand how it has helped communities across the country and I want to help get the message out about the program's importance so that other American citizens can advocate for its protection."

Additional Reading.

- *Gutting BLM Methane Rule Hurts ND Taxpayers.* [Minot \(ND\) Daily News](#) (6/3).
- *Speaking For ANWR's Silent Stakeholders.* [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (6/3, Bell-Jones).
- *Washington Blowing Smoke About Environmental Stewardship.* [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (6/1, Young).
- *Kimberly Sereff: Time For Compromise On Rocky Flats Access.* [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (6/2, Sereff).
- *Keep Alaska's Wilderness Whole.* [St. Cloud \(MN\) Times](#) (6/2, Banaian).
- *Editorial: Bizarre Grizzly Plans Should Be Shelved.* [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (6/1).
- *BLM Should Host A Tour Of Home On Public Land.* [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (6/1).
- *Harrison: An Outing In Adobe Town, A Threatened Landscape.* [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (6/1, Harrison).
- *GIS Plays Important Role In Public Land And Resource Management.* [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (6/2, Stevens).
- *Continue Working With Tribes On Gaming Issues.* [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (6/3).
- *Palmer: Efforts Made To Recognize Kissimmee River.* [Lakeland \(FL\) Ledger](#) (6/2, Palmer).
- *Can Battle To Save Fort Hancock Still Be Won?* [Asbury Park \(NJ\) Press](#) (6/1).
- *Leave Olympic National Park's Mountain Goats Alone.* [Tacoma \(WA\) News Tribune](#) (6/2, Williams).
- *Wind Power No Friend To Environment.* [Watertown \(SD\) Public Opinion](#) (6/1, Johnson).

Top National News

Giuliani: "Unthinkable" That Trump Would Pardon Himself, Though He Probably Can.

Rudy Giuliani's Sunday show appearances yesterday receive a great deal of media coverage. While Giuliani discussed a number of issues stemming from a January [letter](#) Trump's legal team sent to special counsel Robert Mueller, including whether the President could be subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury and whether he would be willing to do so voluntarily, media attention focuses heavily on Giuliani's assertion that the President probably has the power to pardon himself but it is "unthinkable" that he would do so.

Errol Barnett reported on the [CBS Weekend News](#) 📺 (6/3, story 3, 2:05, Quijano) that Giuliani "says the President has the power to pardon himself but probably won't, acknowledging the political pitfalls it might bring." Giuliani: "President Trump has no need to do that he didn't do

anything wrong." In the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/3, lead story, 2:45), Tom Llamas called Giuliani's claim "stunning," and Tara Palmeri called it "shocking."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/3, Richardson) says that Giuliani argued that while the President probably has the power to pardon himself but he does not intend to do so. Giuliani told [ABC's This Week](#) (6/3, Stephanopolis), "He has no intention of pardoning himself. ... That doesn't say he can't. That's another really interesting constitutional argument: Can the President pardon himself?"

The [Washington Post](#) (6/3, Achenbach, Parker) reports that on [NBC's Meet The Press](#) (6/3), Giuliani "framed the pardon question as purely hypothetical and politically implausible." Giuliani said, "It's not going to happen. It's a hypothetical point," and [Reuters](#) (6/3, Abutaleb) reports that Giuliani told NBC that "the President of the United States pardoning himself would just be unthinkable. And it would lead to probably an immediate impeachment."

[Breitbart](#) (6/3, Key) quotes Giuliani as saying, "I think the political ramifications of that would be tough. Pardoning other people is one thing. Pardoning yourself is another. Other presidents have pardoned people in circumstances like this, both in their administration and sometimes the next president even of a different party will come along and pardon." [Politico](#) (6/3, Klimas) reports that Giuliani said Trump's recent pardons were not a signal to people involved in the Russia probe that the President will support them.

[Townhall](#) (6/3, Meads) says legal experts differ on whether Giuliani is correct. P.S. Ruckman, a political science professor at Rock Valley College in Rockford, Illinois said, "Literally, yes. He could write his pardon down on a napkin and sign it – that would be a pardon." However, Harvard Law School professor Alan Dershowitz argued, "The answer is crystal clear! And anyone who gives you a different answer is misleading you, because there is only one correct answer. Here it is: Nobody knows!" The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/3, King) says that while courts "have never ruled on the issue...most legal scholars challenge the notion that presidential powers extend that far under Article II of the Constitution, which creates the executive branch."

[The Hill](#) (6/3, Shelbourne) reports that the issue of Trump pardoning himself came to light "after the revelation Saturday that Trump's legal team had sent the letter to Mueller in January arguing that the president holds the power to pardon 'if he so desired.'" However, Republican lawmakers "expressed concern that a self-pardon would put the president in a compromising position." On [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (6/3), Rep. Will Hurd (R-TX) said, "I think that would be a terrible move. I think people would erupt. I think even thinking about trying to fire Mueller is a bad move politically." On [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (6/3, Bash), House Majority Leader McCarthy "echoed Hurd's concerns, but suggested that a self-pardon isn't necessarily on Trump's agenda." McCarthy said, "The President is not saying he is going to pardon himself." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/3, Viswanatha) says the January memo denied Trump had done anything wrong, a sentiment Giuliani echoed on Sunday.

In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (6/3), former US attorney and Deputy Assistant Attorney General Harry Litman writes that the "takeaway" from the letter sent by Trump's lawyers is that Trump "believes he is above the law," and that is "the same sentiment that Rudy Giuliani expressed on Sunday when he suggested that Mr. Trump has the power to pardon himself."

Palmeri also said in the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/3, lead story, 2:45) that Giuliani is "serving notice" that if the special counsel tries to subpoena the President, "they will fight it out in court." The [AP](#) (6/3, Lemire) says Giuliani emphasized that "one of the main arguments" in the January letter from Trump's lawyers to Mueller is "that a president can't be given a grand jury subpoena as part of the investigation into foreign meddling in the 2016 election." The [New York Post](#) (6/3, Schwab) quotes Giuliani as saying, "But look, if they can convince us that it will be brief, it will be to the point, there were five or six points they have to clarify, and with that we can get this long nightmare for the American public over." Giuliani argued that "there's got to be a high bar they have to reach in terms of convincing us that they're fair, convincing us that we're going to get the things we need."

[USA Today](#) (6/3, Jackson) reports that according to Giuliani, the President "wants to testify, but his lawyers have held off because they are seeking documents from Mueller about the circumstances of the investigation." Giuliani said he is seeking "a narrow group of conditions" on any testimony from Trump, "including time limits and the scope of questioning." [Bloomberg News](#) (6/3, Brody, Schoenberg) reports that Giuliani said that if Trump's lawyers thought Mueller wanted to question him "for purposes of harassment," they would argue before a judge, "You've got everything you need. What do you need us for?"

[Politico](#) (6/3, Nussbaum, Samuelsohn) reports that Trump allies on Sunday "warned Mueller against a subpoena and indicated that Trump would only tolerate a tightly choreographed interview." In addition to Giuliani's comments, Trump's former campaign manager Corey

Lewandowski told [Fox News Sunday](#) (6/3, Wallace), "There's a potential to avoid a subpoena entirely if the teams can work together and determine that the questions that will be asked will be relevant to an investigation to prove once and for all there was no collusion."

Citing the memo, [USA Today](#) (6/3, Jackson) says Trump and his layers "seem ready to wage legal war on special counsel Robert Mueller if they deem it necessary, asserting immense executive powers that could essentially make the president immune from investigation." In a challenge to "a key facet of Mueller's probe, whether or not Trump sought to obstruct justice and cripple the Russia investigation, the memo argued that a sitting president can't obstruct justice because he is the nation's top law enforcement officer, and therefore couldn't obstruct himself." According to analysts, "the constitutional issues raised in the memo would probably have to be resolved by the Supreme Court." Crime and justice reporter Shimon Prokupecz said on [CNN's Inside Politics](#) (6/3), "They are arguing that he is the chief law enforcement officer so therefore, he has the right to pardon, he has the right to limit the inquiry, end the inquiry. All of that certainly made it seem like he has all this power and he can essentially do whatever he wants."

Ruth Marcus writes in the [Washington Post](#) (6/3) that it was "breathtaking" to see the argument that the President "couldn't have obstructed justice because justice is what he says it is" spelled out in the letter to Mueller from Trump's legal team. Citing Trump's lawyers' argument that a president can "order the termination of an investigation by the Justice Department or FBI at any time and for any reason," Marcus says "the implications are chilling: that Trump asserts the right to terminate the Russia probe altogether. Or the investigation into his lawyer Michael Cohen. This is a scary vision of the power entrusted to any president, but especially this one."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/3, Zapotosky) reports that analysts say Trump's lawyers' claim that "he cannot obstruct justice because he has absolute authority over all federal investigations is legally problematic...because it would essentially mean the nation's commander in chief is above the law." However, "the president's powers are expansive, and many questions remain about how Trump's office could protect him from the special counsel investigation." According to legal analysts, "as the head of the executive branch, Trump could issue pardons, fire senior officials or order them to shut down investigations. But if his motives were corrupt, such actions could constitute obstruction."

Giuliani Says Trump Could Not Be Indicted "If He Shot James Comey." The [Huffington Post](#) (6/3, Date) reports that Giuliani said in an interview Sunday, "In no case can he be subpoenaed or indicted. ... I don't know how you can indict while he's in office. No matter what it is." Arguing that "impeachment was the initial remedy for a president's illegal behavior," Giuliani said, "If he shot James Comey, he'd be impeached the next day. ... Impeach him, and then you can do whatever you want to do to him."

Trump Continues Attacks On Mueller Probe. [Politico](#) (6/3, Nussbaum, Samuelsohn) reports Trump "has continued to launch assaults on Mueller's team, claiming its members are Democrats who are biased against him." In a [tweet](#) Sunday, Trump highlighted "a quote from a political strategist who noted that one of Mueller's prosecutors, Jeannie Rhee, once represented the Clinton Foundation," calling it a "disgrace." Josh Dawsey of the Washington Post said on [CNN's Inside Politics](#) (6/3), "The President believes a sustained attack on the Russia investigation is working. ... He thinks he is undercutting the public trust in Mueller. He thinks it is working. You are seeing more and more of an attack and less willingness to work with him, because he sees this, in his mind, going that way."

Trump Says He Should Have Been Made Aware Of Investigation Of Manafort. The [New York Post](#) (6/3, Moore) reports that the President on Sunday "distanced himself" from his former campaign chairman Paul Manafort, writing in a [tweet](#), "Paul Manafort came into the campaign very late and was with us for a short period of time (he represented Ronald Reagan, Bob Dole & many others over the years), but we should have been told that Comey and the boys were doing a number on him, and he wouldn't have been hired!" In an earlier [tweet](#) Sunday, Trump argued that he should have been made aware of any investigation into Manafort. In the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/3, lead story, 2:45), Palmeri also described Trump as "distancing himself" from Manafort.

Nunes Reacts To Gowdy Comments On FBI "Spy" In Trump Campaign. The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/3, Cohen) reports that House Intelligence Chairman Devin Nunes reacted Sunday to House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Trey Gowdy's comments, "which cast doubt on the allegations of an FBI 'spy' placed in President Trump's campaign." Nunes said, "What Trey Gowdy's specifically talking about is this small slice of the investigation that we're looking at as it relates to whether or not an informant or informants were used. ... You have to remember that Mr. Gowdy loves the FBI and the Department of Justice. If they're targeting Russians or Chinese or what have you, that's what we expect them to do. However, the challenge we have in this is

that they actually targeted a political campaign that was Donald Trump. And that's where I think that even though Mr. Gowdy believes that the President's not a target of this investigation, his campaign is."

Cohen Said He Was Considering A Run For New York City Mayor. Jonathan Swan writes on [Axios](#) (6/3) that on election night 2016, after it became clear that Trump would win the presidency, "Michael Cohen told a handful of people on the 14th floor of Trump Tower about his own dreams for the future – to be mayor of New York." According to a source who heard him, Cohen said, "This is the beginning of a dynasty." Asked if he meant Ivanka or Don Jr. would "get the political bug next," Cohen said, "I've already got the bug. ... Nobody's going to be able to f--- with us. I think I'm going to run for mayor." Swan says the incident "highlights the hubris of one of Trump's closest confidants in the hours after the election victory – and the extraordinary nature of his fall."

Poll: 44% See Mueller Probe As A "Political Witch Hunt And Distraction." The [Washington Times](#) (6/3, Richardson) reports that "a plurality of voters" agree with President Trump's characterization of Mueller's investigation as a "witch hunt." According to a CBS News/YouGov Battleground Tracker, "44 percent of those surveyed" see the investigation as "just a political witch hunt and distraction," 17 percent "said the investigation was 'serious, but not serious enough to get in the way of getting things done,'" and "39 percent described it as a 'critical matter of national security that needs to be prioritized.'"

Senate Judiciary Committee To Hold Hearing On FBI Conduct In Clinton Email Scandal. [Breitbart](#) (6/3, Starr) reports that Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley has announced that his panel will hold a hearing on the Justice Department Inspector General report about FBI officials' "conduct ahead of the 2016 presidential election, including the Hillary Clinton email scandal." The hearing, which had been scheduled for Tuesday, will be held on June 11.

Trump Defends Trade Policies As US Allies Denounce Tariffs.

While media coverage was limited, [The Hill](#) (6/2, Sanchez) reports President Trump at 7:51 am on Saturday [tweeted](#), "The United States must, at long last, be treated fairly on Trade. If we charge a country ZERO to sell their goods, and they charge us 25, 50 or even 100 percent to sell ours, it is UNFAIR and can no longer be tolerated. That is not Free or Fair Trade, it is Stupid Trade!" At 10:57 am, he [continued](#), "Why is it that the Wall Street Journal, though well meaning, never mentions the unfairness of the Tariffs routinely charged against the U.S. by other countries, or the many Billions of Dollars that the Tariffs we are now charging are, and will be, pouring into U.S. coffers?" The President at 11:23 am [added](#), "When you're almost 800 Billion Dollars a year down on Trade, you can't lose a Trade War! The U.S. has been ripped off by other countries for years on Trade, time to get smart!"

However, [Bloomberg News](#) (6/2, Mayeda, Takeo) reports the "Group of Seven finance chiefs issued a rare rebuke of a member nation, claiming U.S. trade actions could undermine global economic confidence and threaten the effectiveness of the Western alliance." In a joint statement, the finance ministers of Canada, France, Germany, the UK, Italy, and Japan on Saturday criticized the President for imposing steel and aluminum tariffs on the EU, Canada, and Mexico last week and they called on Treasury Secretary Mnuchin to "communicate their unanimous concern and disappointment." Bloomberg adds "Mnuchin faced so much criticism from his counterparts over the new trade levies that Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso said he almost 'felt sorry' for the U.S. finance chief."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2, Zumbrun) reports that while Mnuchin acknowledged that despite the trade differences, he insisted "there were many, many areas, not only do we agree on, we're completely united on." [Reuters](#) (6/2, Lawder) reports Mnuchin also "rejected comments from some G7 officials that the United States was circumventing international trade rules with the tariffs or ceding leadership of a global economic and trading system it largely built after World War Two." Mnuchin told reporters, "I don't think in any way the U.S. is abandoning its leadership in the global economy, quite the contrary. I think that we've had a massive effort on tax reform in the United States which has had a incredible impact on the U.S. economy."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/2, A1, Long, Mufson) in a front-page article cautions that Trump "is subverting previously agreed-upon trade pacts" and in the process is creating "a brewing trade war with Canada, Mexico and Europe." The Post emphasizes that "almost all trade and national security analysts agree that it strains credulity to say it is risky to source metals from allies with whom the United States routinely shares sensitive intelligence information" and "veterans of trade policy worry that tensions will further escalate, putting existing trade agreements in peril and the future of World Trade Organization...in doubt." The Post adds "Trump is acting more aggressively in part because a stable of cautious advisers has fallen away in recent months, and he has been emboldened by hard-line trade skeptics who have cast aside warnings about the economic

pandemonium that could result from his confrontational behavior.”

