

Conversation Contents

bison paper

Attachments:

/3. bison paper/1.1 Bison combined BP updated 06-05-17 (3).docx

"Stephens, Beverly (Grace)" <grace_stephens@nps.gov>

From: "Stephens, Beverly (Grace)" <grace_stephens@nps.gov>
Sent: Thu Jul 06 2017 08:54:22 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Fink, Wendy" <wendy_r_fink@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: bison paper
Attachments: Bison combined BP updated 06-05-17 (3).docx

Bison paper for Aurelia attached - sending Yellowstone Grizzly Bears in a moment, and I am waiting on the Arches paper.

Then that's it for us I think - summary below - thanks!

G

Co fish - sent
YELL housing - sent
GRTE overview - sent
YELL bison - sent
YELL GB - pending
Arches - pending

Grace Stephens
Chief of Staff (Acting)
National Park Service
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Briefing Statement FY 2017

Bureau: National Park Service (NPS)
Issue: Bison Issues (Population, Quarantine, Removal/Winter Operations)
Park: Yellowstone National Park (YELL)

Key Points

- The management of bison migrating outside YELL during winter remains a contentious issue involving the NPS, State of Montana, Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service (APHIS), Native American tribes, U.S. Forest Service, and other stakeholders (livestock, conservation, animal rights).
- Winter operations, including harvests in Montana and capture/culling in northern YELL, are conducted pursuant to an Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP). During 2017, approximately 1,276 bison were removed from the population, including 748 shipped to slaughter, 468 harvested in Montana, 34 male calves held for quarantine, and 26 otherwise removed (e.g., killing of animals wounded during hunts; vehicle strikes).
- Twenty-four male bison have been held in isolation at the Stephens Creek capture facility in northern YELL since March 2016 pending transfer to the Fort Peck Reservation for quarantine. After completing a brucellosis surveillance period lasting 1 year, bison remaining test-negative will be released on the Fort Peck Reservation in their wild conservation/cultural herd.
- Bison management requires communication and cooperation among multiple federal and state agencies and tribes with different mandates, philosophies, and treaties. Complicating any movement of bison outside the park are Montana and APHIS requirements about brucellosis-free certifications and a Montana executive order regarding state approval to transport bison on state roads. If those parties are in disagreement with NPS actions, they may reach out to DOI leadership for engagement.

Background

- Yellowstone bison are important due to their large population size, high genetic diversity, lack of interbreeding with cattle, and wild behaviors and adaptive capabilities like their ancestors.
- Many bison are infected with the disease brucellosis, which was introduced by cattle and induces abortions, reduces pregnancy rates, and poses a risk of transmission back to cattle.
- Brucellosis and concerns about property damage, human safety, and competition with cattle limit tolerance for bison outside YELL and prevent relocations elsewhere to restore the species.
- Yellowstone bison have high reproductive and survival rates, with few animals perishing due to predators and severe winter conditions. Thus, some bison need to be culled from the population.
- Alternative strategies for bison management have been constrained by legal and administrative factors, including federal trust responsibilities to tribes, Montana statutes and executive orders, and APHIS' Uniform Methods & Rules with regard to protocols for quarantine.

Current Population Size and Management Actions

- The federal government and the State of Montana have implemented the IBMP since 2001 to sustain a viable population of Yellowstone bison, with no brucellosis transmission from bison to cattle. For comparison, 27 livestock herds in the Greater Yellowstone Area have been infected by wild elk since 1998.
- Bison numbers almost doubled to 5,500 bison during 2008 to 2016, leading to concerns that high grazing intensities on some summer ranges may not be sustainable over time. Also, the mass migration of bison into Montana can overwhelm efforts to protect people, cattle, and property.
- Managers removed approximately 1,276 bison from the population during winter 2017, primarily through public and treaty harvests in Montana and capture in YELL for shipment to slaughter. Tribes transfer bison to meat processing facilities and distribute the meat to their members.
- The shipment of bison to processing facilities is extremely controversial and generates negative publicity. However, the effectiveness of hunting has been limited by concentrations of hunters near the park boundary that prevent bison from distributing, wound bison, and cause safety issues.

Consideration of a Quarantine Program

- In 2012, the Secretary of the Interior directed YELL to explore developing and operating quarantine facilities for Yellowstone bison. Park managers drafted a Finding of No Significant Impact to implement quarantine with initial screening in the park and completion of APHIS' testing protocol on the Fort Peck Reservation.
- Montana maintains the shipment of bison to the Fort Peck Reservation is prohibited by state law until bison complete quarantine and are certified as brucellosis-free. Also, APHIS maintains quarantine facilities must be located in or near YELL and approved by animal health officials according to their 2003 Uniform Methods and Rules, which are directed at managing livestock.
- The NPS is at an impasse because Montana and APHIS have refused to allow bison quarantine on the Fort Peck Reservation. Also, DOI solicitors maintain the Secretary must conclude this impasse is preventing the carrying out of our statutory duties before bison can be transferred without agreement.
 - Departmental policies regarding state and federal relationships are set forth at 43 CFR Part 24. Such policies direct agencies to consult with states and comply with state permit requirements regarding the planned removal of surplus or harmful populations of wildlife and the disposition of these wildlife except in instances where the Secretary determines that such compliance would prevent him from carrying out his statutory responsibilities (*e.g.* 43 C.F.R. 24.4(i)(5)).
- The Fort Peck tribes are frustrated the NPS has not released a decision document and by the State of Montana's and APHIS' refusal to allow the quarantine of bison on the Fort Peck Reservation.
- YELL recommends issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact to conduct quarantine at the Fort Peck Reservation, while continuing negotiations with the State, APHIS, and the Tribes.

Development of a New Interagency Bison Management Plan

- The NPS and the State of Montana have entered into an agreement to co-lead the development of a new Yellowstone Bison Management Plan. The NPS is funding the effort.
- There are six cooperating agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Nez Perce Tribe, and InterTribal Buffalo Council. The states of Wyoming and Idaho, as well as APHIS, declined to participate.
- Public scoping was initiated in 2015, with 8,300 individual comments received. Since that time, the NPS and Montana have met several times to develop a range of alternatives for a draft Environmental Impact Statement.
- There has been little agreement on many facets of bison management, both under the existing IBMP and in this new planning process. Montana has two agencies involved, the Department of Livestock and Fish, Wildlife & Parks, which differ in their perspectives on bison management. This has made it difficult to come to agreement on a range of alternatives, tools for management, and overall objectives and goals.
- In addition, relationships are strained due to the conflict over the NPS bison quarantine proposal and current management under the existing IBMP. There may need to be a reevaluation of goals and objectives, as well as renewed State of Montana commitment, to a new bison management plan to move forward.

Current Status

- Biologists at YELL will conduct post-calving counts of bison in the central and northern regions of the park during June and July. These counts will be used to determine the appropriate levels of removals next winter to continue to decrease population size towards 4,200 bison.
- YELL will retain the 24 male bison in isolation at Stephens Creek until an option for quarantine is determined. Options include: 1) sending the bison to the Fort Peck Reservation for quarantine (preferred); 2) sending the bison to pastures leased by APHIS in Corwin Springs, Montana for quarantine; and 3) conducting quarantine at the Stephens Creek capture facility in YELL.
- The Intermountain Region is prepared to complete its work on the quarantine Environmental Assessment and sign the Finding of No Significant Impact.

Contact Person: Daniel N. Wenk, Superintendent, 307-344-2002, dan_wenk@nps.gov

Last Updated: June 5, 2017

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Fwd: Bison update

"Wyse, Jennifer" <jennifer_wyse@nps.gov>

From: "Wyse, Jennifer" <jennifer_wyse@nps.gov>
Sent: Mon Aug 28 2017 07:53:47 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Aurelia Skipwith <aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Bison update

Hi Aurelia,

As discussed, below is the most recent update from Dan regarding YELL bison.

Have a great day, Jen

Jennifer Wyse
Chief of Staff (Acting)
National Park Service
202-513-7205

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

From: **Dan Wenk** <dan_wenk@nps.gov>
Date: Wed, Aug 23, 2017 at 3:52 PM
Subject: Bison update
To: Jim Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, todd_willens@ios.doi.gov
Cc: Mike Reynolds <michael_reynolds@nps.gov>, bob_vogel@nps.gov, Sue Masica <Sue_Masica@nps.gov>, Grace Stephens <grace_stephens@nps.gov>, "Jennifer Lee (Wyse)" <jennifer_wyse@nps.gov>, Jennifer Carpenter <jennifer_carpenter@nps.gov>, P White <pj_white@nps.gov>, rick_wallen@nps.gov

Jim and Todd,

We had a call yesterday that involved the NPS, APHIS, and the State of Montana both the Department of Livestock, State Veterinarian, and State Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

We are sending today a binder that includes all of the testing results and reports for the 24 bison since March of 2016. We agreed that we will convene a conference call on September 7, 2017 to answer any questions or concerns that they may identify in their review of materials. Our attempt to have all those issues resolved prior to Dr. Shere's visit.

APHIS will be represented at the next test on August 24th to observe the tests being conducted by the NPS. But not by an epidemiologist.

Discussed the Memorandum of understanding and the need to receive feedback from both the State and APHIS. They have had the MOU since June and we have not received any feedback to date.

We learned that on the September 19th visit by Dr. Shere, Washington, who will be accompanied by Dr. McClusky and Don Herriott Fort Collins, along with staff in Montana will visit both the holding facility in in Yellowstone but are also planning to visit the Quarantine Facility at Fort Peck.

(b)5



Any conversations to reinforce the importance to move these bison from Yellowstone to Fort Peck will certainly be helpful and may be necessary.

Questions let me know.

Dan Wenk
Superintendent
Yellowstone National Park
(307) 344-2002

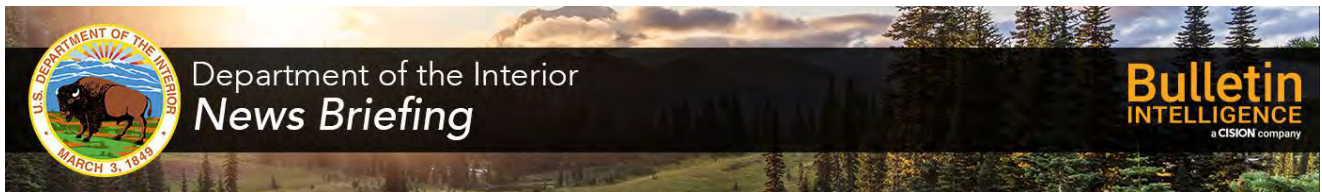
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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Tue Oct 24 2017 04:59:46 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, October 24, 2017

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



DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

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- Politico: Zinke Boosted Fortunes Of 'Scam PAC' Operators.
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- The Hill: Interior's Bad-Faith Plan For Wildlife Refuge Puts Future Reform At Risk.
- The Hill: Birth Control For Wild Horses Is The Obvious Alternative To Mass Killing.
- Billings (MT) Gazette: Time Is Ripe To Reconsider Historical Markers And Names, Historians And Natives Say.

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- Native American Marine Vet Considered A Homeland Hero.
- Smithsonian Museum To Display Post From Dakota Access Pipeline Protests.
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- Oklahoma's Kickapoo Tribe Gets More Than \$282K From EPA.
- Lander Man Sets Out To Document Wind River Wildland Fire Crews Before They Disappear.
- Water, Stone And History In Navajo Land.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: BLM Seeks Public Comment On Greater Sage-Grouse.
- Natural Gas Intelligence: House Committee To Hear How States Manage Sage Grouse Habitat.
- KTAR-FM Glendale (AZ): Plan Will Keep Most Of Arizona National Monument Open To Shooters.
- Arizona Republic: Two Bundy Ranch Standoff Defendants Reach Plea Deals.
- Utah Public Radio: Wyoming Mineral Rights Owners Look To Governor To Help Bring More Gas To

Market.

- Associated Press: Court Rejects Appeal Of Utah ATV Protest Ride Convictions.
- Associated Press: Murder Trial Starts For Man Who Stoked US Immigration Debate.
- Washington Times: Some Analysts Say Trump Policies Could Accelerate Decline Of Coal.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- Signed, Sealed, Delivered.
- Offshore Oil Drilling May Be Coming To A Coastline Near You.
- A Floating Wind Farm Could Generate Electricity Off Hawaii's Shores By 2025.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- As Dams Burst, Trump Seeks To Gut Key Safety Regime.
- Lawsuits Mount Against Feds Over Dam Water Release During Hurricane Harvey.
- D.C. Tackles Emissions With Bikes. Choose Your Color.
- If We Can't Build Two Tunnels To Bring Sacramento Delta Water To SoCal, Will One Suffice?
- Colorado AG Asks Court To Dismiss Lawsuit That Wants "Person" Status For Colorado River.

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

- LAGCOE 2017 Kicks Off This Week In Acadiana; Oct.
- McKibben: Citizens Climate Lobby Can Help Block ANWR Drilling.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- KCWY-TV Casper (WY): Ten More Bison Released On The Wind River Reservation.
- The Hill: GOP Senators Propose Wildfire Management Bill.
- USA Today: King Salmon Reign Becomes More Precarious On Changing Great Lakes.
- WXIX-TV Cincinnati: Orphaned Baby Manatees Explore New Home At Cincinnati Zoo.
- Daily Inter Lake (MT): State On The Lookout For A Miniature But Devastating Foe.
- Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot: Smithfield Man Gets House Arrest For Shooting Bald Eagle, Fatally Running Over It With ATV.
- Associated Press: Not So Cold Duck? Man Keeps Looking For Bird Thought Extinct.

National Park Service

- Casper (WY) Star-Tribune: Yellowstone's Bison Dynamics Raise Questions.
- Greenwire: Spending The President's Money.
- Associated Press: Climbers Set Speed Record On Yosemite's Nose Of El Capitan.
- Fayette (WV) Tribune: National Park Service To Host Community Meeting On Climbing.
- New York Times: Missing Hikers Found Dead Of Gunshot Wounds, And Locked In An Embrace.
- Lakeland (FL) Ledger: Longtime Fla. Park Ranger Tells Tales Of History, Natural Beauty.

US Geological Survey

- KOMO-TV Seattle: New Simulations Show Best & Worst Places To Be If Major Earthquake Hits Pacific Northwest.
- Phys (UK): Routes Out Of Isolation For Yellowstone Grizzlies.
- Texas Monthly: UT Geologists Extract Potential Natural Gas Source From The Ocean Floor.
- Reuters: Low-Pitched, Rumbling Rocks Could Help Predict When Earthquakes Strike: Research Says.
- Bloomberg News: New Monitoring Available For Earthquakes.

Top National News

- USA Today: EPA Criticized For Pulling Scientists From Climate Change Panel Discussion.
- Washington Post: EPA Seeks To Repeal Obama-Era Emission Standards For Truck Components.
- E&E Daily: Senate Panel To Take Another Crack At Vote For NRC, EPA Nominees.
- Reuters: Nicaragua To Join Paris Climate Agreement, Leaving US And Syria As Only Non-Members.
- USA Today: Puerto Rico Still Dealing With Widespread Outages.
- Washington Post: Small Montana Company Secures \$300 Million Contract To Restore Puerto Rico's Electrical Grid.
- Reuters: IRENA Says Solar Costs Will Fall Further, Powering Global Demand.

- Reuters: Lawmakers Ask Justice Department If Terrorism Law Covers Pipeline Activists.
- Washington Times: Trump Says Tax Plan Will Include "No Change" To 401(k) Plans.
- Politico: House To Vote On Senate Budget Resolution Thursday.
- Transport Topics: Chao Says Infrastructure Plan Will Be Unveiled After Tax Reform.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "Honor The Truth John Kelly."
 - "The Little Guys Win One On Payday Loans."
- Washington Post.
 - "The Government's Grotesque Abuse Of Power Over A 17-Year-Old Seeking An Abortion."
 - "Kenya's Election Rerun Could Be A Major Setback For African Democracy."
 - "Doug Jones For Senator In Alabama."
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 - "The Wages Of Corporate Taxes."
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DOI In The News

Deputy Takes Bigger Role While Department Awaits Nominee.

[Greenwire](#) (10/23, Brown, Yachnin) reports Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift indicated that "Casey Hammond, the current deputy assistant secretary for fish and wildlife and parks, will temporarily help Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Katharine MacGregor oversee various Interior agencies." Greenwire says Hammond will be "pulling double duty as the Senate has yet to confirm a permanent assistant secretary for land and minerals management." By "signing secretarial order No. 3357 on Tuesday, Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt declared 'an immediate need for additional executive-level supervision and direction with respect to'" the BLM, BOEM, BSEE, and the OSMRE. Swift said, "The Senate minority is dragging its feet on getting qualified nominees like Joe Balash in leadership roles here at Interior. Rather than let that slow our progress, we are utilizing team members across the bureaus to move the ball forward for the American people."

The [Politico Morning Energy](#) (10/23, Adragna) briefing adds that "in related news, Virginia Johnson, an Interior beachhead staffer and princip[al] deputy secretary for fish wildlife and parks in July left for a job at the USO, according to her LinkedIn profile, and Interior earlier this month announced Jason Larrabee has been assigned that role. He is listed as acting assistant secretary on his LinkedIn profile." Politico notes that the US Senate is considering the confirmation of Joe Balash as secretary for land and minerals management.

Trump Offered To Change Denali Back; "We Said, 'No!'"

The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/23, Martinson) reports that in a speech at the Alaska Federation of Natives' annual conference Saturday, Alaska Sen. Dan Sullivan (R) "offered up...previously unknown...information about a March meeting between him, Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R), Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and" President Trump. According to Sullivan, "One by one, regarding Obama administration executive actions for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, the Arctic Ocean, a road out of King Cove, Trump would turn to Zinke and ask, 'well can we change that to help Alaska?'" ADN adds that to each question, Zinke replied, "Yes, sir." Sullivan said Trump "looked at [him] and said, 'I heard that [Mount McKinley] also had – also its name was

changed by executive action. Do you want us to reverse that?" To this, Sullivan said he and Murkowski "jumped over the desk" and "said, 'no! No. Don't want to reverse that.'" Sullivan "told the president that Denali was the name given to the mountain by the Athabascan people more than 10,000 years ago." Sullivan said, "So he's like, 'all right, we won't do that.'"

In its "Energy 202" news rundown, the [Washington Post](#) (10/23, Grandoni) cites the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/21, Demer) in reporting on Sullivan's comments on the hour-long meeting. Sullivan said, "We had maps and we were talking all about Alaska issues. So many issues. Our fisheries. Whaling, the culture of whaling in Alaska. The economy. The military." In response, The Hill editor Timothy Cama tweeted, "So pretty much everything Obama did, Trump wants to undo." [Newsweek](#) (10/23, Saul) also covers the ADN report.

GAO: Climate Change Already Costing US Billions.

The [AP](#) (10/23, Biesecker) reports that a GAO "report released Monday said the federal government has spent more than \$350 billion over the last decade on disaster assistance programs and losses from flood and crop insurance," not including the sizable costs from this year's hurricanes and wildfires. The GAO report "says the fiscal impacts of climate change are likely to vary widely by region." The study said, "The federal government has not undertaken strategic government-wide planning to manage climate risks by using information on the potential economic effects of climate change to identify significant risks and craft appropriate federal responses." The AP adds that President "Trump has called climate change a hoax," and "has also appointed officials such as EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, Energy Secretary Rick Perry and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, all of whom question the scientific consensus that carbon released into the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels is the primary driver of global warming."

The [New York Times](#) (10/23, Friedman) says the GAO study warns that "fires, floods and hurricanes are already costing the federal government tens of billions of dollars a year and climate change will drive those costs ever higher in coming years." The report "urges the Trump administration to take climate change risks seriously and begin formulating a response." Sens. Maria Cantwell and Susan Collins, who requested the report, "asserted that the study should help move Congress and the administration past partisan fights over the science of global warming and toward a search for solutions – something they said could be problematic given that the Trump administration is rolling back many of former President Barack Obama's climate change initiatives."

Zinke Boosted Fortunes Of 'Scam PAC' Operators.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "has directed millions of dollars in political contributions since 2014 to" Washington-area political operative Scott Mackenzie, organizer of Virgin Islands GOP PAC "VIGOP," which "hosted the secretary at a St. Croix fundraiser in March," according to a 2,300-word [Politico](#) (10/24, Lefebvre, Juliano) analysis of FEC filings as well as interviews with campaign finance lawyers and people familiar with VIGOP. Critics of Mackenzie "say he operates 'scam PACs' that raise small-dollar donations from conservative voters but then spend the bulk of the money on consultants and overhead." However, "none of the records indicate that Zinke violated the law or received any direct compensation from his association with Mackenzie, the Virgin Islands PAC or its consultants."

Rep. Gowdy Accuses DOE, Interior Of Failing To Comply With Email Requests.

[E&E Daily](#) (10/23) reports that House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) sent letters last week to four federal agencies saying they were not compliant with his panel's request for documents on private email use. He sent his letters to the Energy Department, Interior Department, Department of Veterans Affairs, NASA, and also followed up with the EPA.

Interior's Bad-Faith Plan For Wildlife Refuge Puts Future Reform At Risk.

Georgetown Law professor David A. Super writes a column for [The Hill](#) (10/23, Super) about last week's release "of internal Interior Department communications showing both an intent to disregard the law in building a road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge on the Alaska Peninsula and a concerted effort to conceal these plans from Congress and the public." Super asserts, "The supposed rationale for this road – to facilitate medical evacuations from the small

village of King Cove – does not bear serious examination.” Rather, Super argues, “the true purpose of this road is hauling fish for a company in King Cove.” Super concludes, “When the administration abuses...the discretion it already possesses to do covert, cynical favors for industry under false humanitarian pretenses, the only lesson that people who take environmental protection seriously will draw is that all flexibility must be systematically removed from statutes.”

Birth Control For Wild Horses Is The Obvious Alternative To Mass Killing.

Former US congressman Bill Richardson and Center for Animals Director Allen Rutberg write in [The Hill](#) (10/23, Richardson, Rutberg) to oppose the House Appropriations Committee’s authorization of “killing healthy wild horses and burros,” which they say it did “with the full support of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.” They assert that while the BLM “scheme for managing protected wild horses and burros has never worked well, and has collapsed completely in the last 15 years,” “the killing strategy is no more sustainable than the roundup and adopt strategy.” Richardson and Rutberg predict public outrage against the committee’s decision, and argue “the BLM must develop and put into practice locally tailored long-term plans to manage wild horses and burros with fertility control.”

Time Is Ripe To Reconsider Historical Markers And Names, Historians And Natives Say.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/23, French) highlights opinions that the removal of confederate monuments should be reconsidered. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke reportedly “told Breitbart News that he will not remove any monuments from federal lands.” Zinke said, “Where do you start and where do you stop? It’s a slippery slope. If you’re a native Indian, I can tell you, you’re not very happy about the history of General Sherman or perhaps President Grant.” Indian Country Today editor Simon Moya-Smith responded, “This is a perfect example of how divorced Secretary Zinke is from the Native community. Were he intimately familiar with Natives he’d already know that for decades we’ve called for the eradication of monuments to Native murderers like Andrew Jackson, Christopher Columbus, etc. ... Sec. Zinke should stop using Natives as an excuse to keep racist monuments erected.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Tribes Seek Reparations Over Oregon Site Destroyed For Highway Expansion.

The [AP](#) (10/23) reports that Justice Department attorneys “asked a federal judge Monday to dismiss a lawsuit filed by tribal elders who say a sacred site was destroyed to expand a highway near Oregon’s Mount Hood.” Justice Department attorney Ben Schiffman “said in a telephone hearing that the elders were not substantially burdened by the expansion of U.S. 26 and lacked standing to sue.” According to the AP, “the elders from Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde claim the Federal Highway Administration violated the Religious Freedom Restoration Act,” and “their attorney Stephanie Barclay said the government in 2008 could have widened the road without bulldozing a site that included a stone altar and medicinal plants.” The AP notes that “rather than money, the Native Americans are asking for a historical marker, a rebuilt altar and for the planting of new trees and plants.”

[Courthouse News](#) (10/23, Brown) reports that US Magistrate Judge Youlee Yim You “seemed skeptical Monday about the government’s argument that it was within its rights to destroy burial grounds and a ceremonial site sacred to members of the Klickitat and Cascade Native American tribes to widen a highway.” CN adds that tribal members said “they repeatedly pleaded with the government not to disturb the stone memorial and sacred grove of trees,” but “the government filed a motion to dismiss the case, claiming that it is legally allowed to do whatever it wants on land it owns. ‘Many cases show that the federal government’s use of its own property, as a legal matter, cannot constitute a substantial burden,’ U.S. Attorney Reuben Schiffman told” Judge You.

Native American Marine Vet Considered A Homeland Hero.

The [AP](#) (10/22, Scott) profiled Native American and US Marine Corps veteran Jesse DesRosier, highlighting his efforts to defend Blackfeet lands and culture. The AP said, “Today, Native Americans serve in the U.S. military at the highest rate per capita of any ethnic or cultural

population, and Montana is home to more than 6,000 tribal veterans, many of them Blackfeet.” The article mentioned that DesRosier “and dozens of other Native American veterans and active-duty members have petitioned U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to defend a sacred ancestral homeland known as the Badger-Two Medicine, a 130,000-acre area named for the two rivers that define it,” seeking “permanent protections from oil and gas drilling.”

Smithsonian Museum To Display Post From Dakota Access Pipeline Protests.

The [AP](#) (10/23, Nicholson) reports that the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian in Washington DC will be displaying a 12-foot-tall mile-maker post, which was built by Dakota Access pipeline protesters to show how far people traveled to protest the project. Hickory Edwards donated the post to the museum, which he erected in September of 2016.

Tribe Asks 10th Circ. To Revive Landowner’s Drill Permit Suit.

[Law360](#) (10/23, Lidgett) reports that on Friday, the federal Tenth Circuit granted a bid from the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma to file an amicus brief in support of Oklahoma landowner Merrill Chance’s appeal of a ruling in favor of the BIA. Chance had claimed “the Bureau of Indian Affairs granted an energy exploration company permission to drill on his land without first conducting a required environmental review.”

Oklahoma’s Kickapoo Tribe Gets More Than \$282K From EPA.

The [AP](#) (10/23) reports that the EPA “awarded the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma more than \$282,000 to curb water pollution.” The “tribe will use the grant to control surface and groundwater pollution and establish protection programs that address indoor air, underground storage tanks and solid and hazardous waste management.”

Lander Man Sets Out To Document Wind River Wildland Fire Crews Before They Disappear.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/22, Schmelzer) reported that former BIA employee Robin Whiteplume has been documenting the firefighting efforts of Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribe members. Whiteplume said he “wanted to write down the group’s history before the men and women are gone, taking their memories with them.”

Water, Stone And History In Navajo Land.

[Voice of America](#) (10/23, Taboh) contributor Julie Taboh praises the beautiful views at the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, managed by the NPS, which borders Navajo Indian territory. Mikah Meyer described his tour of the area and said, “It was a privilege to be able to experience these sacred Native American sites and I’m thankful that the National Park Service preserves them in a way that allows myself and so many people to experience them.”

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM Seeks Public Comment On Greater Sage-Grouse.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/23) reports that the BLM “announced opportunities for the public to comment and share issues on the agency’s consideration of potential amendments to its Nevada and California land use plans, specifically elements of land use plans that address greater sage-grouse conservation.” The BLM announced meetings in “Northern Nevada, including one slated for Elko on Nov. 8.”

House Committee To Hear How States Manage Sage Grouse Habitat.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/23, Passut) reports, “The House Committee on Natural Resources is to hear from western state officials on Wednesday in an oversight hearing regarding management solutions for the greater sage grouse.” The article notes that the BLM has “issued notices stating it intends to reconsider land use plans from 2014 and 2015 designed to protect habitat; withdraw protections from 10 million acres of habitat on federal land; and cancel an associated environmental impact statement (EIS).”

Plan Will Keep Most Of Arizona National Monument Open To Shooters.

[KTAR-FM](#) Glendale, AZ (10/23) reports online that the BLM "last week recommended closing 53,300 acres of the Sonoran Desert National Monument to recreational shooting, but keeping the remaining 443,000 open to shooters." The latest plan, published "Friday in the Federal Register, calls for making 11 percent of the monument's land off-limits to shooting," although "hunting is not affected by any of the proposals considered by the bureau, and would be allowed anywhere in the monument with the proper permits." BLM Arizona spokesman Adam Eggers said, "This is by no means the end of the process. ... Nothing has been finalized." He is paraphrased as indicating "Friday started a 30-day protest period for the public to voice concerns or support for the proposal, as well as a 60-day legal review by the governor."

Two Bundy Ranch Standoff Defendants Reach Plea Deals.

The [Arizona Republic](#) (10/23, Anglen) reports that "a legal saga that included two hung juries, two trials and months of testimony in Las Vegas ended Monday for two defendants in the Bundy Ranch standoff case with a misdemeanor plea deal." Eric Parker and O. Scott Drexler "pleaded guilty to obstructing a court order and will not serve additional time in prison, getting credit for time served." Parker and Drexler "initially were charged with conspiracy, extortion, carrying weapons during crimes of violence, assaulting and threatening federal officers, and interference with interstate commerce for their roles in taking up arms against the federal government." The Republic notes that Parker and Drexler, both of Idaho, "were among the first of six defendants to go to trial over the 2014 standoff, which pitted armed ranchers and militia members against Bureau of Land Management agents."

The [AP](#) (10/23, Gorman) reports similarly.

Wyoming Mineral Rights Owners Look To Governor To Help Bring More Gas To Market.

[Utah Public Radio](#) (10/23, Bringham) reports online that "some mineral-rights owners are looking to state governments to help save royalty earnings from natural-gas reserves" after the "Interior Department began the process of reversing Obama-era rules limiting the waste of methane – the primary component of natural gas – on public lands, arguing the regulations were an overreach of authority and cost jobs." Maggie McKenzie, a land and mineral-rights owner in southeastern Wyoming, said that "just because the feds say it's OK to waste millions of dollars in natural gas through leaks, venting and flaring, that doesn't mean Wyoming has to stand by and watch critical revenues vanish into thin air."

Court Rejects Appeal Of Utah ATV Protest Ride Convictions.

The [AP](#) (10/23, Whitehurst) reports that on Monday, the federal Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in Salt Lake City rejected arguments that Utah county commissioner "Phil Lyman's trial was tainted by the judge's friendship with a conservation group lawyer." The AP notes, "Lyman and blogger Monte Wells were convicted of federal misdemeanor charges for their roles in an ATV protest ride through parts of southern Utah's Recapture Canyon, which was closed to motor vehicles to protect ruins that are nearly 2,000 years old." Wells "said he's disappointed in the ruling in the case that he calls emblematic of frustrations over federal management of public land."

Murder Trial Starts For Man Who Stoked US Immigration Debate.

The [AP](#) (10/23, Elias) reports that alleged murderer "Garcia Zarate's trial began Monday with Deputy District Attorney Diana Garcia showing jurors the handgun that is accused of firing and said a ballistics expert will testify that the only way to fire it is to pull the trigger." The AP notes that the handgun belonged to a BLM "ranger who reported that it had been stolen from his parked car in San Francisco a week before Steinle was shot." The AP says the "shooting touched off a political furor during last year's presidential race, with President Donald Trump citing the killing of 32-year-old Kate Steinle as a reason to toughen U.S. immigration policies."

Some Analysts Say Trump Policies Could Accelerate Decline Of Coal.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/23, Wolfgang) reports on its front page that while President Trump "has dismantled much of his predecessor's environmental agenda and rolled back the regulatory war on coal," according to "analysts," "coal's long-term future is bleak and that the administration's friendly policies toward natural gas could speed up the decline." Analysts "say

Mr. Trump and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt, despite their best efforts, simply cannot ward off market forces that have been building for years.” Moreover, “research shows the administration’s fossil fuel-centric energy policy – which is focused not just on coal but also on revving up oil and gas production on federal lands and loosening restrictions on private land exploration – could have adverse effects on coal.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Signed, Sealed, Delivered.

The [Politico Morning Energy](#) (10/23, Adragna) briefing reports that BOEM “approved a key step of Deepwater Wind’s 144-megawatt Revolution Wind project that will enable the company to collect the biological and wind performance data it needs to file a construction plan.” The briefing adds, “Massachusetts is slated to pick the winning contracts in July, and Deepwater Wind has said it could bring the project online by the end of 2023.”

Offshore Oil Drilling May Be Coming To A Coastline Near You.

In [EcoWatch](#) (10/23, Stauffer), Surfrider Foundation Environmental Director Pete Stauffer predicted the expansion of offshore oil drilling in the US. Stauffer cites how “following an executive order earlier this year, Interior Sec. Ryan Zinke announced plans to revise the nation’s Five-Year Offshore Drilling Plan, threatening the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico and Arctic Ocean with the prospect of new offshore oil rigs.” Stauffer attacks these plans, writing, “The drilling, rigs and transportation tankers required for offshore drilling release a brew of toxic chemicals and leaked oil.” Stauffer urges readers to “submit comments to the Department of the Interior and boldly voice their opposition to offshore drilling.”

A Floating Wind Farm Could Generate Electricity Off Hawaii’s Shores By 2025.

Behind a paywall, [Pacific Business News \(HI\)](#) (10/23, Mai) reports, “Hawaiian Electric, the state’s largest utility, said in its power supply improvement plan it plans to utilize 200 megawatts of offshore wind power by 2030 and 800MW by 2045.” The article mentions the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Bureau Of Reclamation

As Dams Burst, Trump Seeks To Gut Key Safety Regime.

A 2,300-word [Greenwire](#) (10/23, Jacobs) analysis says American dams “are crumbling,” citing failures at the Oroville Dam in California last year, two dams destroyed by Hurricane Harvey in Houston, and the spillway failure at the Guajataca Dam in Puerto Rico due to Hurricane Maria. Yet, “President Trump wants to zero out the Reclamation program’s budget. Seemingly because it grew out of the Obama administration’s climate change adaptation strategy.” Greenwire praises the Reclamation program as “a natural fit for the bureau,” saying that “for 40 years, Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers...have been the country’s leaders in developing dam safety protocols that are passed along to industry and state regulators responsible for the vast majority of the country’s dams.”

Lawsuits Mount Against Feds Over Dam Water Release During Hurricane Harvey.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/23, Randazzo) reports that a number of lawyers are pursuing dozens of lawsuits against the federal government – lawsuits seeking compensation for the damage Houston homeowners argue resulted from the US Army Corps of Engineers’ decision to release water from two Houston-area reservoirs in the days following Hurricane Harvey’s impact. With the estimated 10,000 homes affected by the reservoirs, the litigation potentially could result in billions of dollars in compensation, but the lawyers’ arguments, based upon a small area of eminent domain law, likely will face challenges in court.

D.C. Tackles Emissions With Bikes. Choose Your Color.

Behind a paywall, [ClimateWire](#) (10/23, Jacobs) says, “It’s morning rush hour in the nation’s capital, and bicyclists crowd their lane six deep at an intersection. Clad in spandex and business suits, a few ride the bright green, orange, red or yellow bikes that signal a new phase

of city cycling.” The article mentions the Bureau of Reclamation.

If We Can't Build Two Tunnels To Bring Sacramento Delta Water To SoCal, Will One Suffice?

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/23, Board) editorializes in support of the two-tunnel plan for the Los Angeles WaterFix program, which aims to bring Sacramento water into Southern California. Yet, the Times opines, “the already-crippled delta needs more [water]. Whether it’s to be one tunnel or two, the rest of us will have to learn to make do with less.” The editorial adds, “It’s now up to” California Gov. Jerry Brown (D), “with his unparalleled political capital, but entering the final year of his uniquely long tenure as California’s leader – to decide how much less is still enough.”

Colorado AG Asks Court To Dismiss Lawsuit That Wants “Person” Status For Colorado River.

The [Denver Post](#) (10/23) reports that the Colorado Attorney General’s Office wrote to the US District Court in Denver, asking them to dismiss a lawsuit filed by environmental group Deep Green Resistance, which petitioned “to declare the Colorado River ecosystem a ‘person’ and represent its interest in court.” The attorney general’s office “said the questions of ‘whether the ecosystem should have the same rights as people, and who should be allowed to assert those rights in federal courts, are matters reserved to Congress by the Constitution.’”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

LAGCOE 2017 Kicks Off This Week In Acadiana; Oct.

24-26. [KLFY-TV](#) Lafayette, LA (10/23) reports online that the Louisiana Gulf Coast Oil Exposition (LAGCOE) starts this week in Lafayette, Louisiana. This year’s keynote speakers are BSEE Director Scott Angelle and BP project general manager Ryan Malone. KLFY explains, “LAGCOE is an event industry leaders said is a way to introduce the oil and gas industry to Acadiana.”

McKibben: Citizens Climate Lobby Can Help Block ANWR Drilling.

Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org, writes in the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/23, McKibben) arguing against drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. McKibben is hoping the members of the Citizens Climate Lobby will sway the vote to prevent oil and gas drilling in the refuge. Arguing against the measure, McKibben says a new analysis found the government will generate \$37.5 million by opening drilling, much less than the \$1.8 billion proponents claim. Further, burning the fossil fuels present in the region will only exacerbate damage by carbon.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Ten More Bison Released On The Wind River Reservation.

[KCWY-TV](#) Casper, WY (10/23, Ford) reports online, “The restoration of bison in Fremont County,” Wyoming “continues as more of them have been released into the Wind River Reservation.” KCWY describes how “members from the Shoshone Tribe along with people in the community joined last week to release 10 more bison on the Wind River Reservation.” FWS Project Leader Pat Hnilicka said, “Just returning those bison to their rightful place on the landscape and how there’s so much meaning, again not just towards the animals themselves but to the human element to the tribes that are here. That’s new it inter-weaved in their culture for all these centuries it’s just a very wonderful complete feeling.”

GOP Senators Propose Wildfire Management Bill.

[The Hill](#) (10/23, Cama) reports that draft legislation unveiled Monday by Republican “Sens. John Barrasso (Wyo.), Orrin Hatch (Utah), John Thune (S.D.) and Steve Daines (Mont.)” is “aimed at preventing and mitigating wildfires by making it easier to cut down and remove trees and brush.” The Hill says that “Republicans have long complained that when land management agencies like the Forest Service have to go through the arduous process of consulting with the Fish and Wildlife Service to allow logging in areas where endangered species live or are nearby,

it delays the process of removing wood and brush that contributes to fires.” The Hill adds that “provisions of the bill would reduce the obligations of the Forest Service to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service,” and “direct the Forest Service and Interior Department to create certain exclusions from environmental review for wood and brush removal.”

King Salmon Reign Becomes More Precarious On Changing Great Lakes.

