



# Monthly Policy Briefing for Secretary Zinke



# Special Projects



# Special Projects

## Yellowstone Bison

(b)(5) dpp



# Special Projects

## Yellowstone Bison

- Quarantine Update

(b)(5)dpp



## Briefing Statement FY 2019

**Bureau:** National Park Service  
**Issue:** Quarantine of Yellowstone Bison  
**Member:** General Interest  
**Park:** Yellowstone National Park

### Key Points:

- Yellowstone bison have ecological, genetic, and cultural value that would enhance conservation efforts for the species. Indian tribes and conservation entities are interested in obtaining live Yellowstone bison. However, the population is infected with the bacterial disease brucellosis, which could be transmitted to cattle.
- The NPS has proposed quarantine in Yellowstone National Park (YELL), at the Corwin Springs facility near Yellowstone, and at the Fort Peck Indian Reservation to identify brucellosis-free bison to: establish new conservation and cultural herds, enhance cultural and nutritional opportunities for Indians, and reduce shipments of bison to slaughter facilities.
- Parallel agreements for quarantine process and operations are being negotiated between the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), YELL and Assiniboine and Sioux tribes at Ft. Peck.
- Conducting quarantine in YELL and on the Fort Peck Reservation would not increase risk to livestock because the NPS and Fort Peck tribes will use facilities and testing protocols that meet APHIS-developed specifications and that have been found to effectively identify brucellosis-free bison.

### Background:

- The public disdains the practice of shipping bison to slaughter. As a result, bison managers have explored alternatives to preserve valuable brucellosis-free bison.
- The NPS and Fort Peck tribes adhered to specifications and requirements provided by APHIS and the State of Montana to construct double-fenced quarantine facilities and to establish testing protocols.
- The NPS has proposed to transfer male bison testing negative for brucellosis exposure for 7-8 months from YELL to a facility on the Fort Peck Reservation to complete quarantine (1-2 years) and, eventually, to be released on the Reservation. Bison transport would necessarily occur on Montana highways.
- Female bison and their offspring could be transferred to Fort Peck for additional testing and released after completing the entire quarantine protocol in the YELL facility or another double-fenced facility in Corwin Springs, Montana, which APHIS has used since 2005.

### Current Status:

- The NPS completed structural improvements to the proposed quarantine pastures in YELL; APHIS and State of Montana representatives inspected the facility on December 7, 2017. APHIS has verbally certified the YELL quarantine facility, as of inspection date, though written certification is still forthcoming.
- During December 2017, the NPS, APHIS, and the State of Montana developed and signed an agreement in principle (b)(5)dpp

of YELL bison to tribal lands.

- Between January 15 - 16, 2018, someone released 52 male bison testing negative for brucellosis exposure from YELL's double-fenced isolation pastures. A criminal investigation of this trespass and tampering incident is ongoing. Security has been increased, and the planning and acquisition of long-term security staffing and technology is ongoing.
- On February 28, 2018, the Yellowstone Superintendent met with the Secretary of Interior and his staff, the USDA APHIS Deputy Administrator and staff, the Resource Policy Advisor for State of Montana Governor, and representatives from the Fort Peck Tribe, to discuss relocating YELL quarantine bison to Fort Peck. Crosscutting all discussions in this meeting was a commitment to tribes regarding bison.
- During the February 28 meeting, (b)(5) dpp  
[REDACTED]
- YELL believes quarantine science supports that (b)(5)dpp  
[REDACTED]
- During winter capture operations, 98 yearling bison were entered in to the quarantine facility at YELL (25 female/73 males). These animals are currently undergoing serial testing.
- On April 6, 2018, the Governor of Montana transmitted a letter to Secretary Zinke and Secretary Perdue. In the letter the Governor indicated support of transfer of YELL bison to Ft. Peck for completion of quarantine, and for modifying the Uniform Methods and Rules (UM&R) to expedite transfer of male quarantine bison. The Governor framed this support with three conditions relating to temporal aspects of the quarantine process. The NPS is arranging a meeting with APHIS and the State of Montana in order to ensure common clarity on these conditions.
- The Deputy Administrator of APHIS has analyzed current bison quarantine data and will render a decision on time frame for moving male bison to Ft. Peck. If affirmative, this would mean the current male quarantine cohort at the YELL facility could be relocated to Ft. Peck for completion of quarantine by the end of CY2018.
- On May 14, 2018, the YELL Bison Quarantine FONSI was signed by the NPS Intermountain Regional Director.
- The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the State of Montana and YELL are finalizing agreements for quarantine process and operations at the Stephens Creek facility, and the NPS, APHIS and Ft. Peck tribes are negotiating (b)(5)dpp  
[REDACTED]

**Contact Person:** Dan Wenk, Superintendent, (307) 344-2002, dan\_wenk@nps.gov

**Last Updated:** Friday, May 14, 2018

## Briefing Statement FY 2019

**Bureau:** National Park Service  
**Issue:** Bison Management Plan Interagency (Yellowstone NP)  
**Member:** General Interest  
**Park:** Yellowstone National Park

### Key Points:

- Approximately 4800 bison were counted during summer 2017. Yellowstone National Park (YELL) and other members of the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) agreed to manage for a decreasing bison population this winter using hunting in Montana and capture/culling to ensure removal of 600-900 bison.
- 1,173 bison were removed from the population through capture operations and public/treaty hunting outside the park (per state of Montana hunt update on 5/3/18).
- The late summer 2018 population estimate for Yellowstone bison is 4,200 (+/- 500).
- Without capture and culling, the population will continue to grow, which is not sustainable without access to additional habitat in Montana and other states surrounding the park in winter.

### Background:

- The federal government and State of Montana are signatories to the IBMP, which has been implemented since 2001 to manage bison numbers toward a negotiated guideline of 3000 and reduce the risk of brucellosis transmission from bison to cattle.
- The plan has been successful at conserving a viable population of wild, wide-ranging bison and there have been no transmissions of brucellosis from bison to cattle. Other members of the IBMP include the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation, US Forest Service, InterTribal Buffalo Council and the Nez Perce Tribe, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, and Montana Department of Livestock.
- Six tribes hunt bison on land outside the park boundary in Montana adjacent to YELL: the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation, Nez Perce Tribe, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, Confederate Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Blackfeet Nation.

### Current Status:

- There is limited tolerance for wild bison in Montana due to concerns about competition with cattle, human safety, property damage, and brucellosis transmission. The States of Idaho and Wyoming do not want wild bison.

- There is no (b)(5) dpp

- In 2018 captures at the Stephens Creek facility began on February 16 and ended on March 11. At total (b)(5) dpp

- In January and February, 2018, four criminal acts occurred at the Stephens Creek facility including the release of 52 bison from quarantine, the release of 50+ bison from the capture facility, the brief self-chaining of two activists to the processing facility, and the self-chaining of two activists to an access gate. The individuals arrested in the two latter incident were arraigned, found guilty, and sentenced in federal Magistrates Court with conditions including probation, a variety of fines, probation, and a 5 year ban from the park.
- The NPS is in the final stages of negotiating (b)(5) dpp [REDACTED]
- Hunting is prohibited in YELL. However, when bison migrations into Montana are small or late, tribal hunters become frustrated and assert that treaty rights include (b)(5) dpp [REDACTED]
- Plaintiffs sought action against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a 90-day determination that their petition failed to present sufficient scientific evidence that the listing of YELL bison as threatened or endangered was warranted. On January 31, 2018, the US District Court for the District of Columbia granted the plaintiffs' motion for summary judgment and remanded the case to the agency to conduct a new 90-day finding.

**Contact Person:** Daniel N. Wenk, Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park, (307) 344-2002, dan\_wenk@nps.gov

**Last Updated:** Monday, May 14, 2018



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK  
GOVERNOR



MIKE COONEY  
LT. GOVERNOR

April 6, 2018

Secretary Ryan Zinke  
U.S. Department of Interior  
Washington, DC

Secretary Sonny Perdue  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, DC

Dear Secretary Zinke and Secretary Perdue:

I am writing to reaffirm the State of Montana's support for the quarantine and translocation of Yellowstone National Park (YNP) bison to the Ft. Peck and Assiniboine Tribes for cultural and conservation purposes. The State believes that a rigorous and science-based approach to manage brucellosis risk can protect our livestock industry, meet the needs of tribal nations, and inform future bison management among federal and state partners.

The criminal acts on January 14<sup>th</sup> that released bison held in quarantine at YNP's facility at Stephens Creek represents an unfortunate setback in our efforts to advance our shared goals. Unfortunately, that release of bison was just the latest development in a process that has been unnecessarily delayed due to YNP's deviation from regulatory standards for testing and quarantine since initial capture in spring 2016. These delays have thwarted efforts for a timely transport of genetically valuable bison to tribal partners. In light of a second incident at the Stephens Creek facility during the week of February 19<sup>th</sup>, the State feels that facility security must be a greater priority for all partners for bison holding areas.

The State has reviewed the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) recently completed draft risk assessment *Equivalency of B. abortus Mitigations in Yellowstone Bison*. Considering this analysis and the memorandum of agreement reached between APHIS, the National Park Service and Montanan's Department of Livestock, the State believes it may be reasonable to investigate a modified approach to the Uniform Methods and Rules (UM&R) for bison quarantine—the established science-based protocols used to eliminate disease risk.

Female bison pose the greatest risk for transmission of brucellosis. And therefore, the State of Montana agrees with YNP that any quarantine of female bison should undergo the full testing protocol outlined in the UM&R, and be geographically located within the existing Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) for brucellosis. While the established testing regime of the UM&R protocol coupled with the existing risk management of the DSA best addresses the risk of transmission of brucellosis outside of current disease management areas, we support the validation of a shorter quarantine if justified by additional experience with the program.

Based on previous quarantine efforts, the findings of the APHIS risk assessment, and recent research concerning male bison, the State recognizes the reduced risk male bison present for disease transmission. After a period of testing under procedures comparable to the UM&R and in facilities approved for quarantine, past cohorts have demonstrated extremely low risk of transmission of brucellosis after a period of isolation and routine testing of approximately 7.5 months. Under prior quarantine efforts, no bull bison have seroconverted to a positive test for brucellosis after a period of 205 days. In accordance with the risk assessment findings and epidemiological standards, the State believes it may be reasonable and appropriate to transfer bison bulls to the Ft. Peck facility for required monitoring and quality assurance testing if the animals are:

- Greater than 30 months of age at release, and;
- Held in existing facilities at Stephens Creek and Corwin Springs for a minimum duration of 9 months and
- Held a minimum of 90 days following the last non-negative test in the test group

This regimen should allow for test-negative, prior year's cohorts to be transferred ahead of winter capture operations. The timeline would have the added benefit of ensuring absolute separation of annual cohorts and thereby eliminating any possibility of disease transfer between groups of different disease status.

Montana recognizes that any deviation from existing UM&R standards should be evaluated and supported by APHIS. Without such support, the State would not agree to this modified approach, and it's also unlikely that bison would be allowed interstate movement to other tribes and restoration herds following completion of any unapproved protocol. Therefore, Montana encourages APHIS to accept this proposal, or present an alternate testing plan that outlines the sample size and frequency of testing that would provide sufficient statistical confidence to consider future revisions to the UM&R protocol.

Post quarantine testing, monitoring and quality assurance as stipulated in the UM&R is a critical component of bison quarantine that would be well placed at Ft. Peck. Should Ft. Peck or another tribal nation wish to partner with state and federal agencies to conduct this work at an appropriate facility on tribal lands, the State welcomes the opportunity to ensure effective communication of testing results as a means of informing future bison management and maintaining commitments to manage disease risk.

Secretary Zinke and Secretary Purdue

April 6, 2018

Page 3

Only through close coordination and communication can we continue to learn the best approaches to manage risk and to ensure that a quarantine program continues to meet the diverse objectives of state, federal and tribal partners.

It is my intent that this correspondence clarifies the state's position on future quarantine efforts and serves as a platform for all parties to recommit to partner to meet our shared goals for bison management.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Steve Bullock", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

STEVE BULLOCK

Governor

cc: Chairman Floyd Azure, Ft. Peck and Assiniboine Tribe

## Conversation Contents

### Bison Briefs

#### Attachments:

/26. Bison Briefs/1.1 YELL\_Bison Quarantine\_5-14-18.docx  
/26. Bison Briefs/1.2 YELL\_BisonManagement\_FY2019\_5-14-18.docx  
/26. Bison Briefs/1.3 4062018 Bison Quarantine letter - Zinke and Purdue (1).pdf  
/26. Bison Briefs/2.1 YELL\_Bison Quarantine\_5-14-18.docx  
/26. Bison Briefs/2.2 YELL\_BisonManagement\_FY2019\_5-14-18.docx  
/26. Bison Briefs/2.3 4062018 Bison Quarantine letter - Zinke and Purdue (1).pdf

**Dan Wenk <dan\_wenk@nps.gov>**

---

**From:** Dan Wenk <dan\_wenk@nps.gov>  
**Sent:** Mon May 14 2018 14:02:47 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Susan Combs <susan\_combs@ios.doi.gov>  
**CC:** Sue Masica <Sue\_Masica@nps.gov>, rick\_obernesser@nps.gov, paul\_smith@nps.gov, chris\_powell@nps.gov  
**Subject:** Bison Briefs  
YELL\_Bison Quarantine\_5-14-18.docx  
**Attachments:** YELL\_BisonManagement\_FY2019\_5-14-18.docx 4062018 Bison Quarantine letter - Zinke and Purdue (1).pdf

Assistant Secretary Combs,

I have included three documents that give the status of bison management and quarantine in Yellowstone. If you have any questions please let me know and we will be pleased to clarify or to provide additional information.

1. Bison General Information Brief
2. Bison Quarantine Brief
3. Letter to Secretaries Zinke and Perdue from Montana Governor Bullock

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

**"Combs, Susan" <susan\_combs@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Combs, Susan" <susan\_combs@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Mon May 14 2018 14:06:15 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Foster, Maureen" <maureen\_foster@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Bison Briefs



**Attachments:** YELL\_Bison Quarantine\_5-14-18.docx  
YELL\_BisonManagement\_FY2019\_5-14-18.docx 4062018 Bison  
Quarantine letter - Zinke and Purdue (1).pdf

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

From: **Dan Wenk** <[dan\\_wenk@nps.gov](mailto:dan_wenk@nps.gov)>

Date: Mon, May 14, 2018 at 4:02 PM

Subject: Bison Briefs

To: Susan Combs <[susan\\_combs@ios.doi.gov](mailto:susan_combs@ios.doi.gov)>

Cc: Sue Masica <[Sue\\_Masica@nps.gov](mailto:Sue_Masica@nps.gov)>, [rick\\_obernesser@nps.gov](mailto:rick_obernesser@nps.gov), [paul\\_smith@nps.gov](mailto:paul_smith@nps.gov),  
[chris\\_powell@nps.gov](mailto:chris_powell@nps.gov)

Assistant Secretary Combs,

I have included three documents that give the status of bison management and quarantine in Yellowstone. If you have any questions please let me know and we will be pleased to clarify or to provide additional information.

1. Bison General Information Brief
2. Bison Quarantine Brief
3. Letter to Secretaries Zinke and Perdue from Montana Governor Bullock

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

--

Susan Combs  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1-202-208-4482

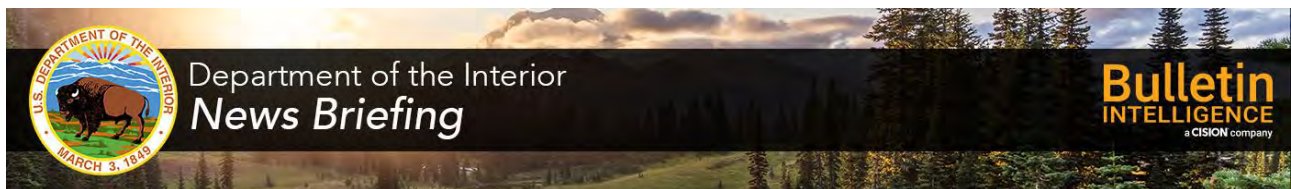
# Conversation Contents

[EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, June 19, 2018

**Bulletin Intelligence** <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

**From:** Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>  
**Sent:** Tue Jun 19 2018 04:00:45 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, June 19, 2018

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



**DATE: TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2018 6:00 AM EDT**

## Today's Table Of Contents

### DOI In The News

- Reuters: U.S. Federal Oil Output Hits Record In 2017, In Boost For Trump Energy Agenda.
- Klamath Falls (OR) Herald And News: Trump Defends Oregon Monument Expansion In Lawsuit.
- Cronkite News: Sportsmen Push To Keep Uranium Mining Ban Near Grand Canyon.
- Politico: Zinke Linked To Real Estate Deal With Halliburton Chairman.
- Gov Loop: Meet The Govie Who's Using "Drones For Good".
- KXLY-TV Spokane (WA): Cantwell Calls For Permanent Re-Authorization Of The Land And Water Conservation Fund.
- KGMB-TV Honolulu: Greater Protections, More Funding Sought For Honouliuli Internment Camp Site.

### Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Senate Committee On Indian Affairs Schedules Hearing On Subsistence.
- Calif. Tribe Asks 9th Circ. To Revisit DOI Casino Land Ruling.

### Bureau Of Land Management

- Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: BLM Oil, Gas Lease Bids Total More Than 38K Acres.
- E&E Publishing: Drilling Critics Appeal To Block Chaco-Area Development.
- E&E Publishing: BLM Plan To Drill In ANWR Crosses Major Threshold.
- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: Drilling Reveals Presence Of Coal.
- Parker (AZ) Pioneer: BLM Working On Two 'Travel Management Plans'.
- KTVN-TV Reno (NV): BLM Seeks Input On Proposed Acquisition Of Land In Douglas Count.

### Bureau Of Reclamation

- Gila Diversion Project Enters NEPA Process.

### Fish And Wildlife Service

- USA Today: Mysterious Canine Creature Shot In Montana Is Just A Regular Wolf, DNA Test Confirms.

### National Park Service

- Associated Press: Supreme Court To Hear Appeal From Alaska Hovercraft Owner.
- CNN: Giant Sequoias On View At Yosemite After 3-Year Project.