In his [New York Times](#) (6/1, Stephens) column, Bret Stephens asserts that “the conclusion to draw from Donald Trump’s long-promised and now bluntly delivered imposition of steel and aluminum tariffs on Mexico, Canada and the European Union” is the Administration has adopted “the disastrous foreign policy mind-set of the 1930s.” Stephens adds “protectionism anywhere is invariably bad for local consumers and the global economy, but American protectionism is infinitely worse. It’s a betrayal of the liberal-international order we founded nearly eight decades ago; an invitation to anti-Americanism; a rebuff to our friends; and sometimes (Boston Tea Party, anyone?) a prelude to war.” He concludes that “if Trump’s economic adviser Larry Kudlow had a gram of self-respect he’d resign.”

World Leaders Seeking To Court Various Administration Officials On Trade. The [New York Times](#) (6/2, Bradsher) reports that “as the United States challenges Europe, China, Canada, Mexico and much of the rest of the world over trade, deep factionalism within the Trump administration has flummoxed American allies and rivals alike.” While the Times concedes “the mixed messages reflect the negotiating tactics of a president who likes to keep the other side off balance,” the Administration’s “inconsistency has spurred international leaders to court Trump officials who they think will offer a sympathetic ear, rather than the White House as a whole – a divide-and-conquer approach that could make trade deals harder to strike. It has also eroded the belief among many leaders that the Trump administration will keep its word.” In particular, the Times says Chinese officials have focused their efforts on Treasury Secretary Mnuchin and Commerce Secretary Mnuchin, “Trump administration officials they see as globalists while trying to isolate those they see as hard-liners,” such as USTR Lighthizer and NTC Director Navarro.

US Companies Warn Customers Are Looking Abroad Due To Steel, Aluminum Tariffs. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2, Tangel, Simon) reports some American manufacturers, including Insteel Industries Inc., Pioneer Service Inc., and Millenia Products Group, warned domestic consumers have already begun looking to obtain completed products from foreign suppliers in order to circumvent the new US steel and aluminum tariffs.

Iowa Pork Industry Has Lost Over \$560 Million Over Concerns Of Retaliatory Tariffs From Mexico. [The Hill](#) (6/2, Greenwood) cites the [Des Moines \(IA\) Register](#) in reporting “concerns over retaliatory tariffs from Mexico have cost Iowa pork producers roughly \$560 million” and they “could take another hit if Mexico follows through on its threat to impose a 20 percent tariff on hams and pork shoulders from the U.S.” The Hill highlights that Iowa pork producers “already face a 25 percent tariff on pork exports to China. But duties from Mexico – the largest export market for American pork – could put further strain on producers.”

Trump Announces June 12 Summit With Kim Jong-un Is Back On.

President Trump hosted top North Korean official Kim Yong-chol at the White House on Friday and subsequently told reporters that his June 12 summit in Singapore with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will proceed as scheduled. Although media outlets cast the announcement as a breakthrough that ended speculation as to whether the summit would in fact take place, some outlets questioned Trump’s decision to host the North Korean envoy over human rights allegations and pointed to what they labeled concessions to North Korea. Trump’s comments to reporters about a letter that Kim Yong-chol delivered on behalf of Kim Jong-un also received heavy coverage, as it was unclear from the President’s remarks if he had read it prior to discussing it.

Typical of the tone of the coverage was the [New York Times](#) (6/1, A1, Baker), which describes the announcement in a front-page article as “the latest twist in a nuclear-edged diplomatic drama that has captivated and confused much of the world.” The Times adds that the reversal represents “the latest head-spinning twist in a nuclear-edged diplomatic drama that has captivated and confused much of the world.”

The [AP](#) (6/1, Lee, Lederman) reports Kim Yong-chol “visited the Oval Office on Friday, ready to hand off a letter from the North Korean leader to President Donald Trump amid talks between the two sides aimed at reviving an on-again, off-again nuclear summit.” At the White House, Kim was “greeted by chief of staff John Kelly,” who “then whisked Kim into the building, where he was poised to meet with Trump.” A front-page [Washington Post](#) (6/1, A1, Nakamura) article reports that Kim Yong-chol was “greeted by White House Chief of Staff John F. Kelly and Andrew Kim, a CIA official in charge of the agency’s Korea Mission Center.” The three men were “spotted by reporters walking along the Colonnade toward the West Wing, where the group escorted Kim into the Oval Office. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who met with Kim Yong Chol in New York on Thursday, was also visible in the meeting through a window in images captured by television cameras.”

In the lead segment of [CNN’s Situation Room](#) 📺 (6/1, 5:00 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), Wolf Blitzer

reported the President "called the summit the start of a process, which he hopes will be very successful, his words." Chief White House correspondent Jim Acosta said "Trump was all smiles as he announced his summit is back on." In the lead story for [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/1, 6:00 p.m. EDT, Baier), correspondent John Roberts called Trump's announcement "a breakthrough" and noted the meeting "was the first time President Trump met an official from North Korea." Trump told reporters, "We'll be meeting on June 12th in Singapore." As for his meeting with Kim Yong-chol, Trump told reporters, "It went very well. It's really a get-to-know-you kind of a situation."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/1, 6:31 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) broadcast Trump telling reporters, "I don't even want to use the term 'maximum pressure' anymore because I don't want to use that term because we're getting along. You see the relationship. We're getting along. So it's not a question of maximum pressure. It's staying essentially the way it is." Asked whether he believes Kim is committed to denuclearization, Trump responded, "Yeah, I do think so. He'd like to see it happen. He wants to be careful. He wants to be, you know - he's not going to run and do things. But I told him, to be honest with you, look, we have sanctions on; they're very powerful sanctions. We would not take sanctions off unless they did that. But the sanctions are very powerful. You've seen how powerful in other ways. You're going to see how powerful sanctions are when it comes to Iran." He added, "I look forward to the day when I can take the sanctions off of North Korea."

[CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (6/1, 6:21 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Will Ripley said "it sounds as if he had very positive conversations with Kim Yong-chol. They told me here that the discussions between [Secretary] Pompeo and Kim Yong-chol" also "went very well. So US officials, at least in the face-to-face meetings, have had positive reports back." Yet, Ripley added, "when you get down to talking about denuclearization here in Singapore, that's a more difficult and complex matter and obviously the President was eluding to that earlier today."

Margaret Brennan of the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/1, story 2, 1:40, Glor) said, "You've got an entire White House team negotiating this right now. And right - right now, the person with the most experience negotiating with North Korea is the secretary of state. He's the one with the relationship, Mike Pompeo. But he says he does not yet know if he's going to be in the room and for how long with Kim Jong Un. So they've got to come up with a game plan quickly out at Camp David this weekend."

[CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (6/1, 5:30 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Gloria Borger said what was "striking" about Trump's remarks after the meeting "is that he changed his tune, because he's now talking about a process, not talking about getting things done, and this is so different from any other summit we've ever seen, because the people at the top are the ones laying the groundwork." [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/1, 6:34 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) national security analyst Samantha Vinograd said she "was struck by what he didn't say, that is there would be some time limits on the negotiations. We have seen this before, we've kicked off processes with the North Koreans several times, and Donald Trump has criticized his predecessors for the time line, the six party talks and he's saying the same thing, he's going to start negotiations and they're open-ended."

Media Analyses: Trump Is Trying To Lower Expectations For Summit Breakthrough. Much of the media coverage of President's Trump's White House meeting with North Korean official Kim Yong Chol, and his announcement that the June 12 Singapore summit is back on, portrays the President as eager to downplay expectations for an immediate breakthrough. For instance, the [Washington Times](#) (6/1, Boyer) reports the President "downplayed expectations for a quick deal on Pyongyang giving up its nuclear weapons, saying such an agreement won't be signed in Singapore, and the meeting will serve as the start of a process."

[Politico](#) (6/1, Lima) also says that the President "tempered expectations for what the meeting in Singapore will yield, saying nothing would be signed during the summit and that it would simply be the beginning of a process toward denuclearizing North Korea." A front-page [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/1, A1, Bender, Salama) article offers a similar assessment, and [CNN](#) (6/1) covers the developments under the headline, "Trump Lowers Expectations For N. Korea Talks."

The [AP](#) (6/1, Miller, Lederman, Lemire) reports that the President "end[ed] weeks of uncertainty about his historic meeting." The AP notes that the President "made the announcement...following a more than hour-long meeting with" Kim Yong Chol, "who delivered a letter from" Kim Jong Un. The AP adds that "in the latest sign of hostility cooling down but hopes kept in check, Trump said he's unilaterally put a hold on new sanctions against the North 'until the talks break down.'" On [CBS This Morning](#) (6/1, 7:09 a.m. EDT, O'Donnell), Major Garrett said Trump is "growing more familiar with the complex negotiations ahead," which is why he has "acknowledged a North Korean deal would require a summit and much more."

[Reuters](#) (6/1, Mason) says also the President "dampened expectations for a breakthrough at the summit," and "described the Singapore summit as the start of a process and not the place

where the two leaders were likely to sign any agreement, a stark contrast to his previous insistence that the summit had to yield real progress toward North Korea's denuclearization." According to Reuters, "His comments represented an extraordinary change in tone toward North Korea."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (6/1, 5:07 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) international correspondent Will Ripley said "as far as how this meeting is going to go in Singapore, it's really an open question" as to "what they're going to be able to achieve, given the fact that the North Korean definition of denuclearization is a longer, more drawn-out process similar to what the Chinese have proposed, kind of step-by-step actions take within the United States and North Korea simultaneously over a period of years," compared to a more "drastic" action within "a period of months, shipping out all of North Korea's nuclear warheads that has been talked about and kind of thrown out there as one possibility."

In the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (6/1, lead story, 2:25, Snow), correspondent Kristen Welker said Trump was seemingly "dialing down expectations for the first face-to-face between an American president and a North Korean leader, and saying there could be more meetings to come." Welker [added](#) 📺 (6/1, story 2, 0:50, Snow) that "perhaps the biggest hurdle – while the US wants immediate denuclearization, North Korea has signaled it wants a process that could take decades."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (6/1, 5:09 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) senior diplomatic correspondent Michelle Kosinski said there are "real doubts among our sources that the US and North Korea are anywhere near on the same page as to what denuclearization is. We have seen some bending on the US side as to what they're willing, obviously, to have North Korea present before a summit can take place." The US has also "offered some security assurance," which is believed to be among North Korea's demands. Kosinski continued, "They've even said from President Trump himself, saying maybe it could be a phased-in approach. So there's very little indication of how much of that gap was bridged before the President suddenly says today, okay, we are having the summit." Kosinski also [said](#) 📺 (6/1, 5:06 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that "it seems like the definition of what is successful has changed vastly between now and just two days ago," when "a senior State Department official" told CNN that "in order for a summit to be successful, the North Koreans have to do things that they have not done before," like make a commitment on what they are willing to do. Kosinski said that "we asked the State Department that point-blank" whether the US has received such a commitment, "and if they haven't, why has your requirement possibly now changed? And so far, we've heard silence."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (6/1, story 2, 1:20, Muir) chief global affairs correspondent Martha Raddatz suggested, "It's clear that the President really wants this summit to go ahead, even though there may not be any grand results as far as promises to denuclearize. The President made a point of saying the Singapore summit will be the beginning of a process which could involve a series of meetings in the future." She noted Trump had "used the word 'process' nine times in his impromptu press conference today" and "said he told the North Koreans we can go fast or we can go slowly." For now, Raddatz said, it appears as though "it will be the latter and that that slower process will make the North Koreans happy, as well."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (6/1, 6:06 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) global affairs correspondent Elise Labott similarly commented, "Clearly, the President and his aides realized that a deal was not going to be possible on June 12th, the kind of nuclear deal that the President wanted. But he obviously thought there was enough goodwill, enough willingness by the North Koreans to try and develop some relationship and keep going. I mean, look, it doesn't mean that there won't be anything coming out of the summit, but I think they've clearly walked back their expectations and now they're hoping for some small deliverables such as the moratorium on testing, maybe access to testers into these sights, but clearly that deal is not in the offering because the North Koreans have not agreed to a time line for denuclearization. It's now an in-theory type of idea."

On [Fox News' Special Report](#) 📺 (6/1, 6:39 p.m. EDT, Baier), RealClearPolitics founder and president Tom Bevan said Trump was "walking back expectations a little bit, but it seems the President still believes that denuclearization is on the table. Not sure if that's where the North Koreans are." Syndicated talk radio host Leslie Marshall said she believes the US and North Korea "have different ideas of what denuclearization is going to mean," and does not believe "Kim Jong-un will budge with regard to" a withdrawal of US troops in South Korea, a demand the US will not likely grant. As a result, Marshall said, "I don't think we'll be able to get the deal we want, and I think that's why we are hearing the posturing we're hearing right now from the President and Pompeo" about the likely need for multiple meetings.

Brian Todd of [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (6/1, 5:49 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) said Friday's development was "all the more amazing, considering that less than six months ago, this violent,

impulsive dictator was considered an international pariah." Todd said "the pace at which events have been moving with Kim being embraced by other world leaders is simply dizzying," and "every major player in this entire equation is ignoring Kim's history right now." He explained Kim's confidence has been fueled by "the fact that the US, South Korea, and China have been willing to look past his human rights violations." Todd recalled that "there were two meetings with Chinese president, Xi Jinping, along with Secretary of State of Mike Pompeo, and now the Russians want in, arranging their own meeting with Vladimir Putin."

In a nearly 4,000-word "Friday Cover" story, [Politico Magazine](#) (6/1, Kruse) asserts that the "past 16 months of Trump's presidency have shown that whatever skills Trump thinks he acquired over the course of his business career haven't necessarily translated to his work in the White House." Politico reports that "the truth, according to negotiation experts who have studied Trump's track record, people who have negotiated for him and against him, associates, biographers and former employees," is the President "was, and still is, they say, a confident, competitive, aggressive, impulsive, zero-sum, win-at-all-costs, transactional, unpredictable, often underinformed and ill-prepared, gut-following, ego-driven, want-it-and-want-it-now negotiator." Politico adds that while "North Korea experts worry about the incoherence and disorganization of Trump and his administration and that they could pay too little attention to tiny but critical details or agree to some type of pact without a firm and enforceable definition of 'denuclearization,'" a former Trump Organization executive predicted "Trump will do what he does. He will try to spin it into a win."

Speculation Mounts About Content Of Letter Kim Has Sent To Trump. Media reports on Friday morning suggested Kim Jong Un's letter to President Trump may include pledges to move towards denuclearization in return for US economic assistance. At the opening of [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (6/1), Brian Kilmeade said Trump received a "top-secret letter straight from the desk of dictator Kim Jong Un," but on [NBC's Today Show](#) (6/1, 7:03 a.m. EDT, Geist), Hallie Jackson reported it was unclear if that was "part of the note."

On [ABC's Good Morning America](#) (6/1, 7:07 a.m. EDT, Stephanopoulos), Martha Raddatz similarly stated, "We don't know exactly what is in the letter, but we now have a strong hint. This morning, after a meeting with Russia's foreign minister, Kim reaffirmed his commitment to denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, saying he hoped for a 'phased process in resolving the issue' and hoped it could be solved on a 'stage-by-stage basis.'" Jonathan Karl went on to say, "This is the President's show. He is acting as his own national security adviser, his own top diplomat. He knows that this has the potential to be the biggest moment of his entire presidency." Karl added, "One of the fascinating questions here is whether the President is already talking directly to Kim Jong Un." Karl noted that in the letter the President wrote to Kim, "he referred to their 'wonderful dialogue.'"