[USA Today](#) (10/23, Matheny) reports that the declining population of the alewife, a silvery herring, is threatening the population of chinook, or king salmon, which “almost exclusive[ly]” feed on the alewife. The article says the FWS’ Great Lakes Mass Marking Program aims to figure out where caught salmon come from. FWS Mass Marking Program fish biologist Matthew Kornis said, “Our biotechnicians on Lake Michigan are handling about 20,000 fish a year. It gives us the sample size we need.” A joint USGS-Michigan State University study “found that chinook stocking could be cut by an additional 50% with little resulting difference in overall salmon numbers.”

Orphaned Baby Manatees Explore New Home At Cincinnati Zoo.

[WXIX-TV Cincinnati](#) (10/23) reports online, “Orphaned manatees from SeaWorld Orlando have been sent to the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden to receive care before they’re eventually released into the wild.” WXIX notes that the “zoo is part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Manatee Rescue and Rehabilitation Partnership.” Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden Director Thane Maynard said, “We are extremely proud to be part of this conservation program and excited to welcome Pippen, Miles and Mathew to their new home in Cincinnati. There’s nothing better than being able to work with these amazing creatures and ultimately see them return to the wild.”

State On The Lookout For A Miniature But Devastating Foe.

The [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (10/22, Reilly) reported on Montana’s efforts to keep out “quagga mussels that have crashed fisheries and clogged pipes across America.” The FWS “says an infestation could cost the region’s hydroelectric industry alone \$300 million annually.”

Smithfield Man Gets House Arrest For Shooting Bald Eagle, Fatally Running Over It With ATV.

The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (10/23, Daugherty) reports that Allen H. Thacker of Smithfield, Virginia “was sentenced Monday morning to one month of house arrest on charges that he shot a bald eagle and then ran over it multiple times with an all-terrain vehicle.” In an interview with the FWS, Thacker reportedly confessed “to shooting the eagle, arguing it was a menace.”

Not So Cold Duck? Man Keeps Looking For Bird Thought Extinct.

The [AP](#) (10/23, Borenstein) reports on British writer Richard Thorns’ search for a colorful duck, as he aims to prove they are not extinct. Thorns “is backed by the Global Wildlife Conservation group, which launched a hunt for ‘lost species’ – 25 quirky and elusive plants and animals beginning with the duck.”

National Park Service

Yellowstone’s Bison Dynamics Raise Questions.

A 1,500-word [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/23, French) analysis says that “when Yellowstone National Park did its summer count of bison this year, it was somewhat surprising to see that although the animals suffered their second highest culling and killing since 2000... was the untargeted central herd that shrank substantially and not the northern herd, which is the main target of the bison removals.” As a result, the NPS has “asked, as it has in the past, that tribal and sport hunters limit their harvest outside Yellowstone’s western boundary, which is all central herd bison.” In addition, Park officials are “recommending that no more than 1,250 bison be killed by hunters or shipped to slaughter this winter.”

Spending The President’s Money.

[Greenwire](#) (10/23, Hotakainen) reports that maintenance mechanic “Kenny Klipp appreciates that President Trump donated his first-quarter salary to the National Park Service,” and hopes it will enable him “to join the team of construction workers that will restore the historic Newcomer House at the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg using the president’s donation of \$78,333 to pay for part of the project.” NPS Historic Preservation Training Center Superintendent Moss Rudley “said the renovation project originally set for 2019 has moved to a faster track, with work scheduled to begin next spring and some windows getting removed as early as February.” The article outlines the history of the Newcomer House.

Climbers Set Speed Record On Yosemite’s Nose Of El Capitan.

The [AP](#) (10/23) reports, “Two climbers have set a new speed record for ascending the Nose route of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park, one of the world’s most technical and dangerous verticals.” Brad Gobright “and climbing partner Jim Reynolds raced up the nearly 90-degree, 2,900-foot (884-meter) precipice in 2 hours and 19 minutes.” The AP notes, “More than two dozen people have been killed on El Capitan since 1905.”

National Park Service To Host Community Meeting On Climbing.

The [Fayette \(WV\) Tribune](#) (10/23) says, “The National Park Service invites members of the public who have an interest in rock climbing at New River Gorge National River and Gauley River National Recreation Area to a public meeting on Nov. 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Canyon Rim Visitor Center.” The Tribune says the event will kick off “with a brief presentation, and then focus on how the park, climbing community, neighbors, government entities and others can work together to address issues that have impacts on the park and communities.”

Missing Hikers Found Dead Of Gunshot Wounds, And Locked In An Embrace.

The [New York Times](#) (10/23, Caron) reports the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department said Friday that “the bodies of the hikers, Rachel Nguyen, 20, and Joseph Orbeso, 22, who had been missing since late July, were found embracing each other under a tree in Joshua Tree National Park. ... They had no water and seemed to have been rationing their food.” The couple “died of gunshot wounds...in what appeared to be a murder-suicide.”

Longtime Fla. Park Ranger Tells Tales Of History, Natural Beauty.

The [Lakeland \(FL\) Ledger](#) (10/22, Soergel) featured an interview with Fort Caroline National Memorial lead ranger Craig Morris, who told stories about odd events that happened at the park. The Ledger said, “Fort Caroline is a historical site, and Morris sees his main job as keeping that history alive – telling the stories of the Timucuan Indians who lived there for thousands of years, the French settlers who tried to make a go of it there in the 1560s, and the Spanish who quickly came along to wipe out the impudent French.”

US Geological Survey

New Simulations Show Best & Worst Places To Be If Major Earthquake Hits Pacific Northwest.

[KOMO-TV](#) Seattle (10/23, Markovich) reports online, “Researchers with the University of Washington have released new simulations revealing the best and worst places to be when a possible 9.0 earthquake hits.” The researchers said “the epicenter of the potentially catastrophic quake will be off the west coast between California and British Columbia, in an area known as the Cascadia Subduction Zone.” USGS researcher Dr. Erin Wirth said, “What we’ve done differently in this research is we’ve run 50 computer simulations of what a magnitude 9 earthquake on the Cascadia mega thrust could look like.” Wirth “will present her findings at the Geological Society of America’s annual meeting in Seattle” today.

Routes Out Of Isolation For Yellowstone Grizzlies.

[Phys \(UK\)](#) (10/23) reports that the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team projected paths that “future bears might take to pass through (or bypass) human occupied territory around Helena, Butte, and Bozeman, hopping between islands of wildlands in developed farm and rangeland.” Their results will be published in an article “next week in the Ecological Society of America’s

open access journal Ecosphere.” Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team leader and USGS ecologist Frank van Manen said, “We let the male bears tell us where they would be most likely to go, by looking at their movement characteristics. We had the luxury of huge datasets of location data from both populations. We could be very picky about our data selection.”

UT Geologists Extract Potential Natural Gas Source From The Ocean Floor.

[Texas Monthly](#) (10/23, Hlavinka) reports, “In May, a group of scientists from the UTJSG, Ohio State, Columbia University, and the” USGS “embarked on a mission sponsored by the Department of Energy to extract” methane hydrate, “an icy, flammable substance, from the floor of the Gulf of Mexico.” UT postdoctoral fellow Stephen “Phillips said scientists are interested in learning how methane hydrate plays into the carbon cycle in order to better understand its effects on climate change as well as its role in natural hazards, such as how it relates to submarine landslides.” According to the article, the substance “could provide power to future generations.”

Low-Pitched, Rumbling Rocks Could Help Predict When Earthquakes Strike: Research Says.

[Reuters](#) (10/23, Hares) reports that a study published Monday in Geophysical Research Letters, a journal published by the American Geophysical Union, found that “rocks under increasing pressure before earthquakes strike send out low-pitched rumbling sounds that the human ear cannot detect but could be used to predict when a tremor will strike.” For the study, “researchers recreated powerful earthquake forces in a laboratory and used high-tech algorithms to pick out the acoustic clues amid all the other noise of a pending quake.”

New Monitoring Available For Earthquakes.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/23, Wethe) reports that TexNet now has “22 permanent” earthquake “monitoring stations and another 40 that are portable.” According to the University of Texas, TexNet is the country’s most advanced seismic monitoring system run by a state. University of Texas at Austin’s Bureau of Economic Geology Director Scott Tinker said “small earthquake events have become more common in Texas recently.” Tinker added that “we are now positioned to learn more about them and, hopefully, to understand how to mitigate their impacts in the future.”

Top National News

EPA Criticized For Pulling Scientists From Climate Change Panel Discussion.

The EPA’s decision to pull its scientists from a panel discussion at a Rhode Island conference highlighting the impact of climate change on the Narragansett Bay is drawing criticism, [USA Today](#) (10/23, King) reports. The move “has sparked fresh criticism about EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt’s skepticism toward the broad scientific community’s conclusion that human-caused global warming is a proven fact and a growing concern.” Rhode Island Sens. Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse “criticized the EPA’s decision during an appearance Monday at the conference in Providence, R.I.” Whitehouse said, “This has traditionally been a bipartisan issue. ... So there is no reason for it to have to be this way. And it should not take away from the terrific scientific work that is being done, because at the heart of all this is not the politics, it’s the knowledge.” Reed “said he was ‘disheartened and disappointed’ that the EPA scientists were not allowed to publicly present their findings.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/23, Dennis, Eilperin) says the Administration decision “gave the event a suddenly high profile, with protesters outside, media inside and angry lawmakers and academics criticizing the move.”

The [Washington Times](#) (10/23, Wolfgang) reports the three scientists – “Autumn Oczkowski and Rose Martin, both of whom work at an EPA research laboratory in Rhode Island, and Emily Shumchenia, an agency consultant – are co-authors of a report on climate change and its effects on the estuary.”

[Reuters](#) (10/22, Scott) reports Tom Borden, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program Director, said the agency gave “no specific reason” as to why the researchers weren’t permitted to speak. The [AP](#) (10/23, Smith) reports that in a statement yesterday, EPA spokeswoman Nancy Grantham said, “EPA scientists are attending, they simply are not presenting; it is not an EPA

conference.”

[Newsweek](#) (10/23, Frankel), the [Daily Caller](#) (10/23, White) and [CNN International](#) (10/23, Vazquez, Marsh) also provide coverage of this story.

EPA Seeks To Repeal Obama-Era Emission Standards For Truck Components.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/23, Eilperin) reports that the EPA is seeking to repeal a rule adopted in the last months of the Obama Administration imposing tighter emissions standards on truck components. The OMB “posted a notice saying that on Saturday it received the proposal to rescind the rule,” which “applies the standards now used for heavy-duty trucks to new truck components called gliders and trailers.” The rule, the Post adds, “has been widely embraced by the trucking industry.”

Senate Panel To Take Another Crack At Vote For NRC, EPA Nominees.

[E&E Daily](#) (10/23, Bogardus) reports that the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee is “taking a second shot at moving through a slate of President Trump’s nominees, including some controversial picks for U.S. EPA.” The committee “will also vote on Jeff Baran, up for another term at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.” The EPW committee was scheduled to vote on the nominees last week, “but Chairman John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) put off the [meeting] amid controversy over EPA’s plans for the renewable fuel standard.” Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) “raised concerns about Wehrum over his answers to her questions regarding the RFS.” The markup is “Wednesday, Oct. 25, at 10 a.m. in 406 Dirksen.”

Nicaragua To Join Paris Climate Agreement, Leaving US And Syria As Only Non-Members.

[Reuters](#) (10/23, Pretel) reports that Nicaragua is set to join the Paris climate agreement, leaving the United States and Syria as the only nations who are not members of the global pact. The next round of U.N. climate talks will take place from Nov. 6-17 in Bonn, Germany, as government environment ministers work to create a set of international guidelines for the agreement.

Puerto Rico Still Dealing With Widespread Outages.

[USA Today](#) (10/23, Dorell) reports that more than a month after Hurricane Maria battered Puerto Rico “with 155-mph winds, three-quarters of the residents are still without power, lining up at banks for cash and gathering at shopping malls, hotels or government buildings just to charge their cellphones.” Gov. Ricardo Rosselló acknowledges “that his pledge to restore 95% of power by mid-December is ‘aggressive.’” The article adds, “Col. Jeff Lloyd of the Army Corps of Engineers in Puerto Rico, which the federal government is relying on to help the U.S. territory restore power, would not commit to Rosselló’s mid-December timeline. The Corps has ordered \$130 million worth of supplies, including 62,000 telephone poles from the U.S. mainland.”

The [AP](#) (10/23, Shinkman) reports Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, commander of U.S. Army North, “remains defiant in the face of critics who say the response has been too slow or too small, echoing President Donald Trump’s defenses of the relief effort thus far.” Buchanan said, “It’s hard to mass resources when you’re dependent on sealift and airlift to get anything here. You can’t just drive down the road like what happened in Florida and Irma.”

Billionaire Richard Branson and Amory B. Lovins of the Rocky Mountain Institute, in a piece for the [New York Times](#) (10/23, Branson, Lovins), urge grid modernization as a way to prevent sustained outages following a severe weather event.

Small Montana Company Secures \$300 Million Contract To Restore Puerto Rico’s Electrical Grid.

In a front-page story, the [Washington Post](#) (10/23, A1, Mufson, Gillum, Davis, Hernández) reports that as part of the effort to restore Puerto Rico’s electrical grid following Hurricane Maria’s damage, a small Montana company called Whitefish Energy has secured a \$300 million contract with the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority “to repair and reconstruct large portions of the island’s electrical infrastructure” – the “biggest” contract yet issued in the effort. Whitefish announced Monday it had 280 workers on the island and “said it was close to completing infrastructure work that will energize some of the key industrial facilities that are

critical to restarting the local economy.”

IRENA Says Solar Costs Will Fall Further, Powering Global Demand.

[Reuters](#) (10/23, Tan) reports the International Renewable Energy Agency said yesterday that costs for solar power will decrease “by another 60 percent over the next decade giving an already booming market another boost.” Solar power is in the middle of a “boom because of sharp drops in costs and efficiency improvements, pushing global capacity from virtually zero at the start of the century to 300 gigawatt (GW) by the end of 2016, a figure expected to rise again by 2020.”

Lawmakers Ask Justice Department If Terrorism Law Covers Pipeline Activists.

[Reuters](#) (10/23, Gardner) reports a bipartisan group of US representatives yesterday asked the Department of Justice “whether the domestic terrorism law would cover actions by protesters that shut oil pipelines last year, a move that could potentially increase political rhetoric against climate change activists.” Rep. Ken Buck “said in a letter to Attorney General Jeff Sessions, that damaging pipeline infrastructure poses risks to humans and the environment.” The letter said “operation of pipeline facilities by unqualified personnel could result in a rupture – the consequences of which would be devastating.” The letter “was signed by 84 representatives, including at least two Democrats, Gene Green and Henry Cuellar, both of Texas.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/23, Siciliano) reports “the letter raises security concerns based on an incident last year in which a group of environmental activists attempted to disable pipelines that crossed the border between the U.S. and Canada in multiple states.”

Trump Says Tax Plan Will Include “No Change” To 401(k) Plans.

Amid reports that Republicans were considering reducing the amount workers can contribute to their 401(k) without paying taxes from \$18,000 to \$2,400, President Trump [tweeted](#) Monday, “There will be NO change to your 401(k). This has always been a great and popular middle class tax break that works, and it stays!” While media reports cast Trump’s stance as positive for people saving for retirement, several reports and analyses say the tweet further complicates Republicans’ already difficult task of finding agreement on a tax bill.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/23, Boyer) reports that Trump “said Monday he won’t allow Congress to reduce tax-exempt contributions to popular 401(k) savings plans,” and Ylan Mui said on [CNBC’s Closing Bell](#) 📺 (10/23) that Trump’s tweet “may have put the nail in the coffin” for the idea. Pete Alexander reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (10/23, story 2, 1:10, Holt) that in the wake of Trump’s tweet, Republicans “are scrambling for other ways to try to pay for sweeping tax cuts without ballooning the deficit.”

A front-page story in the [Washington Post](#) (10/23, A1, Paletta, Debonis) says that for GOP tax writers, “Trump’s numerous tax promises are proving difficult to keep.” Charles Lane of the Washington Post said on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) 📺 (10/23), “I have had Republicans on Capitol Hill emphatically tell me over and over again, ‘We are doing this. We are getting it done. We have no choice. It is political death if we don’t.’ Having said all that, they have a problem which is unless you want to really, really, really blow up the deficit, you have to pay for at least some of this and it’s hard to do it without attacking some big, sacred cow in the tax code.”

[Politico](#) (10/23, Lima) reports that at a town hall on tax reform with Ivanka Trump in Pennsylvania on Monday, “US Treasurer Jovita Carranza reiterated the administration’s intent to retain current 401(k) rules.” Carranza said that although the plan is “always going to be under review, just like it is for corporate America, just like it is for all of the pensions in every state pension,” the Administration does not currently project an overhaul, despite House Republicans’ reported considerations. Carranza said, “That will be continued to be reviewed, but at this point I can say that the latest is that the 401(k) plan is going to stay as is.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/23, Rubin) reports that the Save Our Savings Coalition, which includes the AARP, American International Group Inc. and Northern Trust Corp., said it was “thrilled” by Trump’s tweet. [USA Today](#) (10/23, Shell) calls Trump’s tweet “good news for savers and taxpayers,” and [Reuters](#) (10/23, Heavey) says making changes to 401(k) plans “would risk alienating tens of millions of workers as well as Wall Street, which generates fees from managing the plans.” Moreover, it would “provide ammunition to Democrats, who have painted Trump’s plan, with its \$6 trillion in tax cuts, as a gift to the rich and corporate America

that would balloon the federal deficit."

The [New York Times](#) (10/23, Sullivan, Tankersley) says Trump's "shutdown of the proposal is the first of what many Republicans privately fear could be a presidential pattern that disrupts their efforts to pass a sweeping overhaul of the tax code." Similarly, [Roll Call](#) (10/23, Bennett) says Trump's tweet "further complicated Republicans' quest to find agreement on a package of tax rate cuts and code changes." Roll Call adds that GOP aides "have long worried that Trump's tendency to post erratically on social media could undermine the tax effort and drive a wedge into negotiations between Congress and the White House."

A [New York Times](#) (10/23) analysis says that while tax reform "was never going to be easy given that it requires targeting lucrative and politically popular tax breaks to mitigate the magnitude of cuts Republicans are envisioning," supporters of the effort have said "publicly and privately" that Trump "is making a hard task even harder." The [Washington Post](#) (10/22, Rucker, Sullivan, Kane) reports that "after nine months of struggling to broker agreements, lawmakers in both parties increasingly consider [Trump] an untrustworthy, chronically inconsistent and easily distracted negotiator." Some Republicans "are openly questioning his negotiating abilities and devising strategies to keep him from changing his mind."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/23, Puzzanghera) reports that Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch "said on Monday that his panel 'will not change the 401(k) retirement savings system in a manner that does not achieve the goals outlined in the unified framework; namely, to maintain or raise retirement plan participation for workers and the resources available for retirement.'" However, the [AP](#) (10/23, Gordon) reports that House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Brady "indicated that changes to the 401(k) structure may still be on the table." Brady said, "I don't want to get ahead of the committee. That will all be part of the tax reform bill." Asked whether Trump's tweet "changes in any way what the panel was planning to do," Brady said, "No."

Conway: Trump's Priorities Are Middle-Class Tax Cut, Reducing Corporate Rate. Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (10/23), "The President made clear his two major priorities are to make sure that this tax cut benefits the middle class and secondly to reduce that corporate tax rate because those are the job creators. The President wanted 15 percent. It's now at 20 percent, but it will no longer be 35 percent." Conway added, "The other thing to note here is that there aren't just three tax brackets, there are actually four when you count the zero percent. We'll have more Americans paying zero percent in taxes than currently do."

Reardon: Cut Rates For Pass-Through Corporations. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/23), Brian Reardon, a former White House official at the National Economic Council from 2003-2005, advocates for tax rate cuts for pass-through corporations, arguing that they employ the majority of US workers and are the basis of many local economies.

WSJournal: Left Attacks Hasset For Showing Corporate Rate Cut Will Raise Wages. A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/23, Board) editorial assails economists on the left over their attacks on White House Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Kevin Hassett for presenting evidence that a cut in the corporate tax rate will benefit workers. The Journal suggests that the economists' criticisms may be due to the fact that their own policies to increase wages were unsuccessful.

Ivanka Trump Pitches Tax Reform In Pennsylvania. [Politico](#) (10/23, Lima) reports that Ivanka Trump pitched the Republican tax reform plan during a town hall in Bucks County, Pennsylvania on Monday, saying, "For me this tax plan really couples two things that are really core values as a country, which is work and supporting the American family." Trump called tax reform "long overdue" and "argued that working families cannot continue to bear their current tax burden without relief from the government." She said, "We have to support the American worker, we have to create jobs, we have to create growth, but we also have to support that American worker's family." In addition, she "stressed the importance of expanding the child tax credit – one of her biggest priorities since moving to Washington – but it's still unclear whether the proposal will win over fiscal conservatives in Congress."

Ivanka Trump said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (10/23), "I think tax reform is so core to our goal of fueling the economic growth in this country. We need to be competitive. We need the tax code that's reflective with the modern reality of what our workforce looks like, including supporting our working families, the majority of which are now dual-income, which is why I am really excited about the realization of a large part of the Administration's working-family agenda through tax reform, the expansion of the child tax credit, doubling the standard

deduction, eliminating the marriage penalty. There's so many critical elements that support our dual values of work and family. But we need to be competitive and, ultimately, we need growth, and that is going to come by ensuring that this is the country that everyone wants to grow their businesses in."

RSC Chairman Open To Leaving Top Tax Rate Intact. In what [Bloomberg News](#) (10/23, Wasson) describes as "a boost" for House tax writers, Republican Study Committee Chairman Mark Walker said Monday that "he is open to tentative plans for keeping the current top individual tax rate for the highest earners as part of a tax code overhaul set to be released as soon as next week." In an interview, Walker "said he could live with taxing the highest earners at the current top rate of 39.6 percent if that's needed to get a tax bill enacted," he said, "A key thing is making sure this benefits the middle- and lower-income individuals."

House To Vote On Senate Budget Resolution Thursday.

[Politico](#) (10/23, Ferris) reports that the House is expected to vote Thursday to "back the Senate's budget resolution, fast-tracking the GOP's effort to advance a tax overhaul with a simple majority in the Senate." While the Senate version "is not as fiscally conservative" as the House plan, House Republicans "are expected to easily clear" it, which will "unlock the powerful legislative tool known as reconciliation, which replaces the Senate's 60-vote threshold with a simple majority in some circumstances."

Chao Says Infrastructure Plan Will Be Unveiled After Tax Reform.

[Transport Topics](#) (10/23, Mulero) reports that Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao said at the American Trucking Associations' annual conference that the Trump Administration will unveil its infrastructure funding proposal after Congress reforms the tax code. Chao said, "Originally we anticipated the administration's infrastructure proposal by late fall 2017, but the Affordable Health Care Act was delayed" and lawmakers are currently working on tax reform. In her speech, Chao touted the benefits of public-private partnerships, suggesting it "better protects the taxpayers by identifying and mitigating risk." She also praised the Trump Administration's efforts in streamlining environmental regulations.

[Fleet Owner](#) (10/23, Abt) reports that Chao "said 16 federal agencies were involved in crafting the [infrastructure funding] proposal, and that she had met numerous times with trucking industry officials." Chao also said she is working with FMCSA to address the driver shortage. In her speech, Chao also shared her experiences with the hurricane damage in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Honor The Truth John Kelly." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/23) writes that a video of a 2015 dedication of an FBI building in Florida "showed that [Rep. Frederica] Wilson had made none of the string of boasts that [White House chief of staff] Kelly put in her mouth. ... In the days since, he and the White House have added to his mistakes by refusing to correct them. All evidence to the contrary, they have continued to insist on Mr. Kelly's false version, compounding the grief of the Johnson family."

"The Little Guys Win One On Payday Loans." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/23, New York (NY), Times) writes that a new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau rule that limits how often and how much customers can borrow using so-called payday loans offers a victory for those who face financial difficulties. The Times adds, however, that the payday industry is lobbying Congress to overturn the rule, and that the Administration also "could undermine the regulations after the bureau's director, Richard Cordray, leaves office or when his term expires next summer." The Times concludes that consumer advocates "need to remain vigilant" against such possibilities.

Washington Post.

"The Government's Grotesque Abuse Of Power Over A 17-Year-Old Seeking An Abortion." The [Washington Post](#) (10/23) editorializes about the case of the pregnant 17-year-old immigrant living in a Texas shelter for undocumented minors who is seeking an abortion,

which the federal government refuses to allow. According to the Post, “under the directorship of E. Scott Lloyd, an antiabortion activist appointed by President Trump to lead the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Refugee Resettlement, ORR began preventing federally funded shelters from ‘facilitat[ing]’ access to abortion services unless Mr. Lloyd approved.” The girl “received a Texas judge’s approval to receive an abortion,” but “the government is preventing her from leaving the shelter to receive the procedure.” The Post argues that “Lloyd’s behavior toward” the girl is “a grotesque abuse of government power over a vulnerable young woman far from her home,” and it contends the ORR “should allow her access to the medical care to which she is legally entitled, immediately.”

“Kenya’s Election Rerun Could Be A Major Setback For African Democracy.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/23) cautions Kenya is “in danger of violent implosion,” and if President Uhuru Kenyatta insists on moving forward with a presidential election rerun on Thursday, “mass protests and bloodshed” could result. The Post says the Kenyan Supreme Court’s decision to annul the initial election result “could have strengthened Kenya’s institutions,” had Kenyatta and his primary opponent, Raila Odinga, “not both played a spoiling role.” The Post explains Kenyatta’s “insistence on going forward with the vote on Thursday, instead of delaying it and encouraging reforms by the election commission,” is “self-defeating,” and his assured defeat of Odinga would only leave him “with a weakened domestic mandate and a lack of international credibility.”

“Doug Jones For Senator In Alabama.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/23) endorses former US Attorney Doug Jones in the Alabama Senate race to replace Attorney General Sessions, calling him “a well-qualified, even-tempered former prosecutor” and condemns Moore as “one of the most divisive, counterproductive figures in US politics.”

Wall Street Journal.

“The Wages Of Corporate Taxes.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/23, Board) editorial assails economists on the left over their attacks on White House Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Kevin Hassett for presenting evidence that a cut in the corporate tax rate will benefit workers. The Journal suggests that the economists’ criticisms may be due to the fact that their own policies to increase wages were unsuccessful.

“Rule And Law In Catalonia.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/23) editorial argues that Spanish Prime Minister Rajoy has little choice but to suspend Catalonia’s regional authority and call elections. A new election, it says, offers Catalans a path out of the current crisis.

“Japan’s Election Warning To China.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/23) editorializes that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s ruling coalition performed better than expected in Sunday’s election due in large part to the threat from North Korea. The Journal argues that without the threat, Abe would have lost his supermajority, and possibly the election.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Amazon Says 238 Places Want to Host Its New Headquarters](#)

[U.S. Revises Timeline on Niger Battle](#)

[Supersized Family Farms Are Gobbling Up American Agriculture](#)

[Ill-Timed Uber Investment Roils a Giant Saudi Fund](#)

New York Times:

[Cutting Taxes Is Hard. Trump Is Making It Harder.](#)

[What It Could Mean If China’s Leader Won’t Name An Heir](#)

[Russia’s Favored Outlet Is An Online News Giant. YouTube Helped.](#)

[New York To Replace MetroCard With Modern Way To Pay Transit Fares](#)

Washington Post:

[Army Widow Says Call From Trump ‘Made Me Cry’](#)

[Team In Niger Ambush Waited An Hour For Jets](#)

[Trump’s Promises Narrow GOP’s Tax Bill Options](#)

[Biggest Maria Relief Contract Goes To A Small Montana Firm](#)
[How Princeton Became Less Preppy](#)

Financial Times:

[Deripaska Heads For Russia's First London IPO Since 2014](#)
[Harvey Weinstein: How Lawyers Kept A Lid On Sexual Harassment Claims](#)
[Mexico's Former First Lady Offers Break From Corrupt Rule](#)
[Merkel's CDU Party Says €100bn Wishlist Poses Budget Threat](#)

Washington Times:

[Studies Reveal Power Of Liberal Bias Among Politically Active Internet Giants](#)
[With Islamic State Out Of Iraq, U.S. Loses Remarkably Unified Coalition](#)
[Illegal Immigrant Who Paved Way For Massachusetts' 'Sanctuary' Policy Arrested In Stunning Robbery](#)
[Trump Energy Policies Push Market Forces To Crush Coal Industry](#)
[New Jersey Governor Candidate Embraces Trump's Stance Against Sanctuary Cities](#)
[FBI Informant's Testimony Sought As Clinton-Russia Uranium Case Re-Emerges](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Niger-US Casualty Investigation; White House-Niger US Casualty; Sen. McCain Interview; Tampa-Serial Killer Manhunt; Severe Weather; Miami-Foiled Terror Attack; Bill O'Reilly-Sexual Harassment Settlement; Cleveland-Kidnapper Manhunt; College Football Hazing; Philadelphia-Officers Injured; Breast Cancer Genes; Medal Of Honor Recipient.

CBS: Niger-US Casualty Investigation; White House-Niger US Casualty; Kidnapped US Soldier Trial; Bill O'Reilly-Sexual Harassment Settlement; Tampa-Serial Killer Manhunt; Medal Of Honor Recipient; California Fire-Marijuana Farms; Boston College Scholarship; Loretta Lynn Public Appearance; Former Presidents Public Appearance; JFK Files Declassification.

NBC: Niger-US Casualty Investigation; Tax Reform Plan-Impact; Bill O'Reilly-Sexual Harassment Settlement; Severe Weather; Border Wall Designs; Fire Fighters-Health Risks; Kidnapped US Soldier Trial; JFK Files Declassification; LA-Baseball World Series; French Government Meeting-Dog Peeing; Texas High School Baseball; Medal Of Honor Recipient.

Network TV At A Glance:

Niger-US Casualty Investigation – 10 minutes
Bill O'Reilly-Sexual Harassment Settlement – 7 minutes, 40 seconds
Medal Of Honor Recipient – 6 minutes, 10 seconds
White House-Niger US Casualty – 5 minutes, 10 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Niger-US Casualty Investigation; Tax Reform Bill; Vegetable Recall.

CBS: Niger-US Casualty Investigation; Kidnapped US Soldier Trial; Tax Reform Bill; Tampa-Serial Killer Manhunt.

FOX: Niger-US Casualty Investigation; Failed Detroit Terrorist Lawsuit; Relief Budget; Medal Of Honor Recipient.

NPR: Niger-US Casualty Investigation; LA-Baseball World Series; Japan-North Korea Warning; Trump-Asia Tour; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in the minority enterprise development week White House awards ceremony; participates in a swearing-in ceremony for Callista Gingrich as U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See; participates in a Senate Republican policy lunch.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers remarks to the American Enterprise Institute; joins the President to participate in a swearing-in ceremony for Callista Gingrich as U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Senate Intelligence Committee holds hearing with President Trump's personal attorney invited to testify – Senate Select Committee on Intelligence holds hearing

with Michael Cohen – personal attorney to President Donald Trump – having been invited to appear * Cohen was originally scheduled to speak with the committee in a closed interview, but defied committee requests to refrain from public comment and released a public statement, leading the committee to postpone the interview and reschedule his appearance in an open session Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Business Meeting, legislative hearing – Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Michael Dourson, William Wehrum, Matthew Leopold, and David Ross to be Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrators; Paul Trombino III to be Federal Highway Administration Administrator; and Jeffery Baran to be a Nuclear Regulatory Commission member (reappointment) * Immediately followed by legislative hearing on ‘S. XXXXXX, the Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Act of 2017’ Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 406, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Hearing on ‘The Economic Outlook with CEA Chairman Kevin Hassett’ Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.jec.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/JointEconCmte>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee top secret briefing on Nigeria – Africa and Global Health Policy Subcommittee closed / top secret briefing on ‘Nigeria Security Update’, given by Acting Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Donald Yamamoto; and State Department Regional and Arms Transfers Office Director Mike Miller Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-217, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee hearing on the commercial satellite industry – Hearing on ‘The Commercial Satellite Industry: What’s Up and What’s on the Horizon’, with testimony from SpaceX Vice President of Satellite Government Affairs Patricia Cooper; ViaSat CEO Mark Dankberg; Intelsat CEO Stephen Spengler; and OneWeb founder and Executive Chairman Greg Wyler Location: Rm 253, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:30 AM Senate Governmental Affairs Committee votes on nominees for OPM and GSA heads – Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nominations of Jeff Pon to be Office of Personnel Management Director, and Michael Rigas to be Deputy Director; and Emily Murphy to be General Services Administration Administrator Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

11:00 AM Congressional Gold Medal presented to Filipino WWII vets – House of Representatives and Senate leadership present a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of Filipino veterans of World War II, for their service and sacrifice during the war. Event participants include House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi * Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honor Congress can bestow. A single medal has been struck to honor all the vets Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Emancipation Hall, Washington, DC <http://speaker.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan>

2:30 PM Senate Aging Committee hearing on working and aging with disabilities – Hearing on ‘Working and Aging with Disabilities: From School to Retirement’, with testimony from Indiana University Professor Emeritus Dr David Michael Mank; University of Illinois-Chicago Professor Dr Tamar Heller; Jeff Smith; and Spurwink President and CEO Eric Meyer Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 562, Washington, DC <http://aging.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Indian Affairs Committee legislative hearing – Legislative hearing on ‘S. 1870, the Securing Urgent Resources Vital to Indian Victim Empowerment Act 2017’, ‘S. 1953, the Reauthorization of the Tribal and Law Order Act of 2010’, and ‘S. 1942, a bill to direct the AG to review, revise and develop law enforcement and justice protocols appropriate to address missing and murdered Indians’ Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 628, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

US House: 9:30 AM POSTPONED: House Natural Resources Committee oversight hearing on Puerto Rico recovery – POSTPONED: Oversight hearing on ‘Examining Challenges in Puerto Rico’s Recovery and the Role of the Financial Oversight and Management Board’ Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Science, Space, and Technology subcommittees joint hearing on quantum technology – Energy Subcommittee and Research and Technology Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘American Leadership in Quantum Technology’, with testimony from National

Institute of Standards and Technology Physical Measurement Laboratory Acting Director Dr Carl Williams; National Science Foundation Assistant Director of Computer and Information Science and Engineering Dr Jim Kurose; Department of Energy Acting Director of Science Dr John Stephen Binkley; IBM Systems Group Vice President and CTO for Quantum Computing Dr Scott Crowder; University of Maryland Department of Physics Professor Dr Christopher Monroe; and Argonne National Laboratory Nanoscience and Technology Division Director Dr Supratik Guha Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2318, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM POSTPONED: House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on cybersecurity – POSTPONED: Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Cybersecurity and the Law: Protecting Consumers in the Digital Age' Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on the federal govt's role in the insurance industry – Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on 'The Federal Government's Role in the Insurance Industry', with testimony from Germania Insurance President Paul Ehlhert; University of Minnesota Law School Professor Daniel Shwarcz; Shelter Insurance Companies President and CEO Rick Means; and Connecticut Insurance Department Commissioner Katharine Wade (on behalf of National Association of Insurance Commissioners) Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on HHS response to the 2017 hurricane season – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining HHS's Public Health Preparedness for and Response to the 2017 Hurricane Season', with testimony from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Principal Deputy Administrator for Operations Kimberly Brandt; Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb; Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Preparedness and Response Robert Kadlec; and CDC Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response Director Rear Adm. Stephen Redd Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee oversight hearing on supporting NIH-funded research – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'The Role of Facilities and Administrative Costs in Supporting NIH-Funded Research', with testimony from University of Oklahoma Vice President for Research Dr Kelvin Droegemeier; Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center President and Director Dr Gary Gilliland; University of Connecticut School of Medicine Dean Dr Bruce Liang; and University of California-San Francisco Vice Chancellor for Science Policy and Strategy Dr Keith Yamamoto Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2358-C, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Government Reform subcommittees joint hearing on Regulatory Reform Task Forces – Health Care, Benefits, and Administrative Rules Subcommittee and Government Operations Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Regulatory Reform Task Forces Check-In' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM Democratic Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton hosts roundtable discussion on near-term and long-term risks of flooding in Washington, DC Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2253, Washington, DC www.norton.house.gov <https://twitter.com/EleanorNorton>

10:00 AM Markup hearing on 'H.R. X, Agricultural Guestworker Act' and 'H.R. 3711, Legal Workforce Act' Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM Democratic Rep. Nydia Velazquez hosts reception having proposed WWII rabbi for Congressional Gold Medal – Democratic Rep. Nydia Velazquez hosts reception to better acquaint her Congressional colleagues with the activities of Rabbi Michoel Ber Weissmandl, having co-sponsored a bill to posthumously award him the 2017 Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his acts of valor during World War II in attempting to save Eastern European Jews during the Holocaust. Amud Aish Memorial Museum representatives and other advocates also attend, with artifacts and documents on display Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2360, Washington, DC www.house.gov/velazquez <https://twitter.com/NydiaVelazquez>

10:00 AM House Veterans' Affairs Committee legislative hearing – Legislative hearing, on 'draft legislation related to the Veterans Choice Program', 'draft legislation to modify VA's authority to enter into agreements with state homes to provide nursing home care to veterans, to direct the Secretary to carry out a program to increase the number of graduate medical education residency positions, and for other purposes', 'draft legislation to direct VA to conduct a study of the Veterans Crisis Line', 'draft legislation to direct VA to furnish mental health care to veterans at community or non-profit mental health providers participating in the Veterans Choice Program', 'The Department of Veterans Affairs' legislative proposal – the Veteran Coordinated Access and Rewarding Experiences (CARE) Act', 'H.R. 1133: Veterans Transplant Coverage Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2123: VETS Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2601: VICTOR Act of 2017', and 'H.R. 3642: Military SAVE Act' Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

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 including 'H.R. 732 – Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2017', and consideration of 'H.R. 3101 – Strengthening Cybersecurity Information Sharing and Coordination in Our Ports Act of 2017', as amended, 'H.R. 3972 – Family Office Technical Correction Act of 2017', as amended, and 'H.R. 3898 – Impeding North Korea's Access to Finance Act of 2017', as amended under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

12:00 PM Congressional Task Force on Election Security second public forum – Congressional Task Force on Election Security holds its second public forum, 'Securing America's Elections: Preparing for 2018 and Beyond', hearing from Rhode Island Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea, Virginia Department of Elections Commissioner Edgardo Cortes, and Election Assistance Commission Commissioner and Vice-Chair Thomas Hicks on steps states are taking to secure their elections and what the federal govt can do to assist * Task Force was created to address 'the lack of action to protect electoral infrastructure following Russia interfering and attempting to influence the 2016 presidential election', and is chaired by House Committee on Homeland Security Ranking Member Bennie Thompson and Committee on House Administration Ranking Member Robert Brady Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1310, Washington, DC democrats-homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HomelandDems>