- WTTG-TV Washington: Proposal Could Add Permits Or Even Ban Sports Teams On National Mall Fields.
- Associated Press: Contract Awarded For Repairs Of Historic Santa Fe Building.
- Asheville (NC) Citizen-Times: Blue Ridge Parkway Picnic Area Near Asheville In Need Of Repairs.
- Cape Cod (MA) Times: Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission Meets Again.
- St. George (UT) News: Business Owners Wary Of Impact If Zion National Park Restricts Visitation.
- KTVI-TV St. Louis: Kids From Variety The Children's Charity Get A Preview Of New Gateway Arch Museum.
- Raleigh (NC) News & Observer: Wright Brothers Glider: NC Museum Of History Switches Planes.
- Lawrence (KS) Journal World: Lawrence Couple Help Homeless Donkeys Find Families Through Peaceful Valley Rescue Project.
- Milford (MA) Daily News: A New 'Abigail Adams' Recounts The Battle Of Bunker Hill.
- WBIR-TV Knoxville (TN): GSMNP Tracks Salamander Recovery After 2016 Wildfires.
- Associated Press: Searchers Find Body Of Missing California Man At Lake Mohave.
- KOMO-TV Seattle: Park Rangers Searching For Man Missing In North Cascades.
- Chicago Daily Herald: Long Grove's Covered Bridge Added To National Register Of Historic Places.
- Kane County (IL) Chronicle: Corron Farm Listed On National Register Of Historic Places.

### **Insular And International Affairs**

- 26,000 People To Be Screened In Majuro For TB, Leprosy.
- Venice Of The Pacific: The Race To Save The Mysterious Micronesian Ruins Of Nan Madol.
- The Slow Response To Hurricane Damage In Puerto Rico And Completely Neglected U.S.
- Taiwan's Critical Battle To Keep Its Diplomatic Allies From Switching Sides.
- China's Pacific Islands Push Has The U.S. Worried.
- Beijing Pushing Taiwan And US Allies Out Of The Pacific Islands, Says Congressional Report.

### **Office Of Surface Mining**

- Ohio Mines Not Properly Bonded For Reclamation, Groups Say.

### **US Geological Survey**

- Associated Press: Studies Show Groundwater Holding Own Against Drilling Boom.

### **Opinion Pieces**

- Let The States Manage Resources On Federal Lands.
- Wenk's Ouster Raises Concerns For Park Policy.
- Indian Country Needs A Voice In The Trump Administration.
- Additional Reading.

### **Top National News**

- The Hill: Trump, Officials Defend "Zero Tolerance" Border Policy Amid Bipartisan Criticism.
- NBC: Media Analyses: Trump Move To Create Space Force Likely To Face Resistance In Congress.
- New York Times: Trump: US May Impose Tariffs On Another \$200 Billion Worth Of Chinese Goods.

### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

- New York Times.
  - "A Siberian Prisoner Spoils Putin's Extravaganza."
  - "When Did Caging Kids Become The Art Of The Deal?"
- Washington Post.
  - "The Trump Administration Created This Awful Border Policy. It Doesn't Need Congress To Fix It."
  - "Yet Another Russia Contact With The Trump Campaign Team. What Are They Hiding?"
  - "Colombia's New Leader Should Tread Carefully On The Peace Accord."
- Wall Street Journal.
  - "The GOP's Immigration Meltdown."
  - "Merkel On The Edge."
  - "The Supreme Court's Gerrymander Tease."

### **Big Picture**

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

### **Washington Schedule**

- Today's Events In Washington.

## Last Laughs

- Late Night Political Humor.

## DOI In The News

---

### U.S. Federal Oil Output Hits Record In 2017, In Boost For Trump Energy Agenda.

[Reuters](#) (6/18, Valdmanis) reports that “oil production from U.S. federal lands and waters rose 7 percent last year to the highest in at least a decade, while natural gas output slipped, according to soon-to-be-published U.S. data – a partial win for the Trump administration as it tries to fire up energy production on public land.” According to the data from the Office of Natural Resources Revenue, “crude oil output from federal leases averaged about 2.22 million barrels per day during the 2017 fiscal year, the highest since at least 2007, and up from 2.07 million bpd during the 2016 fiscal year.” The data also “showed federal coal production rose in fiscal 2017 to about 333.5 million tonnes, compared to 296 million the year before, while natural gas output dipped 5 percent to 4.36 billion mcf (thousand cubic feet).”

### Trump Defends Oregon Monument Expansion In Lawsuit.

The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (6/19, Floyd) reports that the Trump Administration has “asked for dismissal of a lawsuit challenging expansion of the Cascades-Siskiyou National Monument, claiming the president’s authority supersedes timber laws that would allow harvesting on monument land.” The administration “filed a motion for summary judgement in Fourth U.S. District Court seeking dismissal of a lawsuit filed last year by the Association of O&C Counties (AOCC).” The motion said, “The Secretary of the Interior, as delegated to the Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”), has significant discretion over management of O&C lands, and while BLM’s management may focus predominantly on timber harvest, that does not require the agency to manage every tree on every acre of O&C lands for timber production.”

### Sportsmen Push To Keep Uranium Mining Ban Near Grand Canyon.

[Cronkite News](#) (6/18, Henne) reports that a coalition of Arizona sportsmen’s groups, led by Trout Unlimited and the Arizona Wildlife Federation, “launched a campaign Monday to block what they fear is a Trump administration effort to reopen 1 million acres around the Grand Canyon to uranium mining, saying the environmental risks are too great.” The campaign “includes billboards along interstate highways in the Phoenix area that call on Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to ‘save the Grand Canyon from uranium mining.’” Advocates are worried that the Trump Administration is “moving toward reopening the area to mining, pointing to a finding earlier this year by the U.S. Geological Survey that uranium is one of 35 minerals of critical importance to U.S. economic and national security.”

Also reporting is [Politico](#) (6/18, Tamborrino).

### Zinke Linked To Real Estate Deal With Halliburton Chairman.

[Politico](#) (6/19, Lefebvre, Juliano) reports that “a foundation established by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and headed by his wife is playing a key role in a real-estate deal backed by the chairman of Halliburton, the oil-services giant that stands to benefit from any of the Interior Department’s decisions to open public lands for oil exploration or change standards for drilling.” A group funded by Halliburton chairman David Lesar is “planning a large commercial development on a former industrial site near the center of the Zinkes’ hometown of Whitefish, a resort area that has grown increasingly popular with wealthy tourists.” The development would include “a microbrewery — a business first proposed in 2012 by Ryan Zinke and for which he lobbied town officials for half a decade.” The Whitefish city planner, David Taylor, “said in an interview that the project’s developer suggested to him that the microbrewery would be set aside for Ryan and Lola Zinke to own and operate, though the developer told POLITICO that no final decisions have been made.”

### Meet The Govie Who’s Using “Drones For Good”.

[Gov Loop](#) (6/18, Carmichael) reports that “last year, the Interior Department flew over 700 flights to 71 different wildfires as a part of their aerial vehicle program.” The initiative was led by Mark Bathrick, Director of the Office of Aviation Services for Interior Department. The article notes that “because of his amazing efforts in quelling dozens of fires, he is a finalist for the 2018 Service to America Medals or the SAMMIES.”

*Drones Are (Still) A Firefighter’s Nightmare.* [Popular Mechanics](#) (6/18, Grossman) reports that drones can impede fire fighting efforts. According to the article, “when drones are flying above a

fire, the airspace suddenly becomes crowded with devices that not only aren't helpful, but could fly into a plane." Steve Hall, communications director of the state's BLM office, said, "[It's] not a distraction anybody needs – whether they're on the ground or in the air."

### **Cantwell Calls For Permanent Re-Authorization Of The Land And Water Conservation Fund.**

[KXLY-TV](#) Spokane, WA (6/18, Yngelmo) reports that Sens. Maria Cantwell and Richard Burr have "launched a 100-day campaign" in support of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Cantwell and Burr "along with fellow members of the House and Senate will highlight the looming expiration of LWCF on September 30th, unless Congress acts to #SaveLWCF." They will "call for the permanent reauthorization" of the LWCF.

### **Greater Protections, More Funding Sought For Honouliuli Internment Camp Site.**

[KGMB-TV](#) Honolulu (6/18, Westfall) reports that "a bill before Congress would designate Honouliuli Internment Camp on Oahu a national historic site, giving it greater protections – and funding." Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, "who introduced the measure aimed at giving Honouliuli the new designation," said, "What happens is that monuments have to always struggle for independent funding sources."

## **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

---

### **Senate Committee On Indian Affairs Schedules Hearing On Subsistence.**

The [Nation Sun News](#) (6/18) reports that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will hold a hearing Wednesday on "subsistence, just a week after tribes scored an unusual victory in a treaty rights case." The hearing, titled "Keep What You Catch: Promoting Traditional Subsistence Activities in Native Communities," comes following the Supreme Court's affirmation of "a ruling that helps 21 tribes in Washington state protect their salmon catch."

### **Calif. Tribe Asks 9th Circ. To Revisit DOI Casino Land Ruling.**

[Law360](#) (6/18, Westney) reports that "the Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community urged the Ninth Circuit on Friday to rethink its ruling backing the U.S. Department of the Interior's decision to acquire land for another California tribe's casino project, saying the DOI gave preferential treatment to the other tribe in its review process."

## **Bureau Of Land Management**

---

### **BLM Oil, Gas Lease Bids Total More Than 38K Acres.**

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (6/18) reports that "the Bureau of Land Management Nevada quarterly oil and gas lease sale resulted in competitive bids for 38,579 acres of the 313,715 acres offered." According to the article, "the combined bids from the sale brought in \$201,290, which will be distributed between the federal government and Nevada." The BLM "offered 166 parcels in the Battle Mountain District" and 21 parcels were "sold in Eureka and Nye counties."

### **Drilling Critics Appeal To Block Chaco-Area Development.**

[E&E Publishing](#) (6/18) reports that "critics of oil and gas development near New Mexico's Chaco Canyon are taking their case to a federal appeals court." A coalition of environmental groups on Friday urged the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals "to reverse a lower court's recent decision allowing drilling plans to move forward on public lands in a sensitive area of northwest New Mexico."

### **BLM Plan To Drill In ANWR Crosses Major Threshold.**

[E&E Publishing](#) (6/18) reports that the Trump Administration's push "to sell oil and gas leases on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge crossed a significant threshold last week as the Interior Department concluded its last scoping session before writing its environmental review on drilling in northeastern Alaska." At a late Friday meeting last week in Washington D.C, "a crowd of oil development opponents and supporters presented clashing views on the impacts that drilling would have on the region's Alaska Native communities and on the Porcupine caribou herd that the indigenous groups rely on for their subsistence lifestyle."

### **Drilling Reveals Presence Of Coal.**

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/19, Webb) reports that "exploratory drilling that has



resulted in about two miles of road being built in a roadless area in the North Fork Valley has yielded promising preliminary results for Arch Coal's West Elk Mine, even as environmentalists continue to try in court to stop the company's development of the area." Arch Coal is seeking "to expand its underground mine by operating beneath about 1,700 acres of the Sunset Roadless area." Late last year, the Bureau of Land Management "issued lease modifications covering the acreage after the U.S. Forest Service consented to the leases."

### **BLM Working On Two 'Travel Management Plans'.**

The [Parker \(AZ\) Pioneer](#) (6/18, Gutekunst) reports that the Bureau of Land Management "wants to hear from off-roaders in the Parker and Bouse areas." The agency is "developing their Bouse and Cactus Plain Travel Management Plans, and they want to know which trails off-roaders want to remain open and why." The comment period runs through June 29.

### **BLM Seeks Input On Proposed Acquisition Of Land In Douglas Count.**

[KTVN-TV](#) Reno, NV (6/18) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is seeking public comments "for the proposed acquisition of 14,522 acres of environmental sensitive lands owned by Bently Family Limited Partnership as part of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 15 nominations." Public input will "be accepted through July 15, 2018."

## **Bureau Of Reclamation**

---

### **Gila Diversion Project Enters NEPA Process.**

The [Silver City \(NM\) Daily Press](#) (6/18, Steele) reports that "at their June 11 meeting, the New Mexico CAP Entity, the group responsible for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the Gila diversion project, agreed that the NEPA analysis on the project can begin." The CAP Entity "submitted a 'project confirmation package,' that includes maps and an official letter, to the Bureau of Reclamation and the Interstate Stream Commission – the joint leads on the project – which effectively kicks off the development of the deciding statement on whether the diversion can be built or not." Jeff Riley, manager of the engineering division and the Bureau of Reclamation's Phoenix area office, said, "It was published in the Federal Register on June 12. That starts the scoping period for the NEPA."

## **Fish And Wildlife Service**

---

### **Mysterious Canine Creature Shot In Montana Is Just A Regular Wolf, DNA Test Confirms.**

[USA Today](#) (6/18, Puckett) reports that "the strange-looking canine creature shot in central Montana a month ago that captured the curiosity of the nation was a regular gray wolf, even if it did have big ears and tiny feet, DNA tests have confirmed." Genetic material "from the animal was tested at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service forensic laboratory in Ashland, Ore." Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks said Monday, "The conclusion was clear – this animal is a gray wolf from the northern Rocky Mountains."

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (6/18), [CBS News](#) (6/18, O'Kane), [Fox News](#) (6/18, Szathmary), the [Ravalli \(MT\) Republic](#) (6/18), the [Oregonian](#) (6/18, Palenova), the [New York Post](#) (6/18, O'Neill), [KRTV-TV Great Falls \(MT\)](#) Great Falls, MT (6/18), and [KUSA-TV Denver](#) Denver (6/18, Rodriguez).

## **National Park Service**

---

### **Supreme Court To Hear Appeal From Alaska Hovercraft Owner.**

The [AP](#) (6/18) reports that "Alaska resident John Sturgeon is getting a second crack at the Supreme Court in his fight to get his hovercraft back on the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve." The high court "agreed Monday to review a federal appeals court ruling that sided with the National Park Service and against Sturgeon." The justices will hear arguments in the fall.

Also reporting are the [Washington Post](#) (6/18, Marimow), the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (6/18, Ruskin), and [Law360](#) (6/18, Powell).

### **Giant Sequoias On View At Yosemite After 3-Year Project.**

[CNN](#) (6/18, Lastoe) reports that "in an official ribbon-cutting ceremony and tribal blessing" at Yosemite National Park, "the newly restored Mariposa Grove, home to 500 mature giant sequoias,

was unveiled on Thursday, June 14.” The project “cost \$40 million dollars – \$20 million each from the National Park Service and Yosemite Conservancy donors.” Park superintendent Michael Reynolds “explains that the trees ‘sowed the seeds of the national park idea in the 1800s,’ crediting the restoration project with ensuring that Yosemite ‘will remain one of the world’s most significant natural and cultural resources.’”

Also reporting are the [Washington Post](#) (6/16, Sachs) and the [New York Times](#) (6/18, Fuller, Whittaker).

### **Proposal Could Add Permits Or Even Ban Sports Teams On National Mall Fields.**

[WTTG-TV](#) Washington (6/18, Hemphill) reports that the National Park Service will take public input on “a proposal to possibly ban organized sports along the National Mall and raise permit fees on the use of nearby fields.” Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton “called a meeting after an outcry and hundreds signed a petition protesting the news.” The NPS “says this is just a proposal but it compares to how other cities handle public sports fields and it would allow them to take better care of the fields.”

### **Contract Awarded For Repairs Of Historic Santa Fe Building.**

The [AP](#) (6/19) reports that the National Park Service has “awarded a contract worth more than \$4 million to an Arizona-based company as the agency prepares to restore a national historic landmark in Santa Fe.” Under the contract, MW Morrissey Construction will “repair the exterior adobe walls and other historic elements of the Old Santa Fe Trail Building.”

### **Blue Ridge Parkway Picnic Area Near Asheville In Need Of Repairs.**

The [Asheville \(NC\) Citizen-Times](#) (6/18, Chávez) reports that “the lack of upkeep at Craggy Gardens picnic area appears to be another victim of the park’s notorious half-billion-dollar maintenance backlog.” Spokeswoman Leesa Brandon said, “Our maintenance staff has been in the typical catch-up mode, getting everything cleaned and opened for the season, and it’s been compounded by the heavy rainy season, which has diverted some of their activities to clean up and removal of trees down across the parkway.” Brandon “said the parkway relies on armies of volunteer partners, for funding and labor.”

### **Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission Meets Again.**

The [Cape Cod \(MA\) Times](#) (6/18, Cronin) reports that “more than a year after it was last allowed to meet by the federal government, the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission convened Monday to catch up, moving through a full agenda amid continued questions about whether it would be reauthorized come September.” The meeting “touched on a litany of issues facing the Seashore, including the operation of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, improvements to the Herring Cove Beach parking lot, and the use of herbicides in the national park.” Also, “a presentation was given about what occurred since the group last met; a full solar eclipse, the collapse of the Marconi Beach stairs, and the appointment of Brian Carlstrom as the park’s newest superintendent.”

### **Business Owners Wary Of Impact If Zion National Park Restricts Visitation.**

The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (6/18, Shoup) reports that “many businesses in surrounding communities fear what will happen if visitor numbers are restricted” at Zion National Park. After seeking public input, the park “came up with three alternatives, which are outlined in the National Park Service Preliminary Alternative Concepts Newsletter.” However, many business owners “said they would like to see a different solution than the alternatives presented.”

### **Kids From Variety The Children’s Charity Get A Preview Of New Gateway Arch Museum.**

[KTVI-TV](#) St. Louis (6/18, Brown) reports that the new Gateway Arch museum will “open up July 3, just in time for Fair St. Louis, which returns to the riverfront.” On Monday, more than 30 kids from Variety the Children’s Charity of St. Louis “got a preview.” Rhonda Schier with the National Park Service, said, “We had a lot of conversations.”

### **Wright Brothers Glider: NC Museum Of History Switches Planes.**

The [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (6/18, Quillin) reports that “the N.C. Museum of History is getting an additional piece of Wright Brothers memorabilia with the installation on Monday of a replica 1902 Wright Glider.” The glider “replaces a replica of the 1903 Wright Flyer that had been on loan to the state.” The article notes that “both aircraft belong to the National Park Service’s Wright Brothers Memorial Visitor Center at Kitty Hawk and were moved out when that building

was closed for renovations in November 2016.”

### **Lawrence Couple Help Homeless Donkeys Find Families Through Peaceful Valley Rescue Project.**

The [Lawrence \(KS\) Journal World](#) (6/18, Hlavacek) reports that the National Park Service “recently announced a five-year partnership with the nonprofit” Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue” to capture and relocate 2,500 burros from California’s Death Valley National Park.” According to the article, “the relocation project is entirely funded by private donations, foundation grants and corporate sponsorships.”

### **A New ‘Abigail Adams’ Recounts The Battle Of Bunker Hill.**

The [Milford \(MA\) Daily News](#) (6/18, Scheible) reports that Alison Kiernan, a park ranger at Adams National Historical Park, on Sunday portrayed historical figure Abigail Adams “for the first time in her three-year career.” Patricia Bridgman, “an historical interpreter who portrayed Abigail Adams for many years at park service events, has retired and Kiernan, who lives in Rhode Island, stepped forward to take on the new role.”

### **GSMNP Tracks Salamander Recovery After 2016 Wildfires.**

[WBIR-TV](#) Knoxville, TN (6/18) reports that “the National Park Service and volunteers are studying how salamanders, one of the park’s most abundant creatures, are recovering following drought and wildfires in 2016.”