In the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/1, lead story, 3:20, Muir), chief White House correspondent Jonathan Karl said Trump and Kim Yong-chol "sure didn't look like bitter enemies when they emerged from their Oval Office meeting," which "was supposed to be a just a letter delivery – Kim Jong-un's right-hand man delivering a message from the North Korean dictator – but it turned into something more." Karl explained, "Until last week, North Korea's former spy chief, and Kim Jong-un's most feared enforcer, was not allowed to set foot in the United States, officially sanctioned and banned. But this afternoon, Kim Yong Chol and his small entourage arrived at the White House in a black SUV. Mr. Kim and his translator were quickly ushered in by Chief of Staff John Kelly. The other North Koreans not allowed in. There was no sign of the letter, but he did have it with him, and White House officials say it was tested for poisons before given to the President."

In the lead story for the second hour of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/1, 6:00 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), correspondent Jim Acosta said there "were conflicting comments from the President" about the letter. Trump told reporters that "it was a very nice letter" and a "very interesting letter." Then, Trump "told reporters he did not read it," Acosta also [said](#) (6/1, 5:05 p.m. EDT, Blitzer). The White House told CNN that Trump did in fact read the letter, but did not indicate "whether he was surprised when he read it." Likewise, Paula Reid said in the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/1, lead story, 2:20, Glor), "An aide confirmed the President did read the letter after he spoke with reporters. Then he left almost immediately for Camp David, where he will spend the weekend working on a range of issues, including preparing for the summit."

US Diplomat Says Talks With North Koreans Headed In Right Direction. [Reuters](#) (6/1) reports the "talks between the United States and North Korea are heading in the right direction, said a U.S. envoy who led preparatory talks with North Korea for a possible summit between the two countries." US Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim told South Korean foreign minister Kang Kyung-hwa, "We believe that we are moving in the right direction to the ongoing series of

consultations."

However, the [Washington Post](#) (6/1, Hudson) reports "a particularly awkward logistical issue" regarding the summit "remains unresolved, according to two people familiar with the talks. Who's going to pay for Kim Jong Un's hotel stay?" According to the Post, "the mundane but diplomatically fraught billing issue is just one of numerous logistical concerns being hammered out between two teams led by White House Deputy Chief of Staff Joe Hagin and Kim's de facto chief of staff, Kim Chang Son, as they strive toward a June 12 meeting." The Post adds that "figuring out how to pay Pyongyang's hotel tab won't be the only unusual planning obstacle that comes with hosting an event with the isolated regime."

McConnell Urges Trump To Be Skeptical Of Kim's Overtures. [Politico](#) (6/1, Schor) reports Senate Majority Leader McConnell (R-KY) on Friday advised Trump that if wants to be remembered as "a great deal maker," he needs to "be interested in the details" of the North Korean summit and "suggested that Trump consider the Iran nuclear deal that he exited as an example of the type of agreement to avoid with Pyongyang." McConnell warned North Korea will likely pursue "every effort they can to get sanctions and other relief, and give up as little as possible." He added, "It's going to be quite a challenge." According to McConnell, Trump will "have to not want the deal too much. If you fall in love with the deal, and it's too important for you to get it, and the details become less significant, you could get snookered."

In the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/31, Rosett), Claudia Rosetta, a foreign policy fellow at the Independent Women's Forum, calls on Trump to demand Kim Jong-un relinquish his totalitarian hold on North Korea in order to eliminate the threat of that country's nuclear weapons program. Rosetta says Kim's regime should be required to free political prisoners and shutter his prison camp system, including the estimated 20,000 held at Camp 16 near the Punggye-ri nuclear test site.

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/1) editorial expresses hope that the Trump-Kim summit will culminate in the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. However, the Journal emphasizes that while the summit is guaranteed to be success from a propaganda standpoint for the North Korean regime, Trump has a lot to lose if Kim attends solely to boost his domestic standing and does not offer tangible concessions.

Democratic Lawmakers Criticize Trump For Welcoming North Korean Envoy To White House.

Wolf Blitzer of [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (6/1, 5:11 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) asked Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI) whether Trump made "the right call to not only invite Kim Yong-chol to the White House today to have a lengthy hour-long meeting in the Oval Office, but also make this a very public spectacle in front of all the TV cameras on the lawn for not only people in the United States but for the whole world to see." Cicilline said the problem is that the developments may lead to "deadly serious consequences." He added, "This is a brutal regime that at least at this point believes having nuclear weapons and the ability to deliver them is essential to the maintenance of the regime, and that hasn't changed. So I think the President cannot expect that because he believes he's developed some kind of warm relationship with this brutal dictator that they're somehow going to make a different calculation about their own security."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (6/1, 6:10 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-VA) said he is "bothered by the imagery" of the meeting, "because this man, Kim Yong-chol, is the head of intelligence in North Korea" and "a sanctioned individual because of his involvement in what can only be called terrorist activity with respect to South Korea, such that he needed special permission to come to Washington at all, let alone be welcomed into the Oval Office. It's kind of a jarring and disturbing image" coming "one day after our allies had tariffs slapped on them" despite saying with the US "through thick and thin." Connolly continued, "I want to wish for the best, but what we've seen and heard today suggests the ignorance of the President being exploited by North Korea." Connolly [added](#) 📺 (6/1, 6:12 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that Trump is "backing off the expectation he and his Secretary of State, Pompeo, set. What do you mean the June 12th summit is going to be a 'get to know you session'? What do you mean you didn't read the letter in the envelope you're characterizing as very interesting? All of that suggests lack of preparation, lack of focus, and you're dealing with one of the world's most dangerous dictators, you know, who has a brutal and repressive regime and is not afraid to use force on an individual basis against husband own relatives or a collective basis against his neighbor in the South. So I think there can be no illusions here, and we can't afford the naiveté and ignorance that the President has exhibited."

North, South Korea Agree To Establish Joint Liaison Office. The [AP](#) (6/1, Tong-Hyung) reports the North Korea and South Korea "agreed Friday to hold military and Red Cross talks later this month on reducing tensions and resuming reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War." At the Panmunjom meeting, the officials also agreed "to establish a liaison office at the North Korean border town of Kaesong and hold sports talks on fielding combined teams for some

sports at the Asian Games in August, as they continue to take steps toward reconciliation.”

[Reuters](#) (6/1, Hyonhee) says that the meeting was “led by South Korea’s Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon and Ri Son Gwon, chairman of the North’s committee for the peaceful reunification of the country, and were a follow-up to an agreement reached during the first summit between Kim and Moon in April.”

However, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/1, Jeong) concedes the disputes over military exercises and defectors from North Korea could complicate efforts to further improve ties between the two countries. The [Washington Post](#) (6/1, Murphy) says that the South Korean military has also been “stirring a bit of a golf-related sideshow,” as the Defense Ministry has been on the defensive over construction of a \$30 million golf course that “critics complained...sends the wrong message amid the South’s outreach to Kim Jong Un’s regime and related uncertainties.” According to the Post, “the grumbling over the golf course plan seems mostly tied to internal political feuding between President Moon Jae-in’s government and the main opposition party. But it also shows how much any political or military moves in South Korea – even 18 holes for recreation at the National Defense University – can be framed around the fears, hopes and countless other variables surrounding the North Korea overtures.”

The [New York Times](#) (6/1, Rich) also reports North Korean officials have emphasized they are not interested in trading their nuclear weapons program in exchange for US economic aid. The main North Korean state daily newspaper, Rodong Shinmun, “sharply criticized American news outlets as ‘hack media on the payroll of power’ for featuring United States officials discussing how aid would flow toward North Korea if it agreed to give up its nuclear program.” The comment was a “clear rebuke to Mr. Trump’s strategy of dangling the promise of prosperity if North Korea agrees to denuclearize.” While the North has “made clear that its top priority is its security,” it also “does not want to appear as if it is desperate for handouts.” [Bloomberg News](#) (6/1, Pettypiece, Wadhams) highlights that the Administration “insists that North Korea must give up all its nuclear weapons before it can shed its pariah status or get any relief from a crushing sanctions regime.” According to Bloomberg, “It’s not at all clear the two sides will be able to bridge their differences enough for a meeting between Trump and Kim to be deemed a success.”

In addition, the [AP](#) (6/1, Tong-Hyung) states that although the two “bitter rivals...are on talking terms again,” the “surprising cordiality still has moments of awkwardness, such when a senior North Korean official scolded a South Korean reporter over a question he didn’t like.” The AP highlights that “in a brief exchange that displayed the fundamental differences between the countries, North Korean official Ri Son Gwon reacted with irritation Friday when a South Korean reporter asked him whether North Korea’s grievances against the South had been resolved as he arrived for talks on easing tensions at the border village of Panmunjom.”

Kim Jong Un Tells Lavrov He Hopes For “Stage-By-Stage” Deal For Denuclearization. [Reuters](#) (5/31, Kim) cites North Korea’s KCNA news agency in reporting that Kim Jong-un told Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov that Pyongyang’s “will for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula remains ‘unchanged, consistent and fixed.’” KCNA said Kim added he “hoped North Korea-U.S. relations and denuclearization of the Korean peninsula would both be solved on a ‘stage-by-stage’ basis.”

Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (6/1, Nicholskaya) reports Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said a “summit between Russian and North Korean leaders could take place,” and that the “format and timing of such meeting will be coordinated by the diplomats.” Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Kim Jong-un had discussed the possibility of such a summit during Lavrov’s visit to North Korea.

US, EU Demanding Latvia Embrace Financial Reforms As Bank Helped North Korea Bypass Sanctions. The [AP](#) (6/1, Piovano) reports Latvian Prime Minister Maris Kucinskis “and his government have come under intense pressure to take action since the U.S. Treasury published a scathing report in February on one of Latvia’s biggest banks, ABLV,” that “accused the bank of proactively trying to circumvent financial rules to launder money and skirt sanctions, and said it bribes Latvian officials to be able to do so.” According to the AP, “the U.S. and Europe are pushing the country to clean up its banking system” and Latvia “is now trying to appease its U.S. and European allies and drastically reform its financial sector.” However, the AP concedes “industry experts are cautious about the probability of Latvia successfully reforming its banking sector.”

Author Examines Emergence Of North Korea’s Consumer Class. In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/1, Jeppesen) op-ed, author Travis Jeppesen discusses the emergence of the donju class in North Korea. He says they are entrepreneurial-minded North Korean officials who use their role in the official state economy for profit. Jeppesen says during his time in the North from 2012, he noticed greater prosperity, particularly among this group, as evidenced by their tastes for Western consumer goods.

Media Analyses Hail May Jobs Report.

Much of the coverage of the Labor Department's announcement that the unemployment rate has fallen to 3.8 percent focused on the appropriateness of President Trump's [tweet](#) at 7:21 am, "Looking forward to seeing the employment numbers at 8:30 this morning." Meanwhile, although reports almost uniformly emphasize how healthy the job market is – the [New York Times](#) (6/1, Irwin) for example covered the numbers in an article titled, "We Ran Out of Words to Describe How Good the Jobs Numbers Are" – the Administration is given very little credit.

Under the headline, "US Unemployment Falls Nearly To 1969 Levels; Hiring Is Solid," the [AP](#) (6/1, Rugaber) says the report "shows that the nearly 9-year-old economic expansion – the second-longest on record – remains on track and may even be gaining steam." The [Washington Post](#) (6/1, Long) states that US employers "added 223,000 job in May" as the unemployment rate fell to its lowest level since 2000, which exceeded "the 200,000 that had been expected." The [New York Times](#) (6/1, Schwartz) reports "it was the 92nd consecutive month of job creation," and "most economists expect the momentum to continue." The Times also notes that "average hourly earnings rose slightly, lifting the year-on-year gain to 2.7 percent."

[Bloomberg News](#) (6/1, Chandra) reports that "the jobless rate fell further below Fed estimates of levels sustainable in the long run, a potential source of upward pressure on wages and inflation." Bloomberg adds "the fiscal boost from the Republican-backed tax cuts may also boost inflation at a time when the economy is near full employment." According to [ABC World News Tonight](#)'s (6/1, story 6, 1:35, Muir) chief economics correspondent Rebecca Jarvis, the President was "clearly pleased," as "the last time the unemployment rate was lower, it was almost 50 years ago in 1969."

In a front-page analysis of the job's report, the [New York Times](#) (6/1, A1, Casselman) acknowledges that although "politicians, investors and, yes, journalists love to obsess over the month-to-month swings in the job numbers," the "true story of the recovery is one of remarkable consistency." However, the Times concedes that "while the labor market today is healthy, there are signs it still isn't booming the way it was in 1999 and 2000."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/1, Kasperowicz) notes that "the unemployment rate for black workers hit new record lows in May." The Examiner adds "black unemployment fell sharply to 5.9 percent, beating out the 6.6 percent record low that was set a month earlier." In an analysis, [Washington Post](#) (6/1, Bump) national correspondent Philip Bump concedes "the unemployment rate among black Americans is now at 5.9 percent, the lowest" since the government began taking such records in 1972. Bump adds that "perhaps as important, the black unemployment rate has never been closer to the white unemployment rate." In a brief report, the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/1, story 8, 0:20, Glor) similarly mentioned that the African American unemployment rate is "an all-time low."

In addition, a front-page [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/1, A1, Morath, Chaney) article mentions that the Labor Department also revealed the unemployment rate for women was 3.6 percent in May, the lowest rate since 1953, when much fewer women were in the workforce. In another article, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/1, Chaney) highlights that the unemployment rate for workers 25 years and older with less than a high-school diploma was 5.4 percent, the lowest level in 25 years.

Meanwhile, [Breitbart](#) (6/1, Binder) emphasizes that the data shows "job growth for foreign born workers is growing more than twice as fast as it is for native born American citizens." Breitbart says the Labor Department found employment of foreign born workers rose by 3 percent over the last year, while over "the same time period, employment for native born Americans grew less than 1.5 percent."

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/1) editorial celebrates the robust jobs report, but urges President Trump not to undermine the economic progress by prioritizing a trade war.

Kudlow, Hassett Defend Trump Over Tweet About Jobs Report. The [AP](#) (6/1, Lemire, Boak) reports that "with a tantalizing tweet," President Trump "seemed to tease a positive jobs report on Friday, a protocol-defying step that moved markets and raised questions about the appropriateness of the president publicly hinting at information that could make or lose fortunes." The AP notes that "Treasury yields jumped and the value of the dollar increased within seconds of Trump's 7:21 a.m. tweet that said he was 'looking forward to seeing the employment numbers at 8:30 this morning,' suggesting that traders likely were making investment decisions based on what they extrapolated from Trump's post." The AP notes that NEC Director Kudlow "said he briefed Trump on the jobs report on Thursday evening."

While [Bloomberg News](#) (6/1, Sink) similarly reports "there was a noticeable reaction in some markets" after the tweet was published, "with the dollar climbing in the wake of the tweet as benchmark Treasury yields extended their advance to new highs for the day," [Reuters](#) (6/1, Burns) says "it does not appear...that market participants jumped to trade on Trump's tweet before the official release." According to the AP, "S&P 500 e-mini futures ESv1 were up about 12

points, or 0.45 percent, before his tweet, then nudged about 1 point higher in the moments afterward," but "there was no discernible pick-up in trading volume to accompany the move to suggest market players saw it as a tradable tip."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/1, Wursthorn, Gold) reports the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose by more than 200 points on Friday following the release of the jobs data. [MarketWatch](#) (6/1, Gaudiano, Sjolín) reports the Dow "rose 219.37 points, or 0.9%, to close at 24,635.21, recouping a large chunk of Thursday's losses," although it still "ended the week 0.5% lower." MarketWatch adds the S&P 500 "rose 29.35 points, or 1.1%, to finish at 2,734.62 and booked a 0.5% weekly gain" while the Nasdaq Composite Index "rose 112.21 points, or 1.5%, to 7,554.33, ending the week 1.6% higher."