12:00 PM Dem Rep. Adriano Espaillat domestic violence awareness press conference – Democratic Rep. Adriano Espaillat holds domestic violence awareness press conference, to address initiatives to help support victims of domestic violence in communities around the nation. New York Latinas Against Domestic Violence participate as part of their annual 'Brides' vigil in honor of murdered New York bride-to-be Gladys Ricart, a victim of domestic violence who lost her life on her wedding day Location: House Triangle, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC espaillat.house.gov <https://twitter.com/espaillatny>

1:00 PM Dem Rep. Don Beyer hosts Half-Earth Day celebration – Democratic Rep. Don Beyer hosts celebration of Half-Earth Day, including a conversation on saving the nation's biodiversity with biologist Edward Wilson, and discussion on how wildlife corridors and other policies can protect the nation's wild creatures and places with Democratic Reps. Tom Udall, Raul Grijalva, and Alan Lowenthal and former National Park Service Director Robert Stanton Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Auditorium and Atrium, Washington, DC beyer.house.gov/ <https://twitter.com/RepDonBeyer>

2:00 PM House Education and the Workforce / Homeland Security subcommittees joint hearing on educating a cyber workforce – House Committee on Education and the Workforce Higher Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee and House Committee on Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Public-Private Solutions to Educating a Cyber Workforce' Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

2:00 PM House Oversight subcommittee hearing on political advertisement laws – Information Technology Subcommittee hearing on 'Oversight of Federal Political Advertisement Laws and Regulations', with testimony from Center for Competitive Politics Legal Director Allen Dickerson; News Media Alliance President and CEO David Chavern; Law Offices of Jack N. Goodman owner Jack Goodman; Interactive Advertising Bureau President and CEO Randall Rothenberg; and Brennan Center for Justice Democracy Program Senior Counsel Ian

Vandewalker Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC
<http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

3:00 PM House Rules Committee emergency hearing – Emergency hearing on Senate Amendment to 'H. Con. Res. 71 – Concurrent resolution establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027' Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

3:00 PM Dem Reps. Don Beyer and Carolyn Maloney hold Gender Parity Forum – Democratic Reps. Don Beyer and Carolyn Maloney hold Forum on Gender Parity in Corporate Leadership, with Paradigm for Parity Founding Member Candace Duncan, Serena Fong (Catalyst), Kiersten Barnet (30 Percent Club), and Kymberlee Dwinell (Northrop Grumman) Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1539, Washington, DC beyer.house.gov/ <https://twitter.com/RepDonBeyer>

4:00 PM Office of the House Majority Whip holds its latest members-only briefing on tax reform, on corporate/international taxation Location: U.S. Capitol, HC-5, Washington, DC <http://majoritywhip.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SteveScalise>

6:30 PM Lifetime hosts Capitol Hill screening of new TV movie about the Flint, MI, water crisis – Lifetime and Democratic Rep. Dan Kildee host viewing of new TV movie 'Flint' followed by panel discussion, attended by actress Betsy Brandt, Flint activists Melissa Mays and Nayyirah Shariff, executive producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron, Rep. Kildee, and Democratic Rep. Keith Ellison * Movie was inspired by the Time magazine cover story 'The Toxic Tap', and follows the true story of three women from Flint, MI, who sought justice following the wrongdoing committed against the residents of the city who were unknowingly drinking and using lead-laden water Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, CVC Congressional Auditorium, Washington, DC Flint <http://www.mylifetime.com/> <https://twitter.com/lifetimetv>

Other: 8:00 AM Bill Clinton keynotes SAP NS2 Solutions Summit – SAP NS2 Solutions Summit, themed 'Discover Real-Time Context, for Real-World Security Decisions', examining 'how emerging technology like machine learning can add unprecedented depth and context to data, turning information into understanding and providing us with the picture needed to decide and act in the moment of truth'. Keynote speaker is former President Bill Clinton Location: Falls Church Marriott Fairview Park, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church, VA summit17.sapns2.com <https://twitter.com/SAPNS2>

8:00 AM Bipartisan Reps. Katherine Clark and Markwayne Mullin speak at The Hill event on 'America's Opioid Epidemic' – The Hill hosts 'America's Opioid Epidemic: Aging & Addiction', to discuss the impact of opioid abuse in older adults. Headline conversations feature Democratic Rep. Katherine Clark and Republican Rep. Markwayne Mullin who review strategies 'to fight the opioid epidemic and deliver effective care for America's seniors.' Other speakers include Health and Human Services Deputy Inspector General for Investigations Gary Cantrell and Assistant Inspector General for Evaluations Ann Maxwell Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC thehill.com [#Genes4Medicine](https://twitter.com/TheHillEvents)

10:30 AM GOP Sen. David Perdue speaks on tax reform at Heritage Foundation – 'The Business Perspective and Cost of Doing Nothing on Tax Reform' Heritage Foundation panel discussion, on corporate tax reform proposals and the 'significant benefits they will have on American workers and the economy'. Speakers include Republican Sen. David Perdue, and Business Roundtable President and CEO Joshua Bolten Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

12:00 PM Dem Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse speaks on climate change at New America – 'As the Waters Come, Will Our Politics Rise to the Challenge?' Future Tense book discussion, on Jeff Goodell's book, 'The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Remaking of the Civilized World'. Event also features discussion on what Congress can do to 'bridge the political divide to take action to guard the future against climate change'. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, and Rolling Stone Contributing Editor and author Jeff Goodell Location: New America, 740 15th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.newamerica.org/> <https://twitter.com/NewAmerica>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "President Trump is planning to release a treasure trove, thousands of classified documents connected to the assassination of John F. Kennedy. And he said, 'Will you release me too?' ... This is a bombshell. The real killer is not Lee Harvey Oswald. It was a 16-year-old Hillary Clinton. Isn't that something? The White House released a statement saying the President believes the documents should be made available in the interest of full transparency. And his tax returns, however, will remain secret forever, no matter what."

Stephen Colbert: "This weekend, five former Presidents teamed up at a benefit to raise money for hurricane relief. ... President Trump couldn't be there to help the victims of flooding because, and this is true, he was working on his own water hazards."

Stephen Colbert: "Of course, Trump's tweet that he would release the JFK files came right during the whole Gold Star family controversy. People say it might have been for a distraction or something like that. So now when Trump feels cornered, he'll just declassify America's biggest secrets. 'Robert Muller is presenting the findings of the Russia investigation on Tuesday ... the same day I am giving away an alien plasma cannon from Area 51! Tenth caller wins!'"

James Corden: "Sen. John McCain appeared to take a swipe at Donald Trump's lack of military service. He said that during the Vietnam War, a lot of rich people got out of the draft by claiming they had bone spurs. Now, as you may know, Donald Trump famously got out of service in Vietnam due to bone spurs. If you don't know what bone spurs are, don't worry, Donald Trump doesn't know either. But seriously, bone spurs can make walking very difficult, unless you carry a bag of golf clubs, apparently. Then it's fine."

James Corden: "Did you guys see this conspiracy theory that was going around the internet last week? People claim that Melania Trump had a body double impersonate her during an appearance with her husband. And if you think that is weird, Donald Trump has been impersonating a President for almost a year."

Trevor Noah: "What do you think Bush said to Obama that made him laugh so hard? I have been thinking about this the whole day. If he said one thing, what if he just leaned in, he was like, 'Guess what, I did 9/11.' And then Obama is like, 'Well, I was born in Kenya.'"

Trevor Noah: "I am blown away by the fact that Bill O'Reilly had to pay one woman \$32 million, one woman. And by the way, this is from his own money. Now I understand why he cranks out so many books - 'Killing Kennedy,' 'Killing Jesus,' 'Killing Patton.' He needed the extra cash. I should have known something was wrong when he published 'Killing Big Bird.'"

Seth Meyers: "All five living former Presidents attended a benefit concert in Texas on Saturday to help raise money for hurricane victims. The only way it could have been better is if there had been six former Presidents."

Seth Meyers: "First Lady Melania Trump visited a middle school in Detroit today where she began her anti-bullying campaign by speaking to the students and joining them for lunch. Meanwhile, Donald Trump had lunch in the White House cafeteria and clapped when someone dropped their tray."

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump is going to Japan to meet with the prime minister and may play a round of golf. Or as Trump put it, he's going to Japan to play a round of golf and he may meet with the prime minister. He's got priorities."

Conan O'Brien: "Trump announced over the weekend that he will release over 3,000 classified files relating to the Kennedy assassination. Spoiler alert: Apparently Hillary did it."

Conan O'Brien: "The latest rumor in Washington is that Trump is looking for a replacement for Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. After hearing the job entails constant trips out of the country, Melania volunteered."

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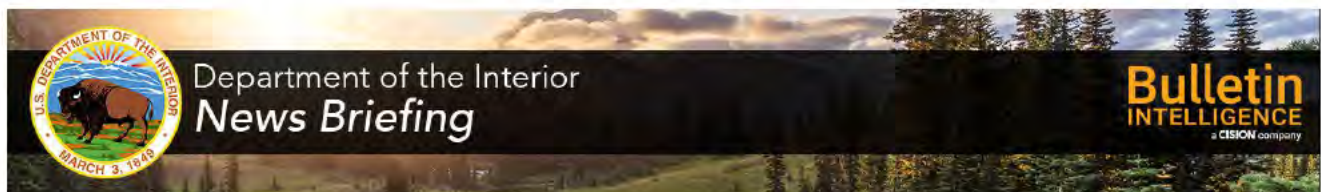
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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, September 14, 2017

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From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Thu Sep 14 2017 04:59:59 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, September 14, 2017

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DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI In The News

US West's Wildfires Spark Calls To Thin Tree-Choked Forests.

The [AP](#) (9/13, Selsky) reports that "wildfires that are blackening the American West in one of the nation's worst fire seasons have ignited calls, including from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, to thin forests that have become so choked with trees that they are at 'powder keg levels.'" According to the article, "the destruction has exposed old frictions between environmentalists and those who want to see logging accelerated, and it's triggered a push to reassess how lands should be managed to prevent severe wildfires." Zinke's order "Tuesday for department managers and superintendents to aggressively prevent wildfires was welcomed by Ed Waldron, fire management officer at Crater Lake National Park in Oregon." However, Oregon Wild, "which campaigns for conservation of roadless areas, suspects" logging is "an ulterior motive behind the order from Zinke."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (9/13, Selsky), the [Daily Mail](#) (9/13, Selsky), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/31, Selsky), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (9/13, Selsky), the [Washington Times](#) (9/13, Selsky), the [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Andrew Selsky |, Ap), [ABC News](#) (9/13, Selsky), [Fox Business](#) (9/13, Selsky), and [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (9/13, Selsky).

Also reporting are the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (9/13), the [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (9/13, Devlin), [CBS News](#) (9/13), and the [Daily Caller](#) (9/13, Pearce).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the [New York Times](#) (9/13, Price) and the [AP](#) (9/13).

Here's How The U.S. Dept. Of Interior And Federal Government Have Been Helping USVI Post Irma.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/13) reports that the Interior Department is "expediting all possible support and assistance to the government of the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (F.E.M.A.) in the wake of destruction from Hurricane Irma, D.O.I. announced Tuesday." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "The Department of the Interior actions in the USVI are part of our responsibility for federal policy related to the U.S. territories. We commend the cooperative actions of the White House, USVI government, FEMA and the whole federal family to provide urgent relief to the Virgin Islands."

Member Of Oklahoma's Kiowa Tribe Named To Interior Post.

The [AP](#) (9/13) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced Wednesday that John Tahsuda III, a member of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, has been appointed the principal deputy assistant secretary for Indian Affairs. Tahsuda will be "the top assistant and principal adviser to the assistant secretary of Indian Affairs."

Also reporting are the [Oklahoman](#) (9/14, Wingerter), the [Native American Times](#) (9/13) and [Law360](#) (9/13, Rodriguez).

Donald Trump's Administration Denies Climate Change Exists, But Americans Are Concerned.

[Newsweek](#) (9/13, Marcin) reports a poll by Morning Consult/Politico released yesterday "found most Americans are concerned about climate change," a "stark contrast with the public views of many folks who President Donald Trump has selected to lead the country." Roughly "two-thirds of registered voters – 67 percent – expressed some level of concern about climate change," and 41 percent "said they were 'very concerned' about the taboo subject in the Trump-led White House." Newsweek notes that top official in the Trump Administration, "like Energy Secretary Rick Perry, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Vice President Mike Pence," have "expressed at least skepticism about climate change."

On Tap For Thursday.

[The Hill](#) (9/13, Weixel) reports the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will meet on Thursday "to consider a number of President Trump's regulatory nominees, including Joseph Balash for Assistant Secretary of the Interior; Richard Glick and Kevin McIntyre for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; David Jonas for Energy Department general counsel; and Ryan Nelson for Interior Department solicitor."

Additional Coverage: Swain Leaders Travel To D.C. For \$4 Million Payment.

Additional coverage that the Interior Department has made a \$4 million payment to Swain County as part of the North Shore Road settlement agreement was provided by the [Waynesville \(NC\) Smoky Mountain News](#) (9/13, Stone).

Interior Secretary Zinke Is Coming, Raising Fear Of Public Land Loss.

In an op-ed for the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/13, Newsom), Gavin Newsom, the lieutenant governor of California, writes that "natural wonders in California – along with others across the state and nation – are under threat" by the review of national monuments. Newsom claims that "the threat posed to these lands' future represents an affront to diverse communities throughout our state and nation." Newsom vows to "stand behind California's efforts to protect our public lands."

Op-ed: National Monuments Debate Isn't New.

In an op-ed for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/13, Straka), Thomas J. Straka, a professor of forestry and environmental resources at Clemson University, writes that "if the courts allow revision of the national monuments, the public lands remain federal, and Secretary Zinke has indicated he wants them to stay that way." But "there is no assurance the process won't lead to state, or even private, control of the lands." Straka says that "it isn't hard to see the current tale of public lands concluding with the same type of natural resource profiteering that took place in the early 20th century."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Panel Embraces Evidence On Social And Emotional Learning.

[Politico Morning Education](#) (9/13, Hefling) reports that Tony Dearman, the director of the Bureau of Indian Education, was scheduled to testify yesterday before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. According to the article, "committee members want to know what steps the historically troubled agency, which oversees more than 170 schools for Native American children, has made to follow Government Accountability Office recommendations to improve the safety and financial oversight of the schools."

Justices Asked To Back Toss Of Tribal Casino Challenge.

[Law360](#) (9/13, Lidgett) reports that "the federal government and the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish band of Pottawatomi Indians on Monday urged the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold a D.C. Circuit decision that backed a law that blocked a Michigan man's challenge to the tribe's casino project."

Bureau Of Land Management

Feds Get Just \$15K For Auction Of Controversial Oil And Gas Leases On Sage Grouse Habitat.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/13) reports that “the Bureau of Land Management’s attempt on Tuesday to auction nine parcels in Utah’s West Desert for oil and gas development was a bust, with just three parcels attracting the minimum bid of \$2 an acre, netting the federal agency a grand total of \$14,837.” The auction, “which targeted nearly 15,000 acres west of Nephi, was controversial because the lands are home to Utah’s most imperiled population of greater sage grouse.” The article notes that “four of the parcels overlapped ‘priority habitat management areas’ outlined under the BLM’s sage grouse land-use plans, now under review by the Trump administration.”

20,000+ Fossils Preserved Thanks To BLM, Local Museum Partnership.

[KKCO-TV](#) Grand Junction, CO (9/12, Precht) reports that “more than 20,000 fossil specimens and 19,000 historical artifacts found in the valley have been restored thanks to a 40-year-old partnership between the Museums of Western Colorado and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).” Peter Booth, the executive director of the museum, said, “Without this partnership, much of what we have here (Museum of the West) and at Dinosaur Journey most likely would be lost. Parts and stories that are connected with our past and our community’s past would be lost.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

U.S. Starts Working On Offshore Wind Standards.

[Offshore Wind](#) (9/13) reports that “an initiative to create offshore wind standards in the U.S. has been launched by key leaders of the American industry, as the country prepares for the imminent development of large scale offshore wind energy projects.” The effort is “expected to be a three-year process and collaboration between the U.S. Dept. of Energy, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Business Network for Offshore Wind, and the American Wind Energy Association.” An Offshore Wind Technical Advisory Panel “consisting of industry stakeholders has been formed and will guide the scope of activities for a group of new technical sub-working groups whose end goal is to develop a set of unambiguous national standards and guidelines for offshore wind that is recognised by the American National Standards Institute.”

Additional coverage was provided by [reNews](#) (9/13).

BOEM To Hold New York Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting.

[Offshore Wind](#) (9/13) reports that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will “hold an Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting on 3 October in Riverhead, New York.” The meeting is “being held to continue stakeholder engagement related to the development of offshore wind resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) offshore New York.” BOEM will “update the Task Force and stakeholders on its recent leasing activities on the Outer Continental Shelf, as well as introduce its Request for Feedback and discuss the Path Forward for future leasing activities on the Atlantic.”

Anglers Seek Quick Win In Bid To Block \$43M NY Wind Farm.

[Law360](#) (9/13, Rodriguez) reports that “seafood industry groups, companies and several towns asked a D.C. federal judge Tuesday to block a \$42.5 million lease awarded by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to Statoil Wind for a wind farm off the coast of New York.” The site, “13 miles off the coast of Long Island, is an important habitat for a wide range of fish and other marine life, including North Atlantic right whales and sea turtles, the plaintiffs said in a motion for summary judgment.”

South Carolina Editorial Roundup.

The [AP](#) (9/13) provides excerpts from recent editorials from South Carolina newspapers, including a piece from the Sun News of Myrtle Beach on offshore drilling. The Sun News says that offshore oil drilling and exploration “is overwhelmingly opposed along the U.S. Atlantic

Coast, including off South Carolina, and the opposition has become increasingly bipartisan." SC Gov. Henry McMaster "joined fellow Republican governors of Maryland and New Jersey and Democratic governors of North Carolina and Delaware in opposing the Trump administration's efforts to expand drilling and testing." The Sun News adds, "The American Petroleum Institute claims more production in the Atlantic, eastern Gulf of Mexico and the [Arctic] will strengthen national security, as well as create more domestic energy, jobs and government revenue. The fact is, the nation has more oil and natural gas than was imagined only a few years ago."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Welsh Tourist Fined For Dangerous Hoover Dam Swim.

The [AP](#) (9/13) reports that "authorities say a Welsh tourist was ticketed for swimming across the iconic Hoover Dam near Las Vegas." The Bureau of Reclamation's Regional Special Agent Ian Canaan "says 28-year-old Arron Hughes of Wales was arrested and cited a \$330 fine for the August incident."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Walrus In Alaska May Have Died In Stampede.

The [AP](#) (9/13, Joling) reports that "thousands of Pacific walrus are coming to Alaska's northwest shore again in the absence of summer sea ice and not all are surviving." According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "a survey Monday of a mile of coastline near the Inupiaq Eskimo village of Point Lay found 64 dead walrus." Agency spokeswoman Andrea Medeiros said that "the cause of death is not known...but stampedes – set off when startled walrus rush to the sea, crushing smaller animals – are a likely suspect."

USFWS Believes Bering Sea Seabirds Died From Starvation.

The [Alaska Native News](#) (9/13) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says "that at least 800 carcasses of seabirds, that include Northern Fulmars, Kittiwakes, Shearwaters, Murres and Auklets have been observed on the beaches throughout The Bering Sea and Bering Straits since early August of this year." According to the article, "although the cause of the starvation is currently unknown, it is suspected that this most recent die-off, like those of previous years, is connected to unusually warmer waters that are encroaching ever-further north."

West Palm Beach Sues Federal Gov't Over Road Extension.

[Law360](#) (9/13, Arluck) reports that "four federal agencies improperly gave the green light to an 8.5-mile Florida road extension project that will harm wildlife in the Everglades and compromise drinking water, the city of West Palm Beach alleged in D.C. federal court on Tuesday." The city "accused the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Federal Highway Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of improperly vetting an 8.5-mile extension of an existing state road in Palm Beach County."

Whooping Cranes Return To Texas Next Month — So What Did Harvey Leave Them?

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (9/13, Smith, Writer) reports that at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Hurricane Harvey has "placed the lone wintering ground for one of world's most famous endangered species, the whooping crane, under threat." The [Victoria \(TX\) Advocate](#) (9/13, Priest) reports that Wade Harrell, "who is coordinating the endangered species' recovery for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, got his first look at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on Wednesday after Category 4 Hurricane Harvey made landfall Aug. 25." According to the article, "the challenge the service faces in its cleanup effort is the refuge is not contiguous."

Cooperation Cuts Costs For Habitat Protection.

The [Kearney \(NE\) Hub](#) (9/13, Potter) reports that "meeting habitat needs for threatened and endangered species, primarily in Nebraska's Central Platte River Valley, with a basinwide program will cost an estimated \$421 million less than without the program." George Oamek, "an economist on the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program executive director's staff

in Kearney, said Tuesday that complying with the federal Endangered Species Act will cost an estimated \$700 million from 2007-2032 with the program. That compares to possible costs of \$1.1 billion without it."

Additional Coverage: Fire And Smoke Postpone Annual Bison Range Roundup.

Additional coverage that "the annual roundup at the National Bison Range has been postponed due to tinder dry conditions and weeks of smoke that have pushed back maintenance necessary for the event to be safe" was provided by the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (9/13, Backus).

National Park Service

D.C. Police, National Park Service Prepare For Busy Day Of Protests On National Mall.

[WAMU-FM](#) Washington (9/13, Simons) reports that "around 35 groups supporting different causes will share the nation's capital this weekend, while members of the Metropolitan Police Department and the National Park Service gear up to work several hours of overtime." The NPS "said Sept. 16 will be one of its busiest days of the year." Michael Litterst, Public Affairs Officer for the National Mall and Memorial Parks, said, "This year alone we're seeing an almost 15 percent increase in First Amendment demonstrations over the same time period as last year."

National Christmas Tree Lighting: When You Can Get 2017 Lottery Tickets.

[WTOP-FM](#) Washington (9/13, Hensley) reports that the National Park Service is "gearing up for the ticket giveaway for the annual National Christmas Tree Lighting outside the White House." The NPS announced Wednesday that "the lottery for free tickets to the 2017 event opens Oct. 12 at 10 a.m. EDT." The lottery winners will be notified Oct. 30, the park service said.

A Downside To D.C.'s Population Growth? The Growing Number Of Rats.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Chason) reports that the rodent problem has "reached record levels in the nation's capital, driven by a combination of factors." The article notes that "the rat problem was especially bad in the 23 parks controlled by the National Park Service before it reached an agreement with the city last fall that enabled the D.C. Health Department to inspect and treat the federally controlled parks."

White House Takes Up 11-year-old On Offer To Mow Rose Garden Lawn.

[ABC News](#) (9/13, Kelsey) reports that "earlier this year, Frank, an 11-year-old from Virginia, wrote to President Donald Trump to tout his burgeoning neighborhood lawn-mowing business and offer to travel to Washington, D.C. to work on the White House grass." Press secretary Sarah Sanders "revealed Wednesday that Frank will be visiting to work with the White House groundskeeping team and will assist with landscaping work in the Rose Garden." Sanders said, "The president is committed to keeping the American Dream alive for kids like Frank and we're all looking forward to having him here."

Little Rock Central High Bill Clears U.S. House; Historic Site's Expansion Heads To Senate After 390-0 Vote.

The [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (9/13, Lockwood) reports that "the U.S. House of Representatives voted Tuesday evening to expand the boundaries of the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, pausing for 20 minutes to highlight the significance of the 1957 desegregation struggle." According to the article, "under the legislation, seven South Park Street houses sitting on roughly 1.5 acres would be placed within the boundaries." The legislation "would also empower the secretary of the Interior Department to reach 'cooperative agreements' with the homeowners to help preserve the site."

George Washington Carver Bust Back On Display At Monument.

The [AP](#) (9/13) reports that "a bust of agriculture pioneer George Washington" has been reinstalled at the George Washington Carver National Monument. The bust was returned Friday "after undergoing a two-month, \$6,500 restoration."

Federal Government Looks To Keep \$20K Obtained In Drug Bust.

The [AP](#) (9/13) reports that “the federal government is looking to keep over \$20,000 seized during a drug bust in Yellowstone National Park.” Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie Hambrick “filed a civil forfeiture complaint Sept. 6 seeking to obtain the \$20,337 currently in the hands of the Drug Enforcement Administration.”

Reamer Map Returns To Yellowstone National Park After Cleanup.

The [Yellowstone Insider](#) (9/13, Kearney) reports that the large wooden map by architect Robert Reamer “of the lower United States that hangs in the Map Room of the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel in Yellowstone National Park” has returned. According to the article, “when park officials secured funding two years ago to renovate the hotel in which the map resides, they decided it would be a good time to send the map away—not only to get the Reamer map out of the way of construction dust and mayhem but for it to undergo its own cleanup and conservation.”

Denali National Park Celebrates Its 100th Anniversary.

[USA Today](#) (9/13, Cerbin) reports that Denali National Park and Preserve is celebrating “100 years since it was established.” The park “kicked off its Centennial Summer on June 10 with music, birthday cake, children’s activities and more.”

Deferred Repairs At Our Nation’s Parks And Monuments Put Them All At Risk.

The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (9/13) editorializes that “the National Park Service budget has not been adequate for all its needs for many years, and there is no reason to believe that will change, especially with federal disaster-response needs growing daily.” It adds that “just catching up on deferred maintenance doesn’t move parks forward; it simply prevents them from falling farther behind.” The paper wants to “tackle the problem openly and consider the full range of available solutions for taking care of the public’s most irreplaceable property.”

In an op-ed for the [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (9/13, Horton), Malinda J. Horton, Executive Director Florida Association of Museums, urges support for the National Park Service Legacy Act. The legislation “would provide dedicated annual funding to address deferred maintenance needs.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Here’s How The U.S. Dept. Of Interior And Federal Government Have Been Helping USVI Post Irma.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/13) reports that the Interior Department is “expediting all possible support and assistance to the government of the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (F.E.M.A.) in the wake of destruction from Hurricane Irma, D.O.I. announced Tuesday.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula “applauded and expressed support for President Donald Trump and his White House for their efforts in ensuring the U.S. Virgin Islanders receive the assistance and support needed to recover from Hurricane Irma.” They have “also personally pledged their support to Governor Kenneth Mapp of the U.S Virgin Islands towards recovery efforts.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13, Carlton, Mann), [USA Today](#) (9/13, Fox, Brown, Press), and the [ColorLines](#) (9/13, Byrd).

U.S. Virgin Islands Governor Says Trump Will Visit In ‘Next Six Or Seven Days’. The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/12, Giaritelli) reports that President Trump will “travel to the U.S. Virgin Islands ‘within the next six or seven days’ to see the devastation Hurricane Irma left behind, Gov. Kenneth Mapp said during a press conference late Monday.” The White House has “not announced the trip to the Caribbean island, but Mapp said he spoke with Trump earlier in the day, and that Trump told him he will visit the U.S. territory.” Mapp said Trump wants “to see firsthand the damages of the territory, and to get on-ground reports of the federal operation, to ensure that the people of the Virgin Islands are receiving recovery as fast as humanly possible, and that the assets of the federal government were being appropriately deployed.”

Hurricane Irma Turned This Tiny Island Into A Wasteland. The [New York Post](#) (9/13, Eustachewich) reports that St. John is “now a tattered wasteland” after Hurricane Irma hit the island a week ago. Six days after the storm, St. John “was designated an active disaster zone,

with National Guard now patrolling the streets and FEMA shuttling in aid, including food, water, blue tarps and infant and toddler kits." Virgin Islands Gov. Kenneth Mapp said it could take "months, months, months" until power is restored.

📺 [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/13, story 3, 1:10, Holt) reported that a cruise ship "set sail for San Juan, Puerto Rico with yet another group of tourists and evacuees off St. Thomas before heading back to hard-hit St. Maarten to do the same."

Sen. Bill Nelson said on 📺 [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/13), "I just got off the phone with the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs. I thanked him for taking the poor people on St. John and putting them in the VA hospital in Puerto Rico."

Unprecedented Mobilization Under Way To Help Florida, Caribbean. [Voice of America](#) (9/11, Herman) reports that "an unprecedented rescue and relief response by the United States is under way not only in Florida, but also in the Caribbean following Hurricane Irma, according to the Trump administration." It is "the largest-ever mobilization of our military in a naval and marine operation," for relief operations, White House Homeland Security Advisor Thomas Bossert said Monday. Notably, an "amphibious assault ship, the USS Kearsarge, and a dock landing ship, the USS Oak Hill are in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, moving people and supplies to the islands."

Official Website To Donate For Hurricane Irma Relief Announced; More Relief Effort Updates Inside. The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/13) reports that "Governor Kenneth Mapp announced at his daily Hurricane Irma press briefing on Tuesday something that many have been calling for: an official portal through which donations for Hurricane Irma relief can be accepted." The government "teamed up with the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands, a longstanding nonprofit organization, which will manage the funds."

Additional Food, Water Distribution Could Open On St. Thomas This Week. The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (9/13, O'CONNOR) reports that "Gov. Kenneth Mapp says he is considering expanding the amount of time that St. Thomas residents have on the streets to accomplish necessary business." Mapp said, "We do have under consideration a plan, a recommendation to shrink the curfew on St. Thomas further to give folks more time. We're gonna make a decision about that tomorrow morning, and then regarding that decision, we'll make an announcement at tomorrow's briefing."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of Irma's devastation was provided by the [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/13), the [Washington Post](#) (9/12, A1, Faiola), and [WMGT-TV](#) Macon, GA (9/12).

North Korea Nuclear Test May Have Been Twice As Strong As First Thought.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Lee) reports a new analysis by US monitoring think tank 38 North found that North Korea's Sept. 3 nuclear test "may have been even stronger than first reported," with a yield of about 250 kilotons. The figure is "much higher than initial estimates from U.S. intelligence sources and allies": 140 kilotons for the United States intelligence assessment, 160 kilotons by Japan, and 50 kilotons by South Korea. However, a US intelligence official "said the 38 North analysis is consistent with the range of estimates by the intelligence community," citing the Air Force Technical Applications Center's early estimate of a range of 70 to 280 kilotons.

North Korea Threatens To Use Nuclear Weapon On Japan. [Bloomberg News](#) (9/13, Sharp) reports North Korea's state-run news said that Japan "should be sunken into the sea by" a nuclear weapon, "in remarks that further crank up heightened tensions in North Asia."

CNN Analysis: Pyongyang Defiant Following Latest Sanctions. In Pyongyang, Will Ripley reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (9/13) that North Korean officials are condemning the latest UN sanctions, "using terms like vicious and evil and threatening the United States with unbearable consequences." New propaganda posters there also "show a pair of hands ripping up" the UN resolution. Ripley said that behind the North's "defiant message" is their view that the nuclear weapons are "vital to their national survival." Ripley continued: "In fact, they say, these sanctions are only going to speed up their testing of nuclear weapons. ... So...really, what this means is that [the UN resolution] threatens to escalate an already dangerous situation even further."

Mnuchin: "Nobody" Off The Table As US Weighs Trade Sanctions. Treasury Secretary Mnuchin said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) 📺 (9/13) that he spoke with President Trump on Wednesday about North Korea, adding, "As I have suggested, I worked on an executive order

that's ready if the President wants to use it. We can stop trade with any country that does business with North Korea." When asked if that included China, Mnuchin replied, "Nobody would be off the table."

Office Of Surface Mining

Montana Mine Warns Of Layoffs After Judge Blocks Expansion.

The [AP](#) (9/13, Brown) reports that "more than 80 miners could be laid off from a central Montana coal mine in coming months after environmentalists successfully sued to halt its expansion, according to mine owner Signal Peak Energy." U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy "last month blocked the company's plans to mine a 176-million-ton federal coal reserve adjacent to the mine." Signal Peak President Bradley Hanson "said in a court affidavit filed Monday that about 30 employees at the Bull Mountain mine north of Billings could run out of work by the end of October and another 50 workers could run out of work by next March."

In Appalachian Coal Country, Trump Administration Puts Coal Industry Profits Before People's Health.

The [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (9/13) editorializes that "budget concerns" was a the Trump Administration's "bogus excuse for halting a study into the health effects of surface coal mining in Appalachia." The paper decries that "protecting coal industry profits almost always gets top priority among the government agencies that are supposed to protect the public from the effects of mining."

US Geological Survey

Here's How The U.S. Dept. Of Interior And Federal Government Have Been Helping USVI Post Irma.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/13) reports that the Interior Department is "expediting all possible support and assistance to the government of the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (F.E.M.A.) in the wake of destruction from Hurricane Irma, D.O.I. announced Tuesday." Notably, the U.S. Geological Survey will be "aiding with collecting high-water marks as soon as staff can get into the field."

Earthquake: 3.4 Quake Strikes Near Yucca Valley.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/13) reports that "a shallow magnitude 3.4 earthquake was reported Wednesday afternoon near Yucca Valley, Calif., according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The quake occurred at 2:59 p.m. at a depth of 1.2 mile."

Earthquake: 3.5 Quake Strikes Near El Centro.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/13) reports that "a shallow magnitude 3.5 earthquake was reported Wednesday afternoon five miles from El Centro, Calif., according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The temblor occurred at 3:21 p.m. Pacific time at a depth of 8.7 miles."

Additional Reading.

- *Hurricane Irma Quirk Averted Worst-case-scenario For Storm Surge.* [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (9/13).
- *Irma Aftermath: Flood Waters Rises In North, Central Florida.* [Miami Herald](#) (9/13, Klas).
- *Irma's New Threat: Rising Flood Water In North, Central Florida.* [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (9/13, Klas).
- *Conditions Improve Tuesday; Power Outages Remain.* [Hendersonville \(NC\) Times-News](#) (9/12, Lacey).
- *East Idaho Teen Thinks Quakes Caused Sinkhole At Family's Ranch.* [East Idaho News](#) (9/13, Evensen).
- *Idaho Earthquake Swarm May Not Mean A Big One Is Coming.* [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (9/13, Patten).
- *New Sensors Will Help Monitor Activity As Scientists Say Mauna Loa 'will Erupt Again'.* [KHON-](#)

[TV](#) Honolulu (9/13, Boneza).

- *Eagle Rock High Shows Off Earthquake Early-Warning System* « [CBS Los Angeles](#). [KCAL-TV](#) Los Angeles (9/13).
- *Locals React To Earthquake Blast, USGS Official Puts Concerns At Ease*. [Beckley \(WV\) Register-Herald](#) (9/13, Nelson).
- *How NASA Might Stop A Supervolcano Eruption In Yellowstone*. [Big Think](#) (9/13).
- *Millennium Tower In San Francisco Is Still Sinking, Leaning*. [Business Insider](#) (9/13, Robinson).

Top National News

Schumer, Pelosi Say They Have Reached A Deal With Trump On DACA.

Following a dinner with President Trump at the White House on Wednesday evening, Senate Minority Leader Schumer and House Minority Leader Pelosi announced that they had reached an agreement with the President to protect so-called DREAMers. However, media reports vary on how firm the agreement is and on what specifically was agreed to. In particular, several reports highlight that while the Democratic leaders stressed that the President's proposed border wall was not part of the agreement, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders tweeted that excluding the wall had not been part of the deal.

[Reuters](#) (9/13, Cowan, Holland) says Trump and Democratic leaders "have agreed to work together on legislation to protect 'Dreamers,'" although "a dispute erupted over exactly what had been agreed," while the [New York Times](#) (9/13, Haberman, Alcindor) reports that Pelosi and Schumer said Wednesday night that they have reached a deal with Trump "to quickly extend protections for young undocumented immigrants and to finalize a border security package that does not include the president's proposed wall." The Democratic leaders said in a joint statement, "We agreed to enshrine the protections of DACA into law quickly, and to work out a package of border security, excluding the wall, that's acceptable to both sides."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13, Meckler, Peterson) says Schumer and Pelosi said they had reached agreement with the President on the outlines of a deal, while [Politico](#) (9/13, Everett, Dawsey, Bade, Caygle) says Trump and the Democratic leaders "have reached a tentative agreement to beef up border security in exchange for providing a pathway to citizenship" for the DREAMers. The White House "did not immediately confirm Democrats' account of the deal," but the [AP](#) (9/13, Werner, Colvin) cites "a person briefed on the meeting," who "said the deal specifies bipartisan legislation called the DREAM Act that provides eventual citizenship for the young immigrants."

The [New York Times](#) (9/13, Haberman, Alcindor) also says the White House issued a "far more muted" statement, "mentioning DACA as merely one of several issues that were discussed, including tax reform and infrastructure," and calling the meeting "a positive step toward the president's strong commitment to bipartisan solutions." The [Washington Post](#) (9/13, O'Keefe, Nakamura) says the White House statement "described the meeting as 'constructive' and that it focused on 'tax reform, border security, DACA, infrastructure and trade.'" It added, "The Administration looks forward to continuing these conversations with leadership on both sides of the aisle."

[USA Today](#) (9/13, Eversley) says White House press secretary Sarah Sanders posted a [tweet](#) Wednesday night saying, "While DACA and border security were both discussed, excluding the wall was certainly not agreed to." [Bloomberg News](#) (9/13, John, Litvan) reports that another person who attended the dinner "also said that Trump didn't agree to exclude the border wall from the legislation."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/13, Dinan) says that if the deal "comes to fruition," it "would be the second major bargain Mr. Trump has cut directly with the two Democratic leaders, undercutting the negotiating position of his own party's leaders in Congress." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/13, Mascaro, Bierman) takes a more positive view, saying the deal "could provide further momentum to a budding movement toward bipartisanship that began last week when Trump reached a fiscal agreement with Democrats to temporarily keep the government open and pay the nation's debts."

The reaction from conservatives was decidedly negative, however. The [New York Post](#) (9/13, Schultz) says the announcement of the agreement "drew instant criticism from

conservatives against the plan." Rep. Steve King [tweeted](#), "If AP is correct, Trump base is blown up, destroyed, irreparable, and disillusioned beyond repair. No promise is credible." [Breitbart](#) (9/13, Binder) also offers a harsh assessment, saying Trump "signaled a full-fledged cave on the issue of giving amnesty to nearly 800,000 illegal aliens." Jonathan Swan writes on [Axios](#) (9/14, Swan) that if the reports are accurate, Trump "is risking a revolt from elements in his base. Many of his most hardcore supporters voted for him based on his hardline immigration policies."