### **Searchers Find Body Of Missing California Man At Lake Mohave.**

The [AP](#) (6/18) reports that “the body of a California man has been recovered, a day after he disappeared while swimming at the Lake Mohave reservoir on the Colorado River, a National Park Service official said Monday.” According to Lake Mead National Recreation Area spokeswoman Christie Vanover, “park rangers and police from nearby Bullhead City, Arizona, found the body of the 44-year-old man from San Jose, California, in the Pot Cove area.”

Also reporting are the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (6/18, Newberg) and [KVVU-TV Las Vegas](#) Las Vegas (6/17, Benavidez).

### **Park Rangers Searching For Man Missing In North Cascades.**

[KOMO-TV](#) Seattle (6/18) reports that National Park Service rangers and “a team from the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office are searching for a man missing in the North Cascades.” Cornelius “Casey” Zippro, 31, was “last seen at the campground on Saturday.” The NPS “said they have located some of his belongings, but still haven’t found the man.”

### **Long Grove’s Covered Bridge Added To National Register Of Historic Places.**

The [Chicago Daily Herald](#) (6/18, Susnjara) reports that Long Grove’s covered bridge has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

### **Corron Farm Listed On National Register Of Historic Places.**

The [Kane County \(IL\) Chronicle](#) (6/18, Schory) reports that Corron Farm has been named to the National Register of Historic Places.

## **Insular And International Affairs**

---

### **26,000 People To Be Screened In Majuro For TB, Leprosy.**

[Marianas Variety](#) (6/18, Johnson) reports that the Ministry of Health in the Marshall Islands last week launched “a program to screen 26,000 people in Majuro for tuberculosis and leprosy or Hansen’s Disease.” According to a health official, “over 1,400 people were screened in the first week of the program.” Dr. Richard Brostrom, a TB expert from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, “made the point that ‘this is not a surveillance project. Working with the hospital and public health staff, we are not here to count, we are here to cure.’”

### **Venice Of The Pacific: The Race To Save The Mysterious Micronesian Ruins Of Nan Madol.**

[NZCity](#) (6/16) reports that “Australia’s help” is being sought to protect the ruins of Nan Madol in the Federated States of Micronesia. Foreign Minister Julie Bishop “led a bipartisan delegation to the Federated States of Micronesia and two other North Pacific island countries last week.” The goal of her “trip to the north Pacific was to strengthen Australia’s relationship with the region’s



small island states.”

### **The Slow Response To Hurricane Damage In Puerto Rico And Completely Neglected U.S.**

Virgin Islands Reflects Legacy Of Racism And Colonialism. The [Atlanta Black Star](#) (6/17, Love) reports that “with 18,500 homes destroyed and billions of dollars in damage, the U.S. Virgin Islands have been forgotten, even as America’s neglect of Puerto Rico has drawn media attention.” The article notes that “like Puerto Rico, U.S.V.I. suffers from a long legacy of colonialism and racism from the U.S., with a federal policy treating the inhabitants of nonwhite territories like second-class citizens.”

### **Taiwan’s Critical Battle To Keep Its Diplomatic Allies From Switching Sides.**

The [South China Morning Post \(HKG\)](#) (6/18, Zheng) reports that China is offering “economic sweeteners in a broader diplomatic offensive to steal Taiwan’s remaining allies.” Taiwan faces an “uphill battle...after losing two more allies in May – Burkina Faso and the Dominican Republic – with mostly smaller nations in Latin America and the Pacific as its remaining allies.” However, “one of the island’s smaller allies, the Marshall Islands in the Pacific, said it was not facing much pressure to switch over to Beijing.” Anjanette Kattil, charge d’affaires for the Marshall Islands, said, “We don’t get much pressure from the other China. Since we left [our formal diplomatic relationship with Beijing] they’ve basically left us alone.”

### **China’s Pacific Islands Push Has The U.S. Worried.**

[Bloomberg News](#) (6/17, Scott) reports China’s bid for greater influence in the Pacific islands has “the U.S. and its close ally Australia worried.” According to the article, “the region played a key role in World War II and remains strategically important as Western powers seek to maintain open sea lines and stability.” For China, “it offers raw materials, from gas to timber, and a clutch of countries who could voice support for its territorial claims.”

### **Beijing Pushing Taiwan And US Allies Out Of The Pacific Islands, Says Congressional Report.**

The [Epoch Times](#) (6/17, Huang) reports that “the Chinese regime’s increasing involvement in the Pacific Islands region is squeezing Taiwan’s already limited international space while also posing security challenges to the United States and its allies Australia and New Zealand, a Congressional report says.” China is “rapidly moving to establish a political, economic, and military presence across the region, particularly through its Belt and Road Initiative, a massive diplomatic and economic development policy designed to assert Beijing’s strategic interests across the world.” According to a new report published by the congressionally mandated U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, “Beijing’s design for the Pacific Islands aims at reducing Taiwan’s international space and gaining access to raw materials and natural resources.”

## **Office Of Surface Mining**

---

### **Ohio Mines Not Properly Bonded For Reclamation, Groups Say.**

[Law360](#) (6/18, Powell) reports that “the Sierra Club and the Ohio Environmental Council alleged on Monday that 100 mines in Ohio are operating in violation of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act because of inadequate reclamation bonding and urged the federal Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement to do something about it.”

## **US Geological Survey**

---

### **Studies Show Groundwater Holding Own Against Drilling Boom.**

The [AP](#) (6/18, Rubinkam) reports two new studies show “drinking water supplies in Pennsylvania have shown resilience in the face of a drilling boom that has turned swaths of countryside into a major production zone for natural gas.” Over 11,000 wells have been drilled, “since arriving en masse in 2008, making Pennsylvania the nation’s No. 2 gas-producing state after Texas.” The two studies “looked at groundwater chemistry” and didn’t “find much of an impact from horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing.” The findings “suggest that, as a whole, groundwater supplies appear to have held their own against the energy industry’s exploitation of the Marcellus Shale, a rock layer more than a mile underground that holds the nation’s largest reservoir of natural gas.”

[NPR](#) (6/18, Phillips) reports that “researchers used data provided by the industry, as well as by the state and the U.S. Geological Survey, including 11,000 groundwater samples taken after

2010.”

## Opinion Pieces

---

### Let The States Manage Resources On Federal Lands.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Times](#) (6/18, Loris), Nicolas Loris, The Heritage Foundation’s Herbert and Joyce Morgan fellow, argues against “federal control of the lands and the resources they contain.” In his view, “federal management has proved neither nimble nor responsive to dynamic energy markets.” On the other hand, Loris asserts, states “have had remarkable success — both economically and environmentally — overseeing natural resource development.” Loris supports draft legislation, the Enhancing State Management of Federal Lands and Waters Act, which “would transfer to the states responsibilities for energy extraction on federal lands.”

### Wenk’s Ouster Raises Concerns For Park Policy.

The [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (6/19) editorializes that if outgoing Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk is correct in his belief that “he is being pushed out of the job as a ‘punitive action’ for resisting Trump administration efforts to reduce the number of bison in the park,” then “it’s a sad day for Yellowstone and the future of natural resource policy.” The paper notes that “Wenk’s exit was just one of more than a dozen upper echelon moves regarded by observers as efforts to execute Trump administration policies that downplay conservation and favor industries like mining, forest products and agriculture.” They “signal these critical posts will now go to those more supportive of the administration’s positions, regardless what’s best for the natural resources involved.” The paper concludes that is “unfortunate” because “American national parks, forests, wildlife and other publicly owned natural resources must not be entrusted to the volatile whims of politicians.”

### Indian Country Needs A Voice In The Trump Administration.

In a piece for the [Nation Sun News](#) (6/18, Brewer), Graham Lee Brewer, supports Tara Sweeney’s nomination to be the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. Brewer notes that “during her confirmation hearing last month, Sweeney made it clear that Native nations are not homogenous, and that dealing with sovereign nations as the unique and varied cultures and communities they are would be a cornerstone of her tenure.” Brewer writes that “past leaders of the Bureau of Indian Affairs have also held this view, but Sweeney’s perspective is significant, especially in light of the current administration.”

### Additional Reading.

- *Perspectives: What Would It Take To Stir Our Sense Of Injustice?* [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (6/18, Hyde).
- *Editorial: BLM Needs To Hear From Off-roaders.* [Parker \(AZ\) Pioneer](#) (6/18, Gutekunst).
- *Andy Ostmeyer: Red Wolf Collapse Coming As We Realize Importance Of Top Predators In Natural Communities.* [Joplin \(MO\) Globe](#) (6/18, Ostmeyer).

## Top National News

---

### Trump, Officials Defend “Zero Tolerance” Border Policy Amid Bipartisan Criticism.

President Trump, DHS Secretary Nielsen and Attorney General Sessions all offered unequivocal defenses of the Administration’s “zero tolerance” border security policy on Monday. Their comments receive heavy coverage in print and online this morning and on Monday’s network news broadcasts, all of which led with the story. The coverage is decidedly negative for the Administration, with many reports asserting that the President’s claim that Democrats are responsible for the separation of immigrant children from their parents is false and highlighting that prominent Republicans are joining with Democrats in denouncing the Administration.

[The Hill](#) (6/18, Fabian) reports that although Trump “is facing mounting pressure to change the policy,” he “doubled down on the controversial policy” Monday. In the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/18, lead story, 4:05), David Muir also said Trump is “doubling down on his zero tolerance policy.” The [New York Times](#) (6/18, A1, Rogers, Sullivan) reports that in “a series of tweets and speeches on Monday,” the President “relied on fear to curry support” for the policy. In one [tweet](#), Trump wrote, “Children are being used by some of the worst criminals on earth as a means to enter our country. Has anyone been looking at the Crime taking place south of the border. It is historic, with some countries the most dangerous places in the world. Not going to

happen in the U.S." Trump also "repeated his running blame of Democratic policies...despite the fact that no law requires families to necessarily be separated at the border."

Trump [tweeted](#), "Why don't the Democrats give us the votes to fix the world's worst immigration laws? Where is the outcry for the killings and crime being caused by gangs and thugs, including MS-13, coming into our country illegally?" He followed that with another [tweet](#) saying, "CHANGE THE LAWS!" A few minutes later, he [tweeted](#), "It is the Democrats fault for being weak and ineffective with Boarder Security and Crime. Tell them to start thinking about the people devastated by Crime coming from illegal immigration. Change the laws!"

[Reuters](#) (6/18, Lambert) says Trump "responded sharply to critics," saying at a White House event, "The United States will not be a migrant camp, and it will not be a refugee holding facility. It won't be. You look at what's happening in Europe, you look at what's happening in other places – we can't allow that to happen to the United States, not on my watch." [Breitbart](#) (6/18, Spiering) says Trump "chastised Democrats for grandstanding on the issue of immigration instead of working with Republicans to fix the problems." Trump said, "If the Democrats would sit down instead of obstructing, we could have something done very quickly. ... Good for the children, good for the country, good for the world."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/18, Stokols) reports that amid a "growing backlash," Trump "stood firm" to the "hard-line stance on immigration [that] is in keeping with the promises that defined and helped propel his unlikely bid for the presidency from the start three years ago." The [AP](#) (6/18, Miller) describes the President as "undaunted and unapologetic" as he "defended his administration's border-protection policies Monday in the face of rising national outrage."

However, Kristin Welker said on [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (6/18, story 2, 2:30, Holt) that Trump could "end this crisis with a phone call." Sessions "announced the zero-tolerance policy in April. The Administration could reverse it just as quickly. But for his part, the President is trying to put the blame on Democrats." Under the headline, "Trump Falsely Blames Democrats While DHS Chief Defends Family Separation," [Bloomberg News](#) (6/18, Epstein) says that while Trump "blamed Democrats' opposition to legislation that would curb legal immigration for his administration's policy of separating child migrants from their parents," there is "no law requiring children to be taken from parents apprehended after unlawfully crossing the border."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/18, Wagner) says Trump "doubled down...on his false insistence that Democrats are to blame for the administration's forced separation of migrant children from their families." Major Garrett said on the [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (6/18, story 3, 3:15, Glor) that Trump "blamed Congressional Democrats again today for his Administration's family's separation policy," but "it was the Administration that instituted the so-called 'zero tolerance' policy of prosecuting any adult who crosses the border illegally and then separate them from their children or accompanied minors." Cecilia Vega said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (6/18, story 2, 3:40, Muir) that Trump "could be the one to end it. It is his policy launched by his Administration."

Philip Bump writes in an analysis for the [Washington Post](#) (6/18) that while Trump said he would speak "very honestly" and "straight," what "followed wasn't." His remarks were "about deflecting blame for an unpopular policy while reinforcing his long-standing political rhetoric, an effort that at times was internally contradictory. It was not said very honestly or said particularly straight."

[Politico](#) (6/18, Nelson) says Administration officials "are refusing to publicly back down from their intensely controversial practice of separating migrant families at the border," and [USA Today](#) (6/18, Bacon) reports that Trump, Sessions, and Nielsen "staunchly defended" the "'zero tolerance' immigration policy...amid growing outrage over the separation of children from parents accused of illegally attempting to enter the country."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/18, Miroff) reports that in a speech at the National Sheriff's Association meeting in New Orleans Monday, Nielsen "pushed back...at the growing condemnation of her agency's practice of separating migrant families at the border," telling the group, "This department will no longer stand by and watch you attack law enforcement for enforcing the laws passed by Congress. ... We will not apologize for the job we do, or the job law enforcement does, or the job the American people expect us to do." [USA Today](#) (6/18, Bacon) reports that Nielsen "said the children are provided food, medical attention, education and anything else they might need."

[The Hill](#) (6/18, Fabian) reports that Nielsen also made a "surprise appearance in the White House briefing room" on Monday, where she "offered a combative defense of the Trump administration's controversial policy." Nielsen said, "This entire crisis, just to be clear, is not new." Nielsen said, "Currently, it is the exclusive product of loopholes in our federal immigration laws that prevent illegal immigrant minors and family members from being detained and removed to their home countries. ... Congress and the courts created this system, and Congress alone can fix

it." The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/18, Giaritelli) reports that Nielsen told reporters that the separation of families also occurred during the Obama Administration. Nielsen said, "The Obama administration, the Bush administration all separated families. They absolutely did. Their rate was less than ours but they absolutely did do this. This is not new." Aaron Blake of the [Washington Post](#) (6/18, Blake) writes, "Behind the scenes, Nielsen is reportedly fighting Trump's decision to separate migrant children from parents."

[Politico](#) (6/18, Morin) says Nielsen's comments came after she drew criticism for saying in a tweet that her Department does "not have a policy of separating families at the border. Period." Politico adds that although DHS "may not have explicit rules on family separations, the practice is a direct outgrowth of the Trump administration's 'zero-tolerance' policy." The [New York Times](#) (6/18, Qiu) reports that Nielsen "suggested in two appearances on Monday that the Trump administration policy to separate children from their parents at the border was justified, in part, to prevent smugglers from posing as families to take advantage of a 'get-out-of-jail-free card.'" However, "characterizing the increase of this type of fraud as 'staggering' is misleading. The data reflects a period of less than two years, making it difficult to draw a meaningful historical comparison. And the instances of fraud make up less than 1 percent of families apprehended at the border."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/18, Boyer) reports that as Nielsen "was defending the administration's policy of separating families who enter the country illegally," a journalist on the White House briefing room "played an audio tape of crying illegal immigrant children." The sound, which "went on for more than 30 seconds," was from a recording "of 10 Central American children, separated from their parents one day last week by US immigration authorities at the border." It "went viral earlier in the day." The [New York Times](#) (6/18, Fausset) says the recording "is one of a number of documents and accounts that have emerged in recent days showing the toll the practice is taking on children, even though government officials have forbidden journalists who tour the detention centers for migrant children from using cameras or conducting interviews with the children." The Times says it "added disturbing and intimate notes to the debate over the Trump administration's practice of separating children from their parents when families are detained at the border."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/18, A1, Radnofsky, Andrews) reports that Sessions told the sheriffs' meeting in New Orleans that the intent of the policy is to end "the lawlessness" at the southern US border, and he offered suggestions on how the current policy could be ended. Sessions said, "If we build the wall, if we pass some legislation, we close some loopholes, we won't face these terrible choices." [CBS News](#) (6/18) reports that Sessions "blamed previous administrations for allowing 'loopholes' that led to immigrants crossing the border illegally with children, effectively given them immunity from prosecution." Said Sessions, "Word got out about this loophole with predictable results. The number of aliens illegally crossing with children between our ports of entry went from 14,000 to 75,000 – that's a 5-fold increase – in just the last 4 years. This cannot continue."

Sessions said on [Fox News' The Ingraham Angle](#) (6/18), "We have watched what happened with the Obama policies, and over the years, we went from 15,000 illegal entries to 75,000. This is a huge loophole in our system that's attracting more and more people as more and more people understand that under previous policies, if they were entering the country unlawfully, nothing ever happened. But we are doing the right thing. We are taking care of these children. They are not being abused. Health and Human Services house them in good conditions."

White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/18), "There's a lot of misinformation about this. In 1997, there was a decision between INS and HHS that says children of immigrants coming here illegally need to be handed over to HHS. In 2008 that was signed by President Bush. The law says they are to be handed over to HHS within 48 hours. The 9th Circuit determined a reasonable amount of time they can be in detention is up to 20 days. ... The choice is binary, to separate the children or instead within 20 days to let the parents and children go free into society with the expectation they show up for court." Short continued, "separating parents from children is not a policy that we want to pursue. At the same time, letting children and parents come across the border unbounded, illegally, is not a policy either. We want a solution."

In a heated interview on [CNN's Cuomo Prime Time](#) (6/18), presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway said, "I'm a Catholic, I'm a mother, I have a conscience. I stand with the President, the First Lady and everyone else who has said many different ways that nobody likes this result. At the same time, you have to recognize what the Secretary of Homeland Security said today: We have a 1,700 percent increase in asylum claims." The rest of Conway's interview on this issue can be seen [here](#).



In the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (6/18, lead story, 5:40), Lester Holt described the Administration as being "on the defensive" over the "policy...that is the object of a growing bipartisan outcry." The [Washington Times](#) (6/18) says congressional Republicans "beat a full-scale retreat" from the Administration's "zero-tolerance border policy, joining Democrats to demand that President Trump stop jailing parents and find ways to keep families together while trying to stop a new surge of illegal immigration." GOP Rep. Will Hurd said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) 📺 (6/18) that "it is very clear that it is within the Department of Justice, it is within DHS's ability to not separate kids from their parents. And so acting as if this is something that Congress is preventing from happening is just incorrect and it is something that this Administration could change right away."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/18, Wagner) reports that Jeb Bush "chided" the President "for pursuing a 'heartless policy' of forced separation of migrant children from their families." On Twitter, Bush "also accused Trump of trying to use the plight of the migrant children as 'a negotiating tool' to advance his own priorities on immigration with Congress, echoing a criticism leveled by many Democrats in recent days," according to the Post. [Breitbart](#) (6/18, Caplan) reports that Ohio Gov. John Kasich "sent out a fundraising email Monday, seeking political contributions in response to the growing controversy surrounding the Trump administration's handling of underage illegal border crossers." According to Breitbart, the email reads, "Separating children from their parents is just wrong. Take action now. Make your voice heard today."

Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (6/18) that the Administration's "policy" is "hold[ing] these children hostage. They are used as pawns." Blumenthal added that it "is so betraying American values. It recalls the worst period in American history during World War II when we put people of Japanese descent into separate encampments and separated them from the communities and in other times in our world history when families have been torn apart as is happening right now." Blumenthal also called it "child abuse, plain and simple."

A [New York Times](#) (6/18) editorial says that watching Trump "blame Democrats for his administration's inhumane practice of snatching immigrant children from their parents at the border evokes nothing so much as an abusive husband blaming his wife for the beatings he delivers." The Times calls the practice "immoral" and says lawmakers "should not negotiate with the president until he puts a stop to this 'zero tolerance' insanity."

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/18) says no one in the Administration has tried to "justify breaking up families" because "there is nothing that can justify" the policy. Richard Cohen writes in the [Washington Post](#) (6/18), "The outcry against the policy is such that it cannot last." In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (6/18), former DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson writes that the "current 'zero tolerance' deterrent policy, resulting in the separation of 2,000 innocent migrant children from their parents, is immoral and un-American," and will, "in the long run prove to be ineffective."

Sean Hannity said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) 📺 (6/18), "No one likes the idea of separating any child from any parent. But this issue has been in the hands of Congress. And right now the whole issue can be fixed. Every law can be changed, and if they did their job, it would happen."

***Republican Senators Working On Legislation To Halt Family Separations.*** [Breitbart](#) (6/18, Caplan) reports that Sen. Ben Sasse wrote on Facebook, "Changing from catch-and-release does not require adopting the wicked family separation policy." According to Breitbart, Sasse said he is "working with Senator James Lankford to address the 'human tragedy at the border.'" The [Washington Times](#) (6/18, Dinan) reports that Sen. Ted Cruz announced a bill Monday "to stop family separations at the border, calling for a massive infusion of money and manpower to solve the problem without going back to the days of catch-and-release." While Cruz said "he is appalled by the images from the border showing befuddled children being taken from their parents," he "rejected Democrats' answer of releasing the illegal immigrant families, saying that would create a loophole more migrants would try to exploit by arriving as families."

***Sanders Pushes Back Against Laura Bush's Criticism.*** [The Hill](#) (6/18, Samuels) reports that the Administration "pushed back against criticism from former first lady Laura Bush of its 'zero tolerance' policy." White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said during Monday's press briefing, "Frankly, this law was actually signed into effect in 2008 under (Laura Bush's) husband's leadership, not under this administration. ... We're not the ones responsible for creating this problem. We've inherited it. ... But we're actually the first administration stepping up and trying to fix it." Sanders' comments come after Bush wrote in an [op-ed](#) for the Washington Post "in which she lambasted" the Administration's policy, calling it "cruel" and "immoral." The [AP](#) (6/18) reports that former First Lady Michelle Obama on Monday [re-tweeted](#) a message from Bush promoting the column, adding, "Sometimes truth transcends party."

**Clinton: Separating Families Is “Horrific.”** [Bloomberg News](#) (6/18, Kinery) reports that at an event hosted by the Women’s Forum in Manhattan Monday, Hillary Clinton “called the practice of separating immigrant families at the U.S. border a ‘moral and humanitarian crisis’ and criticized her 2016 election opponent for allowing it.” Clinton said, “What’s happening to families at the border is horrific. ... Every human being with a sense of compassion and decency should be outraged.” Clinton also “criticized Attorney General Jeff Sessions’s citation of the Bible in his defense of the policy,” saying, “What is being done using the name of religion is contrary to everything I was ever taught.” The [AP](#) (6/18, Hajela) reports that Clinton “said she had warned during the campaign that Trump’s hard-line immigration stance would result in family separations.” Clinton said, “Now as we watch with broken hearts, that’s exactly what’s happening.”

In a story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/18, story 8, 2:05, Glor), Gayle King highlighted immigrants crossing the southern border to escape violence in their home countries and, in another story on the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/18, story 2, 2:00, Glor), Mireya Villarreal interviewed “Mexicans on the other side of the border hoping to make it to America.”

**UN Human Rights Commissioner Calls Trump Policy “Unconscionable.”** The [New York Times](#) (6/18, Cumming-Bruce) and the [Washington Post](#) (6/18, Morello) both report that Jordanian Prince Zeid Ra’ad al-Hussein, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, condemned the Administration, saying, “The thought that any state would seek to deter parents by inflicting such abuse on children is unconscionable.”

**Administration Could Be Holding 30,000 Children By August.** In a story that was the lead on Drudge Report Monday evening, the [Washington Examiner](#) (6/18, Giaritelli) reports that the Administration “could be holding 30,000 illegal immigrant children by the end of August as a result of its push to enforce federal immigration laws.” The Examiner cites “a senior administration official who asked not to be identified,” who said that HHS “has been taking in about 250 children per day in recent weeks.” According to an HHS official, the Department “expects to be taking about 250 kids each day at least for the next two months,” which means it “could be caring for 18,500 more children by the end of August. The HHS official said as of Friday, HHS was already holding 11,500 children, which means the total could hit 30,000 by August.”

**Report: Administration Discussed Separating Mothers, Children In February 2017.** Citing “notes from a closed-door DHS meeting,” [NBC News](#) (6/18, Ainsley) reports on its website that “the idea of separating migrant children from their mothers was discussed during the earliest days of the Trump administration as a way to deter asylum-seekers.” According to notes from a town hall held for Citizenship and Immigration Services asylum officers on Feb. 2, 2017, “the agency’s asylum chief, John Lafferty, told the officers they might have to ‘hold mothers longer’ and ‘hold children in HHR/ORR.’” NBC adds that while the Administration “has repeatedly maintained that the increasing number of children being separated from their mothers at the US southern border is not a policy of its own making,” in the town hall two weeks after Trump’s inauguration, “Lafferty laid out a number of policies specifically intended to lower the number of immigrants claiming asylum,” including “separation of parents and children.”

**AP: Illegal Immigrants, Including Children, Are Being Held In “Cages.”** The [AP](#) (6/18, Merchant) has a report from inside a facility in McAllen, Texas where it says “hundreds of immigrant children wait in a series of cages created by metal fencing.” According to the AP, “More than 1,100 people were inside the large, dark facility that’s divided into separate wings for unaccompanied children, adults on their own, and mothers and fathers with children.” [Breitbart](#) (6/18, Binder) says, “CBS News, Time Magazine, Business Insider, NBC News, and their counterparts in the Democratic Party have continuously claimed migrant children are being held in cages, specifically pointing to photos from a detention facility in McAllen, Texas.” However, the same barriers “were used in that McAllen detention facility under President Obama when the establishment media was silent on the issue.”

**Caged Boy In Viral Photo Was Not A Detainee.** [USA Today](#) (6/18, Connor) reports that filmmaker and journalist Jose Antonio Varga last week tweeted a “photo of a small child crying with his hands gripping the side of a cage” with the caption, “This is what happens when a government believes people are ‘illegal.’ Kids in cages.” The post “has more than 24,000 retweets and 35,000 likes.” But, the photo “was actually taken on June 10, 2018 at an event protesting the Trump administration’s ‘zero-tolerance’ policy. The boy is not a detainee.”

**Trump Aides Planning Immigration Crackdown Ahead Of Midterm Elections.** [Politico](#) (6/18, Cook) reports that “top aides” to the President “are planning additional crackdowns on immigration before the November midterms, despite a growing backlash over the administration’s move to separate migrant children from parents at the border.” According to Politico, “senior policy adviser Stephen Miller and a team of officials from the Justice Department, Department of

Labor, Department of Homeland Security, and the Office of Management and Budget” have been seeking “ways to use executive authority and under-the-radar rule changes to strengthen hard-line U.S. immigration policies,” with the goal of proving Trump “with enough data and statistics by early September to show voters that he fulfilled his immigration promises — even without a physical border wall or any other congressional measure, said one Republican close to the White House.”

The [New York Times](#) (6/18, Shear, Benner) says Sessions and Miller, who “spent years on the political fringe in the nation’s capital as high-decibel immigration hard-liners, always warning about the dangers of open borders but rarely in a position to affect law or policy,” have “moved from the edges of the immigration debate to its red-hot center. Powerful like never before, the two are the driving force behind President Trump’s policy that has led thousands of children to be separated from their parents at the nation’s southern border.”

**Schumer: Ryan’s Immigration Bill Is “Doomed To Fail.”** [Breitbart](#) (6/18, Munro) reports that Senate Minority Leader Schumer “says House Speaker Paul Ryan’s amnesty bill is ‘doomed to fail’ because it cuts future legal immigration into the United States.” Breitbart adds that Schumer’s position on the measure “is critical because Ryan’s amnesty bill needs support from roughly one-third of the 49 Democratic Senators – and also needs support from nearly all GOP votes in the House.”

**Polls Show Find Strong Opposition To Separating Children, Parents.** The [Washington Post](#) (6/18, Bump) reports that a new Quinnipiac poll “shows that the policy [of separating children from their parents] is...unpopular among Americans – with one big exception.” According to the poll, “Two-thirds of the country, 66 percent, oppose Trump’s policy...includ[ing] 6 in 10 men and 7 in 10 women.” However, “a majority of Republicans approve of the policy, while 6 in 10 independents and 9 in 10 Democrats oppose it.” The Post says “the net view of the policy overall is minus-39, with Republicans at plus-20 – 20 percentage points more likely to support it than to oppose. Among independents, the net margin is minus-44.” [Politico](#) (6/18, Morin) also reports on the Quinnipiac poll.

Jeff Glor reported in the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/18, lead story, 4:55) that a new CBS News poll found that “67 percent of Americans call separating children from parents unacceptable. That includes 90 percent of Democrats. Republicans are split on the issue. Thirty-nine percent find it unacceptable. Thirty-six percent acceptable.”

[CNN](#) (6/18, Sparks) reports on its website that a CNN poll conducted by SSRS found that “two-thirds of Americans disapprove of the Trump administration’s practice of taking undocumented immigrant children from their families and putting them in government facilities on US borders,” while “only 28% approve.” Among Republicans, however, “there is majority support for the policy that has resulted in an uptick of children being separated from their families.”

**Mothers Of Children Killed By Illegal Immigrants Blast Media Hypocrisy.** The [Daily Caller](#) (6/18, Caruso) reports that “the ‘Angel Moms’ of two American sons killed by illegal aliens” said that “there was huge hypocrisy in the mainstream media focusing on migrant parents instead of American parents who were permanently separated from their children after those children were killed by illegal aliens.”

**Coulter: Crying Immigrant Children Are Actors.** The [Washington Times](#) (6/18, Chasmar) reports that conservative author and pundit Ann Coulter argued Sunday that the crying immigrant children seen on cable news channels are “child actors” who are “given scripts to read by liberals.” Coulter said on Fox News’ “The Next Revolution,” “I would also say one other thing, these child actors weeping and crying on all the other networks 24/7 right now: do not fall for it, Mr. President. I get very nervous about the president getting his news from TV. ... A New Yorker article – the New Yorker is not a conservative publication – they describe how these kids, these kids are being coached. They’re given scripts to read by liberals, according to the New Yorker. Don’t fall for the actor children.” The [Daily Beast](#) (6/18, Wilstein) says The New Yorker article to which Coulter referred “does not seem to exist, though some have speculated that Coulter may have been referring to a New York Times article from May, which reported that Trump administration officials claim migrant children have been ‘coached on what to say to make fraudulent claims for asylum.’”

**USCIS: DACA Status Granted To 53,000 Immigrants With Criminal Records.** The [Washington Times](#) (6/18, Dinan) reports that the US Citizenship and Immigration Services has released data showing that “ten people who’d been arrested on murder charges were nonetheless granted permission to remain and work in the US under the Obama-era DACA amnesty.” In addition, “Thirty-one ‘Dreamers’ had rape charges on their records, nearly 500 had been accused of sex crimes, and more than 2,000 had been arrested for drunken driving – yet were approved for DACA status.” The Times adds, “All told, 53,000 people who have been approved for DACA – 7 percent of the total – had a criminal record when the government granted them status,” and “nearly 8,000

racked up criminal charges after they'd been approved." [Breitbart](#) (6/18, Munro) reports that "17,079 DACA recipients have been arrested more than two times."

**WSJournal: Republicans Could Lose Congressional Majorities Over Immigration.** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/18) says in an editorial that internal GOP divisions over immigration coupled with images of immigrant children being taken from their parents could cost Republicans their congressional majorities in November.

**Krugman: Trump Turning US Into "Just Another Bully."** In his [New York Times](#) (6/18) column, Paul Krugman calls President Trump "the worst human being ever to hold his position," and argues that he is overseeing "a systematic rejection of longstanding American values – the values that actually made America great." Trump, Krugman writes, "isn't making America great again; he's trashing the things that made us great, turning us into just another bully – one whose bullying will be far less effective than he imagines."

**Greenberg: Trump's Base Strategy Energizes Democrats, Alienates Some Republicans.** In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (6/18), Democratic pollster Stanley Greenberg writes that Trump's "outrageous, gutsy strategy of ginning up his base" brands the GOP "as sexist, racist, xenophobic and anti-immigrant, which magnifies the anti-Trump reaction among Democrats," and "leaves a tenth who are conservative Catholics and a fifth who are nonreligious conservatives more tentative in their support of the Republican Party." Moreover, "it pushes away the quarter of Republicans who remain ideologically moderate. The harder the president bangs these drums, the more Democrats become enraged and a segment of Republicans gets demoralized."

## **Media Analyses: Trump Move To Create Space Force Likely To Face Resistance In Congress.**

Media coverage of the President's move Monday to create a sixth branch of the military, a Space Force, casts the announcement as unexpected and likely to encounter opposition from the Pentagon and Congress. Two networks covered the move last night. Calling it "a surprise announcement," [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (6/18, story 5, 0:20, Holt) reported that during a meeting with the National Space Council at the White House, "the President said he's directing the Pentagon to develop a so-called Space Force, an idea he floated in March."

The [AP](#) (6/18, Dunn) quotes the President as saying, "When it comes to defending America, it is not enough to merely have an American presence in space. We must have American dominance in space. We are going to have the Air Force and we are going to have the Space Force, separate but equal." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/18, Pasztor) says the move, if approved, would represent the largest revamp of the armed forces in more than 70 years.

David Martin said on the [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (6/18, story 4, 2:00, Glor) that it "would be the first new branch of the armed services since the Air Force was created in 1947. Less than a year ago, Secretary Mattis told Congress, 'I do not wish to add a separate service that would bring with it a whole new bureaucracy.' But proponents of the Space Force argue the Air Force is too devoted to fighters and bombers to give space the attention and the money it deserves. ... Before it becomes a reality, it will have to be approved by Congress."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/18, Kaplan, Lamothe) too notes Trump "has floated this idea before – in March, he said he initially conceived it as a joke – but has offered few details about how the Space Force would operate." The idea, however, "goes back at least a year to a proposal by Reps. Mike D. Rogers (R-Ala.) and Jim Cooper (D-Tenn.)," who "argued that it made sense to have...a separate branch of service." The proposal was "scrapped amid resistance from senior Pentagon officials, including Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein, who said it would create unnecessary costs and bureaucracy." [The Hill](#) (6/18, Mitchell) similarly says "military officials...have been lukewarm on the idea in the past," and to [Space News](#) (6/18, News), Trump "threw a wrench into the Pentagon's carefully laid out plans to analyze how best to reorganize the military's space forces."

The [New York Times](#) (6/18, Rogers) says the idea "has troubled lawmakers and even some members of [Trump's] administration, who have cautioned that the action could create unnecessary bureaucratic responsibilities for a military already burdened by conflicts." The Times notes that in a letter last year, Mattis wrote, "At a time when we are trying to integrate the department's joint warfighting functions, I do not wish to add a separate service that would likely present a narrower and even parochial approach to space operations." The plan also faces "legislative hurdles." Sen. Bill Nelson "said the president's order lacked the support of the generals who would be required to carry it out." On Twitter, Nelson [said](#), "Thankfully the president can't do it without Congress because now is NOT the time to rip the Air Force apart. Too many important missions at stake."

[USA Today](#) (6/18, King) says Congress "needs to sign off on the plan first – and it probably



won't any time soon," [Bloomberg News](#) (6/18, Dopp) says lawmakers "have been divided on the idea," and according to the [Washington Examiner](#) (6/18, Tritten), the House and Senate Armed Services Committees "were not notified ahead" of the President's announcement Monday, "aides in both chambers said."

[Reuters](#) (6/18, Brice) notes that the US is a member of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, "which bars the stationing of weapons of mass destruction in space and only allows for the use of the moon and other celestial bodies for peaceful purposes."

[Bloomberg News](#) (6/18, Bachman) says the move "would probably be a lot more expensive than just extending the US Air Force's capabilities – and no doubt the nation's largest defense contractors love that idea." According to Bloomberg senior defense analyst George Ferguson, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Raytheon "stand to gain more business from a new branch."

[Politico](#) (6/18, Klimas) reports Trump on "also announced the signing of a space policy directive Monday to make it easier for commercial companies to operate in space and mitigate the creation of more trash in orbit," which the [Washington Times](#) (6/18, Miller, Muñoz) says the White House "billed...as part of the president's agenda to restore US leadership in space."

### **Trump: US May Impose Tariffs On Another \$200 Billion Worth Of Chinese Goods.**

The [New York Times](#) (6/18, Rogers) reports President Trump "escalated his trade fight with China" on Monday night, saying in a statement that his Administration would identify "another \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods that could face 10 percent tariffs." Trump said that he had directed USTR Lighthizer to pursue the additional tariffs in retaliation for Beijing's decision last week to place tariffs on \$50 billion worth of American goods. Said the President, "Further action must be taken to encourage China to change its unfair practices, open its market to United States goods, and accept a more balanced trade relationship with the United States. The trade relationship between the United States and China must be much more equitable."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/18, Mauldin) quotes Trump as saying, "If China increases its tariffs yet again, we will meet that action by pursuing additional tariffs on another \$200 billion of goods." The [Washington Post](#) (6/18, A1, Lynch, Long) says "such a step would be virtually unprecedented in US history and would put nearly all of the \$505 billion in products that the United States imports from China under tariffs," while [Bloomberg News](#) (6/18, Leonard) says Trump's "latest salvo in a brewing trade war would mean a sizable amount of Chinese goods shipped to the US would be exposed to tariff threats and raises new questions about the impact on American consumers," and [Reuters](#) (6/18, Editorial) says the two nations "appeared increasingly headed toward open trade conflict."