The [New York Times](#) (6/1, Tankersley) reports that "economists said they were stunned at the prospect that Mr. Trump was giving hints about the report's content, which fast-acting traders in financial markets could seize on to place bets on an optimism-fueled market surge." The Times adds, "Other economists went further, raising the possibility that if Mr. Trump was willing to give Twitter users a premature hint at the strength of report, he could also have shared the numbers with a more select group even earlier." In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (6/1, Paletta, Parker) reports Trump "shattered several decades of protocol – and possibly violated a federal directive – by hinting strongly that the monthly U.S. jobs report would be a rosy one 69 minutes before its release." The Post adds the 11-word tweet "jolted financial markets and provided the latest example of how he is reshaping the presidency to fit his freewheeling impulses, pushing aside years of tight controls on the public release of sensitive material that were put in place by Republicans and Democrats."

According to [Breitbart](#) (6/1, Caplan), a number of former President Obama's economic advisers were "fuming" over Trump's tweet, including former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, Jason Furman, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, and Austan Goolsbee, another former member of the Council of Economic Advisers. In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/1, Furman) op-ed, Furman said that while the May jobs data was extremely positive, the President's tweet threatened to endanger the integrity of the nonpartisan Bureau of Labor Statistics.

However, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/1, Leubsdorf, Timiraos) reports Kudlow dismissed the criticism in an interview, saying, "All these traders need to see a shrink." Kudlow added "People are really overthinking this." Meanwhile, Kevin Hassett, the chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, said Trump did nothing wrong, but conceded that "if he had tweeted the numbers, that would have been a process foul." Hassett added the President "said he was excited to see the data. We were all excited to see the data." The [Daily Caller](#) (6/1, Jerkovich) reports Donald Trump Jr. also defended the Administration in a [post](#) on Instagram that "put to rest any doubt that the economy under President Donald Trump is putting people back to work." According to the Daily Caller, Trump Jr. referenced a Bloomberg Finance graphic with the caption: "Just sayin... Jobs Jobs Jobs #economy #job #manufacturing #maga."

In the wake of the President's tweet about the jobs report, [Politico](#) (6/1, Samuelsohn) highlights that while Trump "has the power to share any information he wants" as commander in chief, "his norm-busting desire to dish details on everything from foreign policy to special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe to a political rival's cellphone number has alarmed critics who worry that he could disclose information that moves markets or even risks lives." Politico adds "political allies and former advisers concede that Trump has trouble holding his tongue – especially when he can boost his image or clinch an argument."

Commerce Department: Construction Spending In April Reached Highest Level In Two Years.

[Reuters](#) (6/1) reports the Commerce Department "said on Friday construction spending surged 1.8 percent, the largest increase since January 2016, after an unrevised 1.7 percent decline in March." According to Reuters, economists "forecast construction spending rebounding 0.8 percent in April."

Manufacturing Index Records Continued Expansion In May. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/1, Leubsdorf) reports the Institute for Supply Management announced on Friday that its manufacturing index increased to 58.7 in May from 57.3 in April, beating expectations. The Journal notes that a value above 50 reflects an expansion in the manufacturing sector.

Atlanta Fed Raises Q2 GDP Forecast To 4.8%. [Breitbart](#) (6/1, Carney) reports the Atlanta Federal Reserve's GDPNow forecast model on Friday showed "the U.S. economy is expanding at a 4.8 percent annualized rate in the second quarter" in the wake of "the better than expected jobs report for May."

Pelosi, Booker, UN Official: Despite Strong Jobs Report, Administration Embracing Inequality.

The [Daily Caller](#) (6/1, Donachie) reports House Minority Leader Pelosi (D-CA) also "doesn't think Friday's stellar jobs report is a good thing, because it happened under Republican control of the White House and Congress." In a statement, Pelosi said, "May's jobs report shows that strong employment numbers mean little to the families hit with soaring new costs under the Republicans'

watch." Pelosi added, "Republicans' cruel, cynical health care sabotage campaign is already spiking families' premiums by double digits and pushing millions off their coverage, according to the nonpartisan CBO. Big Pharma continues to hoard the benefits of the GOP tax scam, using their handouts to further enrich executives and shareholders instead of lowering prescription drug costs for seniors and sick kids."

[The Hill](#) (6/1, Wise) reports UN special rapporteur Phillip Alston, the UN monitor on poverty, in an interview with [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (6/1, Pilkington) also criticized the Administration's economic policies as "a systematic attack on America's welfare program that is undermining the social safety net for those who can't cope on their own. Once you start removing any sense of government commitment, you quickly move into cruelty." Alston added, "If food stamps and access to Medicaid are removed, and housing subsidies cut, then the effect on people living on the margins will be drastic." Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) told The Guardian that Alston's final report on extreme poverty in the US, which was published on Friday, is "disturbing, but unfortunately not surprising." According to The Hill, Booker "added that this report should be viewed as a reason to commit to jobs guarantees, health care for all and assistance for ex-prisoners trying to reintegrate into society."

NYTimes Urges Fed Not To Ease Volcker Rule. In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/1) criticizes the Federal Reserve for proposing a revision to the Volcker Rule that "banks would establish their own risk limits and determine whether such trades are compliant, rather than running every trade they make on behalf of clients by the regulators." While conceding that "there's no question that the banks have had to function within a more cumbersome regulatory harness under Dodd-Frank," the Times argues "the scope of the damage committed by financial institutions a decade ago – consider the hundreds of billions of dollars in bailouts – required a vigorous response. It still does. And there's no good reason to end it." The Times also expresses disappointment in Fed Chairman Jerome Powell and board member Lael Brainard for ignoring their "experience of the last downturn" to support the change.

Trump's Lawyers Arguing That Executive Power Protects President From Special Counsel Subpoena.

The [New York Times](#) (6/2, A1, Schmidt, Haberman, Savage, Apuzzo) on its front-page reports President Trump's lawyers "in a brash assertion of presidential power" sent a 20-page letter to Special Counsel Robert Mueller back in January that "contends that the president cannot illegally obstruct any aspect of the investigation into Russia's election meddling because the Constitution empowers him to, 'if he wished, terminate the inquiry, or even exercise his power to pardon.'" The Times says that "written by two of the president's lawyers at the time, John M. Dowd and Jay A. Sekulow, the letter offers a rare glimpse into one side of the high-stakes negotiations over a presidential interview." According to the Times, the letter shows the President's lawyers "fear that if he answers questions, either voluntarily or in front of a grand jury, he risks exposing himself to accusations of lying to investigators, a potential crime or impeachable offense." The Times adds the "broad interpretation of executive authority is novel and is likely to be tested if a court battle ensues over whether he could be ordered to answer questions" while the [AP](#) (6/2, Lemire) calls the letter "a bold assertion of presidential power and another front on which Trump's lawyers have argued that the president can't be subpoenaed in the special counsel's ongoing investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election."

In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (6/2, A1, Helderman) reports Dowd and Sekulow in the letter argued that the President has the power to "order the termination of an investigation by the Justice Department or FBI at any time and for any reason." They said Trump also could "even exercise his power to pardon if he so desired." The letter added, "The President's prime function as the Chief Executive ought not be hampered by requests for interview. Having him testify demeans the Office of the President before the world." According to the Post, the arguments in the letter "parallel those that the president's attorneys have pressed publicly for months, even as quiet negotiations over whether Trump might agree to sit voluntarily for an interview have continued."

According to [Reuters](#) (6/2, Gardner), "Trump took what appeared to be a pre-emptive swipe at the New York Times report shortly before it ran in a tweet that questioned whether Mueller's office or the Justice Department leaked letters from his lawyers." [USA Today](#) (6/2, Hayes) reports the President [said](#), "There was No Collusion with Russia (except by the Democrats). When will this very expensive Witch Hunt Hoax ever end? So bad for our Country. Is the Special Counsel/Justice Department leaking my lawyers letters to the Fake News Media? Should be looking at Dems corruption instead?"

The President also [tweeted](#), "...\$17 million spent, it's a scam Investigation. Americans are being worked. We now know there was Russian collusion, with Russians and the Democrats. The

Mueller team is stacked with anti-Trumpers, who actually represented Clinton people (& gave \$'s to Crooked H).’ Dan Bongino.”

On the lead [CBS Weekend News](#) (6/2, lead story, 1:30, Ninan) segment, Errol Barnett discussed the letter and highlighted that when “speaking to reporters last week, the President’s newly appointed lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, railed against the inquiry and pushed Mueller to make his findings public.” Giuliani: “Interview or no interview, by September 1, the public should have an explanation of what Mueller has. I really want that because I don’t think he has much.” On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/2, story 5, 2:40, Llamas), ABC’s Tara Palmeri reported “Giuliani, who was not a part of the legal team at the time, confirmed the contents of the letter to ABC News, telling ABC News, quote, ‘If Mueller tries to subpoena us, we’re going to court.’” Asked about a possible Mueller subpoena, Giuliani added the President does not have to comply because “we can assert the same privilege as other presidents have.”

[The Hill](#) (6/2, Sanchez) reports Senate Minority Leader Schumer (D-NY) [tweeted](#), “This would be a valid legal argument – if our government were a dictatorship. Fortunately, we are a government of laws, not men. And in America, no one is above the law, including the president.” [The Hill](#) (6/2, Folley) “Briefing Room” blog reports Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI) [tweeted](#), “The President, through his lawyers, offered a 20 page document asserting he is above the law. This is neither an open question nor a partisan matter. No one is above the law, especially not the most powerful person on the earth.” He [added](#), “When the President does it, that means it’s not illegal.” Nixon, 1977 Also: Trump 2018.”

[The Hill](#) (6/2, Sanchez) reports assistant Watergate prosecutor Nick Akerman told MSNBC on Saturday “that the idea the president can’t be charged with obstruction of justice was reminiscent of King George’s rule over the American colonies.” Akerman said, “First of all, the whole idea that he can’t be charged with obstruction of justice — the last time that ever happened in this country is when we were ruled by King George.” He added, “That’s what the whole rule of law is about. The president has to faithfully execute the laws.” Akerman continued, “If it he winds up having the corrupt intent to put the kibosh to an investigation, that’s obstruction of justice...If I advise someone to take the fifth amendment...that’s fine. But if I advise them with the corrupt intent to do it to cover up crimes I committed, that’s obstruction of justice. That applies to the president.”

Trump Allies “Pummeling” Gowdy For Dismissing “Spygate” Theory. [Politico](#) (6/2, Cheney) reports House Oversight Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) has ended up in President Trump’s “doghouse for daring to challenge the president’s unsupported claim that Democrats and their sympathizers in the FBI embedded a spy in his 2016 campaign.” Politico adds the President’s allies as a result “have been pummeling Gowdy in recent days, branding him a gullible or clueless backer of the intelligence community.”

[The Hill](#) (6/2, Bowden) reports House Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows (R-NC) told Politico, “I am anxious to see what documents Chairman Gowdy has reviewed that would lead him to believe that the FBI did everything above board.” The Hill adds former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (R), the father of White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, also told Politico, “such credulity seems strangely out of character for someone like Gowdy, a seasoned prosecutor who knows better than to believe people who continue to hide mountains of evidence.”

Clapper: Trump Will Not Fire Mueller, But Will Continue Undermining Investigation. [The Hill](#) (6/2, Bowden) reports former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper in an interview with [Bloomberg News](#) “predicted on Saturday that President Trump will not seek to fire special counsel Robert Mueller, but will instead continue to undermine his probe’s credibility in public statements.” Clapper said, “I think his strategy, which he’s not very subtle about, is rather than [fire Mueller] he will simply try to undermine the investigation and undermine Mueller so that regardless of what he comes out with, many in the public, particularly those who are in the Trump base, will not find it credible.” Clapper also forecast that if Trump fired Mueller, “it would set off a firestorm and create a constitutional crisis. I think you’d have people in the streets, not unlike what I went through post-Vietnam.”

WPost: Trump Misuse Of Pardon Authority Threatens Democracy. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/2) criticizes President Trump over his pardon of “conservative author and polemicist” Dinesh D’Souza as “yet another worrisome indication of Mr. Trump’s disrespect for the U.S. justice system.” According to the Post, “the pardon is a signal – indeed, a warning – that he can alleviate or overturn any punishment meted out as a result of the Russia probe.” The Post concludes “what is at stake here is not legality, but democratic values. Mr. Trump conducts himself as chieftain of his own clan, not the protector of the rule of law for the nation as a whole.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"A Daring Plan To Fix The Subways." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/3) lauds the "ambitious proposal" by Andy Byford, who was hired to fix the New York City subways, to fix the "festering mess" within a decade. The plan's "most important part...entails overhauling how the transit system buys equipment, hires contractors, negotiates with unions and manages big projects." The Times expresses doubt whether "New York's elected leaders can summon the necessary political will to turn this plan into reality," citing that in the past elected officials repeatedly "shirked their responsibility to transit, failing to invest in the extensive system while blowing billions of dollars on poorly managed, gold-plated projects."

"The Shame In Puerto Rico." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/3), citing a study published Tuesday in the New England Journal of Medicine, condemns the response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico as "slow and inadequate," which the Times chiefly attributes to "the perception in Washington, and especially in the White House, of Puerto Rico as a second-class United States territory where poverty, hardship and shoddy government are accepted as the norm." The Times blasts the "condescension" from President Trump and "the disdain that has permeated the response to Maria."

Washington Post.

"Horrible Reports From Solitary Confinement Prove Virginia Still Has Far To Go." The [Washington Post](#) (6/3) editorializes that "to outward appearances, Virginia has been a model reformer of its prisons' use of solitary confinement, a barbaric, dehumanizing punishment that should be reserved for those cases in which isolating a prisoner is the only option," but a recent ACLU report "suggests that the state is still far from meeting that standard." The Post adds that in 2011, "almost 500 of the nearly 750 inmates" at the state's Red Onion State Prison "were in isolation, and 5 percent of the state's total prison population was in solitary." Since then, Virginia "has driven down these numbers," and yet, according to the ACLU, "in 2016, 242 inmates were still in isolation at Red Onion and another facility, Wallens Ridge State Prison," and "the ACLU's research suggests that the spirit of reform has not permeated the state's Department of Corrections."

"Nicaragua Is Nearing A National Catastrophe." The [Washington Post](#) (6/3) editorializes that Nicaragua "is moving from national crisis to potential national catastrophe." Six weeks ago, "protests erupted in the capital, Managua, and other major towns, against the stifling 11-year regime of President Daniel Ortega," while "Ortega's police and paramilitary gangs used force and violence, including live ammunition fired at civilians, to put down the demonstrations," and similar incidents have occurred since then. The Post argues that "it is clear Mr. Ortega has long since lost most of the popular support he may have once enjoyed, first as a leader of the 1979 Sandinista revolution and later when he made a political comeback and won the presidency in 2006," but he "retains the loyalty of the military, police and intelligence apparatus, and the president has demonstrated that he is willing to shed blood rather than yield."

"Apple Stand Up To The Thought Police." The [Washington Post](#) (6/3) editorializes that Apple CEO Tim Cook "has become something of an apostle for privacy and data encryption," and the company "is not going to cave in to the Russian thought police." Moscow has tried to "shut down" the messenger app Telegram, which "is not an Apple product, but it embodies Mr. Cook's philosophy." Apple has not removed Telegram from its App Store and refused to block notifications. The Post says it has "been critical of Mr. Cook in the past for Apple's decisions in China," but in this case, he "has quietly stood on principle and refused to give in to Russia's demands." The Post calls Apple's move "an important development in the still-unsettled battle over freedom in the digital world."

Wall Street Journal.

"The Other China Challenge." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/3) editorial says China's aggressive military expansion in the disputed South China Sea has not gone unnoticed just because President Trump is focusing on North Korea and trade. While Defense Secretary Mattis ensures that the matter remains a priority, a bipartisan group of senators have been rallying support for the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA), which reaffirms US alliances in the Pacific and calls for closer military and economic ties with India and Taiwan.