Maddow Skeptical Of Deal. The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/13, Chaitin) reports that MSNBC host Rachel Maddow was "skeptical," and suggested "that perhaps Pelosi and Schumer used tricky wording and meant they had agreed among themselves, and not with Trump, 'in which case that's not much news.'" While she admitted, "this could potentially be a big deal," Maddow "cautioned: 'I am disinclined to believe anything that Donald Trump says about his own future behavior or that anybody else says that Donald Trump has committed to anything about his own future behavior until I actually see the behavior.'"

Cuellar: Trump Not Insisting Border Wall As Part Of DACA Legislation. [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/13) briefly reported that after a meeting at the White House earlier Wednesday, Rep. Henry Cuellar, "said the President did not insist on linking border wall funding to new DACA legislation." According to Fox's John Roberts, Cuellar "did say that the President wanted some border security attached but that the wall could be added somewhere else."

Ryan: Deporting DREAMers Is "Not In Our Nation's Interest." In an interview with the [AP](#) (9/13, Colvin) Wednesday, House Speaker Ryan "said deporting hundreds of thousands of young immigrants brought into the country illegally is 'not in our nation's interest.'" Ryan said the President "made the right call" in giving Congress six months to determine what to do with DACA for dismantling the program. Ryan said, "I wanted him to give us time. I didn't want this to be rescinded on Day One and create chaos," adding that Congress will have time to "come up with the right kind of consensus and compromise to fix this problem." Ryan was to meet with House Minority Leader Pelosi on Wednesday evening before Pelosi was to meet at the White House with Trump and Senate Minority Leader Schumer to discuss, among other things, DACA. [The Hill](#) (9/13, Bernal) says the meeting was "expected to yield specifics in terms of what border security measures Republicans want in exchange for providing permanent relief for Dreamers, whose title comes from the not-yet-passed DREAM Act."

Breitbart: Short Previously Worked Alongside "Pro-Mass Immigration" Koch Brothers. [Breitbart](#) (9/13, Binder) reports that White House director of legislative affairs Marc Short, who "insinuated" during a Christian Science Monitor breakfast that the Trump Administration "would not demand any pro-American immigration reforms in exchange for amnesty for nearly 800,000 illegal aliens given temporary protected status," has "a long history opposing the president and his agenda, as well as working alongside the Koch brothers, two pro-mass immigration billionaires who are major donors to the Republican establishment, as the director of the group Freedom Partners." Breitbart details Short's "past efforts to defeat Trump," before he "waged his way into the president's White House," and started "making headlines for his push for DACA amnesty without any cuts to legal immigration or mandatory E-Verify for businesses."

Kobach Says Tying DACA To Tax Cuts Is "The Ultimate Bad Deal-Making." Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach told [Breitbart](#) (9/13, Binder) that the Trump Administration plan to "trade amnesty for nearly 800,000 illegal aliens for tax cuts 'is the ultimate bad deal making.'" Kobach, who Breitbart describes as "an immigration expert who has previously met with Trump on plans to end illegal immigration," said, "Tying DACA to tax cuts is the ultimate bad deal-making. ... I cannot believe President Trump would ever agree to such an obvious bad deal." He said the deal would be a "'betrayal' of Trump's 'America First' agenda, which promised to build a border wall while never giving into amnesty for illegal aliens." Kobach added, "[The deal] also renders the tax cuts less likely to occur because a DACA amnesty passed by Congress is bad policy. ... The American people have spoken against the DREAM Act before."

King: Rewarding DACA Recipients Will Encourage "More Fraud." Rep. Steve King said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (9/13) that "to grant amnesty is a pardon. Amnesty is a pardon for immigration lawbreakers and it's coupled with the reward of the objective of their crime. If they cross the border, that's a crime and that makes them criminals. If they used false documents to get a job and work illegally, that also makes them criminals. If you reward them with the objective of that crime, that's amnesty, and for the DACA recipients, they been

granted an unconstitutional quasi-legal status in America, however temporary it is, along with a work permit. That's Barack Obama violating the Constitution, and that's why Donald Trump promised that he would end the DACA program. If we reward them, then there will be more of them and there will be more fraud."

McCarthy Blasts Gutierrez Over Comments On Kelly. House Majority Leader McCarthy blasted Rep. Luis Gutierrez on Wednesday "for his personal attack" on White House chief of staff Kelly, [Politico](#) (9/13, Cheney) reports. Gutierrez called Kelly a "disgrace to the uniform he used to wear" for standing by while Trump rescinded protections for undocumented immigrants who arrived as minors." McCarthy said, "What is disgraceful is to attack the character of an honorable man. ... I believe Rep. Gutiérrez owes Gen. Kelly and his family an apology."

Professor: Schneiderman's Challenge To Trump's DACA Action Is Legally Unsound. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13, Blackman), Josh Blackman, a constitutional law professor at the South Texas College of Law in Houston, and an adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute, writes that New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman is arguing in a legal challenge that President Trump does not have the authority to revoke DACA because of his past statements about Mexicans, which show he is a racist. Blackman argues that Schneiderman's claim is not legally sound and poses a threat to the Constitution's separation of powers.

As He Woos Democrats, Trump Says He's Open To Higher Taxes On Wealthy.

To mostly favorable media reviews, the President yesterday continued his outreach to Democrats on the issue of tax reform, telling reporters he is willing to consider higher taxes for the wealthy. [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (9/13, story 4, 1:50, Bruce) reported "the Republican President sounded a lot like a Democrat," and [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (9/13, story 6, 1:50, Holt) that he is "reaching across the aisle, inviting congressional Democratic leaders to join him for dinner at the White House" – where GOP leaders are "not getting a spot at the table." Under the headline "Democrats Cautious But Encouraged By Trump's Outreach," meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Parker, Costa) reports that "Trump's outreach suggested that an unexpected deal he reached last week with Democrats may not have been an aberration," and that Trump could "be signaling the return of a recently bygone era when lawmakers of both parties dining – and working – with the president was hardly abnormal."

[USA Today](#) (9/13, Jackson) casts Trump as "once again trying his hand at bipartisanship – even suggesting on Wednesday that rich people may be taxed higher under a plan he would negotiate with congressional Democrats," [Roll Call](#) (9/13, Bennett) says he "expressed a willingness to raise taxes on the wealthiest Americans," and [Reuters](#) (9/13, Holland, Morgan) that he said "the rich might see a hike in taxes."

[Politico](#) (9/13, McCaskill) notes that "ahead of a meeting with a bipartisan group of House members at the White House," Trump said, "The rich will not be gaining at all with this plan." [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (9/13, story 4, 1:50, Bruce) showed Trump saying of taxes for wealthy Americans, "If they have to go higher, they'll go higher, frankly." [Townhall](#) (9/13, Pavlich) quoted him as saying, "The rich will not be gaining at all with this plan. We are looking for the middle class and we are looking for jobs, jobs being the economy. So we're looking at middle class and we're looking at jobs. ... I think the wealthy will be pretty much where they are, pretty much where they are."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/13, Miller) reports that "if Mr. Trump denies a tax cut to the top 1 percent of earners as part of a bipartisan deal on tax reform, it would be a concession to one of the Democrats' top demands." At any rate, "it was unclear whether Mr. Trump was promising not to lower the tax rate on the very wealthy or to keep their effective tax rate the same by a combination of lowering rates and eliminating deductions." In his comments yesterday, the President also "insisted that conservatives shouldn't be skeptical of his attempt at bipartisan deal-making," saying, "I'm a conservative and I'll tell you, I'm not skeptical."

Sen. Joe Manchin said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) 📺 (9/13) that during Tuesday's White House dinner, Trump "was adamant from the get go, this is not a tax cut for the rich." Manchin added that "any tax overhaul...has to be geared toward job creation, the economy, competitiveness. ... We have not changed this tax code for many, many, many years. You've to compete in the marketplace and we're in the global market. ... They want to do something that is competitive, that gives a purge to the economy. We have not seen the details. We'll have to wait to see the details, but I made it very clear that I cannot look at my ten babies, my wonderful grandchildren and everyone else's children and say, 'Look at what we left you.'"

[Townhall](#) (9/13, O'Brien), meanwhile, reported that Manchin, who "was one of three Democratic senators to attend a dinner meeting with...Trump to discuss tax reform Tuesday evening," also told CBS News yesterday morning that "it was a very 'open' and 'engaging' discussion." Added Manchin, "I think they're very aggressive on this – they want it done. ... They want it in a bipartisan way. I thought it was very good for them to reach out to us."

Rep. Kurt Schrader said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (9/13) that he agrees with the President "the middle class ought to be the beneficiaries." Schrader added that during a White House meeting Wednesday, Trump "did talk about the wealthy not getting anything out of this at the end of the day. We'll see. The devil's always in the details. He's talking about he would be open to an infrastructure link discussion, but definitely tax reform is his laser focus at this point in time. He wants to get the rates down substantially. I think he's going to have a tough time getting him down to the numbers he's been talking about. I made a pitch to him that he's got to have bipartisan support to get any of the numbers down anywhere close to where he wants to be because it's going to mean a lot of tax breaks and tax deductions for a lot of groups."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/13, Nelson) cautions, however, that "tax hikes on higher-income Americans" are "highly unlikely to pass in the Republican-controlled Congress," and [Bloomberg News](#) (9/13, Wasson, Kapur) that "achieving bipartisan support in the Senate may be difficult," as "earlier this year, 45 of the 48 Democratic senators signed a letter that set three conditions for supporting tax legislation: that it not add to the deficit, that it not increase the burden on the middle class and that it go through the regular order process in Congress." Meanwhile, "on the House side, at least one member's initial response to Wednesday's news was less than enthusiastic." Said Rep. Richard Neal, top Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee, "Unfortunately the Republican tax principles we have seen so far have been largely vacuous, and I fear their updated framework to be released later this month will only be more of the same."

Senate Republican Conference Chairman John Thune said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/13), "The President has made it very clear this has to be about middle income taxpayers and that high income earners, although they may get some rate reduction, they are going to lose a lot of deductions and therefore probably net, net come out...without any sort of tax relief, and he indicated that some may end up paying more. I think the point is the President has made very clear the bill he wants to sign into law has to be about cutting taxes for middle income families in this country and giving the American people a break." Asked about Tuesday night's dinner with senators from both parties at the White House, Thune said that "part of the purpose last night was to hearing out these Democrats. What kind of a tax reform bill could they support? ... I think the President realizes that doing big, doing consequential things is better if you have broad bipartisan support." Thune said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (9/13), "I think that most Democrats, when they talk about tax reform, they want to see more revenue, so they can spend it. We're going to find the Democrats who are actually interested in tax reform that generates economic growth. ... The question is are there Democrats out there who would support tax reform that meets those objectives and not tax reform that actually is about generating additional revenue for the government to spend."

Sen. Pat Toomey said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/13) that the focus of Tuesday night's dinner "was the need for tax reform, and he talked about having a competitive tax system so that American business can compete. You know, Secretary Mnuchin was there, everyone was pitching in ideas. It was a really good conversation."

Trump Makes Case For 15% Corporate Rate. The [New York Post](#) (9/13, Moore) reports Trump also "signaled that he's willing to stick with his desire to lower the corporate tax rate to 15 percent, even though Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin has been skeptical that it could go that low." The President "said the rate needs to be that low so the US can be competitive," telling reporters, "It would bring us to the level where China and other countries are. And we will be able to compete with anybody – nobody will be able to touch us. So we would like to see 15 percent." The [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Paletta, Snell, Debonis) indicates, however, that "House GOP leaders believe a rate in the low- to mid-20s is more politically viable."

Mnuchin was asked on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/13) about his statement that the 15 percent corporate tax rate may not happen. Mnuchin said, "What I said was it's been the President's objective since the campaign to get to a 15 percent rate and that's ideally where he would like to be. As we go through the budget process, as we go through the process of

reconciliation or whether we go through the full Senate, we are going to work on it. But that is the President's objective and as we are striving for." Mnuchin added, "This isn't just about cutting taxes. This is about tax reform. This is about changing the system and going from a worldwide system to a territorial system to make us competitive. That alone is going to create literally tens of thousands of jobs and have trillions of dollars invested here."

White House: Trump's Bipartisan Efforts "In Eight Days" Larger Than Obama's Entire Tenure. The [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Gearan) reports that White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders yesterday "dismissed the notion that the president has found Democrats to be better friends than members of his own party." Said Sanders, "The president is a Republican." Sanders "claimed that Trump's willingness to work across the aisle, as with a short-term deal last week to extend government funding and raise the debt limit, represents nothing more than a desire to get things done." The [Washington Times](#) (9/13, Miller), meanwhile, notes Sanders said "Trump's recent outreach to Democrats is what voters want and why they elected him." Sanders also credited him "with doing more to forge bipartisanship in Washington than President Obama ever did." [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/13, story 6. 1:50, Holt) showed Sanders saying, "This President's done more for bipartisan in the last eight days than Obama did in eight years."

NBC News: Trump Emulating Obama In Seeking Bipartisan Deal. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/13, story 6. 1:50, Holt), Hallie Jackson said "former President Obama did cut several big deals across the aisle, and now it seems the self-styled deal-maker-in-chief wants one of his own."

Trump Says Tax Cuts More Urgent After Irma And Harvey "Devastation." [Business Insider](#) (9/13, Bryan) reports that the Republican plan "to slash corporate and personal income taxes has finally begun moving forward in Congress," and Trump "wants lawmakers to act with haste." In a [tweet](#) Wednesday, Trump urged Republicans to "move fast" on what he said would be a massive tax cut. Trump [wrote](#), "The approval process for the biggest Tax Cut & Tax Reform package in the history of our country will soon begin." Trump also tweeted, "With Irma and Harvey devastation, Tax Cuts and Tax Reform is needed more than ever before." The Insider added that "it's unclear how tax reform would directly impact clean up efforts, but Trump has repeatedly said that tax cuts will lead to greater economic growth which could theoretically boost the long-term recovery."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Gearan, Paletta) says Trump "goaded" Congress on Wednesday to "move fast" on what he called the "biggest Tax Cut & Tax Reform package in the history of our country," a "swipe at Republicans divided over the scope and mechanics of a deal still in the works." [The Hill](#) (9/13, Delk) similarly reports that Trump "pushed Congress to act on tax reform in a tweet Wednesday"

Treasury Secretary Mnuchin was asked on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/13) if the hurricanes make it more difficult to get tax reform without busting the budget. Mnuchin said, "I don't think so. First of all, these two hurricanes, these were back-to-back. This is a horrible situation, and our number one focus is to make sure we get the money to the states to rebuild."

Administration, GOP Leaders To Release Framework Of Their Plan During Week Of Sept. 25. The [New York Times](#) (9/13, Rappeport) reports the Administration "and Republican leaders of Congress will jointly release a detailed framework of their plan to overhaul the tax code during the week of Sept. 25, with legislation ready for congressional committee action in the second half of October, Republican tax writers said Wednesday." Rep. Kevin Brady, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, "briefed House Republicans on the ambitious timeline on Wednesday, offering the most explicit map to enact a tax plan after months of broad principles and missed deadlines." An unnamed source quoted Brady as saying, "The stakes are higher than ever that we deliver this year."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Paletta, Snell, Debonis) says Brady also said Republicans "needed to unify with their GOP colleagues or the effort to cut taxes could fail, according to two people in the room." That comment "was a nod to the GOP's aborted fight to replace parts of the Affordable Care Act earlier this year, during which the House and Senate tried to pass competing health-care bills, splitting the party and culminating in the effort's failure." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13, Rubin) runs a similar report this morning.

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13) writes that Congress should abandon budget neutrality rules – or at least extend the budget window – in order to pass tax reform.

The Journal argues that the rules mandating revenue neutrality serve to defeat good policy and that well-crafted tax reform legislation would help spur the economic expansion necessary to pay for lost government revenue.

In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13) column, Karl Rove writes that although a big obstacle to Republicans passing tax reform is crafting the right budget resolution in order to use the Senate's reconciliation process, the biggest obstacle to passing tax reform is the House Freedom Caucus, which has threatened to vote with Democrats against the GOP budget resolution unless they approve of each tax reform provision. Rove argues that the Freedom Caucus could delay tax reform until 2018 or upend it entirely.

Ryan Wants Reform Enacted By Year's End, Won't Commit To Plan Being Revenue Neutral. The [AP](#) (9/13, Fram) reports House Speaker Ryan "declined Wednesday to say the evolving Republican tax cut plan won't add to the nation's already mammoth budget deficits," saying in an AP Newsmaker interview that "a chief goal of the effort will be to spark economic growth." Ryan "said the GOP's goal is to enact tax overhaul into law by the end of this year, not simply push it through the heavily Republican House, 'so that we start 2018 in a new tax system.'"

Cruz Releases His Plan, Warns About Making Tax Reform Revenue Neutral. [McClatchy](#) (9/13, Drusch) reports Sen. Ted Cruz yesterday "unveiled a plan to overhaul the nation's tax code that features a single, flat income tax rate and a simpler system for filing taxes." Cruz "offered ideas similar in many respects to the plans he offered during his 2016 presidential race, when he proposed collapsing the current seven income tax rates into a single 10 percent rate." However, "there were important changes," as he "did not offer a specific rate this time, and said that he understood the GOP-controlled Congress could accept a reduction to three tax rates." Said Cruz, "If we don't have the votes for that...moving from seven brackets to three is a good start."

Cruz said on [CNN](#) (9/13), "I think we need to focus on growth and jobs. A number of pieces that I think are very important. Number one, let's simplify the tax code. Let's let everyone fill out their taxes on a postcard. ... Another big thing I'm urging is what's called immediate expensing. What that means is that businesses, farmers, ranchers, if you spend money on a capital investment, you can immediately expense that and deduct it from what you are paying taxes on." Asked what he would consider a victory, Cruz said, "As a practical matter, it is going to be whatever can get 50 votes in the Senate. We have a very narrow majority."

Cruz said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (9/13), "The President said today he wants a big, big tax cut. There's some Republicans in Congress that are talking about making tax reform revenue neutral. Revenue neutral means they are not cutting taxes. They are just moving money around from one bucket to another. We don't need revenue neutral. We need a big tax cut on you, on families who are struggling, on small businesses. We need a Reaganesque tax cut that unleashes incredible growth."

Hannity Goes After McConnell. In his opening monologue on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (9/13), Sean Hannity said that Senate Majority Leader McConnell "is now saying tax reform may have to wait until the next year. This is pathetic. It is inexcusable. It's unacceptable. Why did we elect you? It's time for an ultimatum. Sen. McConnell, other Republicans, if you don't get the urgency to work for the American people and you don't pass tax reform by the end of this year, you need to resign, go home, play golf, and get out of the way and let's get people in those positions that can serve the American people. I'm tired of the complacency and business as usual."

NFIB President: Cut Taxes For Small Businesses. In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13) op-ed, National Federation of Independent Business President Juanita D. Duggan writes that Congress should cut the top federal income tax rate – a rate that three quarters of American small businesses may be subject to as individual tax filers. She argues such a tax cut would spur economic growth by reducing costs – both in man-hours and lost income – for small businesses, which employ 48 percent of the workforce.

Trump Applauds Latest ACA Repeal Legislation.

President Trump on Wednesday praised, but stopped short of endorsing a last-ditch effort to repeal the ACA by Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy. [Bloomberg News](#) (9/13, Edney, Litvan) reports that Trump let the senators know "he is rooting for them, without explicitly supporting the legislation." Graham and Cassidy introduced a bill Wednesday to repeal the ACA

and “replace it with block grants to states, who would determine how to help people pay for health care.” Trump said in a statement, “I applaud the Senate for continuing to work toward a solution to relieve the disastrous Obamacare burden on the American people. ... As I have continued to say, inaction is not an option, and I sincerely hope that Senators Graham and Cassidy have found a way to address the Obamacare crisis.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/13) and [Reuters](#) (9/13) also report on Trump’s statement.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Weigel, Goldstein) says Graham and Cassidy along with Sens. Dean Heller and Ron Johnson introduced the legislation Wednesday “with just 17 days left for Republicans to repeal the Affordable Care Act on a party-line vote” Graham described the measure as “conservatives’ last shot at reform,” saying at a morning new conference, “It should have been our first bill to repeal and replace Obamacare, but it is now our last. ... To those in the Republican Party who feel like we have not fought as hard as we could, you’re right.” [Politico](#) (9/13, Haberkorn) also says the senators framed the bill “as the last, best hope to fulfill the GOP’s promise to undo the health law.” Politico adds that the measure “faces long odds” as even some of its GOP supporters “say it would be almost impossible to get a massive rewrite of the health care system through the Senate within 17 days.”

[Breitbart](#) (9/13, Moran) reports that in exclusive interviews, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin, and Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds all endorsed the plan. Herbert called the measure a “vast improvement over the Affordable Care Act.”

Sanders Unveils “Medicare For All” Plan.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, who made support for universal healthcare coverage a central part of 2016 presidential campaign, on Wednesday unveiled the Medicare for All Act of 2017, his plan to expand the Medicare program to cover all Americans. Media coverage focuses on the number of Democrats – particularly potential 2020 presidential candidates – supporting Sanders’ bill and almost universally says the measure has no chance of passage in a Republican Congress.

In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (9/13, A27) makes a case for his proposal, arguing that the nation must “join the rest of the industrialized world and guarantee comprehensive health care to every person as a human right.” Sanders writes that under his legislation, “every family in America would receive comprehensive coverage, and middle-class families would save thousands of dollars a year by eliminating their private insurance costs as we move to a publicly funded program.” While “there will be huge opposition to this legislation from the powerful special interests that profit from the current wasteful system,” he adds, “they are on the wrong side of history.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/13, Decker) reports that Sanders “cast his measure as a moral and economic issue.” With Democrats “scrambling to support single-payer health insurance,” in recent days, “Democrats as ideologically diverse as liberal Sen. Kamala Harris of California and conservative Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia expressed support” for Sanders’ effort. Most of the potential 2020 Democratic presidential candidates “have now endorsed the single-payer idea, including Sanders, Harris, Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey, Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and Minnesota Sen. Al Franken.” According to the Times, the support reflects “a significant shift within the Democratic party, driven by multiple developments: a belief that the window has closed on Republican efforts to repeal Obamacare; a surge in support for government-run insurance among younger, more activist Democrats; and looming 2018 and 2020 contests that demand clarity on what Democrats support – not just whom they oppose.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Weigel) says Sanders’ legislation has “a record level of support for an idea that had been relegated to the fringes during the last Democratic presidency,” but it “has no chance of passage in a Republican-run Congress.” [Bloomberg News](#) (9/13, John) puts the number of Democratic senators backing Sanders plan at 16, saying it represents “a shift within the party on what was once viewed as a politically treacherous issue that attracted little support from lawmakers.” In 2013, Sanders “attracted no co-sponsors.” However, Bloomberg also says that the “new support from Democrats for Sanders’s measure...doesn’t mean it stands a chance of passage.” The [New York Times](#) (9/13, Park, Andrews) says that while the bill “has no chance of becoming law anytime soon,” it “could serve as a political manifesto and a possible campaign platform for progressive candidates.” The Times adds that about 60 percent of house Democrats “have endorsed a ‘Medicare for all’

bill" in that chamber.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Wednesday that President Trump thinks Sanders' plan is a "horrible idea," [Politico](#) (9/13, Nelson) reports. Sanders said, "I think that the president as well as the majority of the country knows that the single payer system that the Democrats are proposing is a horrible idea. ... I can't think of anything worse than having the government be more involved in your health care instead of less involved."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/13, Howell) says the plan would "cost trillions, forcing Mr. Sanders to explain how he plans to pay for it." While Sanders "offered few details Wednesday," he "pledged that higher taxes would be offset by zeroing out what Americans pay private insurers today." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13, Hackman) reports that Sanders' bill includes no means to pay for the plan. A Sanders spokesman said a cost estimate was not available but Sanders plans to release a white paper on ways to pay for it.

In an analysis, the [New York Times](#) (9/13, Pear) says the introduction of Sanders' plan alongside Wednesday's introduction of a plan from Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy to repeal the ACA "signaled a resumption of the health care wars on Capitol Hill, as lawmakers tried — for opposite reasons — to move beyond President Barack Obama's health care law, either building on it or tearing it down." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13) argues in an editorial that the Republican failure to repeal and replace the ACA assures the law's continuing decline which creates an opportunity for Democrats to advocate for greater government control, such as the Sanders plan.

A [USA Today](#) (9/13, Gaudiano) analysis focuses on the details of Sanders' plan, including what would be covered, how much it would cost consumers, how much it would cost taxpayers, whether it has public support, and whether it can pass Congress, which USA Today says it cannot.

Milbank: Support For Socialized Medicine Could Hurt Democrats. Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Milbank) column cites Sanders' introduction of his plan with 16 co-sponsors as evidence that "Democrats have become socialists." Milbank argues that "this development is a bad thing for Democrats" as "the single-payer issue highlights Democratic divisions and united Republicans." While the "socialized-medicine bill is popular with the Democratic base" it is "a liability for Democratic candidates in the swing districts and Republican states that Democrats need to win to retake the House and Senate."

Murphy Says His Plan Would Allow Americans To Buy Into Medicare. Sen. Chris Murphy said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/13), "I've always said if I were to design the American healthcare system from scratch I would design single-payer system. It makes absolutely no sense logically to tie peoples' health insurance to their employer. I think we are having a really important conversation how we get there." Murphy said that he would "take a hard look" at Sanders' legislation and added that he has "introduced a different concept which is to allow every American to be able to buy into Medicare and essentially allow consumers to decide whether they want private insurance or Medicare. My belief is that given that choice, consumers would choose Medicare and it would allow for a more natural transition into a single-payer system."

Mulvaney Says Trump Wants To Depoliticize The Debt Ceiling.

OMB Director Mulvaney said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/13) that the President is "asking me to figure out a way to dial down the temperature, depoliticize the debt ceiling, find a way to deal with it in a business-like fashion and not allow it to be this leverage point that one party or the other can sort of bring things to a precipice in the markets and so forth. We are going to continue to look at that. Looks now like we'll have at least until February to have to raise the debt ceiling again or deal with the debt ceiling. So, here's plenty of time to research that issue, lay out options for the President and see which way he wants to go."

House Votes To Block EPA Methane Rule For Oil, Gas Industry.

[The Hill](#) (9/13, Henry) reports that on Wednesday, the House voted 218-195 to block implementation of an EPA rule meant to limit emissions from new oil and gas drilling sites. At the debate on the rule last week, Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.) said it was a "job-killing regulation estimated to cost the U.S. economy \$530 million annually." Meanwhile, Rep. Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) said "The free market has provided an incentive to reduce methane release on its own. There is no further need for EPA to impose costly bureaucratic hurdles on these

sensitive industries.”

The [Oklahoman](#) (9/14, Wingerter) reports the US House of Representatives on Wednesday “approved two amendments introduced by U.S. Rep. Markwayne Mullin that would roll back environmental procedures put in place by former President Barack Obama.” In a 218-195 vote, the House voted “in favor of an amendment that prohibits funds from being used to enforce the Environmental Protection Agency’s methane rule.” The House “also voted 225-186 in favor of an amendment that prohibits funds from being used to implement rules based on the social cost of carbon, a metric that calculates the economic effects of carbon pollution.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Women’s Voice Remains Faint In Politics.” The [New York Times](#) (9/13, Board) says in an editorial that while women “have led New York’s City Council — two of them in a row as speaker — for almost 12 years,” they “are sliding backward,” and members of the Council’s women’s caucus warned “in a report last month that ‘we face a systemic crisis of representation.’”

Follow Kenya’s Lead On Plastic Bags. In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/14) urges the rest of the world, and New York state in particular, to follow Kenya and more than 40 other countries that “have taxed, limited or banned plastic bags.” The Times notes that such bags are “clogging storm drains, stuffing landfills, killing animals that eat them and contributing to the eight million metric tons of plastic” annually added to the oceans.

Washington Post.

“The Senate Finally Does What It Failed To Do For A Decade And A Half.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/13) hails the Senate vote on a “proposal to withdraw congressional authorization for U.S. military operations abroad,” arguing “the Senate did what it had previously failed to do for the past decade and a half: vote on authorizing the use of force against US enemies.” While the legislation “failed – as it should have...the debate was an important first step toward the legislative branch’s taking responsibility for the nation’s wars.” The Post concludes that “now that the vote on Mr. Paul’s amendment has opened the door for a bipartisan effort to reform the authorization, there is no excuse not to walk through it.”

“The Justice Department Goes Out Of Its Way To Side Against A Gay Couple.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/13) editorializes that the Supreme Court “will soon hear arguments over the conduct of” a Colorado baker, who claims he has “the right to turn away a gay couple seeking a custom wedding cake if he disapproves of their upcoming marriage.” The Justice Department “has made a point of weighing in on the side of Jack Phillips, the ‘cake artist’” in question. The Post adds that the Justice Department’s “legal brief has – rightly – faced criticism from civil rights groups appalled by the government’s argument that Mr. Phillips’s religious beliefs grant him a constitutional right to discriminate against gay customers, despite a Colorado public-accommodations law prohibiting unequal treatment on the basis of sexual orientation.” The Post calls the brief “a dispiriting signal of Attorney General Jeff Sessions’s priorities,” and notes that the department “has been quiet on any number of other significant cases before the Supreme Court this term.”

“Should Assaulting A Metrobus Driver Be A Felony?” The [Washington Post](#) (9/13) editorializes that “just days after a woman walked out of a D.C. courtroom after being charged with dousing a Metrobus driver with a cup of urine, another driver was spat on by a passenger,” and it notes that “the incidents are among a rising number of assaults on Metrobus operators that have raised questions about whether enough is being done to combat the problem.” According to the Post, “the issue demands attention because an assault on a bus driver puts not only the victim at risk but also everyone else on the bus.” The Post wonders whether stiffer punishment for such incidents might be an effective deterrent.

Wall Street Journal.

“Escaping The Tax-Reform Budget Trap.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13) writes that Congress should abandon budget neutrality rules – or at least extend the budget window – in order to pass tax reform. The Journal argues that the rules mandating revenue neutrality serve to defeat good policy and that good tax reform legislation would help spur the

economic expansion necessary to pay for lost government revenue.

“Bernie’s Socialism Goes Mainstream.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13) argues in an editorial that the Republican failure to repeal and replace the ACA assures the law’s continuing decline which creates an opportunity for Democrats to advocate for greater government control, such as the “Medicare for all Plan” offered Wednesday by Sen. Bernie Sanders.

“Americans Get Richer.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13) writes that a new Census report offers the encouraging news that, last year, real media household income rose 3.2 percent – lifting 2.5 million Americans out of poverty across income groups and especially benefiting minorities, with 2015-2016 median income for blacks and Hispanics climbing 5.7 percent and 4.3 percent respectively. The Journal argues that the data offers a rebuke to liberals’ touting of welfare programs, and adds that in order for incomes to continue rising, Congress should pass tax reform to encourage greater business investment and productivity.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Group Including Apple, Dell Moves To Buy Toshiba’s Chip Business](#)

[Saudi Arabia Clamps Down As Prince Consolidates Power](#)

[GOP To Release Tax Overhaul As Trump Says Rich Won’t Benefit](#)

[Curfews, Obligatory Prayers, Whippings: Hard-Line Islam Emerges In Indonesia](#)

New York Times:

[Eight Dead From Sweltering Nursing Home As Florida Struggles After Irma](#)

[Pelosi And Schumer Say They Have Deal With Trump To Replace DACA](#)

[Trump Goes All In On A Tax Overhaul Whose Details Remain Unwritten](#)

[Russia’s War Games With Fake Enemies Cause Real Alarm](#)

[From Prison To PhD: The Redemption And Rejection Of Michelle Jones](#)

[Billionaire Diller’s Plan For Elaborate Pier In The Hudson Is Dead](#)

[The Rohingya In Myanmar: How Years Of Strife Grew Into A Crisis](#)

Washington Post:

[After ISIS, Iraq’s Real Test](#)

[Scurrying, Squealing, Gnawing, Multiplying,](#)

[Kushner’s Role In DC Looms Over NY Project](#)

[Eight Dead At Florida Nursing Home](#)

[DACA Accord Is On The Table](#)

Financial Times:

[Jean-Claude Juncker Urges More EU Integration Ahead Of Brexit](#)

[China-Born New Zealand MP Probed By Spy Agency](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Targets Rich In Tax Reform, Throwing Republicans A Curveball](#)

[Arpaio Political Opponents Challenge Trump’s Pardon In Court](#)

[Mugabe Threatens New Round Of Land Seizures From Zimbabwe’s White Farmers](#)

[Antifa Violence Splits Left As Another Major Protest Looms At Berkeley](#)

[Tough Resistance From Maute Affiliate Raises Islamic State’s Profile In Philippines](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Washington State-School Shooting; California-Marine Base Accident; White House-Tax Reform Plan; Treasury Secretary-Government Plane Use; Child Bullying Accident; Hillary Clinton-New Memoir; Prince George-School Intrusion; Michigan Warehouse Fire; Flu Shots-Pregnancy Danger; Hurricanes-Helping Hands.

CBS: Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Hurricane Irma-Utility Damages; Hurricane Irma-Relief Missions; Hurricane Irma-Agricultural Damages; Hurricane Harvey-Fallen Officer Memorial; Washington State-School Shooting; Senator Tim Scott-Charlottesville; Russia Meddling Investigation-Facebook; Airplane Smaller Seats-Safety Hazard; Flu Shots-Pregnancy

Danger; Hurricane Irma-Baby Birth.

NBC: Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Hurricane Irma-Relief Missions; Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; Washington State-School Shooting; Russian Meddling Investigation-Flynn; White House-Tax Reform Plan; Hillary Clinton-New Memoir; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Frank Vincent Dies; Seattle-Restaurants Plastic Ban; 2028 Los Angeles Olympics Awarded; Vatican-Relic Discovery.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane Irma – 19 minutes, 55 seconds

Washington State-School Shooting – 5 minutes, 30 seconds

White House-Tax Reform Plan – 3 minutes, 40 seconds

Hillary Clinton-New Memoir – 3 minutes, 15 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: White House-Dem. DACA Deal; Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Hurricane Irma-Trump Visit; Maryland Teacher Murdered; Washington State-School Shooting; Wall Street News.

CBS: White House-Dem. DACA Deal; Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Washington State-School Shooting; Hillary Clinton-New Memoir; Wall Street News.

FOX: White House-Dem. DACA Deal; Maryland Teacher Murdered; Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths.