**Hassett: US Economy Strong Enough To Handle Uncertainty Over China Trade.** [Bloomberg News](#) (6/18, Woods) reports that in an interview with [CNBC's Squawk Box](#) Monday morning, White House Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Kevin Hassett said "now is the right time to pressure China on its trade policies because the US economy is strong enough to absorb uncertainty arising from bilateral tensions." Said Hassett, "When uncertainty is high, that's difficult for Americans, and it does depress activity a little bit. If right in the middle of a financial crisis we added some uncertainty over exactly how are these negotiations going to work out, then it would be pretty harmful then. But right now, the economy has got a lot of forward momentum."

**NYTimes Analysis: US Tariffs "Too Small And Narrowly Targeted" To Do Chinese Economy Serious Harm.** Keith Bradsher of the [New York Times](#) (6/18, Bradsher) writes, "Thanks to President Trump's tariffs, Americans will soon be paying more for a wide variety of Chinese-made goods, and some American customers may end up buying from other countries instead." However, according to Bradsher, the "tariffs the White House announced on Friday will have little immediate impact on China, despite the size of the \$50 billion in goods involved and the invective the move set off from Chinese official news media." Bradsher says the tariffs are "ultimately too small and narrowly targeted to seriously impact China's nearly \$13 trillion economy."

## **Editorial Wrap-Up**

---

### **New York Times.**

**"A Siberian Prisoner Spoils Putin's Extravaganza."** The [New York Times](#) (6/18) editorializes that Russia's hosting of "the World Cup soccer extravaganza" presents a good opportunity "to raise the case of Oleg Sentsov, a Ukrainian filmmaker who has been on a hunger strike for more than a month in a remote Siberian penal colony, to remind the Russian president that his costly sport show does not wipe away his government's crimes." The Times asserts that Russian President Vladimir Putin's "regime alone is responsible for the assaults on Ukraine, for Mr.

Sentsov's torture and phony trial and for whatever shadow Russia's actions cast over the soccer games." The Times concludes in stressing that "Sentsov is risking his life to draw attention to all this. He and the truth he proclaims deserve the full support of the West, no matter what is going on in Russia's stadiums – or in Mr. Trump's mind."

*"When Did Caging Kids Become The Art Of The Deal?"* A [New York Times](#) (6/18) editorial says that watching Trump "blame Democrats for his administration's inhumane practice of snatching immigrant children from their parents at the border evokes nothing so much as an abusive husband blaming his wife for the beatings he delivers." The Times calls the practice "immoral" and says lawmakers "should not negotiate with the president until he puts a stop to this 'zero tolerance' insanity."

### **Washington Post.**

*"The Trump Administration Created This Awful Border Policy. It Doesn't Need Congress To Fix It."* In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/18) that no one in the Administration has tried to "justify breaking up families" because "there is nothing that can justify" the policy.

*"Yet Another Russia Contact With The Trump Campaign Team. What Are They Hiding?"* The [Washington Post](#) (6/18) editorializes, "Hardly a goes by in which President Trump fails to call the Russia probe a 'witch hunt.' Yet barely less frequent are the reminders of his damaged credibility on the subject." Special Counsel Robert Mueller "is conducting an essential inquiry into a foreign effort to influence U.S. elections, amid increasingly worrying signs of Trump team contacts with Russians."

*"Colombia's New Leader Should Tread Carefully On The Peace Accord."* The [Washington Post](#) (6/18) editorializes that Colombia's President-elect Ivan Duque is "a long-standing critic of the peace deal" forged between the Colombian government and former FARC rebels, so his Sunday electoral win cast doubt on the broader "peace process at a moment when violence in post-conflict zones is on the rise." The Post argues that "Duque wisely addressed these concerns on Sunday evening, pledging to push forward with large parts of the peace accord and to continue supporting the reintegration of former rebel combatants." To the Post, Duque's remarks "will be a welcome foundation for the presidency he will begin in August."

### **Wall Street Journal.**

*"The GOP's Immigration Meltdown."* The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/18) says in an editorial that internal GOP divisions over immigration coupled with images of immigrant children being taken from their parents could cost Republicans their congressional majorities in November.

*"Merkel On The Edge."* A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/18) editorial says German Chancellor Angela Merkel's coalition government will not prevail if she fails to address populist concerns over her 2015 open-door migration policy. The underlying issue is that Christian Social Union leader and Interior Minister Horst Seehofer is attuned to voters' lack of satisfaction with Merkel, the Journal says, underscoring how Merkel's steadfast commitment to static centrism has ignored the economic and social challenges facing her nation.

*"The Supreme Court's Gerrymander Tease."* In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/18) lauds the Supreme Court for avoiding the issue of partisan gerrymandering, but warns that the liberal justices made it clear they need just one vote to begin ruling on the issue. The Journal warns that such a move would undermine the separation of powers, further politicize the judiciary, and cause voters to see judges as being as biased as politicians.

## **Big Picture**

---

### **Headlines From Today's Front Pages.**

#### **Wall Street Journal:**

[Trump Readies More Tariffs For China](#)

[Trump Defends Family-Separation Policy](#)

[How A Florida Utility Became The Global King Of Green Power](#)

[Audi CEO Arrested In Emissions-Cheating Probe](#)

#### **New York Times:**

[Trump Resisting A Growing Wrath For Separating Migrant Families](#)

[How The Koch Brothers Are Killing Public Transit Projects Around The Country](#)

[As Europe's Liberal Order Splinters, Trump Wields An Ax](#)

[Mexico's World Cup Captain Is On A U.S. Blacklist](#)

[Erdogan's Plan To Raise A 'Pious Generation' Divides Parents In Turkey](#)  
[How Anti-Immigration Passion Was Inflamed From The Fringe](#)

**Washington Post:**

[Bob Dole's Final Mission](#)  
[Trump Defiant On Crisis At Border](#)  
[As Debate Shifts, GOP Decries Family Separations](#)  
[D.C.-Area Private Schools Plan To Scrap Advanced Placement](#)  
[Trotz Resigns, But It Shouldn't Take The Shine Off The Capitals' Cup](#)  
[President Threatens China With More Tariffs](#)

**Financial Times:**

[Trump Turns His Fire On Germany Over Immigration](#)  
[Colombia's New President Faces Decades-Old Challenges](#)  
[Audi Chief Rupert Stadler Faces Being Forced To Step Down](#)

**Washington Times:**

[Republicans Abandon Trump, Demand End To Zero-Tolerance Border Policy](#)  
[Potential 2020 Trump Primary Challengers Eagerly Join Uproar Against Family Separations At Border](#)  
[Russia-To-Germany Undersea Pipeline Unnerves U.S., Riles Region](#)  
[Republican Gov. Larry Hogan 'Stronger Than Ever' In Re-Election Bid In Deep-Blue Maryland](#)  
['Where's The Beef?' South Korea Says It's Coming 'Soon' On Deal With Kim Jong-Un](#)  
[Southern Poverty Law Center's Settlement With 'Extremist' Organization Dings Credibility](#)

**Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:**

**ABC:** Border Security-Immigrant Children; Border Security-Immigrant Children-Reactions; Severe Weather; FBI-Inspector General Report; Japan-Earthquake; Tesla-Car Explosion; UK-Meghan Markle's Father-Regrets; California-ER Doctor Hostile Bedside Manner; Illinois-Prisoners Escape; DC-Rollercoaster Riders Stranded; Daytona Beach-Rollercoaster Accident-Survivor; News Reporter Overcomes Neurological Disorder.

**CBS:** Border Security-Immigrant Children; Border Security-Immigrant Children-Reactions; Trump-Space Force; World Health Organization-Video Game Addiction; Severe Weather; Illinois-Prisoners Escape; Apple-iOS 911 Feature; Border Security-Immigrant Stories.

**NBC:** Border Security-Immigrant Children; Border Security-Immigrant Children-Reactions; Severe Weather; Tesla-Car Explosion; Trump-Space Force; New York-Taxi Driver Suicides; World Health Organization-Video Game Addiction; NBC Reporter Richard Valeriani Dies; Florida-Cooling Towers Implore; Box Office-Incredibles 2; Border Security-Immigrant Children-Final Thoughts.

**Network TV At A Glance:**

Border Security-Immigrant Children – 14 minutes, 40 seconds  
Border Security-Immigrant Children-Reactions – 9 minutes, 25 seconds  
Severe Weather – 2 minutes, 50 seconds

**Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:**

**ABC:** Border Security-Immigrant Children; Border Security-Immigrant Children-Reactions; Trump-China Tariffs.

**CBS:** Trump-China Tariffs; Border Security-Immigrant Children; FBI-Inspector General Report-Defending Report; Severe Weather; Wall Street.

**FOX:** FBI-Inspector General Report-Strzok Subpoena; FBI-Inspector General Report-Defending Report; Border Security-Immigrant Children; Trump-China Tariffs; North Korea-China Visit.

**NPR:** Border Security-Immigrant Children; Border Security-Immigrant Children-Reactions; Trump-Space Force; US Supreme Court-Gerrymandering Cases.

## **Washington Schedule**

---

**Today's Events In Washington.**

**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Delivers remarks at the National Federation of Independent Businesses 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration; participates in the arrival of Their Majesties King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of Spain; meets with Their Majesties King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of Spain; participates

in an expanded bilateral meeting with His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain; participates in the departure of Their Majesties King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of Spain; signs the 10 millionth United States patent; delivers remarks to the House Republican Conference; delivers remarks at dinner with supporters.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in an event for Representative John Katko (R-NY); tours Nucor Steel Auburn, Inc.; delivers remarks at Nucor Steel Auburn, Inc.; participates in a Republican Governors Association (RGA) event.

#### **US Senate:**

9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Lt. Gen. Austin Miller for U.S. Forces-Afghanistan Commander/NATO Resolute Support Mission General and Commander Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm G50, Washington, DC

10:00 AM Homeland Security Subcommittee markup hearing on Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations bill location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 124, Washington, DC

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on the 340B Drug Discount Program – Hearing on 'Effective Administration of the 340B Drug Pricing Program', with testimony from Health Resources and Services Administration Healthcare Systems Bureau Office of Pharmacy Affairs Director Capt. Krista Pedley Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC

10:00 AM USCIS director testifies to Senate Judiciary Committee on EB-5 visa – Hearing on 'Citizenship for Sale: Oversight of the EB-5 Investor Visa Program', with testimony from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director L. Francis Cissna Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC

11:00 AM Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee markup hearing on Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations bill Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 138, Washington, DC

2:30 PM Marcia Gay Harden testifies to Senate Aging Committee – Hearing on 'Changing the Trajectory of Alzheimer's: Reducing Risk, Detecting Early Symptoms, and Improving Data', with testimony from actress and family caregiver Marcia Gay Harden; CDC Alzheimer's Disease And Healthy Aging Program's Dr Lisa McGuire; Pennsylvania Secretary of Aging Teresa Osborne; Jackson Laboratory Associate Professor Dr Gareth Howell; and family caregiver Cheryll Woods-Flowers Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 106, Washington, DC

2:30 PM Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing on data privacy risks – ROOM CHANGE – Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Cambridge Analytica and Other Facebook Partners: Examining Data Privacy Risks', with testimony from University of Cambridge Department of Psychology Lecturer Aleksandr Kogan; NewCo CEO John Battelle; and former FTC Chief Technologist Ashkan Soltani Location: 216 Hart Senate Office Building

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC

3:00 PM State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee markup hearing on Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations bill Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 138, Washington, DC

Senate Veteran's Affairs committee business meeting – Business meeting to consider the nomination of John Lowry III, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training. Time and location still TBD. Location: TBD

#### **US House:**

10:00 AM House committees joint hearing on DoJ and FBI decisions on the 2016 presidential election – House Committee on the Judiciary and House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform joint hearing on 'Oversight of the FBI and DOJ Actions in Advance of the 2016 Election', with testimony from Department of Justice Inspector General Michael Horowitz \* DoJ IG investigation, begun in January 2017, is exploring areas including then-FBI Director James Comey's July 2016 announcement on Hillary Clinton's emails and his two subsequent letters to Congress, allegations of improper disclosures of non-public information, and questions over the timing of FBI release of certain Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) documents Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC

11:00 AM Dem Rep. Darren Soto and social justice leaders call on the Trump Administration to 'stop separating families' – Press conference calling on the Trump Administration, in conjunction with Attorney General Jeff Sessions, to 'stop separating children from their families at the U.S. border', with Democratic Rep. Darren Soto, National Action Network founder and President Rev. Al Sharpton, UnidosUs President and CEO Janet Murguia, Anti-Defamation League National Director and CEO Jonathan Greenblatt, Lawyers' Committee on Civil Rights Under Law President and Executive Director Kristen Clarke, National Urban League President and CEO Marc Morial, National Coalition of Black Civic Participation President and CEO Melanie Campbell, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund President and Director-Counsel Sherrilyn Ifill, and The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights President and CEO Vanita Gupta Location: House Triangle,

Washington, DC

11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC

12:30 PM House Homeland Security subcommittee field hearing on 'Opioids in the Homeland' – Oversight and Management Efficiency Subcommittee field hearing on 'Opioids in the Homeland: DHS Coordination with State and Local Partners to Fight the Epidemic', with testimony from Immigration and Customs Enforcement Philadelphia Special Agent in Charge Marlon Miller; Customs and Border Protection Baltimore Field Office Director of Field Operations Casey Durst; York County, PA, District Attorney David Sunday Jr.; and Pennsylvania State Police Department Bureau of Records and Identification Director Raymond Singley Location: Room 205 of The Speaker Matthew J. Ryan Legislative Office Building, Pennsylvania Capitol Complex

2:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including consideration of legislation including 'H.R. 3192 – CHIP Mental Health Parity Act', as amended, 'H.R. 4005 – Medicaid Reentry Act', as amended, 'H.R. 5590 – Opioid Addiction Action Plan Act', 'H.R. 5687 – SOUND Disposal and Packaging Act', as amended, 'H.R. 5796 – REACH OUT Act of 2018', as amended, 'H.R. 5801 – Medicaid PARTNERSHIP Act', as amended, 'H.R. 5773 – PASS Act of 2018', as amended, 'H.R. 5676 – SENIOR Communities Protection Act of 2018', as amended, 'H.R. 5774 – COACH Act of 2018', as amended, 'H.R. 5775 – PROPER Act of 2018', as amended, 'H.R. 4991 – Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act', as amended, 'H.R. 5762 – Joint Task Force to Combat Opioid Trafficking Act of 2018', as amended, 'H.R. 4627 – Shielding Public Spaces from Vehicular Terrorism Act', as amended, and 'H.R. 6110 – Dr. Todd Graham Pain Management, Treatment, and Recovery Act of 2018' under suspension of the rules Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 5797 – Individuals in Medicaid Deserve Care that is Appropriate and Responsible in its Delivery Act', 'H.R. 6082 – Overdose Prevention and Patient Safety Act', and 'H.R. 6 – Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act' Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC

**Other:**

Association of Defense Communities Defense Communities National Summit – Association of Defense Communities Defense Communities National Summit. Speaking program includes keynotes from Republican Sen. James Inhofe, Navy Secretary Richard Spencer, Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson, and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations and Environment Lucian Niemeyer; with other speakers including Democratic Reps. Scott Peters and Tim Ryan, Republican Reps. Mike Rounds, Scott Taylor, and Rob Wittman, officials from the Department of Defense, and other organizations Location: Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC

7:15 AM USGLC State Leaders Summit continues with Capitol Hill Day – U.S. Global Leadership Coalition State Leaders Summit, with day two agenda including Capitol Hill Day Breakfast and Congressional appointments, before closing reception with Congressional champions \* Speakers throughout the summit include Democrats Sen. Chris Coons and Reps. Jimmy Panetta, Tim Ryan, and Brad Schneider, and Republicans Sen. Todd Young and Rep. John Curtis Location: Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H St NW, Washington, DC

8:00 AM Prudential Bank Regulation Conference – Prudential Bank Regulation Conference, co-hosted by SIFMA and The Clearing House. Speakers include Republican Sen. Pat Toomey, Comptroller of the Currency Joseph Otting, Federal Reserve Board General Counsel Mark Van Der Weide, and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Chairman Jelena Williams Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC

9:30 AM 'Restoring Restraint: Enforcing Accountability for Users of Chemical Weapons' CSIS discussion and report launch – 'Restoring Restraint: Enforcing Accountability for Users of Chemical Weapons' Center for Strategic and International Studies discussion, on ways in which the international community is working to rebuild the system of restraint against chemical weapons. During the event, CSIS launches a report on the topic. Speakers include keynote Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Director-General Ahmet Uzumcu, and others including Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance Dr Yleem Poblete, British Embassy Washington Counsellor for Foreign and Security Policy Samantha Job, and French Ministry of Foreign Affairs Strategic, Security and Disarmament Affairs Director Nicolas Roche Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC

11:00 AM VA Office of Research and Development VA Research Fair – Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Office of Research and Development holds a VA Research Fair, to share with members of Congress and the public exciting new advances aimed at improving healthcare and

quality of life for Veterans, featuring exhibits and demonstrations covering areas such as prosthetics, robotics, genomics and mental health Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC

11:00 AM AEI discussion on 'Assessing the administrative state' – 'Assessing the administrative state' American Enterprise Institute address by Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Administrator Neomi Rao, focusing on what has been accomplished a year and a half into President Donald Trump's first term and the tools that are available for the executive to confront the 'fourth branch of government' Location: American Enterprise Institute, 1789 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC

12:30 PM Donald Trump and the Moral Collapse of American Evangelicalism – As some 1000 evangelical leaders meet with President Donald Trump at the Trump Hotel in Washington on June 19, Schenck, a dissenting evangelical, will lead a discussion, moderated by Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook, regarding Donald Trump and the moral collapse of American evangelicalism and why this branch of Christianity needs reformation. Speakers: Rev. Dr. Rob Schenck, President of The Dietrich Bonhoeffer Institute and author of *Costly Grace: An Evangelical Minister's Rediscovery of Faith, Hope and Love*, will be joined by Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook (International Religious Freedom appointee of President Barak Obama) . (Limited Seating – RSVP required). To RSVP email Melinda Ronn at [melinda.tdbi@gmail.com](mailto:melinda.tdbi@gmail.com) or call 917-743-7836 <https://www.press.org/events/donald-trump-and-moral-collapse-american-evangelicalism> Location: 4th Estate Room, National Press Club, 529 14th St., NW.