"A Machinist Break-In At Boeing." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/3) condemns the vote at Boeing's North Charleston, South Carolina, plant to form a micro union, arguing that the union excluded those opposed to it, resulting in a vote to unionize despite most of the workers' colleagues wishes. The vote only affects the flight-line maintenance and production workers, and the Journal argues that this will introduce union politics into the plant, negatively affecting morale

and plant operations.

"Spain's Abrupt Left Turn." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/3) editorializes about the abrupt leftward turn by politicians in Spain, noting that last week, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's center-right government was ousted by a leftist coalition with a no-confidence vote in parliament. The Journal worries that the move will jeopardize reforms that have improved Spain's recent economic growth, and it urges Socialist Party leader Pedro Sánchez, who has established a coalition government, to retain the reforms and work to continue Spain's economic progress.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Global Growth Story Fades, Dimming Market Optimism](#)

[Global Trade Tensions Intensify](#)

[Doctors Suggest Less Chemo, Surgery For Some Cancers](#)

[A Republican Holdout In California Is Under Siege – And Key To U.S. House](#)

New York Times:

[Facebook Gave Device Makers Deep Access To Data On Users And Friends](#)

[When Guns Are Sold Illegally, A.T.F. Is Lenient On Punishment](#)

[How Mnuchin Keeps A Steady Grip In A Tug Of War On Trade](#)

[A New Principal Pushes For Change. Then The Investigations Start.](#)

[Good News For Women With Breast Cancer: Many Don't Need Chemo](#)

[Democrats Hope An Asian Influx Will Help Turn Orange County Blue](#)

Washington Post:

[Calif. Governor's Race Is Defined By Resistance](#)

[Giuliani Defends Trump's Power](#)

[Study: Many With Breast Cancer Can Skip Chemo](#)

[China Is Increasingly Closing The Science Gap](#)

[In Venezuela, A Punishing Brain Drain](#)

Financial Times:

[Astronauts Land Safely After Five Months Orbiting Earth](#)

[UniCredit Seeks Merger with SocGen](#)

[Italy's Eclectic New Cabinet Raises Eyebrows](#)

[Breast Cancer Study Set To Free Women From Chemotherapy](#)

Washington Times:

[Despite Sea Change At White House, Pentagon Steps Up Climate Change Preparations](#)

[Supreme Court Likely To Rack Up More Reversals For West Coast's 9th Circuit](#)

[Fred Fleitz, John Bolton Recruit, In SPLC 'Smear Campaign'](#)

[D.C. Hockey Coach Shaped Generations Of Inner-City Lives](#)

[North Korea Nuclear Deal Is The Easy Part; Weapons Program Would Take Years To Dismantle](#)

['Scared': Montana Democrats Sue To Stop Green Party From Spoiling Tester's Re-Election](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Trump-DOJ Investigation; Arizona-Manhunt; Severe Weather; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Denver-FBI Agent Accidental Shooting; Breast Cancer Study; Florida-Parkland Students Graduation; Iowa-Mother Says Sunscreen Harmed Toddler; Maine-Little League Manslaughter; New York-Deadly Plane Crash; Georgia-Police Violence; Apple-Combating Smartphone Addiction; Boston-Army Sergeant Attends Son's Graduation.

CBS: Severe Weather-Wildfires; Midterm Elections; Trump-DOJ Investigation; Arizona-Manhunt; Denver-FBI Agent Accidental Shooting; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Florida-Parkland Students Graduation; Boston-Army Sergeant Attends Son's Graduation; NASCAR-First African-American Woman Owner; London-Unusual Royal Tradition; Spirit Airlines-Passengers Save Man's Life.

NBC: Breast Cancer Study; Arizona-Manhunt; Severe Weather-Wildfires; US-North Korea Relations; Midterm Elections; Italy-New Government; Denver-FBI Agent Accidental Shooting; Florida-Parkland Students Graduation; Adventure Playgrounds; Atlanta-Malpractice Lawsuit; Fraternity Hazing; Real World Geometry Class.

Network TV At A Glance:

Denver-FBI Agent Accidental Shooting – 3 minutes, 25 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Trump-DOJ Investigation; US-North Korea Relations; NBA Finals.

CBS: Guatemala-Volcano Eruption; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Severe Weather-Wildfires; Trump-DOJ Investigation; Midterm Elections; NBA Finals.

FOX: Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Guatemala-Volcano Eruption; Florida-Parkland Students Graduation; US-North Korea Relations.

NPR: Trump-Steel and Aluminum Tariffs; Guatemala-Volcano Eruption; Jordan Anti-Government Protests; North Korea-Syria Meeting; Breast Cancer Study.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Has lunch with the Vice President and the Secretary of Defense; meets with Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum; and FIRST LADY host Gold Star Families Memorial Day Reception

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate:

3:00 PM Senate aims to end debate on judicial nominee – Senate convenes and proceeds to executive session to resume consideration of the nomination of Robert Earl Wier to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky, with agenda including vote on a motion to invoke cloture on the nomination Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

US House: Congress returns from Memorial Day recess – Congress returns after Memorial Day District Work Period (aka State Work Period) * No votes in the House of Representatives today Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC

Other:

8:00 AM Annual FEMA Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium – 20th Annual FEMA Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium, themed 'Honoring our History and Future,' bringing together representatives of colleges and universities which have an existing hazard, disaster, emergency management program or are attempting to develop one Location: National Emergency Training Center, 16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD www.fema.gov <https://twitter.com/fema>

8:30 AM VA hosts national summit on medical device registries – Department of Veterans Affairs hosts national summit focused on medical device registries, featuring industry thought leaders and sister agencies collaborating to launch the largest health-system medical implant-tracking program in the nation * VA will be collaborating with the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Defense, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to provide critical details to patients and medical providers, such as safety recalls, device identification when patients show up in emergency facilities with complications, and tracking and comparing performance and outcomes of implanted medical devices Location: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC <http://www.va.gov/> <https://twitter.com/DeptVetAffairs>

10:00 AM CSIS Maritime Security Dialogue – Center for Strategic and International Studies Maritime Security Dialogue: 'Innovation and the Marine Air-Ground Task Force', with U.S. Marine Corps Plans, Policies, and Operations Deputy Commandant Lt. Gen. Brian Beaudreault, U.S. Marine Corps II Marine Expeditionary Force Commanding General Lt. Gen. Robert Hedelund, Marine Corps Combat Development Command Commanding General Lt. Gen. Robert Walsh, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory Senior Analyst Maren Leed, and U.S. Naval Institute CEO Peter Daly Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

12:00 PM Ocean Plastics Lab exhibit opens on the National Mall – Ocean Plastics Lab, an international outdoor, interactive exhibit, opens on the National Mall. Exhibit brings attention to 'the global problem of ocean plastic pollution and highlights science-based solutions', and was created by the German Marine Research Consortium and supported by Germany's Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the European Commission * For the Washington, DC, visit, the lab is partnering with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, the National Park Service, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, the Smithsonian

Institution, and other partners * Exhibit runs until 17 June Location: National Mall, Washington, DC <http://www.noaa.gov/> <https://twitter.com/NOAA>

6:00 PM Arthur S. Flemming Awards ceremony at GW – Annual Arthur S. Flemming Awards ceremony at George Washington University, honoring ‘outstanding employees in the federal government’. Participants include National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci and Arthur S. Flemming Commission President Peter Williams Location: Cloyd Heck Marvin Center, Washington, DC <http://www.gwu.edu/index.cfm> <https://twitter.com/GWtweets>

EIA Energy Conference – 2018 EIA Energy Conference, including keynotes from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Kevin McIntyre, National Petroleum Council Chair Greg Armstrong, Reuters News Senior Market Analyst for Commodities and Energy John Kemp, and EIA Administrator Linda Capuano Location: Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.eia.doe.gov> <https://twitter.com/EIAGov> #EIAConf

OAS General Assembly regular session – Organization of American States General Assembly 48th Regular Session – annual meeting of the supreme political institution within the OAS, attended by the foreign ministers of the 35 member states of the Americas, with decisions made guiding the activities and priorities of the hemispheric organization for the forthcoming year ahead Location: Organization of American States, 200 17th Street Northwest, Washington, DC <http://www.oas.org> https://twitter.com/OAS_official #OASAssembly

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

John Oliver: “This week, the June 12 summit between the US and North Korea was suddenly back on after Trump met with a North Korean envoy who had brought him this gigantic, comically-oversized letter from Kim Jong-un. And as if smiling while holding a letter from a dictator weren’t enough of a propaganda coup for North Korea, the President then raved about the letter to the press.”

John Oliver: On Trump’s statement that he had not read the letter: “So. worst-case scenario, it’s a declaration of war. Best-case scenario, it says, ‘Donald, it’s me I have run away to North Korea and I’m never coming back. Melania [your third wife.]’”

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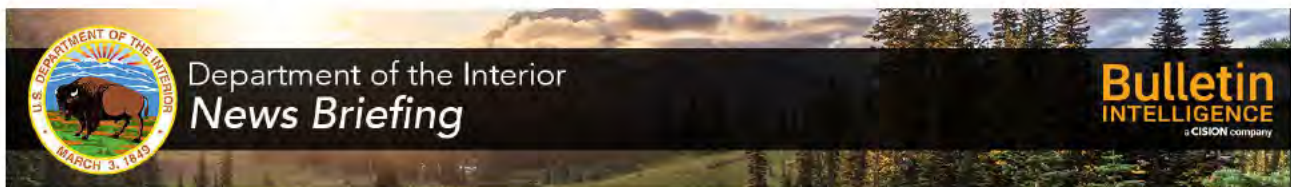
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[EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, May 29, 2018

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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Sent: Tue May 29 2018 04:04:49 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
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Last Laughs

DOI In The News

Exclusive – Zinke Calls For Border Wall: ‘A Nation Without Borders Can’t Exist’.

[Breitbart](#) (5/28, Starr) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said on Monday’s “Breitbart News Daily” that he “absolutely” agrees with President Trump’s position on building a wall on the US southern border. Zinke told Breitbart Editor-in-chief Alex Marlow that “a nation without borders can’t exist.” Zinke said, “We need to secure our borders.” He added, “It’s a national security issue, a national defense issue, it’s a humanitarian crisis, and oh, by the way, it’s an environmental crisis.” Zinke also said Trump’s “recent decision to send Interior law enforcement personnel to the southern border” has “already led to multiple arrests of illegal crossers.”

Ryan Zinke Looks To Reel Back Some Critics With ‘Grand Pivot’ To Conservation.

The [Huffington Post](#) (5/26, D’angelo) reported that after primarily focusing on energy development during his first year, Interior Secretary told a roundtable of more than two dozen outdoor sporting and conservation organizations earlier this month that he was pivoting toward species and habitat conservation. According to the Huffington Post, “many conservation organizations and leaders...complained that he was falling far short” of his self-proclaimed goal of creating a “conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt.” Zinke has since “taken a number of steps in recent months” to back up this vow, including making “several pro-hunting announcements in the week after the conservation roundtable.”

Zinke, Noem Announce Trump Rollback For Outfitters, Guides.

The [AP](#) (5/25) reported Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and US Rep. Kristi Noem (R-SD) said Friday that the Trump Administration “has rolled back pay requirements for outfitters and guides who operate on federal lands.” Zinke said Trump exempted them “from an executive order by President Barack Obama that raised the minimum wage for contractors.” He said Trump’s order “will have a positive effect on rural economies and American families.”

Veterans Honored At Black Hills National Cemetery On Memorial Day.

The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (5/28, Vondracek) reports political leaders from Washington, including Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, South Dakota Sen. John Thune and Rep. Kristi Noem, “sat alongside officials from” the Black Hills National Cemetery “and local veteran organizations on stage Monday as wreaths were laid and Taps was played.” Zinke, a former Navy Seal, talked about his Memorial Day memories as a youth in Whitefish, Montana. He said, “The veterans walked by, ushered by grandchildren holding flags.” Back then, Zinke joked the then-young Vietnam veterans “didn’t march well,” but he said they’re now viewed as the elder statesmen in veterans organizations.

Tribes Ask Interior Secretary for Help With Meth Addiction.

The [AP](#) (5/27) reported Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke met with the executive board of the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes in Montana on Sunday about battling meth addiction in their community. Fort Peck Tribal Chairman Floyd Azure “told Zinke that law enforcement for the county and the tribe cannot keep up with the issues meth addiction has caused.” Zinke said his department “has focused on treatment of drug addiction for mothers and grandmothers, hoping it will have a broad impact on families and the community.”

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (5/27, Lutey) reported Chairman Floyd Azure told Zinke, “We have a massive drug problem in that we have a shortage of law enforcement, not only in our department, but in the county’s department. It’s pretty much overtaken us.” He said, “We have 107 kids in foster care right now, and the majority of that is because of drug problems and meth mainly.” Zinke responded, “I know of the nations, you probably have the biggest problem.” Zinke said Interior’s plan to focus on rehabilitating addicted mothers and grandmothers “in a community is a priority, and it won’t solve the problem, but I think it’s the best solution up front.”

National Park Service Releases The Climate Report It Tried To Censor.

[Mashable](#) (5/25, Kaufman) reported the National Park Service, five years after commissioning a project to show how storm surges and rising seas can impact historical sites on or near the coast, the agency “published the 90-page study to the backpages of its website with no known promotion of the work.” The Union of Concerned Scientists said there was “no easy way to find” the study

"unless you know where to look." A Park Service spokesperson explained via email that, once published, the report had been sent to park managers, but it was unclear if the agency planned to publicize the findings on a larger scale. After the initial report was submitted, "government officials censored out phrases relating to human-induced climate change in revisions and pushed the publication of the study back repeatedly."

[Outside](#) (5/25, Bullinger) reported documents obtained by Reveal showed phrases such as "anthropogenic climate change" being axed by NPS officials. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "claimed in a subsequent House hearing that he had no idea about the edits, but Democratic politicians were incensed; an inspector general investigation is pending."

Interior's Rule Rollbacks Saving The Most Money.

[Greenwire](#) (5/25, Joselow) reported an analysis from center-right advocacy group American Action Forum found that, "of all federal agencies, the Interior Department is on track to save the U.S. economy the most money through its rollbacks of Obama-era rules." According to the analysis, in recent months, "Interior has proposed scaling back 46 regulations while implementing no new rules, which would save the economy \$196 million in annualized costs." When asked about the findings, Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift said in an email, "Secretary Zinke is fully committed to President Donald Trump's mission of providing regulatory relief for the American economy. The Department is moving forward to incentivize innovation and best science while maintaining the highest safety and environmental standards."

Pro-Hunting Trump Officials Take Ax To Wildlife Protections.

[The Hill](#) (5/26, Green) reported the Trump Administration is "systematically rolling back protections for endangered wildlife and expanding rights for hunters, winning cheers from sporting associations but worrying environmentalists who fear it will lead to the extinction of protected species." The National Park Service earlier this month announced "it would end an Obama-era protection that prohibited the hunting of bear cubs, as well as wolves and pups in their dens in Alaska's national preserves." The Interior Department also previously "announced it was expanding hunting access at 30 National Wildlife Refuges across the country." According to The Hill, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "made his support for hunting clear from his first day at the department, when he issued two secretarial orders that were designed in part to increase access on public lands for hunters and fishers."

Enviro Group Wins Docs, Loses Bucks In FOIA Fight.

[Greenwire](#) (5/25, Doyle) reported a federal judge on Thursday rejected the Grand Canyon Trust's request "for \$60,785.12 in attorneys' fees and costs associated with a FOIA request and the ensuing litigation." The environmental group won a lengthy legal battle against the Interior Department to receive documents concerning federal coal leases. However, US District Judge Beryl Howell concluded that the group had "not established that the threat of an adverse court order prompted the disclosures ultimately made" by Interior's Bureau of Land Management and Office of the Secretary.

Group Sues For Records Related To Gov. Rick Scott's Oil Drilling Exemption.