NPR: Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Hurricane Irma-Utility Damages; Iraq-Kurdish Independence Movement.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Receives a briefing on Hurricane Irma relief efforts; visits with individuals impacted by Hurricane Irma; hosts the White House Historical Association reception and dinner. VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 6:40 AM Republican Sen. James Lankford speaks to State Chamber of Oklahoma during their Washington, DC Fly-In Location: Washington, DC <http://www.lankford.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenatorLankford>

8:30 AM Bipartisan senators at 'Innovations in CO2 Capture and Use' event – 'State of the Art: Innovations in CO2 Capture and Use' Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) event, with bipartisan Sens. Heidi Heitkamp, Sheldon Whitehouse, Shelley Moore Capito, and John Barrasso joining panels featuring David Greeson (NRG Energy), Al Collins (Occidental Petroleum Corporation), Christopher Romans (Mitsubishi Heavy Industries America), Laura Nereng (3M), Dr Marcius Extavour (NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE); Bill Brown (NET Power), and Dr Julio Friedmann (Energy Futures Initiative) to outline innovations in carbon capture and use technologies and efforts to speed their deployment Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 902, Washington, DC www.c2es.org https://twitter.com/C2ES_org

9:30 AM Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Joseph Balash to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management; Richard Glick and Kevin McIntyre to be Federal Energy Regulatory Commission members; David Jonas to be Department of Energy General Counsel; and Ryan Nelson to be Department of the Interior Solicitor Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

9:30 AM Senate Agriculture Committee hearing on nutrition programs and the 2018 Farm Bill – Hearing on 'Nutrition Programs: Perspectives for the 2018 Farm Bill', with testimony from USDA Food and Nutrition Service Administrator for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Brandon Lipps; U.S. Department of Agriculture Assistant Inspector General for Audit Gil Harden, and Assistant Inspector General of Investigations Ann Coffey; Center for Employment Opportunities CEO and Executive Director Sam Schaeffer; Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma's Bryan Parker; Wright's Markets President Jimmy Wright; Northwestern University Institute for Policy Research Director Dr Diane Schanzenbach; and Dare to Care Food Bank Executive Director Brian Riendeau Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington,

DC <http://agriculture.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Finance Committee hearing on individual tax reform – Hearing on ‘Individual Tax Reform’, with testimony from New York University School of Law Professor of Law and Public Policy Lily Batchelder; American Enterprise Institute Research Fellow Alex Brill, and Visiting Fellow Ramesh Ponnuru; and Pioneer Realty Senior Vice President Iona Harrison Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Ralph Erickson to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit; Donald Coggins Jr. to be U.S. District Judge for the District of South Carolina; Dabney Langhorne Friedrich to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia; Stephen Schwartz to be a U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge; Brian Allen Benczkowski to be Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division; Robert Higdon Jr. to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina; J. Cody Hiland to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas; Joshua Minkler to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana; and Byung Pak to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, as well as ‘S. 1766, SAFER Act of 2017’ Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on Venezuela – Hearing on ‘U.S. Policy Options to Support Democracy in Venezuela’, with testimony from Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorist Financing Marshall Billingslea; and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Michael Fitzpatrick Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 419, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Banking Committee hearing on CFIUS – Hearing on ‘Examining the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States’, with testimony from former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs Clay Lowery; former Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration Kevin Wolf; and Center for Strategic and International Studies Senior Vice President James Lewis Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Governmental Affairs Committee hearing on the FCC Lifeline program – Hearing on ‘FCC’s Lifeline Program: A Case Study of Government Waste and Mismanagement’, with testimony from Government Accountability Office Forensic Audits and Investigative Service Director of Audit Services Seto Bagdoyan; Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai; and Universal Service Administrative Company Acting CEO and General Counsel Vickie Robinson Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenRonJohnson>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on the individual health insurance market for 2018 – Hearing on ‘Stabilizing Premiums and Helping Individuals in the Individual Insurance Market for 2018: Health Care Stakeholders’, with testimony from Healthy Tennessee President Manny Sethi; Marshfield Clinic Health System CEO Susan Turney; Anthem Individual Market Segment Vice President Robert Ruiz-Moss; Young Invincibles Rocky Mountain Regional Director Christina Postolowski; and South Carolina Department of Insurance Director Raymond Farmer Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

11:00 AM Bicameral Dems discuss support for climate change and public health legislation – Democrats Sen. Ed Markey and Rep. Matt Cartwright hold press conference – ahead of Climate Week – with public health experts, physicians, climate experts, and clean air advocates in support of bicameral legislation to help improve the nation’s public health response to climate change. Other participants include American Public Health Association Executive Director Dr Georges Benjamin, Sierra Club Climate Policy Director Liz Martin Perera, and Moms Clean Air Force Director of Special Projects Gretchen Dahlkemper Location: U.S. Capitol, S-115, Washington, DC www.markey.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/MarkeyMemo>

12:30 PM Bicameral Dems introduce Child Care for Working Families Act – Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Ranking Member Patty Murray and House Committee on Education and the Workforce Ranking Member Bobby Scott introduce the Child Care for Working Families Act – ‘comprehensive child care and early learning legislation that will ensure that every child has access to high-quality early learning and care that will not break the bank for their parents – via press conference with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, fellow Democrats Sen. Al Franken and Reps. Jared Polis and David Cicilline, Mount Olive Child Development Program head child care teacher

Ingrid Henlon, and teacher and mother Jessica Honzal Location: U.S. Capitol, S-115, Washington, DC murray.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/pattymurray>

US House: 9:00 AM House expected to vote on omnibus govt funding bill and Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of 'H.R. 3354 – Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act, 2018' and of 'H.R. 3697 – Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act' * Administration has said it supports passage of 'H.R. 3354' and strongly supports 'H.R. 3697', and that President Donald Trump would likely sign either if they reached his desk * Last week, Congress passed a short-term continuing resolution to extend govt funding through early December Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

9:00 AM Dem Rep. G. K. Butterfield hosts Childhood Cancer Summit – Democratic Rep. G. K. Butterfield hosts annual Childhood Cancer Summit, to discuss advancements in treatments. Attendees include Republican Reps. Michael McCaul and Mike Kelly, and Democratic Rep. Jackie Speier Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2168, Washington, DC Butterfield.house.gov

9:00 AM Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus Annual Childhood Cancer Summit Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC childhoodcancer-mccaul.house.gov/

9:00 AM POSTPONED: Hearing on 'Document Production' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseIntelComm>

9:30 AM Helsinki Commission hearing on Russian disinformation – Helsinki Commission hearing on 'The Scourge of Russian Disinformation', with witnesses Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) CEO and Director John Lansing, Human Rights First Director of Human Rights and Civil Society Programs Melissa Hooper, and Fianna Strategies CEO Molly McKew Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 562, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

10:00 AM House Small Business subcommittee hearing on how SBA entrepreneurial development programs have evolved with technology – Health and Technology Subcommittee hearing on 'Tech Talks: How SBA Entrepreneurial Development Programs Have Evolved with Technology', with testimony from Women's Economic Ventures founder and CEO Marsha Bailey (on behalf of Association of Women's Business Centers); North Carolina Small Business Technology Development Centers State Director Scott Daugherty (on behalf of America's SBDC); SCORE Association Vice President of Marketing & Communications Bridget Weston Pollack; and Gulf Coast State College Veterans Business Outreach Center Director Brent Peacock Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on workforce programs Under the Public Health Service Act – Health Subcommittee hearing on 'Supporting Tomorrow's Health Providers: Examining Workforce Programs Under the Public Health Service Act', with testimony from Preventative Care Health Services Chief Medical Officer Dr Adrian Billings, American Association of Teaching Health Centers President Dr Neil Calman, University of North Texas Health Science Center Professor in Geriatrics Dr Janice Knebl, and University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing Dean and Professor Dr Juliann Sebastian Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

11:00 AM Bicameral Dems discuss support for climate change and public health legislation – Democrats Sen. Ed Markey and Rep. Matt Cartwright hold press conference – ahead of Climate Week – with public health experts, physicians, climate experts, and clean air advocates in support of bicameral legislation to help improve the nation's public health response to climate change. Other participants include American Public Health Association Executive Director Dr Georges Benjamin, Sierra Club Climate Policy Director Liz Martin Perera, and Moms Clean Air Force Director of Special Projects Gretchen Dahlkemper Location: U.S. Capitol, S-115, Washington, DC www.markey.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/MarkeyMemo>

12:30 PM Bicameral Dems introduce Child Care for Working Families Act – Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Ranking Member Patty Murray and House Committee on Education and the Workforce Ranking Member Bobby Scott introduce the Child Care for Working Families Act – 'comprehensive child care and early learning legislation that will ensure that every child has access to high-quality early learning and care that will not break the bank for their parents – via press conference with Senate Minority Leader Chuck

Schumer, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, fellow Democrats Sen. Al Franken and Reps. Jared Polis and David Cicilline, Mount Olive Child Development Program head child care teacher Ingrid Henlon, and teacher and mother Jessica Honzal Location: U.S. Capitol, S-115, Washington, DC murray.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/pattymurray>

Other: 7:00 AM Secretaries Ross and Perry at The Latino Coalition summit – The Latino Coalition Capturing the Momentum Summit: The Hispanic Economic Agenda, with participants including Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, U.S. Treasurer Jovita Carranza, UCLA School of Medicine Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture Director David Hayes Bautista, Mexico Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Geronimo Gutierrez, PG&E Corporation Vice President for Federal Affairs and Policy Melissa Lavinson, Intuit Chief Public Policy Officer and Vice President for Global Corporate Affairs Bernie McKay, Comcast Executive Director for External Affairs Jackie Puente, and U.S. Chamber of Commerce Vice President of Small Business Policy Thomas Sullivan Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.thelatinocoalition.com <https://twitter.com/LatinoCoalition>

10:45 AM Dem Rep. Joaquin Castro at Hispanic Heritage Month of Action launch rally – Hispanic Heritage Month of Action launched at rally in front of the White House, with the goal of defending Latino and immigrant communities across the country, with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Democratic Rep. Joaquin Castro and National Hispanic Leadership Agenda Chair Hector Sanchez Barba. Includes march from AFL-CIO building, 815 16th St NW, Washington, DC (10:45 AM EDT), before press availability at Lafayette Square, Washington, DC (11:15 AM EDT) Location: Washington, DC nationalhispanicleadership.org <https://twitter.com/NHLAagenda>

2:00 PM CBO releases 'Federal Subsidies for Health Insurance Coverage for People Under Age 65: 2017 to 2027' – Congressional Budget Office releases 'Federal Subsidies for Health Insurance Coverage for People Under Age 65: 2017 to 2027', including updates – prepared since CBO released its baseline projections for the entire budget in June – to estimates of the federal cost of subsidizing health insurance purchased through the marketplaces, of spending to subsidize insurance provided through the Basic Health Program, and of net spending and revenues associated with stabilizing insurance premiums, as well as to projections of enrollment in the marketplaces and of the number of uninsured people * Previous edition of the report was published in March 2016. Since then, CBO has, at various times, updated certain aspects of the projections, but has not produced a comprehensive set of estimates like this report * Updates could not be released in June because of the time it took the CBO and Joint Committee on Taxation to analyze pending legislation Location: TBD www.cbo.gov/ <https://twitter.com/USCBO>

4:00 PM Dem Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse and Brian Schatz discuss carbon tax – The American Sustainable Business Council hosts 'The Case for Pricing Carbon & How U.S. Businesses Can Tackle Climate Change', a live discussion on carbon tax featuring Democratic Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse and Brian Schatz Location: TBD www.asbcouncil.org <https://twitter.com/ASBCouncil>

5:45 PM HUD Secretary Carson at Habitat for Humanity of Washington, DC 'Women Build: She Nailed It' event – Habitat for Humanity of Washington, DC holds 'celebration reception' for its 'Women Build: She Nailed It' campaign, which promotes affordable homeownership for low-income and moderate-income women in need of housing. Participants include Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson Location: National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC www.dchabitat.org <https://twitter.com/HabitatDC>

Treasury Secretary Mnuchin speaks at Federal Identity Forum & Exposition – Federal Identity Forum & Exposition concludes, including keynote from Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin * Event is focused on Biometric Technologies for Defence, Homeland Security, Identity Management, Border Crossing and Electronic Commerce, and co-located with the Homeland Security Conference Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place NW, Washington, DC <http://www.afcea.org/> <https://twitter.com/AFCEA>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "The Olympics will be in Paris in 2024, L.A. in 2028, which is very exciting."

President Kid Rock himself will be here for the opening ceremonies."

Jimmy Kimmel: "The UN Security Council this week approved a new round of sanctions against North Korea, and they're severe. They're taking Kim Jong-Un's iPad away for a week."

Jimmy Kimmel: "But in response to the sanctions, North Korea's threatened to cause the United States 'the greatest pain and suffering it has gone through in its entire history.' I hate to break it to you, we already kind of did that to ourselves back in November."

James Corden: "This morning, Donald Trump tweeted urging Congress to pass his tax reform plan. Here's what he wrote. He wrote, 'With Irma and Harvey devastation, tax cuts and tax reform is needed more than ever before. Go, Congress, go!' They are senators, not Forrest Gump. In another tweet, Trump added, 'Move fast, Congress.' Now, how can you tell Congress to move fast when the Senate majority leader is literally a tortoise?"

Trevor Noah: "I think Hope Hicks will be perfect for this job because who better to communicate a message of nothing than a person who knows nothing herself? A match made in heaven. I love it."

Trevor Noah: "Myanmar is the kind of country – it's not like America – it's the kind of country where the President does not control the military. So [Burmese leader Aung San] Suu Kyi, some people would say, there's nothing she can do about this. But a leader with this kind of moral standing, I think New York Subway rules should apply: If you see something, say something."

Jimmy Fallon: "In her book, Hillary said that she took a nap as the results were coming in on election night. And while she did that, Bill gathered a month's worth of clothes and got the hell out of there. 'This is going to be rough.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that Ted Cruz is launching an investigation to figure out who was responsible for liking a porn video from his Twitter account. He promised to get to the bottom of it, even if it means spending every night in his office on his computer alone."

Seth Meyers: "White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said today that 'President Trump has done more for bipartisanship in the past eight days than President Obama did in eight years.' Catch more of Sarah's comedy in her new Netflix special, 'Chucklebee.'"

Seth Meyers: "Former White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer was named a 'visiting fellow' at Harvard University today, which is pretty much what he was at the White House."

Conan O'Brien: "You know, it's not a good sign for your presidency when the best things that happen to you is two hurricanes."

Conan O'Brien: "A few days after being accused of liking a porn tweet on Twitter, Sen. Ted Cruz dismissed the claim, saying the left is obsessed with sex. Cruz then said, 'If they want to call me, I can recommend some great websites.'"

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Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, September 13, 2017

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From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Wed Sep 13 2017 05:00:54 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, September 13, 2017

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DATE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

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- Oil City Wyoming: Concessioner Selected For Boat Services At Grand Teton's Jenny Lake.
- Allentown (PA) Morning Call: Chip Minemyer: Flight 93 Site's Champions Pass Baton To Future Tellers Of 'Monumental' Story.

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- ABC: More Than 2,000 Americans Evacuated From Caribbean.
- Associated Press: Trump: North Korea Sanctions "Nothing Compared To What Will Have To Happen."
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- Radio New Zealand: Pacific Leadership Focussed On Improving Lives Of Islanders.

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- U.S. News & World Report: Tribes Plan Protest To Change Yellowstone Valley, Peak Names.
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DOI In The News

Zinke Directs More Aggressive Approach To Prevent Wildfires.

The [AP](#) (9/12, Daly) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Tuesday “directed all land managers and park superintendents to be more aggressive in cutting down small trees and underbrush to prevent wildfires as the smoke-choked West faces one of the worst fire seasons in a decade.” In a memo, Zinke said the Trump Administration will “take a new approach and work proactively to prevent fires ‘through aggressive and scientific fuels reduction management’ to save lives, homes and wildlife habitat.” According to the article, “Zinke’s memo did not call for new spending, but he said federal officials ‘must be innovative’ and use all tools available to prevent and fight fires.”

The [Washington Times](#) (9/12, Richardson) reports that Zinke in a statement, “This Administration will take a serious turn from the past and will proactively work to prevent forest fires through aggressive and scientific fuels reduction management to save lives, homes, and wildlife habitat.” The move was welcomed by “Western Republicans frustrated with the ‘let it burn’ approach.” They said “Zinke’s more aggressive directive on forest management was long overdue.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington Post](#) (9/12, Daly), the [Brownsville \(TX\) Herald](#) (9/12, Daly), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (9/5, Daly), the [New Canaan \(CT\) News](#) (9/12, Daly), the [New Haven \(CT\) Register](#) (9/12, Daly), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (9/12, Daly), the [Washington Times](#) (9/12, Daly), the [Daily Mail](#) (9/12, Daly), the [Japan Times](#) (9/12), and [KHQ-TV Spokane \(WA\)](#) Spokane, WA (9/12).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/12, O'Donoghue).

FEMA Approves Grants To Help With Strawberry Fire. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (9/12) reports Montana Sen. Jon Tester (D) and Gov. Steve Bullock said Tuesday that “the Strawberry Fire in northcentral Montana has been approved to receive disaster aid” from a Fire Management Assistance Grant that “makes FEMA funding available to pay 75 percent of the state’s eligible firefighting costs.” The Tribune notes that “Bullock met with FEMA Administrator Brock Long last week to ask that grant requests be expedited and approved and to help Montanans impacted by the fires.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/12, Etehad) provides in-depth coverage of the wildfires.

Interior’s ‘Unusual’ Transfer Of Senior Executives Spurs Official Probe.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/12, Davidson) reports that “in response to a request from eight Democrats on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,” the Interior Department’s Office of Inspector General “is examining the extraordinary and politically suspect reassignment of dozens of Senior Executive Service (SES) members.” The Democrats’ request came “after one Interior senior executive, Joel Clement, wrote a Washington Post article that said he was reassigned and ‘retaliated against for speaking out publicly about the dangers that climate change poses to Alaska Native communities.’” On Monday, Sen. Maria Cantwell, one the Democrats seeking probe “welcomed the review, saying ‘there are serious questions that need to be answered about the treatment of public servants who have dedicated their careers to the Department of the Interior.’”

Survey: Wildlife Activities Big Business.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Business Times](#) (9/12) reports that the Interior Department “released the preliminary results of the latest Fish and Wildlife Service survey tracking participation and spending in wildlife-related activities. The agency has conducted the survey nearly every five years since 1955.” The survey said that “Americans spent more than \$150 billion participating in fishing, hunting and other wildlife-related activities in 2016.” For 2016, the survey “found 101.6 million Americans – about 40 percent of the population aged 16 years and older – participated in wildlife-related activities.”

Sally Jewell Defends Interior Department Legacy.

In an interview with the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (9/12, Calvert), former Interior Secretary

Sally Jewell defended the policies of the Obama Administration, which included undertaking “a ‘forward-looking reform agenda,’ emphasizing science-based land and water conservation, renewable energy development on public land, and better relations with Native American tribal nations.” Among the achievements that Jewell touted were building “a strong nation-to-nation relationship with Indian Country across the board” and “engaging the next generation broadly” on public land issues.

No, President Trump, National Monuments Are Not A ‘Land Grab’.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (9/12, McGinty), Katie McGinty, the former chairwoman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, disputes the characterization of recent national monument designations as a “federal land grab” by the Trump Administration. McGinty points out that “national monument designations can only be had for properties already part of federal landholdings.” She also notes that “any use allowed on the property before a designation – like grazing and logging for example – is retained.”

Want To Put ‘America First’?

Protect Our Public Lands For The Millions Of Americans Who Rely On Them. In an op-ed for the [Independent Journal Review](#) (9/12, Barron), Chris Barron, President of Right Turn Strategies and the former organizer of LGBT for Trump, writes that “in the coming battles over the future of our public lands, President Trump should listen to those around him who both understand the importance of our heritage and who share the President’s America First agenda.” One person is his son Donald Trump, Jr., who has asserted, “We have to keep public lands public.” Barron concludes that “instead of bowing to the will of those who oppose his vision and worked against his election, President Trump should continue to listen to the voices of outdoorsmen like Don Jr. and protect public lands for the tens of millions of working class Americans who rely on them.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Ongoing Problems Land Tribal Oversight Agencies On GAO ‘High-risk’ List.

[Cronkite News](#) (9/12, Clair) reports that “federal agencies that oversee tribal schools, lands and health care still suffer from weak leadership, a lack of oversight and mismanaged resources, despite nearly a decade of prodding from the Government Accountability Office.” The article says “that lack of progress landed the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Education and Indian Health Services on the GAO’s ‘high-risk list’ earlier this year, and will be the focus of a Senate hearing Wednesday on the agencies’ ongoing shortcomings.” The article notes that “a lack of sufficient funding is one area out of the control of the agencies that was cited by the GAO, which also said ‘sustained congressional attention’ to the agencies would help bring about change.” However, “other problems – including a lack of leadership and cumbersome bureaucracy that has stifled tribal economic development – were laid directly at the feet of the agencies.”

New Agreement With Feds Sparks Nooksack Election: ‘We’ve Got A Lot Riding On This’.

The [Seattle Times](#) (9/12, Shapiro) reports that “the Nooksack tribe may finally be on the verge of solving a long-running, disenrollment dispute that sparked lawsuits, a showdown with the federal government and an order to close the tribe’s last remaining casino.” According to the article, “a memorandum of agreement between Nooksack Chairman Bob Kelly and Michael Black, the U.S. Department of the Interior’s acting assistant secretary for Indian affairs, calls for temporarily restoring the tribe’s federal funding and a special election Dec. 2 for four council seats.” The agreement “paved the way for the reopening, over the weekend, of the Northwood Casino in Lynden.”

Feds Allow Nooksack Tribe To Reopen Northwood Casino. The [AP](#) (9/12) reports that “the Nooksack Tribe has reopened its casino north of Bellingham.” The Nooksack Northwood Casino “reopened Saturday with limited operations after a June closure ordered by the National Indian Gaming Commission.” A commission spokeswoman “said Monday the tribal chairman and the commission had reached a settlement, but details weren’t immediately available.”

US Judge Cites Tribal Sovereignty In Dismissing Coal Lawsuit.

The [AP](#) (9/12, Bryan) reports that “a U.S. district judge cited tribal sovereignty in dismissing a lawsuit aimed at shutting down a coal-fired power plant and adjacent mine near the Arizona-New Mexico border.” The lawsuit by environmental groups was “targeting the 2015 approval by the U.S. government of a lease extension for the Navajo Mine and the Four Corners Power Plant.” The groups claimed that the Interior Department and other agencies “did not consider clean-energy alternatives or possible effects on endangered species in the region when they approved the 25-year extension.” In the order issued Monday, Judge Steven Logan of Phoenix “tossed the case since the mine is owned by a corporation created by the Navajo Nation, which makes it immune from such legal challenges.” Logan “said the case could not move forward without the mine as a defendant.”

Bureau Of Indian Education

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos Tells Casper Audience That Country ‘Must’ Rethink Schools.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (9/12, Klamann) reports that Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, speaking Tuesday in Casper, Wyoming as she kicked off a six-state “Rethink Schools” back-to-school tour, praised local school choice policies “while urging nationwide educators to move away from what she called an outdated model for educating students.” The paper quotes DeVos saying, “It’s time to rethink schools. For far too many kids, this year’s first day back to school looks and feels a lot like last year’s first day back to school. And the year before that, and the generation before that, and the generation before that.”

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (9/12, Camera) reports that DeVos “slammed the established ‘education system’ Tuesday,” saying the tour’s purpose is to “highlight innovative ways educators are meeting the needs of students in K-12 and higher education.” DeVos will travel to Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, and Indiana, visiting “a variety of schools, including traditional and charter public schools, religious and other private schools, home school cooperatives, traditional four-year colleges and universities, as well as community colleges and other career-focused certification programs.” This piece reports that Woods Learning Center uses “a ‘teacher-powered’ model that does not employ a principal. Students enrolled in the school move through lessons at their own pace using a competency-based learning model.”

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (9/12, Hoffman) reports that DeVos’ second stop of the day was at St. Stephens Indian School in Arapahoe, Wyoming. Superintendent Frank No Runner told DeVos that “students still carry historical trauma from the boarding school era and other abuses,” but stressed that “that’s not an excuse for low student achievement.” DeVos “made no sweeping statements about the schools or...policies,” but “consistently praised mentions of parent and student involvement in school planning.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico Morning Education](#) (9/12, Leonor).

Bureau Of Land Management

Tri-County Fire Safe To Expand Fuel Reduction Work With New Federal Grant.

[KTVH-TV](#) Helena, MT (9/12, Ambarian) reports that the nonprofit Tri-County Fire Safe Working Group will be “able to help more homeowners in Lewis and Clark, Broadwater and Jefferson Counties protect themselves from wildfires, thanks to an additional federal grant.” The group has received \$50,000 from the Bureau of Land Management. The award “comes after the group got a larger grant from the BLM earlier this year.”

Chaco Canyon Needs Protection.

In an editorial, the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (9/12) warns that leasing land near Chaco Culture National Historical Park “could have devastating consequences for New Mexico’s cultural treasures.” The paper asserts that “until it is better understood what drilling for oil and gas — including the use of the fracking process — might do to the irreplaceable archaeology of Chaco Canyon, these leases should not go forward.” It concludes that if the Trump Administration “does not agree, then tribes, activists and all concerned people will have to fight this.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Bureau Of Reclamation Seeks Help With Colorado River Data Flow.

[FedScoop](#) (9/12, Chappellet-Lanier) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation “would like to better handle the streams of data that describe and support the Colorado River Basin, so the bureau and its partners have taken to Challenge.gov to search for innovative data visualization solutions.” Participants in the “Colorado River Basin Data Visualization Challenge” should take historical, current and projected data on weather, climate conditions, streamflows and more and then develop data visualization approaches that will “improve data exploration, analysis, interpretation, and communication.” The agency is “laying \$60,000 on the line for the competition — individual awards will range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 for successful solutions, the Bureau said.”

Watchdog Group Blasts U.S. Bureau Of Reclamation.

The [Central Valley \(CA\) Business Times](#) (9/11, Reclamation) reports that “three recent federal investigations have found the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation mispending more than \$100 million in funds but the agency has not committed to significant reforms nor to punishing any responsible officials, charges the environmental watchdog organization Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility.” PEER Senior Counsel Paula Dinerstein said, “At Reclamation, even massive misappropriation means never having to say you are sorry. Reclamation’s posture of denying wrongdoing but promising not to do it again merely suggests it will seek out other shady ruses rather than genuinely reform its grant process.” The group has “been pressing both Reclamation’s parent agency, the Department of Interior, as well as the U.S. Congress to step in, but so far there has been no action, it says.”

Who’s Watching Out For Taxpayers On Twin Tunnels? In an editorial, the [Chico \(CA\) Enterprise-Record](#) (9/12) calls the “audit by the federal government about the twin tunnels,” released last week, “very damning.” But the paper expects that “the state will move doggedly ahead, insisting it has done nothing wrong; Brown will assiduously avoid any questions or give any speeches about the twin tunnels; the state will reimburse the federal government with taxpayer money; the federal government will ease up because the No. 2 person in the federal Department of the Interior under Donald Trump used to work as a lobbyist at the huge Westlands Water District in the San Joaquin Valley; and LaMalfa and other politicians will back off as soon as the heat subsides because, well, those water districts in the bottom half of the state make very nice campaign contributions.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Bills Would Remove Protections For Gray Wolf Population.

The [Detroit News](#) (9/12, Burke) reports that “a U.S. House committee is expected to vote Wednesday to advance two bills that would remove the gray wolf in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin from the federal endangered species list.” The Sportsmen Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act “in part would ‘take wolf recovery and delisting out of the hands of the courts and will return wolf management and conservation to the states, where they belong,’ said Anna M. Seidman, director of government affairs and director of litigation for the Safari Club International.” Seidman testified at a Tuesday hearing before the Federal Lands Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee hearing on the bill.

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (9/12, Spangler) reports that during the hearing, “Democrats voiced deep concerns about other portions of the legislation, including measures that would make it easier for people to buy firearm silencers and put more of a legal and financial burden on law enforcement when stopping a vehicle suspected of potentially transporting a firearm across state lines.” According to the article, “with so much before Congress between now and the end of the year, it could be caught in a logjam and Democratic members of the U.S. House, while outnumbered with Republicans in the majority, will likely try to do all they can to slow it, especially because of the firearm portions of the bill.”

Wildlife Managers Seek To Regain Authority To Kill Problem Cormorants.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (9/13, Kennedy) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is

"about to take its first major step to regain the authority to kill problematic cormorants via depredation permits, a move that could reopen site-specific shooting of the aquatic birds in Minnesota and other Great Lakes states by next spring." Tom Cooper, regional chief of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Migratory Bird Program in Bloomington, "said the agency will publish a draft environmental assessment within weeks for a plan that would provide more accountability and a new, big-picture look at cormorant population effects before fish farmers, lakeshore property owners, bait suppliers and others can receive authority to kill cormorants." He "said the first step in regaining permitting authority deals with depredation related to human health and safety, damage to aquaculture, damage to private property and concern for nesting species crowded out by cormorants."

National Bison Range Roundup Postponed Amid Montana Smoke.

The [AP](#) (9/13) reports that "wildfire smoke and the danger of new fires have prompted federal wildlife managers to postpone the annual roundup at the National Bison Range." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "said Tuesday the roundup was scheduled for Oct. 2 and 3." No new date has been set.

Tennessee Hasn't Updated Endangered Species List In 16 Years.

The [AP](#) (9/12) reports that "an audit has found that the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has not updated the state's endangered species list in 16 years, even though it is required to do so every two years." Comptroller Justin Wilson's office "said in the audit released Tuesday that the state is also running afoul of an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to annually submit additions and deletions from the list of threatened species." The audit "finds that the failure to update the list since 2000 could put more species at risk of becoming extinct and could cause Tennessee to lose federal grants." According to the article, "the head of the state wildlife agency's biodiversity division was unaware of the reporting requirement until 2013, and officials are in the process of creating a new endangered species list."

Man Caught In Probe Of Lake Trout Trade On Lake Michigan.

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (9/12) reports that "a Ludington fish dealer who bought and sold Lake Michigan lake trout that was illegally harvested by a tribal fisherman has agreed to plead guilty to a felony charge of false labeling of fish." The charge is "linked to a three-year, undercover investigation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an effort to protect the sought-after game fish whose population is maintained primarily by stocking."

It's Time To Limit Abusive, Taxpayer-Fun.

In a piece for the [Daily Caller](#) (9/12, Mooney), Kevin Mooney writes that "instead of allowing environmental groups with hundreds of millions of dollars in assets to file an endless chain of lawsuits at taxpayer expense, Congress should move decisively to end abusive practices that subtract from local conservation efforts, according to recent testimony delivered before House committees." Mooney supports "reforming both the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA)."

National Park Service

Hurricane Irma: Smoky Mountains 'Minimally' Damaged.

The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (9/12, Ahillen, Hickman) reports that "National Park Service personnel have begun assessing the damage from the hurricane and reopening roads and facilities around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on Tuesday morning." Park spokeswoman Dana Soehn said, "Overall, the park was minimally impacted by winds and rain associated with Hurricane Irma. Crews are still clearing downed trees and limbs along Newfound Gap Road and Clingmans Dome Road, but most lower elevation roads have reopened."

Charleston's Fort Sumter Still 3 Feet Deep In Water From Tropical Storm Irma. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (9/12, Kropf) reports that Fort Sumter "remains filled with 3 feet of water from Tropical Storm Irma's rains and tidal surge, the National Park Service said Tuesday afternoon." According to the article, "there was some damage to the fort's docking pier and to

some of the interior facilities but no artifacts appear to be harmed." Dawn H. Davis, public affairs officer for Fort Sumter National Monument and the Charles Pinckney National Historical Site, said that "it will be several days before the fort will be open to the public."

Blue Ridge Parkway Closed In NC As Irma Remnants Hit Mountains. [WNCN-TV](#) Raleigh-Durham, NC (9/12) reports that "as the remnants of Hurricane Irma hit western North Carolina many downed trees meant the closure of the Blue Ridge Parkway, officials said." The National Park Service "Tweeted several photos of trees blocking the parkway."

The Petersen House, Where Lincoln Died, Will Close For Six Months In December.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/12, Ruane) reports that "Washington's Petersen House, where Abraham Lincoln died after being shot in Ford's Theatre, will close Dec. 25 for six months of historic preservation work and upgrades, the National Park Service and the Ford's Theatre Society said Tuesday." The project will "replace the existing fire suppression system, update historic furnishings and wallpaper, and perform general preservation and maintenance, the groups said in a statement." The house is "expected to reopen in June, 2018."

Eclipse Helps Make Past Month Busiest August Ever For Yellowstone.

The [Cody \(WY\) Enterprise](#) (9/12) reports that Yellowstone National Park "had its busiest August ever, attracting 916,166 visits last month." According to the article, "the nearly 9 percent increase over the same period in 2016 was partly attributable to the solar eclipse of Aug. 21."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (9/12).

'It's Not Over Yet'.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (9/12, Franz) reports that "while many thought record-shattering visitation" at Glacier National Park "would be how history books remember 2017, it will likely be overshadowed by the fires that brought that historic season to an early end."

Superintendent Jeff Mow at a packed public meeting in West Glacier last week, said, "The summer of 2017 was already a remarkable one in so many ways. It's been a long summer, and it's not over yet." According to the article, "while many in attendance at the Sept. 6 public meeting wanted to know what was next for the three major fires in the park, many also wanted to know what would happen with the remains of Sperry Chalet and what was being done to protect Lake McDonald Lodge, both beloved structures built in the 1910s." Mow "said that as soon as it's safe, the park will conduct a structural assessment on Sperry Chalet and record what is left of the National Historic Landmark." He added that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "called for a full investigation into how the chalet burned."

Feds Seek Forfeiture Of Money Seized In Yellowstone National Park.

[Yellowstone Insider](#) (9/12, Reichard) reports that "federal authorities are asking to keep over \$20,000 in money seized earlier this summer in Yellowstone National Park." The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Wyoming "filed a civil complaint last Wednesday seeking said forfeiture." According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie Hambrick, "who presented the complaint, the cash should be forfeited because it was 'furnished and intended to be furnished in exchange for a controlled substance.'"

Additional coverage was provided by the [Powell \(WY\) Tribune](#) (9/12, Baker).

Carver Bust Back On Display At Monument.

The [Joplin \(MO\) Globe](#) (9/12, Kagubare) reports that a bust of George Washington Carver was reinstalled last Friday at George Washington Carver National Monument "after a two-month restoration." According to the article, "the bust's upgrade was intended to resemble the original sculpture." The project cost the park \$6,500.

MasterChef Jr. Winner Appears At Upcoming Festival.

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (9/12, Brett) reports that Family Day/Culture Fest will be held Sept. 23 at and around the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site. National Park Service Superintendent Judy Forte said in a statement, "Visitors from across the country and the world are invited to spend a day of fun, educational, enriching and participatory experiences." The festival is "a joint venture of the National Black Arts Festival, National Park Service, Historic District Development Corporation and Sweet Auburn Works, and sponsored by Georgia Pacific."

Windstorm Damages Buildings, Vehicles At Death Valley.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/12, Brean) reports that "powerful wind from an isolated thunderstorm tore the roof off a historic building and caused other damage in Death Valley National Park on Monday." According to the article, "the sudden microburst struck Stovepipe Wells and the park's administrative and staff housing area at Cow Creek, blowing the windows out of four employee-owned vehicles and damaging at least six structures, including an office building dating back to the Civilian Conservation Corps era of the 1930s." The article says that "after the winds subsided, park rangers discovered the missing roof of the historic building and covered computers and office equipment inside to protect them from the rain."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/12, Tchekmedyan).

Smokejumpers Mop Up Potato Fire On Santa Cruz Island.

The [Santa Barbara \(CA\) Independent](#) (9/12, Hamm) reports that "U.S. Forest Service smokejumpers — three out of Redding and one from Alaska — are now mopping up the Potato Fire on Santa Cruz Island, inland from Potato Harbor." The article notes that "this is the first time smokejumpers have battled a fire at Channel Islands National Park, according to a statement from the National Park Service." Superintendent Russell Galipeau added, "We greatly appreciate the rapid response by the U.S. Forest Service smokejumpers to suppress this remote island fire in its early phases, especially given the many wildfires currently burning in the West."

Concessioner Selected For Boat Services At Grand Teton's Jenny Lake.

The [Oil City Wyoming](#) (9/12) reports that National Park Service Intermountain Regional Director Sue Masica "announced the selection of Jenny Lake Boating, Inc. to provide boat shuttle service, scenic interpretive boat tours, and non-motorized boat rentals at Jenny Lake in Grand Teton National Park." The new ten-year concession contract is expected to start January 1, 2018.

Chip Minemyer: Flight 93 Site's Champions Pass Baton To Future Tellers Of 'Monumental' Story.

In a piece of the [Allentown \(PA\) Morning Call](#) (9/13, Minemyer), Chip Minemyer, editor of The Tribune-Democrat in Johnstown, writes that during the anniversary activities held Monday at the Flight 93 National Memorial near Shanksville, park leaders recognized the efforts behind a "\$62 million project that will be complete when the Tower of Voices is standing near the park entrance next September." This year's activities included the "soundbreaking" on Sunday for the Tower of Voices near the park entrance on Route 30.

Office Of Insular Affairs

Dept. Of Interior Expedites Release Of \$223 Million In Advance Payments To USVI In Wake Of Irma.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/12) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "announced on Friday that Interior will be expediting the rum-cover over advance payment of \$223,925,000 for estimated FY 2018 collections in the U.S. Virgin Islands." The move follows President Trump's "Thursday approval and signing of a disaster declaration for the territory, which unlocks emergency federal funding for those affected by Hurricane Irma." Zinke said, "These funds will be critical to operations in the USVI as the Governor and emergency teams work to recover from the impacts of Hurricane Irma. The people of the U.S.VI will need all the support they can get."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (9/11).

Trump To Visit U.S. Virgin Islands In Wake Of Irma; More Police, National Guard, Arrive On St. John. The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/12) reports that President Donald will "visit the U.S. Virgin Islands 'within the next six or seven days,' Governor Kenneth Mapp said during a press conference at Government House late Monday." Mapp said he had a conversation with Trump, and Trump "expressed his full support for the territory in providing disaster relief, following the calamitous state Hurricane Irma left St. Thomas and St. John in."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Conde Nast Traveler](#) (9/11, Carey) and [WBUR-](#)

[FM Boston](#) (9/10, Dwyer).

On The U.S. Virgin Islands, Anger And Resentment After Irma. The [Think Progress](#) (9/12, CRUNDEN) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "applauded the White House for its efforts in the U.S. Virgin Islands specifically." Zinke in a press release, "The Department of the Interior actions in the USVI are part of our responsibility for federal policy related to the U.S. territories. We commend the cooperative actions of the White House, USVI government, FEMA and the whole federal family to provide urgent relief to the Virgin Islands."

More Than 2,000 Americans Evacuated From Caribbean.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (9/12, story 3, 1:35, Muir) reported that "more than 2,000 Americans" who were caught in the Caribbean when Hurricane Irma hit "have now made it out onto US military planes and on private cruise ships, as conditions on those islands continue to deteriorate." The [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (9/12, story 3, 3:00, Mason) reported that the Puerto Rico National Guard evacuated an estimated 300 to 400 Americans from St. Martin. CBS said that while "all the major airports in Florida have reopened...most are operating at about half the normal capacity, and there is still a huge backlog of travelers. More than 17,000 flights in the US and the Caribbean were canceled because of Irma."

Trump: North Korea Sanctions "Nothing Compared To What Will Have To Happen."

The [AP](#) (9/12, Pennington) reports President Trump said that the new UN sanctions on North Korea "are nothing compared to what ultimately will have to happen" to stop its nuclear program. The ban on textile exports and the crude oil import cap "fell short of Washington's goals: a potentially crippling ban on oil imports and freezing the international assets of Kim and his government." Trump called the sanctions "just another very small step – not a big deal." Meanwhile, Susan Thornton, America's top diplomat for East Asia, told the House Foreign Affairs Committee, "The success of the pressure strategy will depend on cooperation from international partners, especially Beijing."

[Reuters](#) (9/12, Rampton, Brunnstrom) reports Trump said, "I don't know if [the sanctions vote] has any impact." US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said, in Reuters' word, the new sanctions could cost North Korea "an additional \$500 million or more in annual revenue." She added, "If North Korea continues its dangerous path, we will continue with further pressure."

Mnuchin Warns Of Additional Measures Against China If It Doesn't Abide By Sanctions.

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/12, Mohsin, John) reports Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, during an event at CNBC's Delivering Alpha conference in New York, warned that if China doesn't follow the new UN sanctions against North Korea, "we will put additional sanctions on them and prevent them from accessing the U.S. and international dollar system – and that's quite meaningful." At a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing, Chairman Ed Royce called for targeting, in Bloomberg's words, "major Chinese banks, including Agricultural Bank of China Ltd. and China Merchants Bank Co., for aiding Kim's regime." Additionally, Assistant Treasury Secretary Marshall Billingslea said in prepared remarks that North Korean bank representatives "operate in Russia in flagrant disregard of the very resolutions adopted by Russia at the UN."

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (9/12, Johnson) reports Billingslea said, "Unfortunately, I cannot tell the committee today that we've seen sufficient evidence of China's willingness to truly shutdown North Korea's revenue flows, to expunge North Korean illicit actors from its banking system, or to expel the various North Korean middlemen and brokers who are continuing to establish webs of front companies." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/12, Talley) reports Billingslea said that recent sanctions against Chinese companies sent a "message to China," and that China "urgently needs to take demonstrable public steps to eliminate North Korea's trade and financial access" to avoid future measures.

[Reuters](#) (9/12, Rampton, Brunnstrom) reports that, when asked about cutting off Chinese banks from the US financial system, White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said, "All options are on the table."

North Korea Condemns New Sanctions. The [Washington Post](#) (9/12, Lee) reports North Korea "condemned" the new UN sanctions and "doubled down on its warning that" for its role in economically pressuring the country, "the United States would 'suffer the greatest pain' it has ever experienced." North Korean Ambassador Han Tae Song said Washington "fabricated the most vicious sanction resolution."

Greg Palkot reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) 📺 (9/12) that as the "world is trying to head off a conflict with North Korea," the UN Security Council on Monday approved a new set of sanctions against Kim Jong-un's regime. Fox showed Defense Secretary Mattis saying, "These are the most severe sanctions yet. We will see what choices the North Koreans make." According to Palkot, North Korea's "early choice" is "defiance." Fox showed Han Tae Song, North Korea's Ambassador to the UN, saying: "The DPRK is ready to use in the form of ultimate means. The first countermeasures by DPRK will make the US suffer the greatest pain it's ever experienced in its history."