3:00 PM Democratic Sen. Ed Markey discusses free speech at Washington Post event – The Washington Post host 'Free to State: The Future of the First Amendment', exploring 'the challenges and opportunities created by robust free speech guarantees in a diverse and modern democracy'. Panelists include Democratic Sen. Ed Markey, former Cambridge Analytica contractor Christopher Wylie, American Civil Liberties Union President Susan Herman, Black Lives Matter Co-Founder Patrisse Khan-Cullors, Information Society Project, PEN America CEO Suzanne Nossel, Federal Communications Commission Commissioner Michael O'Rielly, and comedians Hari Kondabolu and Patton Oswalt Location: The Washington Post, Live Center, 1301 K Street Northwest, Washington, DC

International Summit on Borders – International Summit on Borders. Speakers include Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan, Acting Deputy Commissioner Ronald Vitiello, Acting Executive Assistant Commissioner for Operations Support Robert Perez, Executive Director for Agriculture Programs and Trade Liaison Kevin Harriger, National Targeting Center Executive Director Troy Miller, Safeguarding Division Director John Sagle, and Office of Field Operations Deputy Executive Assistant Commissioner John Wagner, Department of Homeland Security Chief Human Capital Officer Angela Bailey, Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell, and officials from the World Customs Organization, World Bank, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Australia, INTERPOL, Finland, Malaysia, and Singapore Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, Washington, DC

## Last Laughs

---

### Late Night Political Humor.

**Trevor Noah:** "Maybe these detention centers are nicer than where these kids were living in Honduras, but that is not really the point. The point is the federal government is effectively stealing kids away from their parents. Like if some guy in an unmarked van took your kids from the park, the last thing you would be worried about as a parent was how nice the van was or whether they had the good candy."

**Trevor Noah:** "First of all, no one believes that the Democrats are to blame here. The Democrats are like an iPhone at 5 p.m. They have no power, all right?"

**Trevor Noah:** "So look, President Trump, you got two options, man. Either you can own the fact that this was your plan all along and you don't hate this policy of keeping kids in cages, or you can call up the one person in America with more power than you, Beyonce, because if anyone knows how to organize an epic release, it's her."

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "The President spent his Father's Day weekend the same way he does every year. He opens a card and says, 'Who's Eric?'"

**Stephen Colbert:** "The big story continues to be the Trump Administration's policy of forcibly



separating immigrant children from their parents. And faced with almost universal condemnation from both sides of the political aisle, religious leaders, the UN Human Rights council – Trump took full responsibility for the policy and promised a swift end to this humanitarian disaster. Just kidding. He blamed the Democrats.”

**Stephen Colbert:** “There’s two things wrong with this. One, if it was a law, the Republicans are in control of everything. They can fix it. Second of all, it’s not a law, this is a policy. It’s just another scoop from your chum bucket of cruelty.”

**Stephen Colbert:** “But not everyone in the Administration blames this policy on the Democrats. Some say the policy doesn’t exist. Like secretary of homeland security and definitely not the descendant of immigrants, Kirstjen Nielsen, who tweeted yesterday, ‘We do not have policy of separating families at the border. Period.’ Then why are you locking up kids in an abandoned Walmart?”

**Jimmy Fallon:** “He’s talked about it before, but today, President Trump officially ordered the creation of a new military branch. ... The Space Force! Trump was like, ‘It won’t be that hard. It’s not like it’s rocket science.’”

**Jimmy Fallon:** “That’s right, Trump wants the Space Force to be the sixth branch of the military. He said, ‘It’ll come right after the Army, the Navy, the Marines, the Avengers, and the Incredibles.’”

**Jimmy Fallon:** “But it’s true, he’s actually creating the Space Force. It’s all part of Trump’s plan to have one stupid idea distract from his other stupid ideas.”

**Jimmy Fallon:** “The Trump Administration is facing criticism for separating immigrant children from their parents. Some people said they couldn’t believe Trump would do something like this. Then African Americans, Muslims, DACA recipients, transgendered troops, and Special Olympians were like, ‘We can.’”

**Jimmy Fallon:** “The Trump Administration is separating immigrant kids from their parents at the border, but experts say there’s an easy fix to the problem – the midterms.”

**Jimmy Fallon:** “Even Melania Trump came out against her husband. This is real. Her office released a statement that said, ‘Mrs. Trump hates to see children separated from their families.’ Then it said, ‘However, Mrs. Trump is totally okay with wives being separated from their husbands.’”

**Seth Meyers:** “A federal judge in Virginia revoked former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort’s bail on Friday and sent him to jail while he awaits trial. Jail or, as it will soon be known, Trump 2020 reelection headquarters.”

**Copyright 2018 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC** Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform’s terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva’s [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at [BulletinIntelligence.com](http://BulletinIntelligence.com), or called at (703) 483-6100.

# Conversation Contents

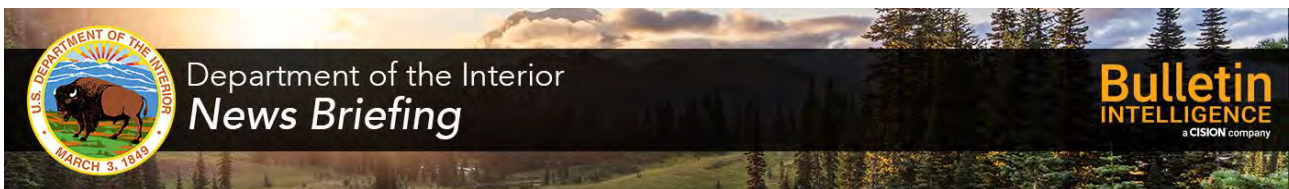
**[EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, June 18, 2018**

**Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>**

---

**From:** Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>  
**Sent:** Mon Jun 18 2018 03:59:01 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, June 18, 2018

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



**DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2018 6:00 AM EDT**

## Today's Table Of Contents

---

### DOI In The News

- Coinweek: US Mint Launches Voyageurs National Park ATB Quarter.
- Huffington Post: Yet Another Top Interior Department Official Seems To Have An Ethics Problem.
- Mother Jones: These Two Letters Explain Why Democrats Were Furious With Ryan Zinke This Week.
- Washington Post: Cattle Rancher, Subject Of Possible White House Pardon, Had Years Of Disputes With Malheur Wildlife Refuge.

### Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Flood Control Measures Underway In Mescalero.

### Bureau Of Land Management

- Casper (WY) Star-Tribune: Head Of Wyoming BLM Says The Agency's Mission Stays The Same Regardless Of Administration's Focus.
- Casper (WY) Star-Tribune: Feds May Change Approach To Oil And Gas Permits To Protect Native American Cultural Sites In Wyoming.
- Anchorage (AK) Daily News: Alaskans Flock To Washington, D.C. For Final ANWR Hearing.
- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: Orphan Well Costs, Liabilities Growing.
- White Mountain (AZ) Independent: Fracking Leases Possible On BLM Land Near Holbrook.
- E&E Publishing: Feds Saddled With Attorneys' Fees In Wild Horse FOIA Case.
- Mohave Valley (AZ) Daily News: BLM To Remove 60 Burros From Bullhead City Neighborhoods.
- Twin Falls (ID) Times-News: 'You Have To Be Prepared To Do Anything.' Twin Falls BLM Firefighters Test Their Skills Ahead Of National Review.

### Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- Gillibrand Opposes Offshore Seismic Tests.

### Bureau Of Reclamation

- Reclamation Chief Revitalizes Agency's Infrastructure Mission.
- CAP Appeals Recommendation On Quartzsite Water Lease Deal.
- Reclamation Seeks Comments On Powerplant Maintenance Project.



- Colorado River Reservoirs Expected To Be Less Than Half Full, Headed Toward Historic Low.
- Federal South-Of-Delta Ag Water Allocation Upped.

### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

- Associated Press: Rare Southern California Flower Taken Off Endangered List.
- Wyoming Public Radio: Fish And Wildlife Proposes Delisting Endangered Plant.
- Associated Press: Bumblebee Blues: Pacific Northwest Pollinator In Trouble.
- Associated Press: Federal Researchers Wrap Up Grand River Sea Lamprey Study.
- Casper (WY) Star-Tribune: Grizzly Committee To Vote On Delisting Strategy For Northwest Montana Bears.
- Albuquerque (NM) Journal: Celebrating The Year Of The Bird.
- Jamestown (ND) Sun: How Many Bald Eagle Deaths From A ND Wind Farm Can Wildlife Officials Accept?
- South Florida Sun Sentinel: Killer Fern Overruns Refuge; Agencies Fight Back.
- Alabama Live: Endangered Darter's Habitat In Birmingham Gets A Boost.
- Associated Press: Marsh Fire Burns In Eastern New Orleans.
- Associated Press: First Grizzly In Recent Memory Seen At Montana Refuge.
- New Orleans Times-Picayune: Man Charged With Illegally Trading Louisiana Box Turtles.

### **National Park Service**

- Seattle Times: After Fears Of Discontinuation, National Outdoor Education Program Every Kid In A Park Will Be Renewed.
- Chattanooga (TN) Times Free Press: Bill Attempting To Help With Deferred Maintenance At National Parks Passes Senate Committee.
- Pagosa (CO) Daily Post: Great Sand Dunes National Park Gets New Superintendent.
- Washington Post: What's It Like To Be A Park Ranger? Rolf Gubler Of Shenandoah National Park Tells Us.
- Associated Press: Park Superintendent Shuffle Shouldn't Slow Bison Quarantine.
- Associated Press: Some Seek Faneuil Hall Name Change Because Of Slavery Ties.
- WLTX-TV Columbia (SC): 29 Immigrants Granted U.S. Citizenship At Ceremony Inside SC Park.
- Associated Press: Broken Pipe Curbs Water Usage For Grand Canyon's North Rim.
- Santa Fe New Mexican: Park Service Awards Contract For Building Rehab.
- WJLA-TV Washington: 2 Lanes On Arlington Memorial Bridge To Be Closed For 2 Weekends.
- Associated Press: Nonprofit Helps Fund Projects At Death Valley, Great Basin.
- McDowell (NC) News: Conservation Trust Acquires 12-acre Tract In McDowell.
- Ithaca (NY) Journal: Land Trust And Ithaca Resident Receive National Awards For Trail Work.
- CBS News: Suspect In Custody After Barricading Self In Vehicle At Hoover Dam Bridge.
- Associated Press: Missouri Teen Rescued After Fall On Grand Teton Park Climb.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Park Rangers Investigating After Drowning Report At Lake Mohave.

### **Office Of Surface Mining**

- Groups Sue Over Reclamation Plan For Arizona Coal Mine.

### **US Geological Survey**

- Associated Press: Earthquake And Aftershock Shake Parts Of Central Oklahoma.
- CBS News: Kilauea Volcano Eruption: Seismic Activity Increases, Earthquakes Strike 5 Days In A Row.

### **Opinion Pieces**

- Zinke Blatantly Disregards Trump's Opposition To 'Horror Show' Elephant Trophy Hunting.
- Zinke Can Save The Grand Canyon, But Will He?
- Re-evaluating DRECP Is Waste Of Taxpayer Money.
- Additional Reading.

### **Top National News**

- NBC: Conway: Nobody Likes Separating Immigrant Families.
- New York Times: Trump Blames Democrats For Policy To Separate Immigrant Parents From Children, Warns Of MS13 Threat.
- New York Times: Trump: DOJ IG Report "Totally" Exonerates Him Of Wrongdoing In Russia Probe.
- ABC: Media Analysis: Trump Risking "Trade War" With China By Imposing Tariffs.
- Wall Street Journal: Trump Increasingly Seeking Advice From Cabinet Over White House Staffers.

- Politico: Senate Avoiding Poison Pill Riders In Legislation To Prevent Shutdown Fight Ahead Of Primaries.

## **Editorial Wrap-Up**

- New York Times.
  - "Gareth Rhodes In The 19th District."
- Washington Post.
  - "Mexico's Could-Be President Is A Lot Like Trump. That Doesn't Mean They'd Get Along."
  - "Right Wingers Kill Clean Votes On 'Dreamers' – And Bring Up Two Worse Bills Instead."
  - "More Libraries Are Going Fine-Free. That's Good For Everyone."
- Wall Street Journal.
  - "A Troops For Nukes Trade?"
  - "Responding To The Bias Response Team."
  - "No Country For American Locker Makers."

## **Big Picture**

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

## **Washington Schedule**

- Today's Events In Washington.

## **Last Laughs**

- Late Night Political Humor.

## **DOI In The News**

---

### **US Mint Launches Voyageurs National Park ATB Quarter.**

[Coinweek](#) (6/15) reports that the United States Mint joined the National Park Service last week to launch the America the Beautiful Quarters Program coin honoring Voyageurs National Park. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "The beauty and recreational opportunities of Voyageurs National Park in Minnesota make it a fantastic year-round destination for sightseeing, fishing, boating, and hiking. The park's interconnected lakes, maze of water ways, 2.7 billion year-old exposed geological layers, campsites, and trails are examples of the many treasures and experiences available on America's vast network of public lands."

### **Yet Another Top Interior Department Official Seems To Have An Ethics Problem.**

The [Huffington Post](#) (6/15, Kaufman) reports that "a top political appointee at the Interior Department repeatedly scheduled meetings with his former employers in an apparent violation of federal ethics rules." Todd Wynn, director of the agency's Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, "worked as the task force director at the American Legislative Exchange Council from 2011 to 2013, overseeing the energy, environment and agriculture division and organizing three national conferences a year, a copy of his résumé shows." On Oct. 27, Wynn "planned a 30-minute video call with Jennifer Butler, a senior policy adviser at the ALEC-linked State Policy Network, according to calendars released under a Freedom of Information Act request." On Dec. 19, Wynn "scheduled another such call with Grant Kidwell, the ALEC director in charge of his former task force." The article notes that "on Oct. 16, Wynn signed President Donald Trump's ethics pledge prohibiting political appointees in the executive branch from participating 'in any particular matter involving specific parties that is directly and substantially related to [one's] former employer or former clients.'"

### **These Two Letters Explain Why Democrats Were Furious With Ryan Zinke This Week.**

[Mother Jones](#) (6/15, Spinelli) reports that Democrats raised concerns about "some questionable behavior" in Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's agency and "described some of their concerns in a recent pair of open letters." According to the article, "the first letter, from June 5 and signed by 12 Democratic senators, rips into the secretary for charging a political appointee with the task of reviewing any grant applications that exceed a \$50,000 threshold." Also, last Wednesday, "all 18 Democratic members of the House Natural Resources Committee wrote to Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) requesting a hearing into sexual harassment at DOI."

### **Cattle Rancher, Subject Of Possible White House Pardon, Had Years Of Disputes With Malheur Wildlife Refuge.**

The [Washington Post](#) (6/14, Sottile) reports that "a southeastern Oregon cattle rancher whose

sentence for arson on public lands” helped spark “the 2016 occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge had for decades fought against federal workers in the region amid claims they were hurting his operations, according to federal documents obtained by The Washington Post.” Rancher Dwight Hammond Jr., and his son, Steven, are “among those whom the White House is considering for presidential pardons.” According to the article, “their convictions for arson have drawn sharp rebukes from the local community amid allegations that the family was aggressively prosecuted using anti-terrorism statutes because they were outspoken about public land use in rural Oregon.” Local media outlets here have “urged President Trump to grant clemency to the two men.”

## **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

---

### **Flood Control Measures Underway In Mescalero.**

The [Ruidoso \(NM\) News](#) (6/15, Stallings) reports that “with the Soldier Canyon Fire wrapped up, officials in Mescalero focused their attention on preventing flooding from areas impacted by the flames.” The Flood Response Group “assembled sand bags and placed k-rail concrete barriers Wednesday and Thursday around homes and below the fire area in Soldier Canyon on the Mescalero Apache Reservation that adjoins Ruidoso.” According to the article, “local law enforcement was assisting crews as they maneuvered heavy equipment to and from work sites in Soldier Canyon and the surrounding Mescalero area.” Thora Padilla, emergency management officer for the Mescalero Apache Tribe, said that “the Bureau of Indian Affairs Burned Area Emergency Response Team and the inter-departmental Flood Response Group were coordinating flood mitigations and preparations while working proactively to protect the community and people.”

## **Bureau Of Land Management**

---

### **Head Of Wyoming BLM Says The Agency’s Mission Stays The Same Regardless Of Administration’s Focus.**

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (6/17, Richards) reports that in an interview, Bureau of Land Management Wyoming director Mary Jo Rugwell “answered questions about some of the key issues that have arisen in Wyoming public land debates over the last year” and how things have changed with the new administration. Rugwell said, “I’ve worked for the federal government for a long time. Every time there is a new administration, the focus changes. But when you work for BLM, our overall mission doesn’t change. It’s just that one administration focuses on one part of our mission more than the other. But, we still keep doing everything that we are mandated to do by (the Federal Land Policy and Management Act). It’s just kind of a balancing act. I’m not going to say it’s easy, because it’s not. But it’s important. We really try hard to stay out of the politics of it as much as we can and just focus on our mission.”

### **Feds May Change Approach To Oil And Gas Permits To Protect Native American Cultural Sites In Wyoming.**

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (6/17, Richards) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is “considering new guidance to deal with tribal consultations on private land where owners want to drill for oil and gas near historic sites.” Officials in Wyoming are “juggling a debate that is both sensitive and very old – the rights of ranchers, the rights of tribes and the influence of the federal government.”

### **Alaskans Flock To Washington, D.C. For Final ANWR Hearing.**

The [Anchorage \(AK\) Daily News](#) (6/15, Martinson) reports that the Bureau of Land management “held its final public hearing on the scope of the environmental review of drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge before a divided crowd that included many Alaskans in Washington, D.C. Friday.” The article notes that “organizations that plan to ultimately sue the federal government over the product of the environmental review need to raise issues they plan to bring up in court in their comments.” So “some of the commentary delivered Friday can provide a window into the likely court battle over potential drilling in ANWR.”

### **Orphan Well Costs, Liabilities Growing.**

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/17, Webb) reports that “a recent review found that the Bureau of Land Management’s spending to reclaim orphan oil and gas wells and its potential

liabilities for doing so likely have increased in recent years.” However, the Government Accountability Office report “says the full extent of those increases can’t be determined because the BLM fails to systematically track data on the issue.” As a result, the GAO “can’t be sure if it has sufficient bonds or financial assurance from companies to cover the cost of plugging and otherwise reclaiming wells, and ‘minimize the need for taxpayers to pay for the costs of reclaiming orphaned wells,’ the report says.”

### **Fracking Leases Possible On BLM Land Near Holbrook.**

The [White Mountain \(AZ\) Independent](#) (6/15, Dungan) reports that “a group of Navajo County residents has urged the Navajo Board of Supervisors to help challenge leases for oil and gas fracking on Bureau of Land Management land.” The group, “which learned about the leases just a couple of weeks ago, said the BLM has been working on the leases without public input from local citizens or tribes.” According to the article, “it quickly banded together to form NoFrackingAZ to research the affects of fracking, put up a web site and circulate a petition, which members said has more than 700 signatures so far.”