The [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (5/25, Leary) reported watchdog group American Oversight is suing the Interior Department "for records related to the decision to exempt Florida from a broad offshore oil drilling plan." The lawsuit questions "the politics behind Secretary Ryan Zinke's much-hyped January announcement with Gov. Rick Scott, now a candidate for U.S. Senate." A spokesman with Scott's campaign told Politico, which first reported the lawsuit, that the lawsuit was politically motivated: "The reality is that because of Governor Scott's efforts, offshore drilling is off the table and Bill Nelson refuses to celebrate, or even accept, this reality."

[WJXT-TV](#) Jacksonville, FL (5/25, Stofan) reported the Interior Department's "announcement caused consternation from other states like California and Alabama, whose leaders felt that if Florida received special treatment, they should too." It is also came to light that "Florida was, in fact, not officially taken off the table for drilling."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Montana Grandmother Sues BIA For False Imprisonment.

The [AP](#) (5/26) reported Patsy Fercho, a Montana grandmother, is suing the Bureau of Indian Affairs for \$1 million "for its actions in a custody battle over her grandsons." Fercho alleges the BIA "violated a Northern Cheyenne tribal court order when officers arrested her on the reservation

in November 2015 and returned the two boys to their father. Court records say Fercho has not seen them since." A Montana court has granted custody to the father, but Fercho has "asked the tribe to intervene and obtained a tribal court order giving her guardianship and physical custody."

New Nooksack Tribal Chair Says It's Time For Disenrolled To 'Move Along.'

The [Seattle Times](#) (5/28, Shapiro) reports new Nooksack tribal chairman Ross Cline Sr. said, "As far as I'm concerned, the battle with the 306 is now over." Cline is referring to the so-called "Nooksack 306," who are filing lawsuits to avoid being forced out of the tribe. The article recalls the turmoil between the tribe and the 306, noting that the Department of Interior, "normally reluctant to intervene in tribal affairs due to sovereign immunity, said it would not recognize the council's actions until" an overdue election in 2016 took place.

Juneau's First Alaska Native Police Chief Hopes To Inspire.

The [AP](#) (5/26, McCarthy) reported on Ed Mercer, who after 26 years of being in the police force in Sitka and Juneau, Alaska, he has become the "the department's chief of police, and his ascent to the position has come in historic fashion." Mercer said about the distinction of being the Juneau Police Department's first Alaska Native chief of police, "It is meaningful. I do get a lot of people, a lot of elders, a lot of the other Alaska Native people come up to me and say, 'We're really proud of you for what you have accomplished and we appreciate that you represent us.' I don't take that lightly."

Bureau Of Land Management

Man Dies After Exchanging Gunfire With Colorado BLM Officers.

The [AP](#) (5/28) reports that a "man died after exchanging gunfire with Bureau of Land Management law enforcement officers in western Colorado." Mesa County officials say two BLM rangers "were checking on a white van parked on BLM property in the Bookcliffs area north of Grand Junction Sunday afternoon when the man fired at officers, hitting one in his protective vest." One officer returned fire, killing the suspect. Mesa County officials "say they'll release his name after his family is notified."

BLM Closes Area Near Fairbanks To Campfires, Other Activities.

The [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (5/25) reported the US Bureau of Land Management on May 3 "issued an order prohibiting campfires, explosives and fireworks on federal lands in a fire-prone area of black spruce off Gilmore Trail north of Fairbanks and north of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration facility site on the Steese Highway." This is the third year in a row the "BLM's Eastern Interior Field Office in Fairbanks has issued the order, which is intended to ensure public safety and protect nearby property and residences, according to a BLM news release."

More Land In Migration Corridor Proposed For Wyoming Oil And Gas Lease Sale.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (5/25, Richards) reported the Bureau of Land Management announced Thursday "that it has added 286,000 acres to a September auction, one of four held every year on federal land in Wyoming." BLM recently changed its "policy regarding leasing, effectively speeding up the process in which oilmen propose land for lease, the agency reviews the proposals and the public weighs in." According to the Star-Tribune, "many sportsmen oppose the leases for now," because they "want a completed local land plan, which includes guidance on how to balance the migration corridor and industry, before the development is considered in the migration corridor."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Delayed Seismic Testing Decision Puts Energy Industry At Odds With Trump Administration.

[McClatchy](#) (5/27, Pugh) reports that five seismic survey companies are lobbying for federal permission to conduct seismic testing for oil and gas beneath the Atlantic Ocean. If approved, the permitting of seismic testing would "reverse an Obama-era denial of testing permits in the Atlantic Ocean and represent a major advance of Trump's 'America-First Offshore Energy Strategy.'" Yet more than 10 months later, NOAA "still hasn't approved the authorizations." If they are approved, "the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management would then have to complete an environmental study before they decide whether to approve the final testing permits." Still, some scientists and

environmental groups are pushing back, claiming that seismic testing could harm marine mammals in a way that violates the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Offshore Wind Energy Is Finally Taking Off In The US.

[Vox](#) (5/25, Roberts) reported that recent developments indicate that momentum for US offshore wind energy is "gathering in earnest." In 2016, Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker "signed energy legislation that, among other things, called for 1,600 MW of new offshore wind energy by 2027." Earlier this week, Massachusetts selected a wind developer for an 800 MW Vineyard Wind project off its southern coast, which will start construction in 2019. Earlier this year, "New York announced an offshore-wind master plan that envisions a \$6 billion industry with 2,400 MW of capacity by 2030." Meanwhile, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in April "issued a call for commercial interest in four other areas of the New York coast." The article notes that the Department of Interior has "come out in strong support of the offshore industry."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Interior Revives The Push For A Higher Shasta Dam.

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (5/25, Wiles) reported that "environmentalists have long rallied against" an idea to heighten California's Shasta Dam, but the proposal has "been given new life" thanks to a "push from some members of Congress and the current Interior Department." In January, the Interior Department informed Congress that, under the Trump Administration, it had a "renewed focus on the development of new water storage in California and elsewhere." However, federal agencies "appear to disagree about what a Shasta Dam raise would mean for salmon." A US Fish and Wildlife Service draft obtained through a FOIA request "said the raise would likely prove detrimental to endangered chinook salmon," but a different report by the Bureau of Reclamation "says the project could actually benefit salmon by creating colder waters on the Sacramento River."

Klamath Tribes Sue Regulators Over Management Of Oregon Lake.

The [AP](#) (5/25) reported the Klamath Tribes are suing the Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries, "claiming they failed to keep a southern Oregon lake full enough to ensure the continued survival of sucker fish." The tribes want the federal regulators to take "immediate, emergency measures" to protect the two endangered fish species in the Upper Klamath Lake. Tribal Chairman Don Gentry warned that a severe drought could worsen the water quality and affect the fish population. "We're in a very, very serious situation with our fish and unfortunately things are so dire with the projections and there's so much at risk we've had to take this extreme measure to keep the fish from going extinct," Gentry said.

The [Oregonian](#) (5/25, Williams) reported the "lost river and shortnose suckers, known as C'waam and Koptu, respectively, to the tribes, were listed under the Endangered Species Act in 1988. The fish are important to the tribes for subsistence and as a vital part of their culture." Mark Buettner, a fisheries biologist for the tribes, explained the species' population "have steadily declined as lake levels have dropped and water quality has eroded."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Department Of Interior Plans To Open Hunting Acreage.

The [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (5/26, Macaluso) reported Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced a plan leading up to the Memorial Day weekend "to open or expand hunting and fishing to near 250,000 acres on 30 national wildlife refuges." The move does not affect any refuges in Louisiana, but it "shows a willingness by federal authorities to listen to the recreational sector." The news release stated the US Fish and Wildlife Service's intent is to "simplify regulations to more closely match state hunting and fishing regulations" for the 2018-2019 hunting seasons. The proposal will be open to public comment through June on the USFWS website.

There Could Be A Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt Around Yellowstone National Park This Fall.

[Conde Nast Traveler](#) (5/25, Postman) reported a Wyoming wildlife commission last week "voted unanimously to allow grizzly bear hunting to take place for the first time in the state in more than four decades." According to the proposal, starting this fall, "up to 22 grizzly bears would be permitted to be shot in areas around Yellowstone, including within one swath of parkland designated as a scientific monitoring area for bear populations." Under federal protection, the

grizzly population has grown from 136 to about 700 in 2017. However, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "delisted" the Yellowstone grizzlies last summer and turned over their management to state authorities. Critics slammed the new ruling as "a huge setback for grizzly bear recovery in and around Yellowstone."

Thousands Decry Looser Rules For Bear Hunting, But Will It Matter?

[Greenwire](#) (5/25, Doyle) reported since the National Park Service published a proposal to weaken bear-hunting restrictions in Alaska on May 22, "some 7,560 public comments have flooded the agency, as of today's official count," and hundreds of thousands more could follow. The proposal is a regulatory maneuver, not a referendum, but "when it comes to venting, putting officials on notice and shedding light on what matters to people, the public comments count." Greenwire notes the Alaska hunting proposal "follows through on two secretarial orders issued last year by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke" to "expand access significantly for recreational hunting and fishing on public lands" and to direct federal officials to "work cooperatively with state wildlife agencies" on ensuring hunting regulations.

A Wolflike Creature Was Stalking Livestock In Montana. Authorities Have No Idea What It Is.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/25, Wootson) reported Montana wildlife officials were unable to identify an animal that a local rancher killed after it "came within stalking distance of his herd." Experts determined the "dead animal's canine teeth were too short, the front paws were tiny for a wolf, and the claws on those paws were too long," meaning "this was no wolf." Bruce Auchly, information manager for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, said, "We have no idea what this is. And we won't know until we get the DNA tests back."

Refuge Managers Tasked With Opening Up More Public Lands.

The [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (5/25, Gillis) reported that a "federal push to open more public lands to more recreational uses has some environmental groups concerned that refuge managers may stray from their core mission: protecting wildlife and its habitat." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in September issued an order "aimed at creating more hunting and fishing access on more federal lands across the country." As a result, the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in Palm Beach County "recently held public meetings to take input on what types of additional uses should be allowed there." Refuge manager Rolf Olson "said the refuge will release the plan for public review in August and that the plan changes will start being implemented later this year."

National Park Service

'Poppy Memorial' At National Mall Honors 645,000 War Dead On Memorial Day Weekend.

[ABC News](#) (5/25, Karson) reported that a "pop-up installation of 645,000 red flowers, encased in a translucent structure, was installed Thursday night and will adorn the southwestern side of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool." Each flower "symbolizes a life of a fallen service member and their sacrifice." Retired Vice Admiral John Bird, the United Services Automobile Association's senior vice president of military affairs, said, "We are grateful to the National Park Service for allowing us to display this inspiring and educational exhibit among the permanent monuments, as a testament to the enduring bravery of our men and women in uniform."

Human Ashes Left At The Vietnam Memorial Find A Not-Final Resting Place.

[WAMU-FM](#) Washington (5/28, Shapiro, Donevan) reports that about once a week, someone scatters human ashes at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Personal items, like medals and dog tags, that are left behind can become part of the memorial's permanent collection, but "the cremains can't be added to the collection." Now, the National Park Service, "which is in charge of the memorial and the associated collection, is trying to discourage people from leaving cremains at the wall. Last fall, a new sign went up, warning visitors that the scattering of human remains is prohibited and that the ashes will not become part of the permanent collection." NPS also says it is not equipped to care for human ashes "and is in discussions with veterans' organizations to find a permanent home for the cremains in its possession."

Hawaii Eruptions Have Disrupted Tourism, But Fears May Be Exaggerated.

The [New York Times](#) (5/28, Sims) reports that on Monday, the National Park Service reported the closure of the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, the home of erupting Mount Kilauea, "could cost

the local economy \$166 million" when accounting for "what park visitors typically spend in local areas near parks, including hotels, restaurants, grocery stores and rental cars." However, a National Park System economist, Lynne Koontz, "believes that the most precise way to measure the impact the park's closure will have on the local economy is by breaking down the annual figure into a daily average — \$455,000 per day — and multiplying that by the number of days the park has been closed. After 17 days, that added up to \$7.3 million." But considering tourism provides 30 percent of the private sector jobs on the Big Island, "concern has grown over the potential long-term hit on the island's economy."

Sinkhole On White House Lawn Will Be Plugged, Officials Say.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/25, Weil, Lang) reported the National Park Service said a sinkhole found on the grounds of the White House "would be plugged with concrete, the hole filled with soil and gravel, and the sod replaced."

[The Hill](#) (5/25, Bowden) reported the National Park Service said Friday that the White House sinkhole "poses no threat to the building or personnel." The hole, which grew larger by the day until it was excavated by Park Service personnel, "was cordoned off to prevent foot traffic from injuries. Reporters began sharing photos of the sinkhole earlier this week on Twitter."

Park Service: Rising Sea Levels Threaten Some Georgia Parks.

The [AP](#) (5/27) reported a new study by the National Park Service "found that rising sea levels threaten some national park land in Georgia." The report found that by the end of the century, "the ocean could be between a foot and a half (46 centimeters) to more than two feet (61 centimeters) higher there, putting at least" some of Fort Pulaski underwater. Sarah Barmeyer, senior managing director of conservation programs at the National Parks Conservation Association, said the study will help park managers plan for the future.

Fort Smith National Historic Site Increases Entrance Fees.

The [Cherokee \(OK\) Phoenix](#) (5/28) reported the National Park Service "announced the Fort Smith National Historic Site will modify its entrance fees to provide additional funding for infrastructure and maintenance needs to enhance the visitor experience." Entrance fees to the park's Visitor Center exhibits will increase \$3 to \$10 per person, effective June 1. An annual park pass will now cost \$30. According to the Phoenix, "All the money received from entrance fees remains with the NPS with at least 80 percent of the revenue going to Fort Smith National Historic Site."

CSU Targeted Four National Parks With An Selfie Campaign Aimed At Keeping Animals And People Safe.

The [Denver Post](#) (5/28, Whaley) reports a group of Colorado State University faculty and students have teamed with the National Park Service on a campaign to alert people to not get too close to wildlife when getting a picture. Since launching the Safe Wildlife Distance Campaign, they say "the number of people keeping a safe distance from wildlife increased by at least 16 percent in three of the four" participating parks. CSU's campaign "was used from June to October at Assateague, Grand Canyon National Park, Rocky Mountain National Park in Estes Park and Shenandoah National Park."

National Parks Make \$64 Million Impact On Southern W.Va.

The [Fayette \(WV\) Tribune](#) (5/28, Combs) reports a recently released report conducted by the National Park Service and the US Geological Survey found "the New River Gorge National River, the Bluestone National Scenic River and the Gauley River National Recreation Area brought in over 1.3 million visitors to southern West Virginia in 2017." Those visitors "spent over \$56 million and supported 823 jobs bringing the total benefit to the local communities across Fayette, Nicholas, Raleigh and Summers counties to \$64,220,300." The region's National Park Service (NPS) Superintendent Lizzie Watts said in a news release, "We are delighted to share the stories of these special places with so many people. National park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy, returning \$10 for every \$1 invested in the National Park Service, and it's a big factor in our local economies as well."

National Park Service Approves Quarantine And Transfer Of Bison To Tribes.

[Wyoming Public Radio](#) (5/25, Edwards) reported the National Park Service usually round up and kill the hundreds of bison that leave Yellowstone National Park each year to keep them from spreading brucellosis. Now, the NPS "has signed an environmental assessment that will quarantine animals for six to 12 months before releasing them into tribal care." Defenders of Wildlife's

Chamois Anderson "said the Fort Peck Reservation spearheaded the effort, but other tribes will receive bison too." Mark Azure with the Fort Belknap Tribe "says the tribes were finally able to get the environmental assessment signed after meeting personally with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in Washington."

Frye Hangs Up His National Park Service Uniform.

The [Hagerstown \(MD\) Herald-Mail Media](#) (5/28, Baker) reports on Dennis Frye, who has spend 32 years of a 42-year career working with Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, "serving as the park's chief historian for 20 of those years. In the mid-1990s, he took a 10-year break to champion Civil War battlefield sites and write Civil War histories" and work on a film. Frye is from the National Park Service this week, "a fact that started to sink in when he turned in the period clothing he donned for living history events." Frye, a Washington County native, "said he's especially blessed to have stayed at the park — and in this area — for so long."