From Pyongyang, Will Ripley reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (9/12) that North Korea's government is condemning the new sanctions "in the strongest possible terms, and they are threatening to redouble their efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction." Ripley said that in his 15 trips to North Korea, he hasn't seen any significant impact from previous sanctions. He said in his travels in the country, "the people who we are allowed to see" are "not starving or at least they don't appear to be." He said he's seen more cell phones, more products on store shelves, and more cars in the streets. Ripley added that the North's economy actually grew nearly four percent last year "despite this mounting economic pressure. But of course, sanctions do take a long time to kick in."

South Korea To Establish "Decapitation Unit." The [New York Times](#) (9/12, Choe) reports South Korea, seeking "to keep the North on edge and nervous about the consequences of further developing its nuclear arsenal," is establishing a brigade-size special forces "decapitation unit," the Spartan 3000, to target the North's leadership. The publicly announced move is part of an effort to deter Kim Jong-un from hostilities. Additionally, "the South's increasingly aggressive posture is meant to help push North Korea into accepting President Moon Jae-in's offer of talks." However, such a measure can be used preemptively and raise questions about whether South Korea and the United States "are laying the groundwork to kill or incapacitate Mr. Kim and his top aides before they can even order an attack." Additionally, "many say they doubt that the threat is enough to deter Mr. Kim" and that only possible "nuclear retaliation will suffice."

US, South Korea Conducting Live Fire Exercise. Meanwhile, on [Fox News' Special Report](#) 📺 (9/12), Greg Palkot reported that the US and South Korea are "prepar[ing] for the military option" against North Korea, with US marines joining South Korean forces in a live fire exercise. Palkot said the marines he spoke with "told us these exercises are purely defensive in nature." Palkot said that while those marines "don't pay much attention to the offense of words and actions of North Korea, many US officials do, no doubt a reason why the marines are out there."

Commonwealth Supports Universal Health Coverage For Pacific Islands.

[Matangi Tonga](#) (9/12) reports that "an agreement to achieve universal health coverage and address non-communicable diseases in the Pacific region was signed by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Pacific Community (SPC) on 8 September in Apia, Samoa." The Memorandum of Understanding "means both parties will work together using their resources and networks for health protection and promotion in the region."

Pacific Leadership Focussed On Improving Lives Of Islanders.

[Radio New Zealand](#) (9/11) reports that New Zealand's Foreign Minister Gerry Brownlee "says Pacific leaders are determined to develop the economic potential of each of their island countries." Brownlee "made this comment after attending the Pacific Islands Forum leaders summit in Apia, where he was standing in for New Zealand's prime minister Bill English." Brownlee said "that the Pacific Islands' leadership is well focussed on interacting with other countries to improve living standards for their own people."

US Geological Survey

Tribes Plan Protest To Change Yellowstone Valley, Peak Names.

The [AP](#) (9/12, Gruver) reports that "two tribes plan to demonstrate in favor of renaming a valley and a mountain in Yellowstone National Park, places they say are associated with one man who advocated slaughter of Native Americans and another who carried it out." Leaders of

the Blackfoot Confederacy and Great Sioux Nation will “gather Saturday at Yellowstone’s North Entrance near Gardiner, Montana, tribal officials said Tuesday.” The tribes aim “to change the name of Hayden Valley, a subalpine valley just north of Yellowstone Lake, to Buffalo Nations Valley.” They also seek “to change the name of Mount Doane, a 10,550-foot (3,216-meter) peak five miles east of the lake, to First People’s Mountain.” The U.S. Geological Survey’s Board on Geographic Names has “received several emails on the issue but no official proposal to change the names of Hayden Valley or Doane Mountain, Geological Survey officials said.”

Additional Reading.

- *Scientists Say Damage To Florida’s Coral Reef Has Made The State More Vulnerable To Storm Surges.* [Washington Post](#) (9/12, Harvey)
- *Using Data Analytics To Make Chicago’s Beach Water Safer.* [Government Technology](#) (9/12, Thornton)
- *‘Yikes, This Is Bad Press’: Internal Emails Show Federal Employees Asking Why A Climate Scientist’s Meeting With Mark Zuckerberg Was Canceled.* [Motherboard](#) (9/12, Emerson)
- *For Charleston, Chainsaws, Muck And Mosquitoes Come With The Sun In Irma’s Aftermath.* [The Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (9/12, Smith)
- *Farmers, Beekeepers Put Aside Differences To Aid Bees.* [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (9/12, Gunderson)
- *32 Animal Conservationists Nominated For 2018 Indianapolis Prize.* [WXIN-TV](#) Indianapolis (9/12)
- *Small Earthquake Recorded In NW Oklahoma.* [KWTW-TV](#) Oklahoma City (9/12)

Top National News

Trump To Travel To Florida Thursday To Survey Hurricane Damage.

[USA Today](#) (9/12, Jackson) reports the White House announced that President Trump will travel to Florida on Thursday to survey the damage from Hurricane Irma. Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters, “The president and the entire administration continue to monitor the situation in Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Florida, Texas and all areas affected by Hurricanes Irma and Harvey.” She also said that “details of the trip – including the exact location – are still being worked out.” [The Hill](#) (9/12, Fabian), however, reports that the FAA “posted a travel advisory Tuesday that covers Fort Myers, on Florida’s west coast,” which “typically issued before the president travels to a destination in the US.”

Jim Acosta said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) 📺 (9/12), “We’re hearing through our sources that it appears at this point that [the President] will be in the Ft. Myers area, that part of southwest Florida that was so hard hit. ... This will obviously be another test for the President when he arrives on the ground down there.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (9/12, lead story, 3:10, Holt) and the [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (9/12, lead story, 2:50, Mason) both briefly mentioned the President’s trip in their lead stories, and [Reuters](#) (9/12) also reports briefly on the announcement by Sanders. The White House also tells [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (9/12, story 4, 2:40, Holt) that the President “is looking into possibility, down the line, of making a trip [to the US Virgin Islands], but at a time when it won’t imperil those relief efforts.” The [New York Post](#) (9/12, Rachman, Fears) reports Virgin Islands Gov. Kenneth Mapp “said late Monday night” that Trump is planning to visit “within the next six or seven days.” On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (9/12, A1, Faiola) likewise reports on Mapp said in a telephone interview that “Trump...called him Monday and was due to survey the Virgin Islands damage this week. He would find, the governor said, an efficient response.”

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (9/12, Dupree) notes that “this would be the second trip in recent weeks to an area hit hard by a tropical system; Mr. Trump made two trips to the Gulf Coast, stopping in Texas and Louisiana, to get a look at damage and recovery efforts after Hurricane Harvey.”

The [New York Post](#) (9/12, Perez) similarly notes that the President, joined by First Lady Melania Trump, made two visits to Texas last month following Hurricane Harvey. “My concern continues for all impacted by the hurricanes,” the first lady tweeted Tuesday. “Will fly to

#Florida on Thursday w @potus to survey the damages from #HurricaneIrma." [Politico](#) (9/12, Nelson) reports that shortly after Sanders' announcement, Stephanie Grisham, a spokeswoman for Melania Trump, tweeted, "@flotus will travel to #Florida w POTUS on Thurs to survey aftermath of #HurricaneIrma."

Administration Earns "Bipartisan Praise." The [Washington Post](#) (9/12, Nakamura) reports that "facing off against a pair of historic storms," the Trump Administration "has earned bipartisan praise for coordinating the federal response with state and local officials, avoiding the type of catastrophe that marked the Bush administration's response to Katrina." While the pair of storms "wreaked widespread destruction that will take years and billions of dollars to recover from," the Post says that "for a Trump administration whose first eight months has been marked by internecine squabbles and a lack of legislative accomplishments, the initial competence in managing the storms represented a relief — and a rare chance to take credit." Overall, "emergency management veterans said, Trump and his team deserve acknowledgment for getting through the first phase of the crisis in a way that inspired public confidence."

Virgin Islands Delegate Stacey Plaskett said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/12) that Irma "hit us almost direct impact while it was a Category 5. ... So St. Thomas and St. John have been tremendously affected by it. ... But I have to say we've had great support from FEMA, from the Department of Defense. Our governor has been working very closely with the federal government, along with our local emergency management agencies, first to prepare for this and now in the aftermath."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/12, story 4, 2:40, Holt) reported that a Coast Guard cutter loaded up with supplies traveled to St. Thomas on Tuesday. Also on board, TSA officers "with the critical goal of getting airport back up and running."

Without mentioning the Trump Administration, the [New York Times](#) (9/12, A1, Fausset) reports on its front page that Hurricanes Harvey and Irma "may have revealed a largely unnoticed truth often buried under the news of unfolding tragedy: The United States appears to be improving in the way it responds to hurricanes, at a time when climate scientists say the threats from such storms, fueled by warming oceans, are growing only more dire." The Times says the 9/11 attacks "revolutionized the way American government coordinated disaster response," and Hurricane Katrina "stimulated a new and robust conversation about the power of natural disasters, and, more specifically, forced Americans to rethink the growing threats from floodwater."

Politico Analysis: Democrats Refrain From Using Storms To Criticize Trump's Climate Policies. [Politico](#) (9/12, Holden, Schor) reports Hurricanes Harvey and Irma have "handed Democrats their most potent opportunity in half a decade to hammer Republicans on climate change — with the massive storms giving tens of millions of Americans an up-front glimpse of the types of devastation the world faces if the warming planet spawns a surge in extreme weather. But instead, they're mostly keeping quiet." For now, Democrats "appear to be heeding the warnings of Trump appointees" like EPA Administrator Pruitt, who said last week that it's "very, very insensitive to the people in Florida" to talk about climate change now. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), "said he doesn't view the immediate aftermath of Harvey and Irma as heightening the sense of urgency to talk about global warming."

WPost Analysis: Trump's Praise Of Coast Guard Gives Service "Much-Needed" Boost. The [Washington Post](#) (9/12, Horton) reports that on Sunday, President Trump "singled out the Coast Guard for its suddenly high profile amid dueling catastrophic hurricanes, first during Harvey in Texas and now its early work providing assistance in the Florida region" in the wake of Hurricane Irma. The Post says Trump's "praise for the Coast Guard is a much-needed confidence boost for the service, which was roiled by early Trump administration proposals to cut \$1.3 billion from its budget to help pay for the planned wall on the US-Mexico border."

[USA Today](#) (9/12, Moniuszko), however, reports that during Late Night on Monday, host Seth Meyers "didn't hold back while making fun of President Trump's comments on the storm," which praised the Coast Guard's "branding." "You'd think applauding the bravery of emergency responders like the Coast Guard would be one of the easiest things a president could do — but even that, it seems, is too much to ask of Donald Trump," Myers said. "Branding? The Coast Guard doesn't need to improve their brand, they're the Coast Guard. They're not Arby's."

Daily Caller Analysis: Telethon Gets "Political." In a report that was the lead story on Drudge Report Tuesday night, the [Daily Caller](#) (9/12) reports Stevie Wonder kicked off Tuesday's "Hand In Hand" telethon to raise money for hurricane recovery "by getting political."

Wonder started the telethon, which was broadcast on every major network, by saying, "Anyone who believes that there's no such thing as global warming must be blind or unintelligent."

GOP Senators To Introduce "Last-Ditch" ACA Repeal Measure Wednesday.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/12, Ferrechio) reports that Sens. Lindsey Graham, Bill Cassidy, Dean Heller, and Ron Johnson "will introduce legislation Wednesday that would provide the Senate with a last-ditch opportunity to repeal and replace Obamacare before a Sept. 30 deadline." The measure "would provide the \$1.2 trillion for Obamacare's Medicaid expansion and tax credits to states in an attempt to get the states to develop their own healthcare programs."

However, [Politico](#) (9/12, Everett, Haberkorn) describes Republicans as "paralyzed" over how to deal with healthcare, as they are "caught between a bipartisan effort to shore up Obamacare and the opportunity to take one last swing at their years-long promise to repeal the law." While Graham, Cassidy, Heller and Johnson are "making a last gasp effort to repeal some of the law and replace it with a block grant program to the states," Sen. Lamar Alexander is trying to work with Sen. Patty Murray "on a bill to shore up the insurance markets, but the two health committee leaders are already at odds over including looser regulations with the package." Senate Majority Leader McConnell on Tuesday "refused to rule out votes on either a repeal or a fix of Obamacare, wary of picking sides among his caucus and aware that both proposals divide the Senate GOP."

Short: Trump May Not Tie Fate Of DREAMers To Wall Funding.

In what [Reuters](#) (9/12, Oliphant, Cowan) describes as "the latest signal that the Republican president wants to see if he can engage Democrats as well as Republicans in trying to enact his agenda," White House legislative director Marc Short told reporters at Christian Science Monitor [breakfast](#) Tuesday that President Trump "will not necessarily insist on including funding for a border wall with Mexico in legislation to address" the DACA program. Short said that while the President is still committed to his campaign promise to build the wall, "whether or not that is specifically part of a DACA package or a different legislative package, I am not going to prejudge here today. ... I don't want to bind ourselves into a construct that makes reaching a conclusion on DACA impossible." The [Washington Times](#) (9/12, Dinan) says Short "said the president is not backing off his determination to see barriers erected along the US-Mexico line, but said where that pops up in the legislative process remains to be seen."

[USA Today](#) (9/12, Przybyla) says the White House "appears to be clearing the way for a deal on protecting DREAMers, a move which could have bipartisan backing in Congress." Senate Minority Leader Schumer "said it's a 'very, very good thing and good progress' if Trump separates wall funding and DACA."

To [Breitbart](#) (9/12, Munro), Short "appeared to trade a quick DACA amnesty in exchange for a pro-business tax break – not a border wall or the wage-boosting, merit immigration RAISE Act – by declaring there is a 'new season of bipartisanship' after Trump reached out to Democrats following his decision to end Obama's amnesty."

[Politico](#) (9/12, Kim, Restuccia) says the President is "sending public and private signals that he is ready to deal on legislation protecting young undocumented immigrants and won't demand funding for a border wall." In addition to Short's comments, House Minority Leader Pelosi said Tuesday that "Trump told her in private that he would sign the Dream Act – a bill that would provide a path to permanent legal status for so-called Dreamers – and that he wants 'some border security.'" According to Pelosi, she and Schumer "pressed Trump on protection for Dreamers during the Oval Office meeting last week." Said Pelosi, "'You pass it, I'll sign it, I want some border stuff.' That's what he said. ... We always want border stuff, so that's not a problem. Especially with all the technologies." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/12, Mascaro, Bennett) reports that Pelosi said Democrats are seeking a vote on such legislation "as soon as this month."

Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (9/12, Alcindor) reports that while Republicans promised "quick work to shield young, undocumented immigrants from President Trump's decision to end their federal protections, lawmakers have tied themselves in knots trying to figure out how to proceed – with only six months to find a way forward." Rep. Mike Coffman "pulled back a petition he had initiated to force the House to take up legislation to protect so-called Dreamers," a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the matter "was canceled this week," and

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Rep. Bob Goodlatte "said he would not move on any such legislation before he addressed criminal alien gangs and border security."

Author: Many Claims About DREAMers Are "PR-Style Hooey." In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (9/12), author Mickey Kaus argues that "a lot of what's said about the dreamers is PR-style hooey." While many were, as former President Obama said, "brought to this country by their parents," the only requirement to "qualify as a protected dreamer under the various plans," is that one must "have entered the country illegally before age 16." Moreover, the claim that "dreamers are college-bound high school grads or military personnel" is "an exaggeration," as the only requirement "is that the dreamer enroll in a high school course or an 'alternative,' including online courses and English-as-a-second-language classes." Kaus adds that "dreamers are not especially highly skilled" and "their median hourly wage is only \$15.34, meaning that many are competing with hard-pressed lower-skilled Americans."

DHS Grants Waiver To Allow Replacement Of Border Fencing In California. The [Washington Times](#) (9/12, Dinan) reports that DHS on Tuesday issued a new waiver allowing the Administration "to breach environmental laws to replace border fencing in southern California – though officials said they still intend to try to comply with as much of the law as possible." The move "will help Customs and Border Protection (CBP) replace several miles of fencing near the Calexico port of entry." DHS said in a statement, "While the waiver eliminates DHS's obligation to comply with various laws with respect to covered projects, the Department remains committed to environmental stewardship with respect to these projects."

Ryan Told Private Dinner Only One Member Wants Border Wall. [Breitbart](#) (9/12, Mason) reports in an exclusive that House Speaker Ryan told a private dinner earlier this year that "he thought only 'one member' wanted to build a wall across the entire US-Mexico border," according to "multiple sources with direct knowledge of the comments," including former Rep. Tom Tancredo. Tancredo told Breitbart, "Ryan told a group of Republicans he met with...that only one person wants a wall. ... Of course he means only one person in his entourage and of the leadership. ... I know several people in Congress who want a wall and I know that there are millions of Americans who want a wall."

Media Analyses: Trump Seeking Deal With Democrats On Taxes.

The [Washington Times](#) (9/12, Miller) reports "President Trump is ready to" work with Democrats on tax reform, starting by hosting Democratic Sens. Heidi Heitkamp, Joe Donnelly, and Joe Manchin at a White House dinner. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said that the belief that Americans should have lower taxes "is a common goal that a lot of people want to come together on" and has, in the Times' words, "widespread agreement on both sides of the aisle." While Democrats and Republicans are "starkly divided" on tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans, Sanders said, "The president, I think, has demonstrated both in the business world and as president that he can make deals and that certainly is what he is planning to do."

[Politico](#) (9/12, Becker, Lorenzo) reports the dinner could be Trump's "biggest step yet in reaching out to Democrats on" taxes and "a wake-up call to Republicans." Manchin, Donnelly, and Heitkamp are willing to see if they can find "common ground on issues like retirement security and stopping the offshoring of jobs" and "see little political downside" in seeking a deal – all three are seeking reelection next year "in states the president won handily." In a statement, Donnelly said he wanted to work with Trump on using tax reform to prevent companies from moving jobs offshore. Heitkamp has said tax overhaul must protect working families and retirees. Manchin said he won't support a tax overhaul that adds to the federal debt and opposes passing it using reconciliation, but "broke with his party by saying he was open to cutting taxes for the wealthy and corporations in a revamped system."

The [New York Post](#) (9/12, Schultz, Moore) casts the dinner as a continuation of Trump's "push for bipartisanship." Sen. John Thune, who was also invited to the dinner, said the White House is realizing "it's always easier to get things done if you have bipartisan cooperation."

Asked on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (9/12) about President Trump's deal with Democratic leaders, Sen. Joni Ernst said, "I don't have anxiety over that. I think tax reform is a must do. And if we are in the chair steering that conversation, I'm okay with that." Ernst added, "I don't want to see another situation where we fail to get our policies across the finish line. If it takes a couple more moderate members of the Democratic Party joining us in this effort, I'm happy to have them along."

Rep. Jim Jordan said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/12), "The biggest focus for me is to make sure we do not function in a revenue-neutral world," which he called "Washington speak for the tax burden stays the same, we're going to shift around who pays what. ... Under that scenario what always happens is the connected class, with all the high paid lobbyists, they get a good deal and middle class families get the shaft. So let's just lower taxes for families and let's construct a tax code that's conducive for economic growth."

Dinner Invitation May Expose Divide Among Democrats. The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (9/12, Rassch) reports that while Sens. Heidi Heitkamp, Joe Donnelly, and Joe Manchin "are getting the open-door treatment from the Trump White House," the other seven Democratic senators up for reelection in states won by President Trump last year are not, revealing "a potential divide" among Democrats that "could have a big effect on policy debates" and the 2018 mid-term elections, as "Democrats who oppose a tax-reform bill that gets Democratic votes would be ripe 2018 campaign advertising targets in states won by Trump." The Post-Dispatch focuses on Sen. Claire McCaskill, who the President has cast as one of the "obstructionists" he said are thwarting his agenda."

Pence To Travel To Indiana To Woo Donnelly. [Politico](#) (9/12, Nussbaum) reports that, in a effort to court Democratic Sen. Joe Donnelly on tax reform, Vice President Pence will travel to Indiana twice in September and once in October to "turn up the heat on one of the most vulnerable Democrats heading into the 2018 midterms."

Divided GOP Presents Obstacles For Tax Overhaul. The [Washington Post](#) (9/12, Paletta, Sullivan, Snell) reports the White House and Republican leaders are seeking "more agreement upfront" on a tax overhaul "rather than risk late defections that doom the entire process," in contrast to their strategy on repealing the ACA. However, the efforts "are coming up against the same obstacle that has vexed President Trump all year: divided Republican lawmakers." Negotiators have been "forced...to consider scaling back their plan" even before presenting it to the rank and file. The White House and GOP congressional leaders haven't agreed on which tax breaks to eliminate to pay for tax cuts. While Trump advisers "are pressing to eliminate or reduce several popular tax deductions," such as interest on corporate debt, state and local income taxes, and the mortgage interest deduction, "Congressional leaders, for instance, believe the mortgage deduction is too popular to reduce, according to several officials familiar with the discussions."

GOP Urged To Create Tax Plan Helping Average Workers. Former chief of staff to Rep. Jack Kemp David M. Smick, in an op-ed in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/12), writes that the rules of reconciliation and fears of losing the votes of Republican outliers in the Senate mean that tax changes helping middle-class families have little chance of becoming long-term policy and the GOP will be tempted to seek modest changes to help corporations. However, business has done well since the financial crisis while wage earners have fared poorly, and Smick argues the GOP should seek robust tax-reform that will help middle-class families and create robust economic growth. In particular, Smick warns against allowing tax loopholes through pass throughs such as S-class corporations. Smick warns that if the GOP doesn't produce a tax plan that helps average workers, Trump may turn to Democrats to pass tax reform.

Median Household Income Up, Job Openings At Record High.

The Census Bureau said Tuesday that the median US household income increased 3.2 percent in 2016 to \$59,039, marking its second straight yearly increase "as the long-running economic recovery generated broad gains in prosperity," the [New York Times](#) (9/12, A1, Appelbaum) reports. For the American middle class, the [Washington Post](#) (9/12, Long) says, 2016 was the "highest-earning year ever." According to the Census Bureau, "the uptick in earnings occurred because so many people found full-time jobs – or better-paying jobs – last year." The Post adds that the poverty rate "also fell to 12.7 percent, the lowest since 2007, the year before the financial crisis hit." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/12, Leubsdorf) reports that the percentage of Americans lacking health insurance also declined from 9.1 percent in 2015 to 8.8 percent in 2016.

[USA Today](#) (9/12, Davidson) says the Census Bureau report "underscores that in the final two years of the Obama administration, low- and middle-income Americans made noticeable progress after struggling in the early years of the economic recovery." USA Today adds that during his 2016 campaign, President Trump argued that President Obama "had left working Americans behind" and "appealed to a base of blue-collar households with an agenda centered

on tax cuts and a get-tough trade policy aimed at reclaiming manufacturing jobs.” However, Trump “also has proposed cutting federal assistance for low-income households and rolling back the Affordable Care Act, which has provided health insurance to millions more Americans.”

[Reuters](#) (9/12), meanwhile, reports the monthly Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) released by the Labor Department Tuesday shows that job openings in the US reached a record high in July, “suggesting a slowdown in job growth in August was an aberration and that the labor market was strong before the recent disruptive hurricanes.” Job openings “increased by 54,000 to a seasonally adjusted 6.2 million,” their “highest level since the data series started in December 2000.” The report, says Reuters, “showed the labor market continued to tighten amid a scarcity of workers.”

Gallup Analyst: 80 Percent Of Americans “Satisfied” With Their Standard Of Living. The [Washington Times](#) (9/12, Harper) reports that Gallup analyst Jim Norman says that “80 percent of the nation say they are ‘satisfied’ with their current standard of living, and the pollster’s complex but revealing ‘well-being index’ now stands at 54, a record high.” According to Norman, “The percentage of Americans saying their standard of living is getting better has risen from 62 percent in 2016 to 64 percent so far this year, with a corresponding drop in the percentage saying it is getting worse, from 22 percent to 19 percent.”

Stocks Indexes Close At Record Highs. [Reuters](#) (9/12, Carew) reports that the major stock indexes posted record highs Tuesday. The Dow added 61.49 points to close at 22,118.86. The S&P 500 climbed 8.37 points to 2,496.48 and the Nasdaq ended the day 22.018 points higher at 6,454.28.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Senators In Search Of A Foreign Policy.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/13, Board) outlines a “range of problems facing the United States abroad,” and laments “a robust foreign policy led by a reinvigorated State Department that right now is suffering from presidential neglect, poor leadership and an absence of professional firepower in pivotal positions.” The Times says Sens. Lindsey Graham and Patrick Leahy, two lawmakers who “understand the urgency of helping” the State Department “recover from the damages inflicted by” President Trump, have “won unanimous committee approval for a \$51 billion bill for the State Department and foreign aid, about \$11 billion more than the administration requested.” Because there “is no sign that Mr. Trump and his team understand its core mission and its importance in a turbulent world,” the Times argues, “The rest of Congress should ensure that a strong version of it becomes law.”

“How Not To Sustain Prosperity.” Citing the 2016 Census report, a [New York Times](#) (9/13) editorial says “President Trump clearly inherited an economy on the upswing,” but “The question is whether his administration and the Republican-controlled Congress will sustain the momentum, or even reverse it.” The Times explains that despite the economy’s improvement, “broad prosperity remains elusive,” but “Republican policy makers seem determined to undo the progress that has been made.” For example, the Times says, the Administration “opposed Obama-era rules to update the nation’s overtime-pay protections for salaried workers, arguably the single most important policy option to raise middle-class pay,” and both Trump and the House Budget Committee “issued budget proposals for 2018 that call for deep spending cuts to safety-net programs.” These “giant steps backward,” the Times argues, would result in “greater income inequality” by shifting “income up the economic ladder.”

Washington Post.

“The Supreme Court Should Strike Down Wisconsin’s Gerrymandering.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/12) editorializes that the Supreme Court “has long kept a distance from arguments over gerrymandering,” but early next month, “the justices will hear a challenge to the 2011 redrawing of Wisconsin’s state legislative map by Republican lawmakers – a demonstration of how increasingly powerful technology allows partisan mapmakers to distort representation with ever-greater precision.” The Post adds that “using computer modeling, Wisconsin’s Republican-controlled legislature produced districts so unbalanced that, in 2012, Republicans won a supermajority in the state assembly even after losing the popular vote.” The Post argues that “while the question of just where to draw the line between acceptable and

unconstitutional partisan gerrymanders may be far from simple in many instances, Wisconsin's is an extreme case," and contends that "the judiciary cannot and should not be the sole solution to this crisis, but it has a valuable role to play in reassuring Americans that their votes matter."

"Tom Price Decides He Doesn't Want Medicare To Save Money." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/12) laments "the coming crisis" if Medicare is not reformed and says "waste scored a victory when Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price decided to stop or scale back 'bundled payment' experiments the Obama administration had begun." Under the program, hospitals would be given "a flat payment covering the duration of a procedure and recovery." Those "whose costs came in under the fee could keep the difference. Those whose did not would lose money." The Post argues that "Price should be expanding the programs he is trying to end."

"Metro Gets A Sudden Lifeline." A [Washington Post](#) (9/12) editorial.

Wall Street Journal.

"How Florida Saved Taxpayers" The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/12, Board) editorializes that reforms undertaken by taxpayer-backed Citizens Property Insurance Corp. have allowed it to cover all the claims from Hurricane Irma. Next, the Journal urges Florida to move on tort reform before the next big hurricane hits the state.

"The Al Franken Standard." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/12) writes that in light of Sen. Al Franken's recent announcement that he will refuse to return his blue slip on the nomination of a judge to the Eighth Circuit, Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley should suspend Sen. Franken's blue slip. The Journal contends that Grassley has full authority to suspend the blue slip tradition on a case-by-case should senators obstruct the nomination process.

"Joseph Rago And A Disease Called Sarcoidosis." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/12, Board) editorial.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Goldman Banks On Lending To Grow](#)

[Herculean Task As Crews Race To Restore Power](#)

[Apple Unveils New iPhone X To Fend Off Growing Competition](#)

[There's A Speeding Mass Of Space Junk Orbiting Earth, Smashing Into Things](#)

New York Times:

[Amid Chaos Of Storms, US Shows It Has Improved Its Response](#)

[South Korea Plans 'Decapitation Unit' To Try To Scare North's Leaders](#)

[White House Weighs Lowering Refugee Quota To Below 50,000](#)

[Median US Household Income Up For 2nd Straight Year](#)

[Edith Windsor, Whose Same-Sex Marriage Fight Led To Landmark Ruling, Dies At 88](#)

[De Blasio, Seeking Second Term, Wins An Easy Victory](#)

[After More Than 20 Years, Newark To Regain Control Of Its Schools](#)

Washington Post:

[Paychecks Hit High For Middle Class](#)

[Push For Tax Cuts Runs Into Old Problem: A Divided GOP](#)

[Apple Edges Closer To Fraught Age Of Facial Recognition Tech](#)

[42 Years Later, A Guilty Plea In Murder Of Md. Sisters](#)

[Florida Prepares For Days — And Maybe Weeks — Without Power](#)

[After Irma, A Former Gem In The US Virgin Islands Is Reduced To A Wasteland](#)

Financial Times:

[UK Cites Fox News As Hurdle To Rupert Murdoch's Sky Deal](#)

[Thousands Protest In France Against Macron's Labour Reforms](#)

[North Korea's Opaque Trading Network Keeps Economy Afloat](#)

[South Africa Businesses Under Pressure To Cut KPMG Ties](#)

Washington Times:

[Liberals With Eye On Presidency Rush To Support Sanders's 'Medicare For All' Bill](#)

[Trump Punishes Sanctuary Countries, Halts Visas For Nations That Refuse To Cooperate On Deportations](#)

[Islamic State's Rumiya Magazine Glosses Over Losses To Boost Terrorist Morale](#)

[Stunning Testimony: Voting Machines Can Be Hacked Without A Trace Of Evidence](#)

[Ken Burns Goes Back To War: Vietnam Documentary Tells Uneasy Story From All Sides](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Hurricane Irma-Florida Keys; Hurricane Irma-Utility Damage; Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; Hurricane Jose-Forecast; Hurricanes-Vehicle Damages; Baltimore Police Violence Trial; Steve Bannon Interview-Comey Firing; Maryland Abduction Cold Case; Apple-New Product Announcement; California-Street Vendor Police Bribery; Parking Lot Plane Crash; Edith Windsor Dies; Hurricane Irma-Recovery.

CBS: Hurricane Irma-Florida Keys; Hurricane Irma-Utility Damages; Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; Hurricane Harvey-Recovery; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Russia Meddling-Special Council Investigation; New Hampshire Police Violence Investigation; Edith Windsor Dies; Parking Lot Plane Crash; Apple-New Product Announcement.

NBC: Hurricane Irma-Florida Keys; Hurricane Irma-US Navy Rescue Missions; Hurricane Irma-Utility Damages; Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Edith Windsor Dies; Menopause-Hormone Therapy Safety; Parking Lot Plane Crash; Trump-Grand Child; Sleeping Together With Dog; Apple-New Product Announcement.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane Irma – 29 minutes, 20 seconds

Apple-New Product Announcement – 4 minutes, 50 seconds

Equifax-Cyber Security Breach – 4 minutes, 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Hurricane Irma; Baltimore Police Violence Trial; Philadelphia Amtrak Crash Trial.

CBS: Hurricane Irma; UN-North Korea Sanctions; Edith Windsor Dies; Apple-New Product Announcement; Wall Street News.

FOX: Trump-Tax Reform; Hurricane Irma; Amazon HQ-Boston.

NPR: Hurricane Irma; Macron-Caribbean Aid Pledge; Sen. Sanders-Healthcare Bill; Trump-Tax Reform; Seattle Mayor Resigns.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with the Domestic Policy Council; meets with Senator Tim Scott; participates in a bipartisan meeting.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President to meet with the Domestic Policy Council; joins Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats and Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Robert Cardillo to tour the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and participate in a series of briefings.

US Senate: 10:00 AM POSTPONED: Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on long-term impacts of immigration – POSTPONED: Hearing on 'The Long-term Impact of Immigration: Exploring Reforms to our Nation's Guest Worker Programs and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, and their Potential Impact on the American Economy and Local Communities', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Border, Immigration, and Trade Michael Dougherty; Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration Senior Policy Advisor John Martin; Economic Policy Institute Director of Immigration Law and Policy Research Daniel Costa; Howard University Department of Political Science Associate Professor Dr Ron Hira; Center for Immigration Studies Director of Policy Studies Jessica Vaughan; AFL-CIO Department for Professional Employees President Paul Almeida; U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Senior Vice President for Labor, Immigration and Employee Benefits Randel Johnson; and

American Action Forum President Dr Douglas Holtz-Eakin Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 226, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee latest hearing on OMB memo on the federal workforce – Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management Subcommittee hearing on ‘Examining OMB’s Memorandum on the Federal Workforce, Part II: Expert Views on OMB’s Ongoing Government-wide Reorganization’, with testimony from Grant Thornton Public Sector Principal Robert Shea; Heritage Foundation Research Fellow Rachel Greszler; Cato Institute Director of Tax Policy Studies Christopher Edwards; and National Treasury Employees Union National President Tony Reardon Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenRonJohnson>

10:00 AM Senate Environment Committee hearing on CCUS – Hearing on ‘Expanding and Accelerating the Deployment and Use of Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Sequestration’, with testimony from Office of the Wyoming Governor Policy Advisor Matthew Fry; NRG Energy Vice President of Development David Greeson; and Energy Futures Initiative Distinguished Associate Dr S. Julio Friedmann Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 406, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce Committee hearing on automated trucks – Hearing on ‘Transportation Innovation: Automated Trucks and Our Nation’s Highways’, with testimony from Colorado State Patrol Chief Scott Hernandez; Navistar CEO Troy Clarke; International Brotherhood of Teamsters General Secretary-Treasurer Ken Hall; National Safety Council President and CEO Deborah Hersman; and American Trucking Associations President and CEO Chris Spear Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

11:30 AM GOP Sen. James Lankford’s public schedule – Republican Sen. James Lankford meets with Archbishop of Oklahoma City Paul Coakley (11:30 AM CDT); and accepts National Religious Broadcasters’ ‘Faith and Freedom Award’, Willard Hotel, 1401 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC (5:30 PM CDT) Location: Washington, DC <http://www.lankford.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenatorLankford>

11:30 AM Bicameral GOP and new USFS chief ‘press for urgent forest management reforms’ – Senate Western Caucus Chairman Steve Daines and Congressional Western Caucus Chairman Paul Gosar ‘press for urgent forest management reforms’ via media availability with new U.S. Forest Service Chief Tony Tooke, and Republican Rep. Bruce Westerman Location: Senate Swamp, Washington, DC <http://www.daines.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SteveDaines>

12:00 PM AACR release ‘Cancer Progress’ report at Congressional briefing – American Association for Cancer Research host Congressional briefing to unveil the AACR Cancer Progress Report 2017, which ‘showcases progress against cancer from the past year, and underscores the importance of robust, sustained, and predictable growth in funding for the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’. Speakers include AACR President Michael Caligiuri and CEO Margaret Foti, University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine Department of Translational Genomics Chair John Carpten, and cancer survivors Carrie Best and Terri Woodhull * Briefing is held in cooperation with Democratic Sen. Chris Van Hollen Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 485, Washington, DC <http://www.aacr.org> <https://twitter.com/aacr>

2:00 PM Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders introduces Medicare for All bill – Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders and Senate co-sponsors announce the introduction of the Medicare for All Act of 2017 Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC sanders.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/SenSanders>

2:30 PM Senate Indian Affairs Committee Business Meeting, oversight hearing on GAO recommendations on high-risk programs – Business Meeting, to consider ‘H.R. 984, Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2017’, ‘S. 1285, Oregon Tribal Economic Development Act’, and ‘S. 1333, Tribal HUD-VASH Act of 2017’ * Immediately followed by oversight hearing on ‘High Risk Indian Programs: Progress and Efforts in Addressing GAO’s Recommendations’ Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 628, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

5:30 PM Dem Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand hosts annual New York Farm Day on Capitol Hill – Democratic Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand hosts 16th annual New York Farm Day on Capitol Hill, bringing together over 40 farmers and producers from every corner of New York State. Event

includes a meeting with the Agriculture working group, and a reception in the evening Location: 325 Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://gillibrand.senate.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SenGillibrand>

Senate Democratic Rural Summit, titled 'A Better Deal for Rural America' Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 902, Washington, DC <http://www.democrats.senate.gov>
<https://twitter.com/SenateDems>

US House: 10:00 AM POSTPONED – House Foreign Affairs subcommittees joint hearing on budget proposal for AfPak – Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee and Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee joint hearing on 'The President's FY 2018 Budget Request for Afghanistan and Pakistan', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Alice Wells; and USAID Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs Administrator's Assistant Gregory Huger Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

10:00 AM House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Markup. – Markup: H.R. 3731 Secret Service Recruitment and Retention Act of 2017; H.R. 3739 Presidential Allowance Modernization Act of 2017; H.R. 1701 Eliminating Government-funded Oil-painting Act; H.R. 3019 Promoting Value Based Procurement Act of 2017; H.R. 3737 Social Media Use in Clearance Investigations Act of 2017; H.R. 3071 Federal Acquisition Savings Act of 2017; and H.R. 2331 Connected Government Act. H.R. 294 To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2700 Location: 2154 Rayburn. <http://oversight.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on North Korea – Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee hearing on 'A Legislative Proposal to Impede North Korea's Access to Finance', with testimony from Institute for Science and International Security President David Albright; Foundation for Defense of Democracies Senior Fellow Anthony Ruggiero; Heritage Foundation Senior Fellow for Northeast Asia Bruce Klingner; and Center for a New American Security Energy, Economics, and Security Program Director Elizabeth Rosenberg Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Workforce subcommittees joint hearing on the Save Local Business Act – Workforce Protections Subcommittee and Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee joint hearing on 'H.R. 3441, Save Local Business Act', with testimony from Proskauer Rose partner Zachary Fasman; Twin City T.J.'s President Tamra Kennedy (on behalf of International Franchise Association); MacDonald Companies CEO Granger MacDonald (on behalf of National Association of Home Builders); and Altshuler Berzon partner Michael Rubin Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on 'Big Relief for Small Business' – Environment Subcommittee hearing on 'Big Relief for Small Business: Legislation Reducing Regulatory Burdens on Small Manufacturers and Other Job Creators', with testimony from Penn State College of Medicine Professor Dr Rebecca Bascom (on behalf of American Thoracic Society); Olympus Power Director of Environmental Affairs Vincent Brisini; Hardy Manufacturing Company President and owner Frank Moore; Sonoma Raceway President and General Manager Steve Page; Endicott Clay Products President and CEO Ryan Parker; and AT Strategies Principal Alexandra Teitz (on behalf of Sierra Club) Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on economic development stakeholders' perspectives – Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee hearing on 'Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Economic Development Stakeholders' Perspectives', with testimony from SEDA-Council of Governments Assistant Executive Director Bill Seigel; Land of Sky Regional Council Executive Director Justin Hembree; Great Falls Development Authority President and CEO Brett Doney; Hartford Mutual Insurance Company President and CEO Steve Linkous; and Georgetown Climate Center Adaption Program Manager Jessica Grannis Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM House Ways and Means Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 3726, Stark Administrative Simplification Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3727, To amend title XVIII of the