### **Feds Saddled With Attorneys’ Fees In Wild Horse FOIA Case.**

[E&E Publishing](#) (6/15, Doyle) reports that “a wild horse advocate and energetic Freedom of Information Act filer has been awarded \$69,019 in attorneys’ fees, in a case that shows the high and sometimes disputable cost of litigation.” Debbie Coffey prevailed in her FOIA lawsuit, which led to the Bureau of Land Management “releasing more documents on the agency’s Wild Horse and Burro Program. That victory entitled her to seek attorneys’ fees.” However, U.S. District Judge James Boasberg “also concluded that Coffey’s request for \$125,541 went too far.” In his decision, Boasberg “did not question the attorneys’ hourly rate of pay but instead disputed the number of hours required, citing the example of ‘almost 40 hours to prepare for and draft an 8-page [motion]’ as being ‘easily too much.’”

### **BLM To Remove 60 Burros From Bullhead City Neighborhoods.**

The [Mohave Valley \(AZ\) Daily News](#) (6/17) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has started “an effort to gather about 60 wild burros near Bullhead City.” According to the article, “the three-week gather comes after discussions and concerns brought by private landowners and community leaders following a string of incidents involving wild burros.” The gathered animals will be “taken to the BLM Wild Horse and Burro facility in Florence, Ariz., where they will be prepared for possible public adoption.”

### **‘You Have To Be Prepared To Do Anything.’ Twin Falls BLM Firefighters Test Their Skills Ahead Of National Review.**

The [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (6/15, Kennison) reports that “on Thursday, as part of an all-day training to ready themselves for their National Preparedness Review, 165 Twin Falls District firefighters were drilled on their last-resort plan: using fire shelters to protect themselves when all other options fail.” Kelsey Brizendine, spokeswoman for the Twin Falls District BLM, explained, “This is your last resort to help keep yourself alive.” The National Preparedness Review will “take place next week as fire crews get ready for the main fire season.”

## **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

---

### **Gillibrand Opposes Offshore Seismic Tests.**

[Newsday \(NY\)](#) (6/16, Gralla) reports that the Interior Department is “expected to soon decide whether to grant seismic permits in the Atlantic Ocean, according to the office of Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.).” Gillibrand is urging the Interior Department’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration “to reject any permits.” She wrote in a June 12 letter, “Opening up the Atlantic to this harmful and nuisance-causing testing in order to support the exploration for oil and gas, which we on the coast do not want and do not need, should not be approved by your agencies. This activity runs counter to the Federal government’s responsibility to be a good steward of our nation’s ocean resources and their habitat.” BOEM’s acting director, Walter Cruickshank, said: “BOEM is committed to ensuring protection measures will be in place before any Atlantic seismic survey activity occurs.”

## **Bureau Of Reclamation**

---

## **Reclamation Chief Revitalizes Agency's Infrastructure Mission.**

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (6/15, Dumas) reports that the Trump Administration and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "are 'very focused' on infrastructure, and Reclamation wants to partner with water users to bring new projects forward," Bureau of Reclamation commissioner Brenda Burman said at the Idaho Water Users Association water law conference on Tuesday. Burman noted that "the House just passed the Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations bill providing more than \$1.5 billion for Reclamation, and a similar bill is awaiting a full Senate vote." They "represent an increase of more than \$400 million over the agency's current budget." Burman "encouraged water users to get the backing for projects they'd like see, work with regional leadership and bring the details to Reclamation."

## **CAP Appeals Recommendation On Quartzsite Water Lease Deal.**

The [Kingman \(AZ\) Daily Miner](#) (6/15, Louis) reports that "the Central Arizona Water Conservation District has fired back at the Arizona Department of Water Resources' recommendation to cancel a water transfer from the town of Quartzsite to replenish groundwater reserves in Maricopa, Pima and Pinal counties." In a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, "the district expressed concerns and its belief that the recommendation included several unsupported conclusions." Among the "unsupported assumptions", the letter says, is "that the transfer would negatively impact other Colorado River water users, a claim that the district disputes."

## **Reclamation Seeks Comments On Powerplant Maintenance Project.**

The [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (6/17) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation is seeking input on "a draft Environmental Assessment for the maintenance and rehabilitation of Minidoka Powerplant Unit 7, located at Minidoka Dam." The work would "improve the structural integrity of the 75-year-old bulkhead-gate steel slots and adjacent concrete to avoid further deterioration; assure stabilization; and allow dewatering for regular maintenance."

## **Colorado River Reservoirs Expected To Be Less Than Half Full, Headed Toward Historic Low.**

[KUNC-FM](#) Greeley, CO (6/15, Runyon) reports that "reservoirs that store water along the Colorado River are projected to be less than half full later this year, potentially marking a historic low mark for the river system that supplies water to seven U.S. states and Mexico." The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation forecasts "the river's reservoirs – Lakes Mead and Powell among them – to be at a combined 48 percent of capacity by the end of September." The article notes that "without significant rainfall this summer and fall and above average snow this upcoming winter the combined reservoir storage could dip to 44 percent of capacity by April 2019 according to Reclamation models."

## **Federal South-Of-Delta Ag Water Allocation Upped.**

The [Chico \(CA\) Enterprise-Record](#) (6/15) reports that "farmers south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta who use federal water will get a little more this year, the Bureau of Reclamation announced Friday" The article notes that "the allocation to south-of-delta Central Valley Project contractors for the 2018 contract year was increased from 45 percent to 50 percent."

## **Fish And Wildlife Service**

---

### **Rare Southern California Flower Taken Off Endangered List.**

The [AP](#) (6/15) reports that "after nearly 20 years on the federal list of endangered and threatened species, a tiny flowering plant that only grows on the shores around a single vernal pool in a Southern California mountain range has recovered." The Hidden Lake bluecurl will "officially be delisted on July 2, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." The plant was "placed on the federal list in 1998 because trampling by hikers and horses and its extremely limited range raised concerns that it might become extinct." The Fish and Wildlife Service "credited the recovery to its partnership between the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and other partners." Paul Souza, director of the service's Pacific Southwest Region, said in a statement, "California has one of the highest concentrations of geographically restricted plants in the United States. We are fortunate to have an array of dedicated partners to help ensure species like the bluecurls can be conserved for future generations."

### **Fish And Wildlife Proposes Delisting Endangered Plant.**



[Wyoming Public Radio](#) (6/15, Edwards) reports that “after less than 20 years on the list, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing the removal of a flowering plant from the list of threatened species.” Public comment on the proposal to delist the Colorado butterfly plant will be “taken through the Fish and Wildlife Service through August 7.”

### **Bumblebee Blues: Pacific Northwest Pollinator In Trouble.**

The [AP](#) (6/17, Ridler) reports that “hundreds of citizen scientists have begun buzzing through locations across the Pacific Northwest seeking a better understanding about nearly 30 bumblebee species.” Three states, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho are “participating in the three-year Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Atlas project.” The study is “being paid for by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Idaho and Washington, and in Oregon by another government entity called the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research.”

### **Federal Researchers Wrap Up Grand River Sea Lamprey Study.**

The [AP](#) (6/16) reports that “federal researchers have completed a study of sea lamprey in a western Michigan waterway ahead of plans to build a barrier aimed at controlling the invasive species.” U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service researchers placed “traps and used sex pheromones to conduct a study into how many sea lamprey use the Grand River as spawning grounds.” According to Peter Hrodey, a supervisor fish biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, “the lamprey were either killed or used for research after they were caught and tallied for a population estimate.”

### **Grizzly Committee To Vote On Delisting Strategy For Northwest Montana Bears.**

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (6/16, Chaney) reports that the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee will meet in Polson, Montana this week “to consider last steps toward removing Montana’s largest population of grizzly bears from the Endangered Species List.” Members will consider adopting “the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem conservation strategy, the blueprint directing how state wildlife agencies would manage grizzlies if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delists them.” According to the article, “if the IGBC members approve the conservation strategy on this week, it may form the basis of the federal delisting rule set to be published later in 2018.”

### **Celebrating The Year Of The Bird.**

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/17, Hayden) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife on Saturday hosted a “Year of the Bird” event at Asa Rondeña Winery in Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, “bringing light to the incredible variety of birds Albuquerque is home to and the efforts of the city and its residents to welcome them here.” FWS spokeswoman Aislinn Maestas said, “We get thousands of birds who come through here. We’re here at this winery because this is a place where they actually encourage birds and try to make it a bird-friendly place to be.”

### **How Many Bald Eagle Deaths From A ND Wind Farm Can Wildlife Officials Accept?**

The [Jamestown \(ND\) Sun](#) (6/17, Springer) reports that federal wildlife officials are proposing that the Courtenay Wind Farm in North Dakota would be allowed for five protected bald eagles to be “incidentally” killed over five years. The figure was “computed after surveys and observations of the site, including before it was built, and based on published research.”

### **Killer Fern Overruns Refuge; Agencies Fight Back.**

The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (6/14, Fleshler) reports that “dense mats of old-world climbing fern have overrun sections of the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, covering classic Everglades landscapes in grim green shrouds.” The invasive plant “destroys the tree islands that form crucial habitat for birds, reptiles and mammals.” The South Florida Water Management District announced Thursday that “up to \$2 million in federal money will go toward fighting the fern, known to botanists as *Lygodium microphyllum*.”

### **Endangered Darter’s Habitat In Birmingham Gets A Boost.**

[Alabama Live](#) (6/15, Pillion) reports that the Freshwater Land Trust announced “it has completed a habitat enhancement project” for the endangered watercress darter “at Roebuck Springs, in Birmingham’s Don Hawkins Park, working in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the city of Birmingham.” Jeffrey Drummond, stewardship director at Freshwater Land Trust, “said the group removed some asphalt areas near the springs and replaced them with permeable bioswales and natural areas that help slow down, filter and cool stormwater before it enters the springs.”

## **Marsh Fire Burns In Eastern New Orleans.**

The [AP](#) (6/15) reports that "New Orleans firefighters are monitoring a blaze that broke out in the marsh in the eastern part of the city." The blaze "started sometime Thursday at the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge." U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokesman Pon Dixon "says it likely started as a result of lightning from a dry thunderstorm that passed through the area."

## **First Grizzly In Recent Memory Seen At Montana Refuge.**

The [AP](#) (6/16) reports that "the first grizzly bear in recent memory has been spotted at a Montana wildlife refuge." It is "the first spotted at the Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge since the refuge was created in 1929." Wildlife managers "expect more sightings as grizzlies expand their range onto Montana's plains."

Also reporting are [KRTV-TV](#) Great Falls, MT (6/15, Sherman) and [KTVH-TV](#) Helena, MT (6/15).

## **Man Charged With Illegally Trading Louisiana Box Turtles.**

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (6/15, McKnight) reports that "a 65-year-old New Jersey man was charged Friday (June 15) with violating federal and state law by illegally trading in Louisiana box turtles, according to U.S. Attorney Duane A. Evans' office." Robert Glenn Hennessey is "accused of four counts of violating the Lacey Act, which forbids trading in wildlife that has been illegally captured, possessed, bought or sold."

## **National Park Service**

---

### **After Fears Of Discontinuation, National Outdoor Education Program Every Kid In A Park Will Be Renewed.**

The [Seattle Times](#) (6/15, Paul) reports that "amid growing fears that the national Every Kid in a Park program would be discontinued," the Interior Department has "decided to carry on the initiative, which grants fourth-graders and their families free passes to the U.S. national parks." The National Park Service has "acknowledged that the program has been renewed for another year." The move was "met with relief by many supporters and national outdoors organizations." Meanwhile, "legislation is currently pending that could make the program permanent."

### **Bill Attempting To Help With Deferred Maintenance At National Parks Passes Senate Committee.**

The [Chattanooga \(TN\) Times Free Press](#) (6/15, Pace) reports that "a Senate committee passed the Department of the Interior's Environmental and Related Agencies Act on Thursday which deals with deferred maintenance at national parks." The bill now heads to Congress.

### **Great Sand Dunes National Park Gets New Superintendent.**

The [Pagosa \(CO\) Daily Post](#) (6/15, Faz) reports that Pamela Rice has been named superintendent of Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve by Sue Masica, director of the NPS Intermountain Region. Rice, assistant superintendent for external affairs at Glen Canyon and Rainbow Bridge National Monument, will start "her new duties on July 22." Masica said, "Pam's collaborative leadership style, strong communication skills and experience working with park partners, tribes and elected officials make her a great addition to our Great Sand Dunes team."

### **What's It Like To Be A Park Ranger? Rolf Gubler Of Shenandoah National Park Tells Us.**

The [Washington Post](#) (6/15, Haupt) profiles Rolf Gubler, a ranger at Shenandoah National Park. According to the article, "part of Gubler's work in the division of Natural and Cultural Resources is managing relations between the park's visitors and the 50-plus species of mammals that inhabit Shenandoah, including about 400 to 600 black bears." Gubler's "team of 'bear techs' educates visitors on food storage compliance and trash management, and they handle illegal wildlife feeding, bear jams (when traffic backs up due to a sighting) and, as a last resort, animal capture, trapping and relocation."

### **Park Superintendent Shuffle Shouldn't Slow Bison Quarantine.**

The [AP](#) (6/17) reports that "the impending change in Yellowstone National Park superintendents shouldn't disrupt the progress of a quarantine program created to produce brucellosis-free bison, officials said." According to Yellowstone bison program manager Tim Reid, "the transfer of a group of bull bison to the Fort Peck Indian Reservation later this year should still be on track." Reid said,



"I think there's a world of hoopla and speculation that's kind of overarching things. The reality on the ground is that we're moving forward with quarantine."

### **Some Seek Faneuil Hall Name Change Because Of Slavery Ties.**

The [AP](#) (6/17, Pratt) reports that Faneuil Hall in Boston, Massachusetts has "become one of the latest icons embroiled in debate over whether it should be renamed because of its ties to slavery." The building is "named for Peter Faneuil, a merchant and slave owner who paid for the building as a gift to the city." The National Park Service, which oversees the city-owned building, "doesn't try to hide Faneuil's slavery ties, mentioning it extensively in an online biography."

### **29 Immigrants Granted U.S. Citizenship At Ceremony Inside SC Park.**

[WLTX-TV](#) Columbia, SC (6/16, Neaves) reports that "twenty-nine immigrants took the oath Friday morning inside Congaree National Park to become US citizens." Speaking at the ceremony, Dr. Giselle Mora, Acting Superintendent of the National Park Service, said, "We all came here with the same goal: To pursue our potential, to realize our potential, to care for our families and to contribute to our communities and to this nation."

### **Broken Pipe Curbs Water Usage For Grand Canyon's North Rim.**

The [AP](#) (6/17) reports that "the Grand Canyon's North Rim will be following new water restrictions because of a malfunctioning pump." According to Grand Canyon National Park officials, "Level 2 water restrictions will be implemented Monday while crews work to fix a pump that supplies water." Officials added that "mandatory restrictions may occur if repairs take longer."

### **Park Service Awards Contract For Building Rehab.**

The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (6/15, Houghton) reports that "a multimillion-dollar project to repair the exterior adobe walls and other historic elements of the National Park Service's landmark building on Old Santa Fe Trail could begin in the early fall." The park service "said Friday it awarded a \$4.2 million contract to MW Morrissey Construction, which will work with Oden Construction Inc." The article notes that "because of the potentially hazardous nature of building materials and other safety concerns, the agency said, the site will remain closed during the repair work."

### **2 Lanes On Arlington Memorial Bridge To Be Closed For 2 Weekends.**

[WJLA-TV](#) Washington (6/15, Parker) reports that "two lanes on the Arlington Memorial Bridge will be closed over the next two weekends, starting Friday at 7 p.m." The bridge is slated "to be fully rehabilitated beginning in the fall." The National Park Service "says the work beginning Friday will get the bridge ready to support the construction equipment and traffic during the rehabilitation."

### **Nonprofit Helps Fund Projects At Death Valley, Great Basin.**

The [AP](#) (6/17) reports that "a conservation nonprofit that previously raised \$80 million is using more funds to pay for improvements at Nevada's Great Basin National Park and Death Valley National Park on the Nevada-California border, among others." The San Francisco-based Fund for People in Parks has "raised more than \$800,000 for 30 projects at 11 different parks." According to the article, "most of the donations were in the \$25,000 to \$50,000 range and were used to pay for things like interpretive signs, trail improvements, exhibits and orientation films."

### **Conservation Trust Acquires 12-acre Tract In McDowell.**

The [McDowell \(NC\) News](#) (6/16) reports that Conservation Trust for North Carolina "recently acquired a 12-acre tract adjoining the Blue Ridge Parkway on Bear Den Mountain Road." The parcel, "known as Honeycutt Creek Cascades, augments recent protection of 208 acres purchased by Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina below Bear Den Overlook." The land will be donated to the National Park Service for inclusion in the Blue Ridge Parkway.

### **Land Trust And Ithaca Resident Receive National Awards For Trail Work.**

The [Ithaca \(NY\) Journal](#) (6/15) reports that "the Finger Lakes Land Trust and an Ithaca man received national awards from the National Park Service and the North Country Trail Association during the Finger Lakes Trail Conference Spring Weekend held at Lions Camp Badger in Spencer." The Finger Lakes Land Trust, received the Friend of the Trail Award for its "leadership, accommodation and active collaboration that have substantially benefited the North Country Trail," according to Cayuga Trails Club. Also, "Tom Reimers, a longtime Ithaca resident, received the highest honor from the North Country Trail Association — the Tom Gilbert Lifetime Achievement

Award — in recognition of 34 years of 'true dedication, exceptional service, and outstanding contributions towards the dream of the North Country Trail and the success and growth of the NCTA,' a Cayuga Trails Club news release stated."

### **Suspect In Custody After Barricading Self In Vehicle At Hoover Dam Bridge.**

[CBS News](#) (6/15) reports that "a man who police say barricaded himself inside a vehicle and blocked traffic along the Hoover Dam bridge has been taken into custody." According to the article, "numerous law enforcement units from Nevada and Arizona responded to the incident Friday," including the Lake Mead National Park Service.

Also reporting are the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (6/16, Lacanlale), the [Washington Post](#) (6/15), the [Arizona Republic](#) (6/15, Fish), [KNXV-TV Phoenix](#) Phoenix (6/16, Jarvis, Carter), and [KTVK-TV Phoenix](#) Phoenix (6/15, Silverman, Almasy).

### **Missouri Teen Rescued After Fall On Grand Teton Park Climb.**

The [AP](#) (6/15) reports that Grand Teton National Park rangers "rescued a Missouri teen injured in fall while descending a mountain next to Jenny Lake in northwest Wyoming." The National Park Service "says 18-year-old Derek Wilcock, of Kansas City, Missouri, fell about 30 feet (9 meters) around 9:30 p.m. Tuesday." At 9 a.m. the following day, "Wilcock and his partner were flown by helicopter off the mountain."

### **Park Rangers Investigating After Drowning Report At Lake Mohave.**

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (6/17, Apgar) reports that the National Park Service is "investigating reports of a possible drowning at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, officials said Sunday." According to the NPS, "just before 11:15 a.m., park officials received a report of a man going underwater and not resurfacing near Pot Cove on Lake Mohave."