Office Of Surface Mining

Pacific Coast Coal Plans To Open Coal Mine Move Forward.

[SteelGuru](#) (5/29) reports that the Pacific Coast Coal Company, after seven years of working with federal regulators, "is gearing up to re-open the only operating coal mine in Washington just outside Black Diamond." The permit to reopen the John Henry No. 1 mine "was approved April 18 by the Department of Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. The approval would re-open two mine pits on the 480-acre property, estimating that it would produce 84,000 tons of usable coal annually, a much smaller amount than the 300,000 tons the mine produced each year in its heyday." David Morris, general manager of PCCC said, "We've been working hard to get us to where we are today and we want to finish mining the coal reserves we have."

US Geological Survey

Fast-moving Lava Sparks Immediate Evacuations In Hawaii.

[CNN](#) (5/28, Cullinane, Jones) reports that "fast-moving lava flow from Hawaii's Kilauea volcano forced residents out of their homes and in search of shelter from other threatening forms of volcanic activity." Hawaii County Civil Defense "on Sunday issued an emergency alert for calling for immediate evacuations of sections of the Leilani Estates community." The agency said the evacuations were due to activity from fissure 7, which "produced a large spatter rampart more than 100 feet tall from fountains reaching 150 to 200 feet, the US Geological Survey said Sunday." USGS said volcanic gas emissions remain high, and "as trade winds diminish, the area affected by vog – or volcanic smog – could expand, the agency said."

[Reuters](#) (5/26, Garcia) reported that "magma spewed from 100-foot-high (30-meter-high) cinder cones and formed elevated ponds of molten rock that were expected to soon overflow and stream into the" community's next rows of homes. US Geological Survey geologist Wendy Stovall told journalists on a conference call, "It's this tide of lava that rises up and overflows itself on the edges and keeps rising and progressing forward."

The [AP](#) (5/28) reports the "US Geological Survey said sulfur dioxide emissions from the volcano have more than doubled since the current eruption began." The volcano has been "belching 15,000 tons of the gas each day, up from 6,000 tons daily prior to the May 3 eruption. People living miles from the eruption are paying attention to the amount of noxious fumes pouring out of the volcano because it creates potential for more vog."

Blue Flames Of Methane Spotted Near Hawaii's Kilauea Volcano. [USA Today](#) (5/25, Rice) reported blue flames were "spotted this week in the beleaguered Lelani Estates neighborhood of the Big Island," according to a video published by the US Geological Survey. The agency said, "When lava buries plants and shrubs, methane gas is produced as a byproduct of burning vegetation. Methane gas can seep into subsurface voids and explode when heated, or as shown in this video, emerge from cracks in the ground several feet away from the lava. When ignited, the methane produces a blue flame." National Geographic says the blue flames are only visible at night, "so no one is sue how widespread they are and for how long they've been burning."

New Lava Flow Crosses Onto Hawaii Geothermal Plant Property.

[Reuters](#) (5/27, Rosa) reported the US Geological Survey said a "broad lava flow crossed onto the property" of the Puna Geothermal Venture Saturday evening local time, "posing a new hazard as

molten rock from the erupting Kilauea volcano bulldozed relentlessly through homes and backyards." Authorities shut down the plant once Kilauea "began a once-in-a-century eruption May 3," and "removed 60,000 gallons of flammable liquid and deactivated wells that tap into steam and gas deep in the Earth's core." However, "lava has never engulfed a geothermal plant anywhere in the world and the potential threat is untested, according to the head of the state's emergency management agency."

Hawaii Kilauea Volcano: 4.4-magnitude Earthquake Strikes.

[CBS News](#) (5/25) reported the US Geological Survey said a 4.4 magnitude earthquake "struck Hawaii's Big Island Friday near the summit of Kilauea volcano...the largest of several quakes that struck Friday." The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said the tremor did not generate a tsunami. Hawaii County officials "say the number of structures lava has destroyed on the Big Island is now 82. So far, lava has covered 3.4 square miles of land in lower Puna, cutting off access to at least 37 homes, KGMB reports."

Magnitude 3.0 Earthquake Strikes Near Seven Trees, CA.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (5/29) reports the US Geological Survey detected a preliminary magnitude 3.0 earthquake struck near Seven Trees, California at 4:14 p.m. local time Monday. The earthquake occurred at a depth of 4 kilometers.

Opinion Pieces

Dobric: Sportsmen Need Zinke's Help With Mule Deer Migration Corridor.

In an opinion piece for the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (5/25, Dobric), Nick Dobric, the Wyoming field representative for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, that the Bureau of Land Management's proposal to lease parcels in an "important" deer migration corridor "would not only pose a risk to these deer and our hunting opportunities, it would also stand in conflict with Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke's commitment to conserving big-game habitat." In February, Secretary Zinke "signed a secretarial order for migration corridors and winter range to ensure robust big-game populations, expand hunting opportunities, and improve wildlife management through collaboration and the application of the best-available science." Deferring energy leases in the corridor, Dobric wrote, would "be a strong next step" in Zinke's efforts.

South Florida's National Parks Need Some Love And Care.

The [Miami Herald](#) (5/25, Board) editorialized that a "recently released study of the economic impacts of national parks demonstrates just how much Americans and tourists in our country enjoy visiting these precious natural resources." Visitors to Florida's national parks in each of the past four years "spent more than \$600 million on lodging, gas, transportation, dining and all of the other things necessary to make a vacation work." Yet visitors to these parks "can't help but notice they are starting to look a little shabby." The Interior Department "had proposed jacking up admissions fees at some parks this year to raise a small amount" for repairs, but it was "met with a backlash" that caused officials to scale it back. The Herald concludes that Congress should pay for the needed repairs because "America protects national parks for today and for future generations."

Additional Reading.

- *Charlotte Roe: Support Effort To Save Wild Horses, Burros On BLM Lands.* [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (5/26, Roe)
- *Michael Saul: Governor Endorses Roadmap To Sage Grouse Extinction.* [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (5/26, Saul)
- *Facts Matter, No Matter Who's In The Right.* [Everett \(WA\) Herald](#) (5/28, Saunders)
- *Protecting Sage-grouse Habitat Is Good For Big Game In The West* . [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (5/27, Ellenberger)
- *Congress Needs To Reauthorize Conservation Fund.* [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (5/29, Boddie)

Top National News

US Delegations Meeting With North Koreans To Prepare For Trump-Kim Summit.

Coverage of the North Korea story reflected renewed optimism that the summit between the

President and Kim Jong-Un could now be back on track. Reports, however, noted the lingering skepticism about the summit's prospects for success. As the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/28, story 7, 1:45, Golodryga) reported, "The forecast is looking a bit brighter for a summit next month" as "American diplomats have taken the rare step of crossing the" DMZ into North Korea to meet with their North Korean counterparts. Yet "the outcome of the summit between two world leaders is usually negotiated before they ever sit down at the table," and "that usually takes months, if not years, of work and planning." Trump's team, on the other hand, "is now trying to do all of that in the next 15 days." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/28, story 4, 2:40, Llamas) also said "there are no shortage of skeptics. Former CIA Director Mike Hayden says he's concerned the President is rushing ahead without being fully prepared," and "Republican Sen. Marco Rubio says North Korea cannot be trusted," that "Kim...will never truly be willing to give up his nuclear weapons."

[USA Today](#) (5/28, Bacon) similarly reports that US and North Korean officials met in Panmunjom "for a second day Monday, hammering out details" of a proposed summit, and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/28, Salama, Talley) says the White House has also decided to delay new sanctions against North Korea that were to have taken effect as early as Tuesday. Greg Palkot reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (5/28) that the US delegation is meeting with "powerful" North Korea Vice-Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui, while deputy White House chief of staff Joe Hagin and others are meeting with North Korean officials in Singapore to "plan logistics" for the summit. There "is even talk of one last meeting" between Secretary Pompeo and a North Korea official "to give the final go ahead to the summit if all goes well." Barbara Starr indicated on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/28) that the US officials in North Korea are talking to their counterparts "about substance. In other words, seeing if it's possible to develop a communique that both sides can sign after the summit."

Tom Rogan of the Washington Examiner said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (5/28) that the Chinese "were trying to test the waters here with...Trump by telling the North Koreans to play games. Now in the context of ...Trump playing hardball with them on trade, they want US concessions in the South China Sea as part of their quid pro quo for pressuring Pyongyang." The President, in response, "is playing that game of unpredictability. This is the one issue where I do think the Twitter feed and strangeness of it all serves as a positive interest because it throws foreign nations who have a different political structure to our own off balance in terms of their perception of what Trump might do."

Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/28) that he hopes Trump and Kim meet, but he added that "it does feel rushed, what's happening right now. I think they should push it off if they need more time." Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA) said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/28) that he thinks it's a "very good idea" for the two leaders to eventually meet, but added that it would be a "mistake" for Trump to meet with Kim on June 12 "without a lot of the underlying work being done" beforehand.

White House: Trump Will Meet With Japanese PM Ahead Of "Expected" Summit With Kim. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/28, story 4, 2:40, Llamas) reported that the White House also released a statement saying Trump spoke by phone with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and the two leaders "will plan to have a meeting in advance of what the statement called 'the expected meeting between President Trump and Kim Jong-Un.' So, while that June 12 summit has not been officially put back on the White House schedule yet, we do see it referred to here by the White House as an expected meeting."

The [AP](#) (5/28) also reports that Abe said Monday that he will meet with Trump "before planned talks between Trump and...Kim...take place." Abe said he and Trump agreed on a meeting in a Monday phone call. The [New York Times](#) (5/28, Rich) reports, "Abe has been concerned that Mr. Trump might make a nuclear disarmament deal with North Korea that protects the United States but does not address Tokyo's worries about the North's short-range missiles that could hit Japan. By offering to meet" with Trump before a summit, Abe "hopes to be one of the last advisers to have his ear" before he meets with Kim. The [Washington Post](#) (5/28, Nakamura) says "a meeting between Trump and Abe could come on the sidelines of the Group of 7 economic summit in Quebec from June 8 to 9, but it is also possible that Abe will swing by Washington en route to that conference, a Japanese official said." [Reuters](#) (5/28) and [The Hill](#) (5/28, Sanchez), among other news outlets, also report on Abe's announcement.

Moon Says More Impromptu Talks With Kim Possible. [Reuters](#) (5/28, Shin) reports, "South Korea's President Moon Jae-in said on Monday there could be more impromptu talks and summits" with Kim. Moon, who "held a surprise meeting" with Kim on Saturday, said, "What's more important than anything from the latest inter-Korean summit was that the leaders easily got in contact, easily made an appointment and easily met to discuss urgent matters, without complicated procedures and formalities, just like a casual meeting." The [Washington Post](#) (5/28,

Ye, Lee) writes that "in the tug-of-war" between the US and North Korea "over the tentative summit," Moon "is the man in the precarious middle, trying to broker a high-stakes meeting between two unconventional leaders." [Axios](#) (5/28, Kight), among other news outlets, also reports on Moon's comments.

Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "South Korea President Moon is telling us that North Korea needs America's assurance for an end of hostilities and a security guarantee to denuclearize. And John Bolton is threatening them with the same fate as Libya! Bolton's actions are worse than a crime. They are a blunder."

In an editorial, meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/28) warns that Moon may not be an apt mediator between Trump and Kim because, to the Journal, he doesn't share US objectives for the summit. While the US is seeking full denuclearization, says the Journal, Moon appears to be pressing the US to grant benefits to North Korea for taking merely incremental steps toward that goal.

US Expert: North Korean "Denuclearization" Could Take Up To 15 Years. The [New York Times](#) (5/28, Broad, Sanger) reports that "as the Trump administration races to start talks with North Korea on what it calls 'rapid denuclearization,' a top federal government adviser who has repeatedly visited the North's sprawling atomic complex is warning that the disarmament process could take far longer, up to 15 years." The Times adds that "the adviser, Siegfried S. Hecker, a former director of the Los Alamos weapons laboratory in New Mexico, and now a Stanford professor, argues that the best the United States can hope for is a phased denuclearization that goes after the most dangerous parts of the North's program first." Hecker's "time frame stands in stark contrast with what the United States initially demanded, on what could be a key sticking point in any summit meeting between" the President and Kim.

High-Level North Korean Official To Visit US For Pre-Summit Talks. [Bloomberg News](#) (5/29, Kong) reports North Korean leader Kim Jong-un "has dispatched one of his top aides," former spy chief Kim Yong Chol, "to the US for talks ahead of his planned summit with Donald Trump next month, according to a person familiar with the issue who asked not to be named because the trip isn't public." Bloomberg says the high-ranking official's "trip is another sign that preparations for the on-again, off-again June 12 meeting in Singapore are moving forward."

Trump's Memorial Day Tweet Citing Economy, Low Unemployment Draws Backlash.

Coverage of President Trump's remarks at Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day is eclipsed by reaction to his morning [tweet](#), which stated, "Happy Memorial Day! Those who died for our great country would be very happy and proud at how well our country is doing today. Best economy in decades, lowest unemployment numbers for Blacks and Hispanics EVER (& women in 18years), rebuilding our Military and so much more. Nice!"

All three major network newscasts ran brief stories on the President's speech, but only [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (5/28, story 5, 0:45, Alexander) alluded to the controversy, reporting that "the President raised eyebrows with his Memorial Day message on Twitter" and then reading the entire tweet as part of the broadcast. The [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (5/28, story 4, 0:20, Golodryga), meanwhile, reported "the Commander-In-Chief placed a wreath at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and said we mourn alongside their families and we strive to be worthy of their sacrifice," and [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (5/28, story 4, 2:40, Llamas) briefly noted the event as a preface to its North Korea coverage, reporting that Trump laid "a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier" and paid "tribute to fallen service members and their families."

In its report on Trump's speech, meanwhile, the [AP](#) (5/28, Lucey) says his "somber tone contrasted with a self-promotional tweet earlier Monday," while Chris Cillizza writes on the [CNN](#) (5/28) website, "Memorial Day, for politicians, is a no-brainer. You express thanks to those who have served and condolences for those who have been lost. That's it. That's the statement." Trump "went in, um, another direction" with "a tweet about Trump masquerading as a tweet about Memorial Day. The remembrance of those who fell in service to the country is used here by Trump as simply a launching pad to tout accomplishments during his first 16 months in office."

CNN political analyst Ryan Lizza said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (5/28), "I thought that if The Onion had tried to write a...Trump tweet that mocked the President for kind of messing up what is a pretty easy thing to get right, a Memorial Day message for the American people, it would have looked like this. I mean, just go look at any of the previous presidents or even previous presidents who are tweeting today on Memorial Day. ... It's a somber day. The tweet starts off on this bizarre note of 'Happy Memorial Day' and then of course it pivots to himself, to the President, and to his accomplishments. And I found it weird, but now that we're this far into the Trump Administration, I guess something like this is no longer weird."

CNN national security analyst Samantha Vinograd said, also on [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺

(5/28), "I think that this is one day that I had hoped the President would put his narcissism in check. I served overseas in a war zone alongside men and women who died in the line of duty. I think all of us have been touched by that. And this is a day, as so many others have said, when we remember their sacrifice. This is not a day for the President to put his narcissism on full display."

Daniel Politi of [Slate](#) (5/28) writes, "Trump celebrated Memorial Day on Monday in the most Trumpian way possible, giving himself a pat on the back. ... It didn't take long for the backlash as many expressed their shock that even Trump could go as far as to claim the endorsement of dead veterans." Former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey "[wrote](#) a pointed reply to Trump without ever mentioning him: 'This day, of all days of the year, should not be about any one of us. No matter how prestigious or powerful, no matter how successful we perceive ourselves to be.'" The Atlantic's David Frum "[called](#) Trump's tweet 'the grossest, most inappropriate, most self-flattering Memorial Day message in the history of the US presidency.'" Former CIA and NSA chief Gen. Michael Hayden "[reacted](#) with three letters: 'OMG.'" Frum later detailed his criticism in a piece on the website of [The Atlantic](#) (5/28, Frum).