Social Security Act to include additional telehealth services for purposes of MA organization bids, and for other purposes', 'H.R. 3729, Comprehensive Operations, Sustainability, and Transport Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2824, Increasing Opportunity through Evidence-Based Home Visiting Act', and 'H.R. 2792, Control Unlawful Fugitive Felons Act of 2017' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing concludes – Markup hearing concludes on 'H.R. 210, Native American Energy Act', 'H.R. 424, Gray Wolf State Management Act of 2017', 'H.R. 717, Listing Reform Act', 'H.R. 1274, State, Tribal and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act', 'H.R. 2603, Saving America's Endangered Species Act' ('SAVES Act'), 'H.R. 3131, Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act', and 'H.R. 3668, Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act' ('SHARE Act') * Began yesterday Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on suspicious activity reporting – Counterterrorism and Intelligence Subcommittee hearing on 'Sixteen Years After 9/11: Assessing Suspicious Activity Reporting Efforts', with testimony from Acting Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence Operations Robin Taylor; New Jersey State Police Superintendent Rick Fuentes; Boston Police Commissioner Bill Evans; and Northern Virginia Regional Intelligence Center Deputy Director Joseph Flynn Location: HVC 210, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:00 AM House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Business Meeting Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:15 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on modernizing FDA regulation of over-the-counter drugs – Health Subcommittee hearing on 'Modernizing FDA's Regulation of Over-the-Counter Drugs', with testimony from American Academy of Pediatrics Chair Bridgette Jones; Consumer Health Products Association President and CEO Scott Melville; Pew Charitable Trusts Health Care Products Project Director Kirsten Moore; Pharma and Biopharma Outsourcing Association President Gil Roth; Holland and Knight partner Michael Werner (on behalf of Public Access to SunScreens Coalition); and Food and Drug Administration Center for Drug Evaluation and Research Director Dr Janet Woodcock Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:30 AM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee legislative hearing – Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee legislative hearing, on legislation including a draft bill entitled 'Veterans Fair Debt Notice Act of 2017' Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

11:00 AM House Small Business Committee hearing on the HUBZone program – Hearing on 'Serving Small Businesses: Examining the Effectiveness of HUBZone Reforms', with testimony from GCC Technologies co-owner, Executive Vice President, and COO Shirley Bailey (on behalf of HUBZone Contractors National Council); attorney at law Robert Schuerger II; TDEC President Dennis DuFour; and Wovenware COO and co-founder Carlos Melendez Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

11:30 AM Bicameral GOP and new USFS chief 'press for urgent forest management reforms' – Senate Western Caucus Chairman Steve Daines and Congressional Western Caucus Chairman Paul Gosar 'press for urgent forest management reforms' via media availability with new U.S. Forest Service Chief Tony Tooke, and Republican Rep. Bruce Westerman Location: Senate Swamp, Washington, DC <http://www.daines.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SteveDaines>

12:00 PM House expected to continue debate on omnibus govt funding bill – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include continued consideration of 'H.R. 3354 – Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act, 2018', and beginning consideration of 'H.R. 3697 – Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act' * Administration has said it supports passage of 'H.R. 3354' and that President Donald Trump would sign it if it reached his desk * Last week, Congress passed a short-term continuing resolution to extend govt funding through early December Location: Washington, DC

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

1:00 PM House Commerce subcommittee markup hearing – Health Subcommittee markup hearing on ‘H.R. 1148, Furthering Access to Stroke Telemedicine (FAST) Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 2465, Steve Gleason Enduring Voices Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 2557, Prostate Cancer Misdiagnosis Elimination Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 3120, to reduce the volume of future electronic health record-related significant hardship requests’, ‘H.R. 3245, Medicare Civil and Criminal Penalties Act’, ‘H.R. 3263, to extend the Medicare Independence at Home Medical Practice Demonstration program’, and ‘H.R. 3271, Protecting Access to Diabetes Supplies Act of 2017’ Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

2:00 PM Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on ‘Multi-Sector Partnerships to Combat Human Trafficking’ – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on ‘Multi-Sector Partnerships to Combat Human Trafficking’, with witnesses – State Department Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Acting Deputy Director Laura Rundlet, Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition Director of Public Policy Carlos Busquets, International Justice Mission Policy Director Tim Gehring, and Human Rights First Anti-Trafficking Campaign Senior Associate Annick Febrey – presenting testimony on their experiences and sharing recommendations on how best to strengthen efforts against trafficking by fostering multi-sectoral initiatives Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2255, Washington, DC <http://tlhrc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/TLHRCCommission>

2:00 PM Oversight Subcommittee hearing on ‘IRS Reform: Resolving Taxpayer Disputes’ Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Venezuela – Western Hemisphere Subcommittee hearing on ‘The Venezuela Crisis: The Malicious Influence of State and Criminal Actors’, with testimony from Center for Strategic and International Studies Americas Program Senior Associate Dr R. Evan Ellis; Caracas Chronicles Executive Editor Francisco Toro; and Stanford University Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies Center for International Security and Cooperation Senior Research Scholar and Associate Director for Research Dr Harold Trinkunas Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2200, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Liberia – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on ‘The Future of Democracy and Governance in Liberia’, with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Donald Yamamoto; USAID Acting Assistant Administrator for Africa Cheryl Anderson; National Endowment for Democracy Senior Director of Africa Programs Dave Peterson; Weeks Educational and Social Advocacy Project founder and Executive Director Aurelia Curtis; International Foundation for Electoral Systems Regional Director for Africa Rushdi Nackerdien; and National Democratic Institute Senior Associate and Regional Director for Central and West Africa Dr Christopher Fomunyoh Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

Other: 8:00 AM Republican Sen. Joni Ernst hosts ‘Coffee with Joni’ for Iowans in Washington, DC Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 111, Washington, DC www.ernst.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/senjoniernst>

8:30 AM GOP Sen. Rob Portman and Dem Rep. Paul Tonko discuss strategies to tackle opioid epidemic at The Hill event – The Hill hosts ‘America’s Opioid Epidemic: Search for Solutions’, with Republican Sen. Rob Portman and Democratic Rep. Paul Tonko discussing national and local strategies to tackle the nation’s opioid epidemic. Other speakers include Association of State and Territorial Health Officials Executive Director Michael Fraser, Shatterproof Founder and CEO Gary Mendell, Johns Hopkins Broadway Center for Addiction Director Kenneth Stoller, Victory Bay Recovery Center Outreach Coordinator Vanessa Vitolo and National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Nora Volkow Location: AJAX, 1011 4th St NW, Washington, DC thehill.com <https://twitter.com/TheHillEvents> #OpioidSolution.

9:00 AM Rory Staunton Foundation National Forum on Sepsis – Rory Staunton Foundation Fourth National Forum on Sepsis, ‘Keeping our Children Safe from Sepsis’, including keynote from Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer Location: American Federation of Teachers, 555 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC www.rorystauntonfoundationforsepsis.org

10:30 AM Dem Rep. Ro Khanna discusses proposed bill to reform H-1B and L-1 visas at

Atlantic Council – Atlantic Council South Asia Center hosts a discussion with Democratic Rep. Ro Khanna, who addresses his proposed bill centered on reforming the H-1B and L-1 visas for high-skilled workers Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th Street Northwest, Washington, DC <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/> <https://twitter.com/ACSouthAsia> #ACSouthAsia

10:45 AM House Speaker Paul Ryan participates in the AP Newsmaker Interview Series to discuss tax reform Location: AP Bureau, 1100 13th St NW Washington, DC www.speaker.gov <https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan>

12:00 PM Tax Foundation hosts GOP Sen. Ted Cruz for a discussion on tax reform – Tax Foundation hosts 'A Path to Consensus Tax Reform: An Address From Senator Ted Cruz With Panel Discussion', with Republican Sen. Ted Cruz delivering a keynote address outlining his path forward for achieving consensus tax reform. Speech followed by a panel discussion with Tax Policy Center Director Mark Mazur, American Action Forum Director of Fiscal Policy Gordon Gray, and Tax Foundation Director of Federal Projects Kyle Pomerleau * Sen. Cruz's Twitter account recently 'liked' an explicit video. The 'like' was in place for approximately 40 minutes before being removed Location: Hillsdale College Kirby Center, 227 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC <http://www.taxfoundation.org/> <https://twitter.com/taxfoundation>

12:00 PM 'National Save the U.S. EPA Day' press conference at NPC – Save the U.S. EPA holds 'National Save the U.S. EPA Day' press conference at the National Press Club, with speakers including Democratic Rep. Debbie Dingell, Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign Director Mary Anne Hitt, National Wildlife Federation President and CEO Collin O'Mara, AFGE Council 238 President John O'Grady and American Federation of Government Employees Chief of Staff Brian DeWyngaert Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC savetheusepa.org <https://twitter.com/SavetheUSEPA>

4:30 PM CSIS discussion on 'Hurricane Irma: The Aftermath and Caribbean Disaster Response' – 'Hurricane Irma: The Aftermath and Caribbean Disaster Response' Center for Strategic and International Studies discussion on the consequences of Hurricane Irma and how the international community can best respond. Speakers include Antigua and Barbuda Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Sir Ronald Sanders, Netherlands Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Henne Schuwer, and Caribbean Central American Action Executive Director Sally Yearwood Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

6:00 PM GW hosts town hall discussion on the state of politics and media in 2017 – George Washington University hosts town hall discussion on the state of politics and media in 2017, about 'the 'state of the union in this era of fake news, what the future holds, and what role the media plays'. Topics include the Trump administration's decisions on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, North Korea, and other major issues. Speakers include Democratic Rep. Brendan Boyle, communication strategist Howard Opinsky, Brilliant Corners Research & Strategies President Cornell Belcher, The Communication Center Executive Communication Coach Jeffrey Blount, NPR national political correspondent Mara Liasson, and CNN European politics reporter Hadas Gold Location: George Washington University School of Media and Public Affairs, Washington, DC www.gwu.edu <https://twitter.com/GWtweets>

Airlines for America Annual Commercial Aviation Industry Summit – Airlines for America (A4A) Annual Commercial Aviation Industry Summit. Speakers include Republican Rep. Paul Mitchell, American Airlines Chairman and CEO Doug Parker, Alaska Airlines President and CEO Brad Tilden, Southwest Airlines Chairman and CEO Gary Kelly, former Secretary of Transportation James Burnley, and UPS Director of Safety, Global Aviation Strategy and Public Policy Capt. Houston Mills Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC <http://summit.airlines.org/> <https://twitter.com/AirlinesDotOrg> #A4ASummit

NAFCU Congressional Caucus concludes – NAFCU Congressional Caucus concludes. Speakers today include U.S. Rep. Tom Emmer, Republican Sens. Tom Cotton Location: Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC <http://www.nafcu.org> <https://twitter.com/NAFCU> #NAFCUCaucus

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Hillary Clinton's new book came out today. It is called 'What Happened.' That's not a joke. That's what it is called. This is why Hillary lost. A real President doesn't write

books. They write tweets."

James Corden: "Texas Senator Ted Cruz is coming under fire because, late last night, his official Twitter account liked a pornographic video. So, if you ever meet Ted Cruz on the campaign trail, you might want to think twice before shaking that hand."

Trevor Noah: "Everyone is freaking out about this and calling it a possible scandal all because a politician may have watched porn. Come on, people. No big deal. Everyone watches porn. Alright? It's part of being a norm human being, which is exactly why we know Ted Cruz didn't do it."

Jimmy Fallon: "I guess Hillary Clinton's book 'What Happened' came out today, and I heard that it's almost 500 pages long. Unfortunately, the only person with enough time to read it is Hillary Clinton."

Seth Meyers: "Hillary Clinton's new book titled 'What Happened' was released today, as was Putin's new book 'Me.'"

Seth Meyers: "President Trump will reportedly visit China in November. 'Oh, can you pick up my handbags?' asked Ivanka."

Conan O'Brien: "On Twitter last night, someone discovered that Republican Senator Ted Cruz liked a tweet from a porn account. As you can imagine, that was one very embarrassing day for that porn account."

Conan O'Brien: "The new iPhone will be able to track stair climbing and mountain hiking. The big question is, will it have any features for Americans?"

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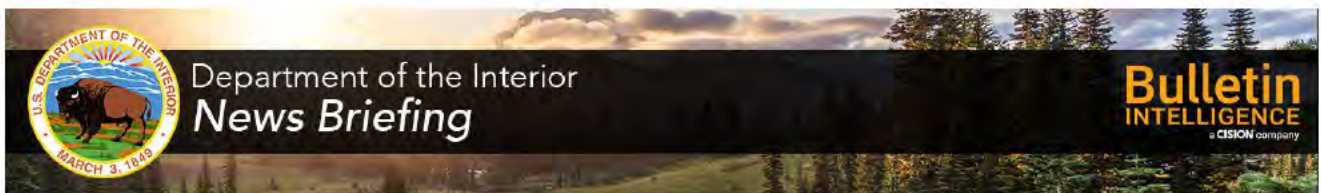
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September 12 -- Greenwire is ready

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

From: "E&E News" <ealerts@eenews.net>
Sent: Tue Sep 12 2017 11:31:42 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: September 12 -- Greenwire is ready

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DOI In The News

Republicans Making Progress On Longtime Goal For More Local Control Of Federal Lands.

[USA Today](#) (8/10, Sullivan) reports that nearly "eight months into an all-Republican-led effort, it's clear that shift is under way" in the way "the more than 25% of the country that is owned by the federal government is managed." USA Today describes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "views on the evolving Republican House public lands strategy" as "complicated," saying he "says he wants to be a good steward and opposes turning over federal land to local or state governments or private interests." Although "raising revenue from public lands seems in tune with the goals of House Republicans such as Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop of Utah, Zinke is not entirely on board with all their agenda." Zinke, USA Today adds, "is steeped in the history of his department but also devoted to the mission to make the country's natural resources pay."

Voters Don't Trust Zinke To Decide On National Monuments. [Morning Consult](#) (8/10, Gheorghiu) reports that "a recent Morning Consult/POLITICO poll showed voters don't trust Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and President Donald Trump to make decisions" on national monuments. The article says that "multiple local groups and representatives have opposed the review" of national monuments and "called the process arbitrary and lacking in transparency, saying it would negatively impact their tourist economies." According to the article, "when it comes to public lands, voters across the country – including Americans in Western states that contain most of the monuments under review – place more trust in state residents and local leaders." Heather Swift, Interior Department spokeswoman, said in an email on Thursday, "The poll shows exactly what the Trump Administration has argued all along: local stakeholders should have more of a say in how federal lands in their communities are managed."

27 National Monuments Are Under Review. Here Are Five To Watch. The [New York Times](#) (8/11, FRIEDMAN, POPOVICH, McCANN) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "reviewing 27 national monuments to determine if previous administrations exceeded their authority in setting aside craggy vistas, ancient cliff dwellings and other large tracts of land for protection." However, "not all of the monuments are truly in the administration's cross hairs, and Mr. Zinke has already declared some of them safe from changes." The article highlights five monuments to watch: Grand Staircase-Escalante, Bears Ears, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, Katahdin Woods and Waters, and Papahānaumokuākea.

DOI Spent Thousands On Personal Travel.

The [Daily Caller](#) (8/10, Pearce) reports that Interior Department employees "spent nearly \$40,000 in 2015 and 2016 on inappropriate travel costs," according to an independent audit. The report "faulted the agency's controls, saying they 'weren't effective in ensuring that all non-payroll costs were appropriate and complied with the Act's administrative requirements.'" The audit focused on the Interior Department's implementation of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act.

Western Values Project Drills Into David Bernhardt At Interior.

The [Denver Westword](#) (8/10, Stringer) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has "come under fire for stacking his department, which is charged with balancing development and conservation on federal land, with staffers that have ties to the oil and gas industry – including Zinke's deputy, David Bernhardt." The Western Values Project, "a conservation group, is digging deep to track the potential conflicts of interest in Zinke's department while exploring their potential effects on fossil-fuel drilling in Colorado." WVP head Chris Saeger is raising concerns about "a department headed by former lobbyists, industry advocates and corporate boardmembers that is prioritizing fossil-fuel development at the cost of conservation, the public and the outdoor industry."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Complaint Filed In Federal Court In Washington D.C. Against U.S. Dept. Of Interior Over Proposed Elk Grove Casino.

[Elk Grove News \(CA\)](#) (8/10) reports that an amended complaint has been filed "in U.S. District Court in Washington D.C. by Stand Up For California (SUFC) against the U.S. Department of the Interior challenging recent decisions that have helped the Wilton Rancheria's pursuit of a \$400 million casino to be located in Elk Grove City limits." The complaint, "which was filed on behalf of casino watchdog group SUFC and three Elk Grove residents, continues to challenge the validity of the decision to place the 36-acre parcel located at the site of the unfinished Outlets Collection at Elk Grove shopping center into federal trust. Placement of the parcel into federal trust is required for any Indian casino on non-tribal land." At the center of the argument is "that the decision was made in violation of 1998 Federal Vacancies Reform Act. SUFC contends the decision made by Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, Lawrence Roberts, lacked the authority under the Vacancies Reform Act (VRA)."

Casino Is Win For Elk Grove, Wilton Rancheria Tribe. In an op-ed for the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/10, Cooper), California State Assemblyman Jim Cooper supports the tribe's plans to build a resort and casino. He has introduced Assembly Bill 1606, which will ratify a tribal gaming compact by the Legislature

Bureau Of Land Management

Judge Scolds Defendant, Orders Him Off Stand.

The [Arizona Republic](#) (8/10, Anglen) reports that "a Las Vegas courtroom erupted in drama Thursday when a federal judge ordered a defendant in the Bundy Ranch standoff trial to get off the stand, struck his testimony, dismissed jurors and abruptly left the bench." According to the article, "jurors looked stunned as Eric Parker returned to the defense table with his head hung and then buried his face in his hands, according to lawyers in the case."

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/10, Ferrara) reports that Eric Parker was "photographed in April 2014 pointing a long gun through a barrier on an Interstate 15 overpass that overlooked a sandy ditch where protesters had gathered to face Bureau of Land Management agents." The article says that "before the start of the second trial for Parker, a married father of two, and three other men, U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro barred the defense from referencing constitutional rights to freely assemble and to bear arms." Navarro "also prohibited mention of alleged misconduct or excessive force by law enforcement."

BLM Expects Large Rangeland Seed Buy.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (8/10, O'Connell) reports that "Ken Koompin has found raising grass seed for dryland range is risky and challenging, and the market for the niche crop is exceedingly volatile." However, "officials with the Bureau of Land Management — a major buyer that uses large quantities of locally adapted seed varieties for its reclamation efforts — say their seed inventories are running low amid a bad wildfire season." BLM officials will "solicit bids from seed suppliers on Aug. 14 to replenish inventories at their two major seed warehouses, located in Boise and Ely, Nev."

Reward Offered As Cattle Killers Strike Again In Eddy County.

The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (8/10, Hedden) reports that "a \$21,000 reward was announced Wednesday by the Eddy County Sheriff's Office" as "reports of cattle being shot on local ranches increase." The article notes that "People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) donated \$10,000, with the Bureau of Land Management and the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association kicking in \$5,000 each." CrimeStoppers of Eddy County "offered the additional \$1,000."

America's Mustangs: Let's Have Facts, Not "Fake News".

In a piece for the [Huffington Post](#) (8/10, Roy), Suzanne Roy, Executive Director of the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign, criticizes proposals "to 'solve' our nation's wild

horse management issue with radical, long-abandoned ideas, such as killing thousands of animals or shipping them to foreign slaughterhouses." Roy says "it's time for stakeholders to come to the table to implement win-win solutions." She supports "pursuing public/private partnerships to implement fertility control," "applying real science to re-evaluate BLM's arbitrary population limits," "compensating ranchers for reduced use of public grazing allotments in herd management areas, which is far cheaper than rounding up, removing and stockpiling wild horses," and "reducing costs by moving horses from holding pens to holding pastures that cost almost three times less, and returning captured mustangs to public lands where they can live out their lives in non-breeding wild herds requiring no taxpayer money for feed."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Opponents Press Governor To Comment On Lease Plan.

The [Coastal Observer \(SC\)](#) (8/10, Best) reports that "opponents of oil and gas drilling off the South Carolina coast are making a push for public comments before next week's deadline on a new federal leasing plan." According to the article, "more than 100 residents came to the Waccamaw Library this week to hear a presentation from Stop Offshore Drilling in the Atlantic (SODA)."

[South Strand News \(SC\)](#) (8/11, Stairs) reports that Peg Howell, "a Pawleys Island resident and former oil drilling engineer," told residents that "there are thousands of reasons to oppose offshore drilling for oil and natural gas in the Atlantic Ocean, but three key reasons are: it is bad for the coastal economy, it is not needed to make America energy independent and it is a forever decision that will harm the natural environment far into the future." Howell said at the forum, "The most important thing you can do right now is to get a comment in during BOEM's comment period. It is also important to let our elected officials know that you oppose offshore drilling and seismic testing for oil and to urge them to submit a comment, too."

Meet The Man Who Wants To Bring Offshore Oil And Gas Exploration To North Carolina.

The [Wilmington \(NC\) Port City Daily](#) (8/10, Mannion) reports that "as the debate over offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean continues, the organization that wants to bring the oil and natural gas industry to North Carolina is urging people not to rush to judgement on what its local representative said is a safe outlet to secure the country's future energy." While the North Carolina Petroleum Council "eventually hopes to open the opportunity for offshore drilling and refining of oil and natural gas in the Atlantic Ocean," Executive Director David "said that is at least eight to 10 years away." He said that "concerned residents...need to use that time to become informed on the subject at hand."

Oil Companies Position For Emerging Offshore Wind Sector.

[Offshore Magazine](#) (8/10) reports oil and gas companies are looking to take advantage of potential growth in US offshore wind projects. Statoil is looking to leverage its experience in offshore oil and gas operations to advance its New Energy Solutions standalone unit, which will focus on offshore wind, solar and energy storage. DONG sold off its offshore oil and gas assets over the past 10 years to focus almost exclusively on wind power. The company now holds the greatest market share of global installed offshore wind capacity.

[E&E Publishing](#) (8/10, Klump) also provided coverage.

Bureau Of Reclamation

Southern Californian Could See A Water Rate Hike To Pay For Brown's Tunnels.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/10, Sabalow) reports that "more than 6 million Southern Californian households could pay \$3 more a month to help cover the costs of Gov. Jerry Brown's controversial plan to bore two huge tunnels under the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta." However, "that's cheaper than the \$5 a month that households in the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's service area were expected to pay under projections released four years ago, Jeffrey Kightlinger, the water district's general manager, said Thursday." Kightlinger said in an announcement, "Given the importance of this project to maintain water

supply reliability for the region, these are encouraging numbers. It also goes to show the ability of the Southland region to fund major infrastructure projects by pooling our resources.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Feds Put Off Decision On Texas Hornshell’s Status.

The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (8/11, Chacón) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “delayed a decision Thursday on whether to add the last remaining native mussel in New Mexico to the endangered species list, raising concerns about its future amid efforts in Congress to reform the Endangered Species Act.” The FWS “announced it was delaying a listing decision on the Texas hornshell for six months and would reopen the comment period for an additional 30 days.”

Divers Find No Adult Invasive Mussels In Montana Reservoir.

The [AP](#) (8/10) reports that “U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services scuba divers searched for three days but did not find any indication of adult aquatic invasive mussels on the face of Tiber Dam in north-central Montana.” The divers were “brought in this week because a juvenile mussel was found in a water sample taken from Tiber Reservoir near Chester last fall.” That discovery and “a suspect sample taken from Canyon Ferry Reservoir near Townsend led Montana to increase its efforts to prevent the possible spread of the shellfish that can clog water pipes and displace native species.”

Wis. Bear Hunters Who Use Dogs Under Attack By Wolf Advocates.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/10, Marcotty) reports that “a national watchdog group says Wisconsin bear hunters are harassing wolves with their dog packs — then claiming state compensation when their hounds are killed — and wants the federal government to launch a criminal investigation.” In a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an attorney for Professional Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) said that “the practice amounts to ‘a state-sanctioned financial subsidy for hunters engaged in the criminal harassment’ of wolves.” Adam Carlesco, staff counsel for PEER, said, “It is harassment of an endangered species, committed by a relatively small number of hunters.”

Most Plovers Have Fledged, Much Of Refuge Beach Reopens.

The [North Andover \(MA\) Eagle Tribune](#) (8/10, Lodge) reports that “much of the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge beach, which had been closed since April to protect nesting piping plovers, reopened on Friday.” The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service “annually closes its six miles of refuge beach and parking lots 2 through 7, which connect to the beach, to keep humans from disturbing the nesting shorebirds.” Kaytee Hojnacki, “a biology technician at the refuge who had been monitoring the status of the plovers and their nests for the past three months, said 24 plover pairs produced 53 chicks that fledged (they are able to fly), which is down from the high last year of 77, but still ‘our third-highest fledgling count ever, and still very good.’”

Site Chosen For Refuge Open House.

The [Mohave Valley \(AZ\) Daily News](#) (8/10, Richards) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Havasu National Wildlife Refuge plans “to hold an open house listening session on Thursday, Aug. 17, to accept written public comments on a draft recreational boating compatibility determination (CD).” Comments will be accepted through Aug. 30.

US-China Cooperation On Wildlife Smuggling: An Opportunity.

In a piece for the [Huffington Post](#) (8/10, Devlin), Kathleen Devlin, a Master’s Graduate of the Global Affairs Program at the Yale Jackson Institute, writes that the United States and China “have access to frameworks that could facilitate collaboration on wildlife issues.” She also points out that “the United States and China are far and away the two largest markets of unlawful animal products and plants, so both have an outsized duty to take leadership roles and aggressively tackle the issue head-on.” Devlin argues that “because of their combined market share, any collective action successfully adopted and carried out would have noticeable effects on the international stage.”

National Park Service

Data-driven Decisions For National Parks.

[Government Computer News](#) (8/10) reports, that "data on visitors has been collected for many years, but the National Park Service hasn't been able to analyze it or use it to inform other decisions." According to the article, "to help it make better operations and programming decisions with the data it already has, NPS wants to put its visitor experience data from 1999-present into usable formats so it's easier to review and analyze." The NPS is "looking for a contractor to compile reports and visualizations on visitation trends, funding, staff allocations and interpretive media using existing data from the agency's servicewide interpretive report, visitor use statistics and potentially cross-referencing that information with data from the Census Bureau."

Why Was There A Giant Inflatable Chicken Near The White House?.

The [New York Times](#) (8/10, Joseph) reports on the "giant inflatable chicken [that] appeared outside the White House on Wednesday," saying those who saw it "had no trouble identifying its human doppelgänger: President Trump. The chicken was the brainchild of Taran Singh Brar, an artist and documentary filmmaker who lives in Laredo, Calif." Brar said "that he wanted to make a statement about the president being a 'weak and ineffective leader.' He added, 'He's too afraid to release his tax returns, too afraid to stand up to Vladimir Putin, and playing chicken with North Korea.'"

Rat Population Increase Can Have Real Impact On City Infrastructure.

[WRC-TV](#) Washington (8/10, Fleischer, Yarborough, Piper, Jones) reports that the rise in the population of rats is having an impact on the D.C. metro area. Of note, the "rat problem" is adding to the expenses of the National Park Service. NPS spokesman Mike Litterst. said, "Certainly if you have rats that are making it worse, adding to that tally, that's something we're trying to avoid."

Yellowstone Park Vehicle Traffic Nearing Capacity.

The [AP](#) (8/10, Moen) reports that "sometime within the next four to six years, Yellowstone National Park is expected to reach its capacity for being able to handle all the vehicles that tourists drive through the park." The National Park Service on Thursday "released a pair of studies looking at traffic and parking in the nation's first national park and visitor demographics and expectations." According to the agency, "potential solutions include instituting a reservation system or passenger shuttles to control the number of visitors during peak times for the busiest attractions in the park, but no decisions will be made for at least a couple of years." Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk said in a statement, "Historic and recent trends demonstrate that visitation will increase over the long-term, therefore, it is imperative for us to plan now. Good visitor use management will allow the park to protect resources, encourage access, and improve experiences."

Vehicle Strikes, Fatally Injures Yellowstone Bison.

The [AP](#) (8/10) reports that "a bull bison that had wandered out of Yellowstone National Park was killed after suffering severe head and leg injuries when it was struck by a vehicle just east of the park." Wyoming Game and Fish warden Travis Crane, "the bison was walking in circles on the highway after the collision Sunday evening near Wapiti and couldn't be moved." Crane said "he shot and killed the injured bull because the Wyoming Highway Patrol said it was a public safety hazard."

Grand Canyon Water Pipeline Slated For Multimillion-dollar Replacement.

The [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (8/10, Conley) reports that "an aging pipeline bringing water to residents, resorts and 6 million visitors a year at the Grand Canyon has broken about 80 times since 2010 and needs a multimillion-dollar replacement, park officials say." According to Grand Canyon spokeswoman Kirby-Lynn Shedlowski, "officials have sutured the breaks over the years, but that is no longer enough." Shedlowski "said it's time to go beyond patchwork and spend up to \$124 million to replace it before a major disruption of water service at the

international tourist draw.”

Gatlinburg Wildfire Records: What We Know, What’s Still Secret.

The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (8/10, Lakin) reports that “authorities began releasing copies Wednesday of key public records on the deadly Gatlinburg wildfire, nearly nine months after flames swept through town Nov. 28 and killed 14 people.” However, the National Park Service has “yet to release records requested under the federal Freedom of Information Act.”

Bubonic Plague Detected At Quarai Mission In New Mexico.

The [AP](#) (8/10) reports that “an animal case of bubonic plague has been detected at the Quarai mission of Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument in New Mexico.” Monument staff found “a dead rock squirrel in the square kiva at the mission on July 11.” According to the article, “a veterinary diagnostic lab says the squirrel tested positive for plague.”

Acadia Ramps Up Park Pass Enforcement.

The [Mount Desert \(ME\) Islander](#) (8/10, Broom) reports that Acadia National Park rangers have “started cracking down on people who park their vehicles in the park without displaying an entrance pass.” Park officials “said in a press release Tuesday that they are ‘enhancing efforts’ to ensure that visitors have passes and that rangers will issue a ‘fee compliance notice’ for vehicles that don’t display a valid pass.” Park spokesman John Kelly “said the ‘notice’ is actually a ‘citation’ that carries a fine of \$130.” However, “the vehicle’s owner or operator can avoid the fine if, within 24 hours, they buy an entrance pass or show proof that they had a valid pass that was not displayed.”

Council Of Town Near Grand Canyon Votes For Special Election.

The [AP](#) (8/10, Silber) reports that “a small town at the edge of the Grand Canyon will have a special election in November to decide whether to increase the maximum building height in the city and pave the way for new retail and housing development in the community.” The town council in Tusayan “voted unanimously Wednesday evening to settle the issue by mail ballot.” Critics claim “the building height increase would have serious effects on water usage, impact visitor capacity to Grand Canyon National Park and cause potential damaging consequences for the area’s dark skies conservation.” The National Park Service “sent a letter to the town expressing those concerns, while environmentalists also remain steadfast any growth in Tusayan would mar the beauty of the area.”

New Science Education Program Brings National Parks To Classrooms.

The [Knoxville \(TN\) Focus](#) (8/10) reports that “teachers and students across the country will have the opportunity to participate in a new science education program, Citizen Science 2.0 in National Parks, thanks to a \$1 million Veverka Family Foundation donation to the National Park Foundation’s Centennial Campaign for America’s National Parks.” The program is “kicking off this 2017-2018 school year with four national parks: Cabrillo National Monument, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and Rock Creek Park.” Will Shafroth, president of the National Park Foundation, said, “Private support from generous partners like the Veverka Family Foundation is making it possible for national parks – some of our richest learning environments – to offer new and innovative education programs like Citizen Science 2.0. Thanks to this \$1 million donation to our Centennial Campaign for America’s National Parks, teachers and students across the country will experience science outside the textbook and inside national parks.”

Fort McHenry Ranger Can’t Stay Retired Even After 50-year Career.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/10, Pitts) reports that that 79-year-old Paul Plamann “retired July 1 after a 50-year career” at the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. However, “he was back in action this week, reprising his popular role as Beanes in his new guise as a part-time volunteer.” According to the article, “the man known to generations of colleagues as ‘The Old Ranger’” now plans to be at the Hampton National Historic Site in Towson on Saturdays and at Fort McHenry on Tuesdays.

Free Entrance To Point Park To Celebrate The National Park Service’s Birthday.

The [Chattanooga \(TN\)](#) (8/10) reports that "to celebrate the National Park Service turning 101 years old, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park is waiving the entrance fee to Point Park on Friday, Aug. 25."

Lookout Lake Michigan Shipwreck In Two Rivers Gets Historic Status.

The [Manitowoc \(WI\) Herald Times Reporter](#) (8/10) reports that "the Lookout shipwreck in Two Rivers has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Wisconsin Historical Society announced Thursday."

Pearl Harbor Nonprofit CEO Leaves Organization.

The [AP](#) (8/10, McAVOY) reports that "a nonprofit that supports National Park Service operations at Pearl Harbor said Thursday its CEO is no longer with the organization." Pacific Historic Parks "didn't disclose the reasons for Ray L'Heureux's departure, saying it was a confidential personnel matter." The article notes that "the move came four months after the organization's board placed L'Heureux on paid administrative leave while it investigated allegations made against him in an anonymous letter."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Trump Renews Warning To North Korean Leaders.

Media reports cast President Trump's comments Thursday on North Korea as intensifying his warnings to North Korea's leaders and doubling down on his earlier "fire and fury" warning. All three networks again Thursday night led with the story, dedicating just under 20 minutes to the story – down from 23 minutes the night before. Lester Holt opened [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/10, lead story, 3:05, Holt) saying the President Trump "fired off another vague and ominous-sounding threat," and "appeared to paint another red-line, this time over Guam." Trump was shown saying, "Let's see what he does with Guam. If he does something in Guam, it will be an event the likes of which nobody has seen before what will happen in North Korea." Cecilia Vega said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/10, lead story, 3:30, Muir) that Trump is "not backing down, but he's also not telegraphing what comes next." The [Washington Post](#) (8/10, Rucker, Deyoung) too says Trump "escalated his rhetoric," but when asked what would have been tougher than "fire and fury," Trump replied only, "You'll see. You'll see." He also "would not say whether he is considering a preemptive strike," but said diplomatic efforts "over the years had done little to halt the country's nuclear program."

Trump, the [New York Times](#) (8/10, Baker) reports, "escalated his war of words...rejecting critics at home and abroad who condemned his earlier warning as reckless saber-rattling," and Jim Sciutto said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/10) that he has "doubled and tripled down...despite" several of his senior advisers on Wednesday trying to "walk...back" his earlier remarks.

Anthony Mason said in the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/10, lead story, 2:40, Mason) that Trump said "he might not have been tough enough, so he got tougher today, saying that if the North Koreans even think about launching an attack, 'things will happen to them like they never thought possible.'" David Martin said the President "seemed to hold out little hope negotiations could resolve the standoff, and doubted economic sanctions would be effective enough. ... It seems the Commander-in-Chief has already run out of patience."

The President's remarks Thursday, [Bloomberg News](#) (8/10, Olorunnipa) reports, "continue days of escalating rhetorical exchanges," and [USA Today](#) (8/10, Korte) says he "doubled down on his threats...pushing back against criticism that his aggressive rhetoric might backfire and inflame tensions." Said Trump of his previous statement, "Maybe it wasn't tough enough. It's about time that somebody stuck up for the people of this country and for the people of other countries. So if anything, maybe that statement wasn't tough enough."

[Reuters](#) (8/8, Oliphant, Blanchard) reports Trump "took specific aim" at Kim Jong-un, saying he had "disrespected our country greatly. He has said things that are horrific. And with me, he's not getting away with it." The [Washington Times](#) (8/10, Muñoz) reports Trump's comments came as Defense Secretary Mattis confirmed Thursday that a "military solution" is in place "should the White House opt to pursue an armed response" to North Korea. Mattis,

however, "remained largely mum on the details." Another [Washington Times](#) (8/10, Muñoz) report says Mattis also "declined to comment whether he was taken aback by Mr. Trump's harsh rhetoric."

Trump's "strong language," the [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/10, Bierman) reports, "came only hours after...Mattis stressed the importance of diplomacy in the increasingly tense standoff with the nuclear-armed state." A [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/10, Lauter) analysis says Trump's rhetoric toward North Korea has "highlighted as never before the tension between the president's duties as chief executive and the role he often seems to prefer as the country's highest-profile TV and Internet commentator." Secretary Tillerson said this week that Americans should "sleep well at night" and has pressed for talks, "albeit with preconditions." On Thursday, "even as Trump said his previous statements were perhaps 'not tough enough,'" Defense Secretary Mattis "emphasized diplomacy." Said Mattis, "Do I have military options? Of course I do. That's my responsibility. But what we're trying to do here is leave it loud and clear...in the diplomatic arena: It is North Korea's choice."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/10, Sonne, Radnofsky) reports that earlier Thursday, North Korea said "sound dialogue is not possible" with Trump and repeated the threat it made a day earlier to strike Guam, saying it could surround the island in "enveloping fire" by launching four intermediate-range Hwasong-12 missiles at it. The [AP](#) (8/10, Lemire, Lederman) says Trump spoke after North Korea "intensified its own rhetoric by announcing a detailed plan to launch a salvo of ballistic missiles" toward Guam.

Trump: China Can Do More To Resolve Crisis. The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/10, story 2, 1:30, Mason) reported President Trump also said Thursday that China can do more to resolve the North Korea crisis, "and he said he thinks China will." However, CBS (Tracy) said "it's unclear at this point how much North Korea will even listen to what China says. In fact, the regime is very upset with China because it went along with those tough US sanctions." Furthermore, Trump on Thursday "sent a US Navy ship into waters that China claims is its own, and that's only antagonized them more. When you consider how much the US needs China right now on this issue of North Korea, these sorts of actions are not likely to help." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/10, Wong) reports, Trump's rhetoric leaves China as it seeks to reduce tensions with few options.