[NPR](#) (5/28, Wamsley) writes on its website that Trump "laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and paid his respects to those who gave their lives for the country. ... Just a few hours earlier, the president had used the day's themes to congratulate himself." [The Hill](#) (5/28, Thomsen) reports that Trump "has often used Twitter to brag about the state of the economy under his administration," and the [Daily Caller](#) (5/28, Enjeti) runs a brief item on the speech that mentions that Trump "previously tweeted a Memorial Day message lauding the state of the US under his administration saying the fallen would be happy to see the country as it is today."

[The Hill](#) (5/28, Gstalter) reports "a progressive veterans advocacy group ripped...Trump's Memorial Day tweet bragging about the economy under his administration." VoteVets [tweeted](#), "This is the most inappropriate #MemorialDay comment that a @POTUS has ever made." The Hill notes Trump "blocked the veterans group on Twitter in 2017 – though a federal district court judge ruled last week that Trump can't block people from viewing his Twitter feed over their political views."

The [New York Post](#) (5/28, Fredericks) headlines its report "Trump Visits Arlington After Critics Slam 'Appalling' Memorial Day Tweet," and [USA Today](#) (5/28) quotes the tweet in full in an online report. [Politico](#) (5/28, Nussbaum), meanwhile, describes Trump as "marking Memorial Day as commander in chief even as his White House remains embroiled in an ever-growing list of self-made controversies and Twitter-based conspiracy theorizing."

The tweet received little morning cable discussion, other than an exchange on [MSNBC](#) (5/28, 9:27 a.m. ET). Ayman Mohyeldin said, "This Memorial Day, President Trump seems to be using the occasion to tout his own accomplishments." Mohyeldin then read the tweet. Matt Welch of Reason said, "It's classic Trump. This is the way he's behaved his whole public life. He's always been sort of a self-promoting narcissist, and this is how he's treating Memorial Day too."

The President also took to Twitter after his remarks at Arlington Cemetery, [writing](#), "Thank you for joining us on this solemn day of remembrance. We are gathered here on the sacred soil of @ArlingtonNatl Cemetery to honor the lives and deeds of America's greatest heroes, the men and women who laid down their lives for our freedom. ... The heroes who rest in these hallowed fields, in cemeteries, battlefields, and burial grounds near and far are drawn the full tapestry of American life. They came from every generation from towering cities and wind swept prairies, from privilege and from poverty. ... Our fallen heroes have not only written our history they have shaped our destiny. They saved the lives of the men and women with whom they served. They cared for their families more than anything in the world, they loved their families. They inspired their communities."

The [Washington Times](#) (5/28, Miller) reports that in his Arlington remarks, the President "mentioned several service members in the crowd, including former Sen. Bob Dole, a World War II veteran." Trump "also recognized Navy veteran Ray Chavez, who at 106 years old is the oldest living survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor." [Breitbart](#) (5/28, Spiering) reports that the President also "honored Marine Lt. Colonel David Green who died in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2011 at the age of 39 and pointed out that Green's son...plans to join the military" after finishing college. [Fox News](#) (5/28, Singman) reports on its website that the President "pledged to Gold Star families on Monday to 'never forget our heroes.'"

The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/28, Morrongiello) recounts that during his remarks, Trump also "singled out a young man named Christian who approached him at last year's Memorial Day ceremony and asked if he wanted to meet his father. The president said Christian then led him to a grave site." Trump said yesterday, "We paid our respects together. It was a moment I will always remember." The [Daily Caller](#) (5/28, Brest) quotes Trump as also saying, "Christian, I want you to know that even though your father has left this world, he's left it for the next. He's not

gone, he'll never be gone. Your dad's love, courage, and strength live in you, Christian, and as you grow bigger and stronger, just like him, so, too, does your father's incredible legacy. So thank you both. That's so beautiful. Thank you."

The [New York Times](#) (5/28, Qiu) notes "Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis spoke before Mr. Trump," while "other members of Mr. Trump's cabinet and White House aides – including Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the White House press secretary; Donald F. McGahn II, the White House counsel; and John R. Bolton, the national security adviser – were also in attendance."

First Lady Tweets Memorial Day Message. The [Daily Caller](#) (5/28, Caruso) reports, "First Lady Melania Trump delivered her Memorial Day message on Instagram Monday, reminding us all that 'freedom isn't free.'" She [tweeted](#), "On #MemorialDay we honor the many Americans who laid down their lives for our great country. As one nation under God, we come together to remember that freedom isn't free. Thank you to all the service members & their families who sacrifice so much to keep us safe."

Obama Posts Memorial Day Tweet Midway Through Trump's Speech. The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/28, Morrongiello) reports "former President Barack Obama shared a Memorial Day message on Monday, urging Americans to remember those who gave that 'last full measure of devotion.'" Obama's [tweet](#) "was posted at 12:02 p.m. to Obama's 103 million followers, midway through...Trump's speech at Arlington National Cemetery."

Five Largest US Banks Lending To Coal Industry Again.

The [New York Times](#) (5/28, Flitter) reports that while the nation's largest banks vowed three years ago "to cut back on lending to the coal industry," they "never actually promised to walk away from coal completely" and with "coal companies enjoying a small resurgence under the Trump administration, banks are again embracing the industry." Five of the largest banks in the country "are lending tens or hundreds of millions of dollars to coal companies again, in one case eclipsing what they lent in 2014, before the industry entered a nose dive." In all, "the five banks issued about \$1.5 billion in new coal-related loans last year, according to Rainforest Action Network."

Emails Show EPA Worked With Heartland Institute.

The [AP](#) (5/26, Knickmeyer) reports, "Newly released emails show senior Environmental Protection Agency officials working closely with" the Heartland Institute, which it describes as "a conservative group that dismisses climate change," in order to build support "for public hearings on science and global warming, counter negative news coverage and promote Administrator Scott Pruitt's stewardship of the agency." In one email, EPA deputy associate administrator John Konkus asked then-Heartland president Joseph Bast for "suggestions on scientists and economists the EPA could invite to an annual EPA public hearing on the agency's science standards." The emails "were obtained by the Environmental Defense Fund and the Southern Environmental Law Center," under a Freedom of Information Act request. Heartland Institute president and former Rep. Tim Huelskamp responded, "Of course The Heartland Institute has been working with EPA on policy and personnel decisions." Huelskamp added, "They recognized us as the pre-eminent organization opposing the radical climate alarmism agenda and instead promoting sound science and policy."

[CBS News](#) (5/26, Knickmeyer) reports on its website that the "emails underscore how Pruitt and senior agency officials have sought to surround themselves with people who share their vision of curbing environmental regulation and enforcement, leading to complaints from environmentalists that he is ignoring the conclusions of the majority of scientists in and out of his agency especially when it comes to climate-changing carbon emissions."

Boston To Host Mayors' Summit On Climate Change Next Month.

The [AP](#) (5/28) reports Boston next month will host a "gathering of mayors from across the world focused on climate change." On June 7, the International Mayors Climate Summit will take place at Boston University "and is billed as an opportunity for city executives and other leaders to share strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change." The summit "is being organized by Boston Mayor Marty Walsh's office and will feature remarks from former Secretary of State and U.S. Senator John Kerry and Gina McCarthy, a former head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"*Mikie Sherrill For New Jersey Democrats.*" In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (5/28)

endorses Mikie Sherrill in the Democratic primary to replace retiring Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen in New Jersey's 11th Congressional District. The Times says Tamara Harris, "a social worker with a background in finance, is another impressive candidate with substantial support," but while both are "capable of serving their constituents well," it believes "Ms. Sherrill is the strongest candidate, and endorse[s] her with confidence."

Washington Post.

"The World's Worst Humanitarian Crisis Could Get Even Worse." A [Washington Post](#) (5/28) editorial says the humanitarian crisis in Yemen "may be about to get worse," as "Yemeni forces backed by the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia are seeking to cut off and eventually capture Hodeida," its "most important port." The Post says that the Administration, "as part of its stepped-up campaign against Iran," is now "pledging more support for the Saudis and Emiratis" and "seeking to sell another \$2 billion in munitions to the allies." Instead, the Post argues, the US should "use its leverage to stop this reckless venture" and "be insisting that the Saudis take the peace talks seriously – and that the Emiratis halt their advance on Hodeida."

"Our Endorsements For Prince George's County." A [Washington Post](#) (5/28) editorial.

Wall Street Journal.

"Moon Over Singapore." In an editorial, meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/28) warns that South Korean President Moon Jae-in may not be an apt mediator between President Trump and Kim Jong-un because, to the Journal, he doesn't share US objectives for the summit. While the US is seeking full denuclearization, says the Journal, Moon appears to be pressing the US to grant benefits to North Korea for taking merely incremental steps toward that goal.

"Italy's New Threat To The Euro." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/28) argues that a new Italian election is likely to exacerbate the populist's ascendance, resulting in new challenges both for the Italian economy and the entire Eurozone.

"A Miserly 15,000 More Visas." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/28) criticizes DHS' decision to grant 15,000 extra H-2B visas this summer. The Journal says Congress had authorized the Administration to issue up to 69,000 more visas and the 15,000 will not be sufficient to meet employer needs.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Nations Race To Save Korea Summit](#)

[In 'Founder Friendly' Era, Star Tech Entrepreneurs Grab Power, Huge Pay](#)

[Once Allies, Two Media Chiefs Go To War Over The Future Of CBS](#)

[Italy's Political Drama Raises Stakes For Euro](#)

New York Times:

[With 'Spygate,' Trump Shows How He Uses Conspiracy Theories To Erode Trust](#)

[Origins Of An Epidemic: Purdue Pharma Knew Its Opioids Were Widely Abused](#)

[Stacey Abrams Didn't Play It Safe. Neither Are These Female Candidates.](#)

[What Drove A Man To Set Himself On Fire In Brooklyn?](#)

[Italian President's Loyalty To The Euro Creates Chaos](#)

['Spider-Man,' A Migrant In Paris, Scales Building To Save A Child](#)

Washington Post:

[The Ex-Playmate And The Political Operative](#)

[Reliving A Nightmare](#)

[Trump Mends Trade, Security](#)

[Among MD Democrats, A Struggle For Traction](#)

[Return To A Land Of War And Want](#)

Financial Times:

[Markets Hit As Carlo Cottarelli Named As Italy's New Prime Minister](#)

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[Poland Wants Permanent U.S. Military Base, Willing To Pay \\$2 Billion For It](#)
[Trump Sees Congress Buck Tradition Of Legislative Loafing, Make Significant Progress On Agenda](#)
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[High Society: \\$26 million D.C.-Area Mansion Ready For Flashy Influence-Peddling Parties](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Jersey Shore Police Violence; France-Building Rescuer Honored; US-North Korea Relations; Indiana School Shooting-Teacher; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Starbucks Staff Training; George HW Bush Health; Drive Thru Shooting; LA Traffic Accident; Ohio Amusement Park Outage; Memorial Day.

CBS: Severe Weather-East Coast; Severe Weather-Gulf Coast; Weather Forecast; Trump-Memorial Day; George HW Bush Health; Indiana School Shooting-Teacher; France-Building Rescuer Honored; US-North Korea Relations; Sen. Kennedy Assassination-New Investigation Call; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Renowned Reporter Dies; Memorial Day.

NBC: NBC: Severe Weather-East Coast; Severe Weather-Gulf Coast; Weather Forecast; Indiana School Shooting-Teacher; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Trump-Memorial Day; SUV On Fire; College Parties; Jersey Shore Police Violence; Router Hacking Attack; France-Building Rescuer Honored; George HW Bush Health; Memorial Day.

Network TV At A Glance:

Weather Forecast – 4 minutes, 0 seconds

France-Building Rescuer Honore – 3 minutes, 20 seconds

Hawaii Volcano Eruption – 2 minutes, 55 seconds

George HW Bush Health – 2 minutes, 0 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Severe Weather-Gulf Coast; Severe Weather-Deaths; Severe Weather-East Coast; US-North Korea Relations; NBA News.

CBS: Severe Weather-Gulf Coast; Trump-Memorial Day; Longtime CBS Correspondent Bob Fuss Death; Virginia Rep. Tom Garrett Not Seeking Reelection; NBA News; NHL News; Wall Street.

FOX: Salt Lake City-Venezuela Prisoners Released; Severe Weather-East Coast; Severe Weather-Gulf Coast; Severe Weather-Deaths.

NPR: Severe Weather-Gulf Coast; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; EU-Plastic Waste Ban; New Zealand-Cow Cull.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — has lunch with the Vice President and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; meets with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Director of the National Institutes of Health; participates in a roundtable with supporters; attends dinner with supporters; hosts the Make America Great Again Rally.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: On recess until 4 June.

US House: On recess until 4 June.

Other:

10:00 AM Wreath-laying at Arlington National Cemetery to mark JFK's birthday – Armed Forces Full Honors wreath-laying ceremony at the gravesite of President John F. Kennedy in Arlington National Cemetery, in honor of his birthday Location: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA <http://mdwhome.mdw.army.mil/> https://twitter.com/JFHQNCR_MDW

12:00 PM Washington FPC briefed on 2017 Annual Report on International Religious Freedom – Washington Foreign Press Center On-The-Record Briefing on the '2017 Annual Report on International Religious Freedom', with Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Samuel Brownback discussing the report, which is released today Location: National Press Building, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC www.fpc.state.gov <https://twitter.com/ForeignPressCtr>

12:15 PM New America discussion on 'Counterterrorism Strikes Under Trump: What Has Changed?' – 'Counterterrorism Strikes Under Trump: What Has Changed?' New America

discussion, featuring former National Security Council Senior Director for Counterterrorism Joshua Geltzer and Luke Hartig, and American University Assistant Professor Stephen Tinkel Location: New America, 740 15th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.newamerica.org/> <https://twitter.com/NewAmerica>

3:00 PM Atlantic Council host conversation with Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson, on 'Strengthening U.S. Alliances' Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/> <https://twitter.com/AtlanticCouncil>

U.S. / Canada negotiations on modernizing the Columbia River Treaty regime begin – U.S. and Canada begin negotiations to modernize the Columbia River Treaty regime, with the U.S. negotiating team led by the State Department and including the Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division, Department of the Interior, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration * The 1964 agreement covers the development and operation of dams in the upper basin of the river, for hydropower and flood control purposes Location: Washington, DC www.state.gov <https://twitter.com/StateDept>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

All late-night talk shows were reruns.

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Conversation Contents

[EXTERNAL] May 22 -- Greenwire is ready

"E&E News" <ealerts@eenews.net>

From: "E&E News" <ealerts@eenews.net>
Sent: Tue May 22 2018 11:22:43 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] May 22 -- Greenwire is ready

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

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- Billings (MT) Gazette: Zinke Says Interior Reorganization Still On Track In Speech At Fort Peck.
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- A Washington Bomb Set To Go Off In California's Delta Tunnels Water War.

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- Late Night Political Humor.

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 Enefit 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 projection 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 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 Foxy; 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 Ladislaw; 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/TLHRCommission>

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 Majidyar, 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 Mendenz, 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 <https://twitter.com/VoteRunLead> #GameChanger

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>

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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[EXTERNAL] May 17 -- Greenwire is ready

"E&E News" <ealerts@eenews.net>

From: "E&E News" <ealerts@eenews.net>
Sent: Thu May 17 2018 11:44:19 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] May 17 -- Greenwire is ready

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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 day “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" the 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, Protess) 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, Gior), 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 [edworkforce.house.gov](https://www.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/> [#NPCLive](https://twitter.com/PressClubDC)

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 [#10thECC](https://twitter.com/TheEventsDC)

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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