The [New York Times](#) (8/10, Perlez), meanwhile, reports that with US allies in the region "unnerved" by Trump's threats, China "sees a chance to capitalize on the fear and confusion and emerge as the sober-minded power in the region, according to analysts." Trump has "increasingly been seen in China as unreliable," and his comments this week have "only deepened that perception, analysts say." The [Washington Post](#) (8/10, Denyer) similarly says China's "narrative about US recklessness was reinforced this week" by Trump's threats. His rhetoric, the Post says, "gave China the perfect platform to project itself as the voice of reason — especially as it had just agreed to join the world in stiffening sanctions against North Korea."

A [New York Times](#) (8/10, Ramzy) analysis notes that the last time an American president contemplating how to stop an "isolated, authoritarian state in Asia" from becoming a nuclear power it was China. The Times says that a "look at that time reveals just how perilous such a situation can be, when a new nuclear player emerges and an established power tries to stand in its way. But it also shows that all-out war can be avoided."

US Officials: North Korean Missile Launch Would Take 14 Minutes To Reach Guam. [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/10, story 2, 2:50, Holt) reported North Korea is saying its military is developing a plan to strike Guam with "four ballistic missiles they say could be fired in the next week." Barbara Starr reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/10) that if the North launched ballistic missiles at Guam, it would be "unprecedented" and "very dicey," but "there are several layers of missile defense," while [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/10, story 2, 2:55, Muir) reported a launch from North Korea would take only 14 minutes to reach Guam, which is home to 160,000 American civilians and 7,000 US forces on two US military bases. A senior US official told ABC that a "preemptive strike could be on the table in the next six to 12 months, if sanctions do not work, and if Kim Jong-un continues to make progress on a nuclear tipped missile," but ABC's Jim Avila added that "any military retaliation from North Korea could be catastrophic."

The [New York Times](#) (8/10, Choe) reports that for Kim, failure of an attack on Guam "would be a potentially costly blunder that could subvert his authority." However, North Korea's threat "also includes some maneuvering room for a possible compromise, South Korean

analysts said." With the launches "still in the planning phase" there is the "possibility of delay or cancellation," but the [Washington Post](#) (8/10, Fifield) reports, "Still, North Korea is not showing signs of backing down at the moment."

[USA Today](#) (8/10, Michaels) reports that if North Korea "follows through on its threat to fire ballistic missiles" at Guam, the US military "probably will try to shoot them down, raising the stakes even further in a dangerous global standoff." A [New York Times](#) (8/10, Gordon, Schmitt) analysis says North Korea's threat Thursday to test-fire ballistic missiles at Guam "deepened the challenge confronting the Trump administration: how to defang Pyongyang's missile programs without risking all-out war." The Times cautions that "even a limited strike against a North Korean missile on its launching pad or the shooting down of a missile in midair would pose risks" that Kim Jong-un "might retaliate, setting off a spiral of escalation that could plunge the Korean Peninsula into war."

A front-page [Washington Post](#) (8/10, A1, Fisher, Nakamura) analysis says that "in this moment of heated, belligerent rhetoric, planners in and out of government are diving into decades of plans and projections, playing out war games, engaging in the macabre semi-science of estimating death tolls and predicting how an adversary might behave." According to the Post, the "pathways that have been examined fall into four main categories: doing nothing, hitting Kim Jong Un's regime with tougher sanctions, pushing for talks, and military confrontation."

Guam Governor Reassures Nervous Residents. [MSN](#) (8/9) reports that "elected officials in Guam are reassuring constituents that the U.S. territory is safe following North Korea's threat against the island." [ABC News](#) (8/9, Caplan) reports that "Guam's governor, Eddie Calvo, released a two-minute video message to the island's residents, in which he said, 'I want to ensure that we are prepared for any eventuality.'"

Additional coverage was provided by the [Guam Daily Post](#) (8/9, Calvo).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (8/9, Stanglin), the [Guam Daily Post](#) (8/9), the [Guam Daily Post](#) (8/8, Oliphant, Blanchard), the [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (8/10, Raymundo), the [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (8/9, Raymundo), the [Guam Daily Post](#) (8/9, Roberto, Losinio), the [Marianas Variety](#) (8/10), the [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (8/10, Mora), and the [Guam Daily Post](#) (8/10, Losinio).

Six B-1 Bombers Arrive From South Dakota.

The [Guam Daily Post](#) (8/9) reports that "six B-1B Lancers and 350 airmen with the 37th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron from Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, recently arrived at Andersen Air Force Base for another rotational deployment, the U.S. Pacific Command announced." According to the article, "the squadron arrived after the 9th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, completed its Guam rotation that started in February."

Additional Coverage: Hawaii, Guam Get More Funds To Abate Compact Impact.

Additional coverage that the Interior Department has "made available two technical assistance grants totaling \$467,095 to support one-stop centers in Guam and Hawaii that provide information and services to migrants from the freely associated states" was provided by the [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (8/10), the [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (8/10, Engichy), and the [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (8/9).

Guam Is Overlooked Asset In Asia.

In an op-ed for the [Detroit News](#) (8/9, Lennox), Dennis Lennox, who was executive director of the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands, writes that "North Korea's threat presents a unique opportunity for the federal government to simultaneously fly the flag while empowering Guam to promote the national interest, be it economically or diplomatically." To achieve this, Lennox urges President Trump "to reinvent the way the federal government oversees the territories." Lennox argues that "it's time to use broad authority of the president to transfer Guam and the territories from Interior to a new, standalone cabinet-level agency."

The South Pacific's Strategic Role.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Times](#) (8/10, Jacobs), Erik M. Jacobs, a student at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, writes that "as China continues its military expansion

and modernization and as President Trump and seeks to expand the capabilities of the U.S. Navy to restore traditional American strategic power, the South Pacific will only continue to grow in strategic importance." Jacobs argues that "small and targeted strategic investment in the South Pacific will not only show the U.S. commitment to its strategic value, it will ensure that the U.S. is prepared to deal with current and emerging threats across the broader Asia-Pacific region."

Office Of Surface Mining

West Virginia Governor Wants To Sell Trump On A \$4.5 Billion Coal Bailout By Calling It A "Homeland Security Initiative".

The [Washington Post](#) (8/10, Ingraham) reports, "Jim Justice, the Republican governor of West Virginia, is floating a federal proposal to bail out the struggling Appalachian coal industry at a cost to taxpayers of up to \$4.5 billion a year." The Post says Justice is calling the proposal a "homeland security initiative" to protect "the eastern energy grid." Columbia University Center on Global Energy Policy Director Jason Bordoff said the "claim that taxpayers should subsidize Appalachian coal for national security reasons is meritless."

US Geological Survey

Yellowstone Supervolcano: Map Shows Ground Deformation Around Caldera Over Last Two Years.

[Newsweek](#) (8/10, Osborne) reports that "a map showing how the ground around the Yellowstone supervolcano has deformed over the last two years has been released by the U.S. Geological Survey." The map, by USGS geophysicist Chuck Wicks, "shows movement around the caldera between 2015 and 2017 using radar images of Earth's surface collected from orbiting satellites."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Mail](#) (8/10, Macdonald).

USGS Upgrades To Broadband From California To Arizona.

[KJZZ-FM](#) Phoenix (8/10, Van Blokland) reports that "the USGS is upgrading out-of-date earthquake monitoring sites from analog to digital broadband." According to the article, "for its most remote sites — in which more traditional internet providers don't provide service — the USGS Earthquake Science Center is partnering with a California company to install satellite internet."

Top National News

Trump To McConnell: "Get Back To Work."

Media reports are casting the President's criticism of Senate Majority Leader McConnell as both highly unusual and counterproductive. Some reports, however, indicate the President's comments over the last few days are part of a deliberate strategy. [Politico](#) (8/10, Dawsey), citing "four White House officials and Trump friends," reports Trump is "preparing to distance himself from Republicans in Congress if they aren't successful in passing legislation," and that he is "prepared to cast himself as an outsider — and Congress as an 'insider' Washington institution." [Breitbart](#) (8/10, Spiering) also sees Trump as "eager to distance himself from the Senate majority leader," and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/10) editorializes that while Steve Bannon and his White House allies relish the feud as part of their effort to rebrand the GOP, the ongoing dispute only helps Senate Minority Leader Schumer and his party — and risks permanently stalling the President's agenda.

Along those lines, [NPR](#) (8/9, Taylor) said the "escalating tension...has the potential to jeopardize the rest of the Republican legislative agenda in the Senate when Congress returns," and the [New York Times](#) (8/10) that McConnell is "the one person" Trump "may most need to execute a stalled Republican legislative agenda." David Catanese of US News and World Report said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/10) that Trump is "smart to run against Congress, given his own approval rating," but "it's going to come to a head in the fall because...he's going to

depend on...McConnell to get" things "done. ... So, short-term gain but long-term problematic to poke at the Majority Leader." David Axelrod similarly argued on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/10) that if Trump "has any hope of getting his legislative program through, then it seems like a very foolish long-term strategy to be in this sort of tête-à-tête with...McConnell." Under the headline "Donald Trump's Strategy On Mitch McConnell Is Totally Pointless," Chris Cillizza wrote in a piece for [CNN](#) (8/10) that "this is a fight" the President "can't win – and shouldn't keep stoking. Which, of course, means he almost certainly will."

To [Reuters](#) (8/10), Trump is "venting frustration over Republicans' dramatic failure to repeal and replace the Obamacare healthcare law," and [USA Today](#) (8/10, Collins) says "Trump and some conservatives are not ready to give up on repeal," but "it is not clear what the president has in mind for reviving the legislation." The [Washington Post](#) (8/10, A1, Wagner) refers to "an extraordinary fight" and [Roll Call](#) (8/10, Rahman) to a Trump "crusade against...McConnell," while the [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/10, Mascaro) says the "escalating attacks...underscore the rocky relationship between the White House and what typically would be the president's allies." The [AP](#) (8/10, Bykowicz, Werner) refers to "a stunning feud," as "a sitting president openly turning on a Senate majority leader of his own party in such a fashion is practically unheard of – yet another norm destroyed since Trump's rise on the political scene."

As [Business Insider](#) (8/10) reported, the McConnell "suggested Tuesday that Trump was frustrated with the healthcare failure because he had 'excessive expectations' due to his lack of experience in politics." Trump first responded to McConnell on [Twitter](#) on Wednesday, and continued to chide the GOP leader yesterday, [writing](#), "Mitch, get back to work and put Repeal & Replace, Tax Reform & Cuts and a great Infrastructure Bill on my desk for signing. You can do it!" [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/10, story 3, 2:10, Muir) showed him saying later in the day, "I have been hearing repeal and replace now for seven years. All I hear is repeal and replace. And then I get there and I said, where's the bill, I want to sign it, first day. And they don't have it.. ... Mitch, get to work, and let's get it done. They should have had this last one done. They lost by one vote. For a thing like that to happen is a disgrace. And, frankly, it shouldn't have happened."

The [Washington Times](#) (8/10, Dinan) reports Trump also "said...McConnell must prove he can get things done with a GOP majority or else it will be time to talk about ousting the longtime Republican floor leader." The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/10, story 4, 1:20, Garrett) showed Trump saying, "If he doesn't get repeal and replace done, and if he doesn't get taxes done, meaning cuts and reform, and if he doesn't get a very easy one to get done, infrastructure, if he doesn't get them done, then you can ask me that question." The comments, says [AP](#) (8/10, Bykowicz, Werner), were "far from a vote of confidence," though [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/10, story 4, 2:35, Alexander) noted that he added, "I'm disappointed in Mitch, but if he gets these bills passed, I'll be very happy with him, and I'll be the first to admit it."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (8/10, story 4, 2:35, Alexander) noted that even as he wages "another battle with Senate's top Republican," the President praised "McConnell's wife, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao." Trump was shown saying, "She's doing a very good job." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/9, Tau) covers Trump's remarks in this morning's edition. [Townhall](#) (8/10, Barkoukis) reported White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders "said Thursday the president is somewhat frustrated with McConnell." Said Sanders, "You can see the president's tweets. Obviously there's some frustration. I don't have anything more to add."

Sean Hannity said in his opening monologue on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (8/10), "Now here's a news flash for Sen. McConnell: get to work, Senator. You don't seem to get that to you and your fellow Republicans, you are the ones that set those excessive expectations. ... To these Republicans, if you cannot get your job done, then and it's time for you to step aside. We need new people in those positions."

The [Washington Times](#) (8/10, Sherfinski), meanwhile, reports "the open verbal warfare between Mr. Trump and one of the two most powerful Republicans on Capitol Hill has riven their party, with rank-and-file lawmakers and potential candidates picking sides." Sen. Orrin G. Hatch of Utah "backed Mr. McConnell, calling him the best Republican leader in decades, but a host of candidates plotting runs for office sided with Mr. Trump."

NYTimes Analysis: Trump Failing To Show "Any Gratitude" Toward McConnell. The [New York](#)

[Times](#) (8/10) reports that "by preventing President Barack Obama from filling a Supreme Court vacancy," McConnell "secured...Trump the signature accomplishment of his young presidency: the confirmation of Justice Neil M. Gorsuch." Yet "any gratitude President Trump felt for Mr. McConnell's first-of-its-kind maneuver appears to be exhausted as the president, upset at the failed health care repeal, has turned his Twitter fire and fury on" him.

Ylan Mui also said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (8/10) that "it is worth remembering that McConnell actually delivered this Administration's biggest win so far, and that is the confirmation of Supreme Court judge Neil Gorsuch. McConnell went nuclear in order to get Gorsuch confirmed. So, he's put it on the line for this President."

Senate Conservative Fund Chief Calls For McConnell's Replacement. The [Washington Times](#) (8/10, McLaughlin) reports that "touting...Trump's criticism of...McConnell, a conservative group said Thursday the time is ripe to remove the Kentucky Republican from his leadership post for failing to deliver on campaign promises." The Times adds that "Ken Cuccinelli, the head of the Senate Conservative Fund, said Mr. McConnell recently showed his true colors when attributed part of the GOP's failed efforts to repeal and replace Obamacare to Mr. Trump's lack of governing experience." Said Cuccinelli, "It isn't unreasonable to expect Republicans to keep their promises and McConnell's excuse is yet another example of why he should be replaced as the Republican leader. ... Tell Senate Republicans to replace him now!"

Trump Could Back Primary Challengers To Flake, Heller. Under the headline "Senate Primaries: How Far Will Trump Go For Revenge?" [The Hill](#) (8/10, Easley) reported, "Speculation is growing that... Trump will buck his own party and back primary challengers to" Sens. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) and Dean Heller (R-NV) next year, "an exceedingly rare event that would deepen divisions within a party that is already struggling to govern despite controlling the White House and both chambers of Congress. The White House is closely watching" the contests, which "have attracted pro-Trump primary challengers. A couple of other challengers in Arizona with close ties to Trump are still weighing bids and have visited the White House in recent weeks. Heller is not close with Trump, although his allies insist he has a good working relationship with the president. Flake is outright hostile to Trump."

Meanwhile, in an "exclusive," [The Hill](#) (8/10, Easley) reported, "Key figures from a major pro-Trump group are joining" the campaign of ex-state Sen. Kelli Ward (R), who is mounting a primary challenge to Flake – "the latest sign that President Trump's allies are gearing up for a serious push to oust the incumbent. Eric Beach, the founder and co-chair of the Great America PAC, and Brent Lowder, the group's executive director, will join Ward's campaign, according to a release." The move "comes as New York hedge fund billionaire and conservative donor Robert Mercer, a Trump supporter whose family is close with White House chief strategist Stephen Bannon, gave \$300,000 this week to an outside group supporting Ward's efforts."

The [Washington Times](#) (8/10, McLaughlin) reports that businessman Danny Tarkanian (R), who is mounting a primary challenge to Heller, is "siding with President Trump in his public feud with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell." During a Thursday appearance on Fox News, Tarkanian said Trump was justified in criticizing McConnell "over his inability to muster enough support for a bill to do away with Obamacare. 'President Trump says we should repeal Obamacare and Mitch McConnell says well he has too high expectations,' Mr. Tarkanian said," adding, "Why would that be too high expectations when just two years ago most of the same GOP Senators voted to repeal it? Why would anyone think it is too high expectations to actually vote on it now that you have a president who will sign it? Of course I support the president's position."

Caddell: Senate GOP Prevented Trump Recess Appointments. [Breitbart](#) (8/10, Riehl) reports that in a conversation Thursday with Breitbart News Daily SiriusXM host Alex Marlow, pollster and political analyst Pat Caddell criticized Senate Republicans for not going into recess so President Trump could make recess appointments. Caddell argued, "Look at what the Senate did. It didn't even recess so he could appoint recess appointments. That's what the Democrats would have done. All these positions he can't move through the Senate, he could have appointed them the day they recessed. But they made sure he couldn't. They stayed in session, technically."

CNN Poll: Trump "Still More Popular Than Congress." On its website, [CNN](#) (8/10, Struyk) reported on what it described as "a silver lining for President Donald Trump: he's still more popular than Congress." The report said that in a CNN poll of 1,018 US "adults," taken Aug. 3-6, 68% of those surveyed judged "the Republican Congress a failure so far after last month's

repeal and replace plan died in the Senate. Approval of the current Republican leaders in Congress has dropped from 39% in January to just 24% now." Meanwhile, 34% of those surveyed said "they approve of Democratic leaders in Congress." Trump's approval rating stands at 36%, according to the poll.

Trump Says He Has Given No Thought To Firing Mueller.

President Trump's claim Thursday that he has not given any thought to firing special counsel Robert Mueller, and his comments on the FBI raid of his former campaign manager Paul Manafort's home receive relative light media coverage amid heavy reporting on the ongoing north Korea crisis. Peter Alexander reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/10, story 4, 2:35, Alexander) that Trump "insist[ed] he has no plans to fire Special Counsel Robert Mueller," and [Reuters](#) (8/10) reports that he said "he has not given any thought to the possibility of firing" Mueller. However, the [New York Times](#) (8/10, Schmidt) says Trump's claim that he has not considered firing Mueller "contradict[s] private statements the president has made to his aides and friends about his desire to dismiss Mr. Mueller." According to the Times, Trump "has discussed both the possibility of firing Mr. Mueller and his concerns that the investigation will undermine his presidency."

[USA Today](#) (8/10, Korte) says Trump voiced support for "the ongoing Russia investigations, including those taking place on Capitol Hill, where multiple panels are also investigating possible collusion between Trump associates and Russians who sought to influence the 2016 presidential election." Said Trump, "I want them to get on with the task. ... But I also want the Senate and the House to come out with their findings." According to the [Washington Times](#) (8/10, Boyer), Trump also "reiterated that he has nothing to hide," saying, "We have an investigation of something that never took place." [Politico](#) (8/10, McCaskill) also reports on Trump's comments, noting that he has "repeatedly dismissed the investigations as a 'witch hunt' and a 'hoax.'"

Also Thursday, Trump reacted for the first time to the FBI raid of former campaign chairman Paul Manafort's home, the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/10, story 5, 1:15, Mason) reported. Trump: "I thought it was a very, very strong signal, or whatever. They do that very seldom, so I was surprised to see it. I was very, very surprised to see it." [Politico](#) (8/10, Conway) reports that Trump described the raid as "pretty tough stuff." The [Daily Caller](#) (8/10, Ross) quotes Trump as saying, "I don't know, but I thought it was pretty tough stuff to wake him up, perhaps his family was there. I think that's pretty tough stuff." Asked if he had spoken to the Attorney General or the FBI about the raid, Trump said, "I have not, but to do that early in the morning, whether or not it was appropriate you'd have to ask them."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/10, Wagner, Hamburger) says Trump called Manafort "a very decent man" but added that "he hadn't spoken to him for a long time." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/10, story 4, 1:10, Muir) showed Trump saying, "I know Mr. Manafort, haven't spoken to him in a long time, but I know him. He was with the campaign as you know, a very short period of time, a relatively short period of time. But I always thought he was a good man."

The [Daily Caller](#) (8/10, Ross) reports that Trump attorney John Dowd, in a "notable shift from his praise for Mueller earlier this week," accused the special counsel of "a gross abuse of the judicial process" for conducting the raid, and argued that it was "employed for its shock value to try to intimidate Mr. Manafort." In an email to the Wall Street Journal obtained by Fox News, Dowd wrote, "These methods are normally found and employed in Russia not America." Kevin Corke reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/10) that Dowd reportedly said the raid was "invasive."

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/10, Berthelsen, Farrell) describes Mueller as "bearing down" on Manafort, and reports that his investigators have "sent subpoenas in recent weeks from a Washington grand jury to global banks for account information and records of transactions involving Manafort and some of his companies, as well as those of a long-time business partner, Rick Gates, according to people familiar with the matter." In addition, Mueller has "reached out to other business associates, including Manafort's son-in-law and a Ukrainian oligarch," in what was "characterized as an apparent attempt to gain information that could be used to squeeze Manafort, or force him to be more helpful to prosecutors."

Manafort Searching For New Legal Representation. The [New York Post](#) (8/10, Dugan) cites "a source familiar with Manafort's plans" who said that he is "searching for new legal

representation as he faces an intensifying investigation." Reginald Brown of WilmerHale, "the same DC law firm that employed Mueller until he was appointed special counsel in May," has been representing Manafort, but the Post says the "search for a new lawyer also is motivated by a desire to avoid a potential conflict of interest at WilmerHale, and could lead to the firing of Brown, the source said."

Nation Report: Investigators Now Believe DNC Hack Was An "Inside Job." In a more than 4,000-word piece posted Wednesday on the [Nation](#) (8/9, Lawrence) website, Patrick Lawrence wrote that "forensic investigators, intelligence analysts, system designers, program architects, and computer scientists of long experience and strongly credentialed are now producing evidence disproving the official version" of last year's hack of the DNC. They believe the incident was not a hack but "a leak," an "inside job" undertaken "by someone with access to the DNC's system."

Trump Dossier Author Seeks To Avoid Deposition In Libel Suit. [Politico](#) (8/10, Gerstein) reports in its "Under The Radar" blog that attorneys for Christopher Steele, the former MI6 officer who authored "an unverified intelligence dossier at the center of the Trump-Russia controversy are fighting an effort to force him into a deposition in connection with a libel suit stemming from BuzzFeed's publication of the salacious document." Steele's lawyers on Thursday "asked a federal judge in Miami not to grant the request, but Steele's lawyers' motion was filed a couple of hours after U.S. District Court Judge Ursula Ungaro issued a formal request for Steele's testimony." Steele's testimony is being sought by "lawyers for Aleksey Gubarev, a Russian internet entrepreneur who was mentioned in the dossier and contends he was libeled by its claims about his ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin."

Trump Declares Opioid Abuse A "National Emergency."

Comments by the President on the opioid crisis generated widespread, generally favorable media coverage, including two brief mentions on the major network newscasts. The [Washington Post](#) (8/10, A1, Wagner) reports Trump "declared the country's opioid crisis a national emergency, saying the scourge exceeded anything he had seen with other drugs in his lifetime." In a story covering remarks by the President on a variety of topics, [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/10, story 4, 2:35, Alexander) showed him saying, "I'm saying officially right now, it is an emergency, it's a national emergency. We're going to spend a lot of time, a lot of effort, and a lot of money on the opioid crisis. ... You know, when I was growing up, they had LSD, and they had certain generations of drugs. There's never been anything like what's happened to this country over the last four or five years." The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/10, story 6, 0:20, Mason) also noted Trump's statement in a brief report last night.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/10, Howell) notes that "declaring a national emergency was the 'first and most urgent' recommendation in the interim report that Mr. Trump's commission on opioid addiction, led by New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, issued last month." Yesterday, the [AP](#) (8/10, Covin, Lemire) reports, "Christie applauded Trump's decision in a statement, saying the president 'deserves great credit.'" [Bloomberg News](#) (8/10, Edney) reports Trump had "made the issue a key talking point during his campaign," and [Politico](#) (8/10, Ehley) that he "handily won states like West Virginia and Kentucky that have been hit hard by the epidemic."

The [New York Times](#) (8/10, Shear) reports, however, that "in the last 48 hours," Trump had "come under criticism from Democrats, who accused him of failing to adequately respond to the growing number of overdoses." For example, "a spokesman for the Democratic National Committee said the president had 'done nothing' for the people affected by the drug crisis." [USA Today](#) (8/10, Korte) says Trump's comments "represented an about-face from earlier this week, when Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price all but ruled out an emergency declaration," saying "said the administration has the resources it needs to combat the epidemic without formally invoking the emergency powers." The [Washington Post](#) (8/10, A1, Wagner) also reports that at the time, "Price said that the administration can do the same sorts of things without declaring an emergency, although he said Trump was keeping the option on the table." [NPR](#) (8/10, Naylor, Keith) likewise referred to "a change from earlier in the week."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/10, Radnofsky) similarly reports the President's announcement in this morning's edition. [Vice](#) (8/10, Hamilton) indicates that "it's still unclear what steps Trump intends to take under the state of emergency," but [Reuters](#) (8/10, Oliphant) says "the declaration could help unlock more support and resources to address the drug overdose epidemic, such as additional funding and expanded access to various forms of treatment, and it

gives the government more flexibility in waiving rules and restrictions to expedite action.”

[Business Insider](#) (8/10, Ramsey, Jacobs) reported that “one potential benefit of declaring an emergency, according to Bradley Stein, a senior natural scientist at the Rand Corporation who studies substance-use disorders, is that Trump would be able to direct Price to alter or eliminate an obscure Medicaid rule that has been around since the 1960s.” Business Insider added that “the Opioid Commission recommended eliminating the exclusion as part of the national emergency.”

The [New York Daily News](#) (8/10, Greene) reports “a total of 52,404 people died of fatal overdoses in 2015 – a rate of 16.3 per 100,000.” The Daily News adds that “of those, more than 33,000 were attributed to opioids, including prescription painkillers as well as heroin and the even more potent fentanyl.”

Under the headline “Trump Wants To Prosecute More Drug Offenders To Solve The Opioid Crisis. Here’s Why That Won’t Work,” meanwhile, [Mic](#) (8/10, Provenzano) said that “in spite of...research” showing the approach to be ineffectual, “the Trump administration has repeatedly sought to combat the opioid epidemic with more law enforcement, rather than with a treatment-based approach.”

Ohio Attorney General: Opioid Makers Must Answer For Addiction Crisis. In a [Washington Post](#) (8/10, DeWine) op-ed, Ohio state Attorney General Mike DeWine explains why he is suing “five of the largest manufacturers of brand-name and generic opioids,” arguing that opioid makers have “flooded the market with prescription opioids” and offered “grossly misleading information about the risks and benefits of these drugs.” He notes that almost “80 percent of heroin users start with prescription opioids” and that opioids “caused 82 percent of all overdose deaths in Ohio.” He concludes by commending President Trump’s focus on the issue of opioid addiction and calling on pharmaceutical companies “to take responsibility for their actions and stop trying to deceive Ohio and America.”

Reuters Analysis: Treatment Of Pass-Throughs Impeding GOP Tax Reform Efforts.

[Reuters](#) (8/10, Morgan) reports that so-called pass-through businesses are “one of the thorniest issues” confronting Republican efforts to enact tax reform. While President Trump and Republican lawmakers “want to give pass-throughs their own tax rate of 15-25 percent,” the “danger with this proposal is that high-income people who pay the top individual tax rate could reap enormous windfalls simply by reclassifying their wages and salaries as pass-through business income to qualify for the new low rate,” potentially “eras[ing] up to \$584 billion from government coffers over the next decade, the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center estimated.” Although “policymakers are looking at limiting how much of a business owner’s income should get pass-through treatment” to address the issue, it is “hard to define because pass-throughs range from sole proprietorships and partnerships to S-corporations.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Another Course Correction For City Policing.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (8/10) writes that Wednesday’s decision by district attorneys from Brooklyn, the Bronx, Manhattan, and Queens to move to dismiss 644,000 outstanding arrest warrants for minor offenses at least 10 years old – more than one third of the city’s backlog of outstanding summons warrants – was “another major step in the evolving effort to move the city’s police practices from an abusive past into a more enlightened future.” The Times adds that the district attorneys should follow the warrants expungement decision by expunging the records of those “who may have been unjustifiably caught” in the “zero-tolerance dragnet” in which law enforcement used to issue summons for most common petty offenses.

“Partners In Voter Suppression.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (8/11) says the Administration “moved deeper into the politics of voter suppression this week by reversing the federal government’s opposition to Ohio’s effort to purge tens of thousands of voters from the rolls simply because they vote infrequently.” The Times calls the case is “a major challenge to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and the Help America Vote Act of 2002,” and while the Administration “claims Ohio acted responsibly,” opponents “see it as a subversion of democracy. The case could be a template for further electoral mischief, boosted now by a shamelessly politicized Justice Department.”

Washington Post.

"This Journalist Imprisoned In Syria Must Be Freed." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/10) calls for the release of Austin Tice, a former Marine captain and journalist who was captured in Syria five years ago covering the civil war when traveling with rebels fighting the government. The Post adds that CIA efforts to open a back channel to the Syrian government to help secure his release have so far failed, and concludes, "To those who imprisoned him, we repeat: He is a journalist who went only to record and report on the plight of people in a wretched war. His ambitions were noble, and he has already paid a very steep price for his courage and determination. It is long past time to set Mr. Tice free."

"The Trump Justice Department Joins The GOP Crusade To Shrink The Vote." The [Washington Post](#) (8/10) editorializes that "the idea that voting should be encouraged, and voter registration simple, has been a touchstone of federal law for decades," but "is now under assault by Republicans in statehouses across the country and...in the Trump Justice Department." On Monday, DOJ "political appointees...engineered an about-face in the government's position on a key voting rights case before the Supreme Court, backing Ohio's efforts to purge hundreds of thousands of infrequent voters from the state's voter rolls." Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted believes "it's okay for a state to disqualify people from voting in the future if they haven't voted in the recent past – specifically, in the past six years." The Post notes that "a few other states...employ a process like Ohio's," but it argues that "there are better methods to maintain 'clean' and current voting rolls, such as using change-of-address forms filed with the Postal Service and death notices."

"West Virginia's Governor Wants A Coal Bailout. Republicans Should Ignore Him." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/10) writes that the Administration and Congress should "ignore" the recent proposal of West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice for a "massive" federal subsidy to the Eastern coal industry, arguing that subsidies would "punish the gas-production innovators who have been creating jobs that at least partially offset those lost in coal," "impose unfair competition on more-efficient coal producers in Western states," and "cost federal taxpayers...more than \$1 billion per year at current coal-consumption rates."

Wall Street Journal.

"John McCain's Defense Cut." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/10) writes Sen. John McCain's vote to block the Senate bill repealing the Affordable Care Act helped further a problem he should appreciate: that of relatively declining defense spending. The Journal argues that because the ACA has exacerbated a federal budget already burdened by 60 percent mandatory entitlement spending, it will continue to place increasing pressure on lawmakers to decrease the percent of the budget allocated to military expenditures.

"An Aussie Terror Warning" In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/10) writes that a thwarted terror attack in Sydney last month involving two brothers who almost successfully checked luggage in which they placed a meat grinder containing a bomb should serve as a warning to western authorities that the Islamic State is becoming dangerously close to blowing up passenger flights. The Journal concludes that the terrorists will be encouraged to replicate the attack and that the West must examine their screening policies.

"The Trump-McConnell Spat." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/10) editorializes that while Steve Bannon and his White House allies relish the feud between President Trump and Senate Majority Leader McConnell as part of their effort to rebrand the GOP, the ongoing dispute only helps Sen. Chuck Schumer and his party – and risks permanently stalling the President's agenda.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Investor Benchmark Capital Sues Uber Ex-CEO Kalanick](#)

[Trump Warns North Korea To "Get Their Act Together"](#)

[FBI Says ISIS Used EBay To Send Terror Cash To US](#)

[Do Businesses Need Foreign Workers? Martha's Vineyard Is Finding Out](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Doubles Down On Threats Against North Korea As Nuclear Tensions Escalate](#)
[Meet Kim Jong-Un, A Moody Young Man With A Nuclear Arsenal](#)
[Wrestling With North Korea, Trump Finds Perilous Options](#)
[Deepening Rift, Trump Won't Say If Mitch McConnell Should Step Down](#)
[Gene Editing Spurs Hope For Transplanting Pig Organs Into Humans](#)
[Seeing Hope For Flagging Economy, West Virginia Revamps Vocational Track](#)

Washington Post:

[More Threats From Trump](#)
[Trump's Attack On GOP Ally Criticized](#)
[Opioid Crisis Is A National Emergency, President Says](#)
["Detroit" And The Question Of Cultural Gatekeeping](#)
[Experts Playing Out North Korea Scenarios](#)
[Facebook's Imitation Not Quite Flattery](#)

Financial Times:

[Lego Aims To Rebuild Performance With New CEO](#)
[France Urges "New Momentum" In Taxation Of US Tech Groups](#)
[North Korea Steps Closer To End-Game In Nuclear Quest](#)
[US Sounds Off Over Mystery Cuba Hearing Loss](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump: "Fire And Fury" Talk On North Korea "Wasn't Tough Enough"](#)
[Trump's Troops Want Action, Blame Liberal Media And Weak Republicans For Low Poll Numbers](#)
[Trump Vs. McConnell: Republicans Choose Sides](#)
[Critics Decry Hazy Projections As More States Raise Tobacco Buying Age To 21](#)
[Surge In Bitcoin Value Alarms Defense And Intelligence Agencies Fighting Crime On "Dark Web"](#)
[Kid Rock: "Devil" With A Cause Or Just A Midterm Side Attraction?](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: North Korea Threats; North Korea Threats-Responses; Trump-McConnell Comment; Trump-Manafort Raid; Trump-Vladimir Putin Comment; Cuba-US Diplomats Sonic Attack; Penn State Frat Death Investigation; Severe Weather; Wall Street News; California-Car Chase; South Carolina-Police Shooting; London-Jogger Pushes Woman; Jimmy Kimmel-Son Recovery; Cancer Patient-Neighbor Support.

CBS: North Korea Threats; North Korea Threats-China; North Korea Threats-Expert Comment; Trump-McConnell Comment; Trump-Manafort Raid, Putin, Sessions Comments; Opioid Epidemic; Cuba-US Diplomats Sonic Attack; Google-Internal Memo Controversy; Taylor Swift Lawsuit; Penn State Frat Death Investigation; Gene Editing Research; MLB News; College Pizza Store.

NBC: North Korea Threats; North Korea Threats-Guam; North Korea Threats-Responses; Trump-Policy Comments; Cuba-US Diplomats Sonic Attack; Penn State Frat Death Investigation; Taylor Swift Lawsuit; London-Traffic Accident; E-Cigarette Fire; Apple Bees Store Closings; Political Satire.

Network TV At A Glance:

North Korea Threats – 19 minutes, 55 seconds
Cuba-US Diplomats Sonic Attack – 5 minutes, 35 seconds
Trump-McConnell Comment – 3 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: North Korea Threats; Trump-Vladimir Putin Comment; FBI-Manafort Raid; NOAA-2016 Weather Abnormality.

CBS: North Korea Threats; North Korea Threats-China; Trump-McConnell Comment; Cuba-US Diplomats Sonic Attack; New Orleans-Flooding; Severe Weather-Hurricane Franklin.

FOX: North Korea Threats; Trump-McConnell Comment; New Orleans-Flooding; NOAA-2016

Weather Abnormality.

NPR: North Korea Threats; Oklahoma-Cigarette Fee Lawsuit; Montana-Wildfire.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in a workforce/apprenticeship discussion; meets with US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers remarks at the Ten Point Coalition's Annual Luncheon; participates in a public ceremony for his official governor's portrait unveiling.

US Senate: 3:30 PM Senate convenes for pro forma session

On recess until 5 September.

US House: On recess until 5 September.

Other: No notable events scheduled.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "We have given Donald Trump a big red button that said 'Do not press' and we are hoping he doesn't press it. Where is Dennis Rodman when we need him?"

Stephen Colbert: "What is tougher than fire and fury? Lava and rage? A paper cut and a lemon? Rizzoli and Isles? Crate and Barrel? Key and Peele?"

Jimmy Fallon: "I read that the US has a plan to launch a cyber attack on North Korea. It's pretty serious. They say it could affect both of North Korea's computers."

Jimmy Fallon: "I read that you can now go on Airbnb and rent Trump's childhood home where he lived until he was four. So at least there's one house where he lasted four years."

Seth Meyers: "According to reports, President Trump has resisted giving his newly appointed White House Chief of Staff John Kelly veto power over his tweets. Though at this point, I'm not even sure President Trump has veto power over his tweets."

Seth Meyers: "Not tough enough? What would be tougher than fire and fury? Fire and fury and bees? Too fire, too furious?"

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Conversation Contents

Secretary Zinke and Colorado Senator Gardner Announce more than \$50 Million for National Parks Infrastructure

"U.S. Department of the Interior" <interior_news@updates.interior.gov>

From: "U.S. Department of the Interior"
<interior_news@updates.interior.gov>
Sent: Sat Jul 22 2017 11:06:04 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Secretary Zinke and Colorado Senator Gardner Announce more than \$50 Million for National Parks Infrastructure



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of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

News Release

Date: July 22, 2017

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Secretary Zinke and Colorado Senator Gardner Announce more than \$50 Million for National Parks Infrastructure

NPS Centennial Challenge Program is Matching \$20 Million in Congressional Funding with \$33 Million from Partner Organizations to Support Maintenance Projects at National Parks

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Colorado Senator Cory Gardner announced today that the National Park Service is teaming up with partners across the nation to distribute nearly \$50 million in high priority maintenance and infrastructure projects at 42 parks in 29 states. Congress provided \$20 million for the projects as part of the [Centennial Challenge](#) program which will be matched by \$33 million from more than 50 park partners to improve trails, restore buildings, and increase visitor access to parks.

Secretary Zinke and Senator Gardner made the announcement while visiting Rocky Mountain National Park, which will receive \$200,000 in federal funds matched by \$200,000 from the Rocky Mountain Conservancy to reduce deferred maintenance on the Alluvial Fan Trail.

“Our national parks span twelve time zones and attract more than 330 million visitors every year. Some locations, like Rocky Mountain National Park, attract millions of visitors alone. This puts an incredible stress on the aging infrastructure at our parks and thanks to Centennial Grants and the generosity of public-private partners, we are able to distribute funds to rebuild our parks,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “Using public-private partnerships to help address the deferred maintenance backlog remains a priority for the Department and the Trump Administration. Park infrastructure includes trails, signage, restrooms, lodges, roads, bridges and waterlines. These funds will help us continue to provide a world-class experience to visitors and ensure that