## **Office Of Surface Mining**

---

### **Groups Sue Over Reclamation Plan For Arizona Coal Mine.**

The [AP](#) (6/16) reports that "Navajo environmental groups are asking a judge to review actions that led a federal agency to renew an operating permit for a coal mine near the Arizona-Utah border." The federal lawsuit filed Thursday claims the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement "didn't properly account for the Kayenta Mine's expected closure in 2019." According to the article, "the groups say they want assurances that Peabody Energy will restore the land to pre-mining conditions."

Also reporting is [Law360](#) (6/15, Westney).

## **US Geological Survey**

---

### **Earthquake And Aftershock Shake Parts Of Central Oklahoma.**

The [AP](#) (6/15) reports that the U.S. Geological Survey "says a 4.0 magnitude earthquake has shaken parts of central Oklahoma, but there were no immediate reports of damage." The article notes that "thousands of earthquakes have been recorded in Oklahoma in recent years, with many linked to the underground injection of wastewater from oil and natural gas production."

### **Kilauea Volcano Eruption: Seismic Activity Increases, Earthquakes Strike 5 Days In A Row.**

[CBS News](#) (6/15) reports that "a 5.3 earthquake struck Hawaii's Kilauea summit Friday afternoon, the latest in a series of increased seismic activity overnight Thursday into Friday." According to the article, "activity climbed to 40 events per hour with up to five earthquakes per hour that were greater than magnitude-3." The article notes that "Friday marked the fifth day in a row an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.0 hit the summit."

## **Opinion Pieces**

---

### **Zinke Blatantly Disregards Trump's Opposition To 'Horror Show' Elephant Trophy Hunting.**

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (6/17, SaneribOpinion Contributor —), Tanya Sanerib, legal director of the Center for Biological Diversity's international program, notes the inconsistency between President Trump's "strong words" on the trophy hunting of elephants and the pro-hunting makeup of the International Wildlife Conservation Council. Sanerib writes that the council has been acting "in



complete disregard of the president's stated abhorrence of trophy hunting." She wants Trump "to wake up and smell the bloodsport." Sanerib urges Trump to "shut down this biased thrill-kill council."

### **Zinke Can Save The Grand Canyon, But Will He?**

In an op-ed for the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (6/15, Borden), Skye Borden, the state director of Environment Montana Research & Policy Center, urges Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to stand up to "industry pressure" and protect the Grand Canyon from uranium mining. Borden notes that "Zinke has already used his influence to protect Montana's favorite places" and hopes that he will "begin to extend the favor to other states as well." In Borden's view, "for the sake of the canyon's iconic landscape, as well as the 40 million Americans who drink from the Colorado River flowing through it, Zinke should keep the Interior's mining moratorium in place." Borden also wants Zinke to "encourage legislators from both sides of the aisle to work together to pass the Grand Canyon Heritage Act, which would make the moratorium permanent."

### **Re-evaluating DRECP Is Waste Of Taxpayer Money.**

In an op-ed for the [Victorville \(CA\) Daily Press](#) (6/17, Bailey), Allison Bailey, a veteran of the United States Army, opposes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "concerted push to roll back protections on public lands for commercial development." In particular, Bailey takes issue with the Trump Administration's review of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. Bailey argues that "the DRECP strikes an appropriate balance between land conservation and developing renewable energy sources like windmills and solar panels." She also asserts that "re-evaluating the already-approved DRECP is a waste of taxpayer dollars and does a disservice to all stakeholders, including industry."

### **Additional Reading.**

- *In Retirement, Knowles Exposes The Bad Direction Of The Interior Department.* [Anchorage \(AK\) Daily News](#) (6/17, Wohlforth).
- *SPECTRUM: Greens Run ANWR Scam.* [Mat-Su Valley \(AK\) Frontiersman](#) (6/17, Brennan).
- *The Truth About Fish And Wildlife Management In Alaska.* [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (6/17, Cotten).
- *Wyoming Grizzly Hunt Is Ecologically Indefensible.* [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (6/17, Molvar).
- *Patricia Randolph's Madravenspeak: Tribes Fight Trophy Hunters To Protect Sacred Grizzlies.* [Madison \(WI\) Capital Times](#) (6/17, Randolph).
- *Spence Havlick: Rocky Flats: Superfund Site To Super Contentious Refuge.* [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (6/16, Havlick).
- *Trump Administration Fails To Give Grant Site Its Due.* [Saratogian \(NY\)](#) (6/16, Gladstone).
- *Fuel Breaks Fuel Wildfires, Weeds.* [Idaho State Journal](#) (6/17, Wuerthner).
- *Commentary: Group Applauds Senate Bill's Wild Horse Protections.* [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (6/15).
- *500 Days Of Unleashing Our Economic Engine.* [Townhall](#) (6/16, Driessen).
- *Clarkson: Wildlife Refuge Funding Up For Renewal.* [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (6/16, Clarkson).
- *ECOVIEWS: Ivory-billed Woodpeckers Have A Replacement.* [Aiken \(SC\) Standard](#) (6/16, Gibbons).

## **Top National News**

---

### **Conway: Nobody Likes Separating Immigrant Families.**

The Administration's practice of separating immigrant parents and children who cross the border illegally was the subject of a great deal of discussion on the Sunday talk shows. In addition, it receives heavy media coverage this morning and on all three network news broadcasts, all of which led with the story Sunday evening. Apart from comments from current and former Administration officials, much of the coverage casts the Administration's immigration policies in a negative light.

Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway said on [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (6/17, Todd) that President Trump "is ready to get meaningful immigration reform" and that "nobody likes seeing babies ripped from their mother's arms." The [AP](#) (6/17, Colvin) says Conway "distanced the Trump



administration from responsibility for separating migrant children from their parents at the US-Mexico border, even though the administration put in place and could easily end" the practice. Kelly O'Donnell reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/17, story 2, 2:30, Snow) that there was "no suggestion the President would reevaluate the legal interpretation that splits families."

[Politico](#) (6/17, Weaver) reports that Conway "rebutted claims that migrant children are being used as a bargaining chip to push for new immigration policy," saying, "I certainly don't want anybody to use these kids as leverage. ... I saw a headline that breathlessly screamed as much and I object to that very forcefully."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/17, Lim) reports that Conway called on the anonymous Administration source who told the Washington Post that the White House was using the separation of families as leverage to come forward. Conway said, "I want that person to say it to my face, I really do. ... I'll meet them at the White House today because I think that is a disgrace." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/17, A1, Hackman, Radnofsky) says Conway's comments came as critics of the policy of separating families describe it as cruel and immoral.

[The Hill](#) (6/17, Manchester) reports that "amid growing public backlash," DHS Secretary Nielsen "defended the Trump administration's migrant policies" on Twitter saying the Administration "does not have a policy of separating families at the border." Nielsen [tweeted](#), "This misreporting by Members, press & advocacy groups must stop. It is irresponsible and unproductive. As I have said many times before, if you are seeking asylum for your family, there is no reason to break the law and illegally cross between ports of entry." Nielsen followed that tweet with [another](#) stating, "You are not breaking the law by seeking asylum at a port of entry," and a [third](#) saying, "For those seeking asylum at ports of entry, we have continued the policy from previous Administrations and will only separate if the child is in danger, there is no custodial relationship between 'family' members, or if the adult has broken a law."

The [AP](#) (6/17) reports that the First Lady also weighed-in on family separations Sunday, saying through her spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham that "we need to be a country that follows all laws," but "governs with heart." Grisham said the First Lady "hates to see children separated from their families" and hopes "both sides of the aisle can finally come together to achieve successful immigration reform." The [New York Times](#) (6/17, Baker) notes that the First Lady's statement "did not directly take issue with President Trump's policy. Instead, by saying that 'both sides' needed to agree, she adopted his argument that the situation was caused by political stalemate rather than a policy he initiated." However, [The Hill](#) (6/17, Samuels) says the First Lady "appeared to express disapproval on Sunday with her husband's administration's policy." The [New York Post](#) (6/17, Hicks) and the [Washington Examiner](#) (6/17, Lim) also report briefly on the First Lady's statement.

[The Hill](#) (6/17, Sanchez) reports that former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon argued Sunday that the President does not have to "justify" the zero-tolerance policy, telling [ABC's This Week](#), "It's zero tolerance. I don't think you have to justify it. ... We have a crisis on the southern border but the elites in the city ... want to manage situations to bad outcomes. And Donald Trump is not going to do that, he's just not going to kick the can down the road. ... He went to a zero tolerance policy. It is a crime to come across illegally and children get separated. That's the law and he is enforcing the law." [Bloomberg News](#) (6/17, Brody) says Bannon also "said he didn't think Trump was 'going to back off from' the separations."

Erroll Barnett said on the [CBS Weekend News](#) (6/17, story 3, 1:40, Quijano) that Trump this weekend "again blamed Democrats for breaking up families at the southern border while pressuring them to work with Republicans on an Immigration Bill." Tony Dokoupil said in a separate story on the [CBS Weekend News](#) (6/17, story 2, 2:00, Quijano) that while Trump "has repeatedly tried to blame Democrats for the policy," that is "not true, according to independent immigration analysts and a review of past administrations." Doris Meissner, senior fellow at the Migration Policy Institute: "[The Trump Administration is] deciding to prosecute everybody. That then leads to the need to separate families. The blame should be assigned to the Trump Administration's recent decision."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/17, Demirjian) reports that lawmakers from both parties on Sunday called on Congress to pass a law ending the practice, "but the two sides remain sharply divided on what that bill should look like." Rep. Tim Ryan said on [MSNBC's Politics Nation](#) (6/17), "The reality of it is the Republicans have all the power. They have all the control in Washington, DC. President Trump, this is his initiative. This is his doing, and we need good, smart, kind-hearted Republicans to stand up and say this cannot go on any longer. I mean, we are taking kids from their parents, we're housing them, basically incarcerating them. This is no way for us to run a country."

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (6/17, Samuels) reports that the White House "appears poised for a



fight." This, as Sens. Jeff Flake and Susan Collins wrote to DHS and HHS on Saturday "asking for clarity on the administration's practice." Flake and Collins "asked for details on when children are separated from their parents, what the purpose of doing so is, and how many children have been separated during the asylum claim process." Their letter "cites multiple instances where families seeking asylum were separated, despite the administration's assurances that wasn't the case." [Politico](#) (6/17, Everett) says the letter is "some of strongest pushback the Trump administration has received from congressional Republicans for its policy."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/17, Cohen) reports that Collins "said Sunday she supports the president's efforts to bolster border security, but said that 'using children has not the answer.'" Collins told [CBS' Face the Nation](#) (6/17, Brennan), "From the experience of previous administrations, it does not act as a deterrent to use children in this fashion. ... It is inconsistent with our American values to separate these children from their parents unless there's evidence of abuse or another very good reason."

The [AP](#) (6/17, Taxin) says "a backlash is mounting, fueled by reports of children being taken from mothers and distraught toddlers and elementary school age children asking, through tears, when they can see their parents." According to the AP, the situation "has been brewing since the week President Donald Trump took office, when he issued his first order signaling a tougher approach to asylum-seekers. Since then, the administration has been steadily eroding protections for immigrant children and families."

Tom Llamas said in the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/17, lead story, 2:55) that protests are "growing over...the forced separation of parents and children at the southern border." [Bloomberg News](#) (6/17, Epstein) reports that as "public outrage" over the separation of families "balloons into an election-year controversy for Republicans," several Democratic lawmakers were "traveling to the Rio Grande Valley area in Texas on Sunday to meet with U.S. border authorities and tour a former Walmart Inc. store that's been converted into a detention center for nearly 1,500 immigrant boys."

Mireya Villarreal reported in the lead story for the [CBS Weekend News](#) (6/17, lead story, 2:30, Quijano) at a protest march outside the facility near the Tornillo Port of Entry in El Paso County, Texas, "thousands of protesters chanted and held signs demanding the Trump Administration stop separating children from their parents at the border." March organizer Rep. Beto O'Rourke: "We were told there were 98 kids in the tent city yesterday. Today, we're told there are 200 kids. We have to own this. We cannot blame this on Trump. We cannot blame this on a political party. This is America, so America has to show up." [Politico](#) (6/17, Weaver) reports that O'Rourke told [CNN's State of the Union](#) on Sunday that the separation of families at the border is "on all of us, not just the Trump administration." O'Rourke said, "Things have to be really bad for you to leave Honduras, travel 2,000 miles, if you're lucky, on top off – not inside of – a train known as The Beast, or La Bestia, with your child. ... To literally take your and your child's life into your hands and hope that you will make it here. Once you get here to try to request asylum, only to find that your child will be taken from you."

Meanwhile, seven Democratic lawmakers from New York and New Jersey joined protesters outside a New Jersey immigration detention center to demonstrate against the practice, [Reuters](#) (6/17, Ax) reports. [USA Today](#) (6/17, Alvarado) reports that the lawmakers said in a news conference that "they met with five men at the Elizabeth Contract Detention Facility, four of whom were brought to New Jersey from the US-Mexico border. Some of the men, they said, became emotional when they spoke of their children being taken from them. Some said they don't know where the youngsters are being kept, the representatives said."

Charles Blow writes in the [New York Times](#) (6/17) that separating children from their parents "may well be one of the most callous policies the Trump administration has instituted in its zeal to crack down on illegal immigration." Blow writes that the "barbaric policy is an outgrowth of [Trump's] own personal cruelty. It's absolutely reprehensible and an absolute reflection of him." Blow adds that Trump "and every other politician who was silent about it or worse, endorsed it, must be held to account at the ballot box."

**Laura Bush: Zero-Tolerance Policy Is "Immoral."** In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (6/17, Bush), former First Lady Laura Bush writes, "I appreciate the need to enforce and protect our international boundaries, but this zero-tolerance policy is cruel. It is immoral. And it breaks my heart." Bush writes that while people "agree that our immigration system isn't working...the injustice of zero tolerance is not the answer."

**Trump To Meet With House Republicans To Voice Support For Immigration Compromise.** [CO Roll Call](#) (6/16, McPherson) reports that the President will meet with House Republicans this week "to express his support for a compromise immigration bill the chamber will vote on later in the week, according to a source familiar with the plan." At the Tuesday evening meeting, Trump "is expected



to express his support for two immigration bills the House is planning to vote on next week: a conservative measure by House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte and a compromise measure negotiated by members from a cross section of the conference." Rep. Michael McCaul said on [Fox News' Sunday Morning Futures](#) (6/17, Bartiromo), "The President is fully committed to both of these bills. He has put the full weight of his office behind it."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/17) says in an editorial that House Speaker Ryan ended a push by GOP moderates to force a vote on protections for "dreamers" by "promising that the House would vote on two other bills more heavily influenced by the Republican Party's increasingly toxic immigration politics." The Post is critical of both bills and argues that if they fail, "the moderates can and should resurrect their effort to force votes on better bills." E.J. Dionne writes in the [Washington Post](#) (6/17) that "on the cusp of victory, the so-called moderates caved in to Ryan," and while they "claim they could still fall back on their discharge petition strategy," since they "flinched once, there's little reason to believe they won't balk again."

**Reporters Allowed To Visit Texas Border Patrol Facility.** The [AP](#) (6/17, Merchant) reports that the Border Patrol on Sunday allowed reporters to briefly visit a facility in South Texas "where it holds families arrested at the southern US border, responding to new criticism and protests over the Trump administration's 'zero tolerance' policy and resulting separation of families." The facility, which holds more than 1,100 people, is "divided into separate wings for unaccompanied children, adults on their own, and mothers and fathers with children. The cages in each wing open out into common areas to use portable restrooms. The overhead lighting in the warehouse stay on around the clock." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/17, Hennessy-Fiske) says it was not permitted to interview those being processed, and Tom Llamas said in the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/17, lead story, 2:55) reporters were "barred from bringing cameras along."

Jacob Soberoff said in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/17, lead story, 2:55, Snow) that there are "only four licensed social workers that are contractors that are inside this facility for those 1,129 people. So with the increasing number of children separated, the manpower simply is not enough and that's something the Border Patrol said to us tonight, even though they support this policy."

**Ryan, Trump Jr. Father's Day Tweets Draw Fire Amid Separation Of Immigrant Families.** The [Washington Post](#) (6/17, Selk) reports that a video in honor of Father's Day, House Speaker Ryan again [tweeted](#) a video he posted last Father's Day "with his same advice on the ideal family life, and the same grumpy group photos of Liza, Charlie, Sam and their dad." But, "amid the Trump administration's 'zero-tolerance' crackdown on illegal migration that has resulted in the forced separation of thousands of children from their mothers and fathers," the video got more than 30,000 replies, many of which were "variations on the same theme: images of children being physically taken from their parents, compared with the family fun on display in the House speaker's video."

[Breitbart](#) (6/17, News) reports that a Father's Day tweet by Donald Trump Jr. showing him playing with his children in a pool "provoked the outrage of left-wing pundits, activists, journalists, and other Blue Check Marks." After Trump Jr.'s [tweet](#), which read, "Gonna be a great Father's Day with these little monsters. Hope all of you dads out here get to enjoy as much as I will. #fathersday #familytime #kids #weekend," the "backlash poured in quickly and steadily, with angry progressives championing the cause of children separated from their families because of illegal border crossings into the U.S."

**Parents Being Deported Before Recovering Their Children.** The [New York Times](#) (6/17, Jordan) reports that "some parents are being deported before recovering their children." The Times highlights the case of Elsa Johana Ortiz Enriquez, who "traveled across Mexico with her 8-year-old son, Anthony," and was intercepted by the Border Patrol at the US border. Anthony "was sent to a shelter for migrant children" and Elsa "was put on a plane back to Guatemala." In a video interview from her home in Guatemala, "she said she had no idea when or how she would see her son again."

**ICE Arrests Legal Immigrant Over 20-Year Old Domestic Violence Charge.** The [New York Times](#) (6/17, Mervosh) reports on Jose Luis Garcia, a Mexican immigrant "who has been a legal resident since the 1980s," who was arrested by federal immigration authorities who said they had a warrant "related to a misdemeanor domestic violence charge that was resolved nearly two decades ago." The Times says Garcia and his family "are among those who have been swept up in the Trump administration's immigration policy, which cracks down not only on undocumented immigrants but also on legal residents. The administration makes it a priority to remove those who have pending criminal charges or any convictions in their past."

**Family Of Immigrant Detained While Delivering Pizza Pleads For His Release.** [USA Today](#) (6/17, Jansen, Today) reports that family of Pablo Villavicencio, who was detained June 1 while delivering



pizza to Fort Hamilton Army base in Brooklyn, "spent Father's Day pleading for his release from federal immigration detention." ICE is seeking to deport Villavicencio "to his native Ecuador," but "U.S. District Court Judge Alison Nathan issued an emergency order June 9 preventing his removal. Another hearing is scheduled for July 24." Until then, Villavicencio "remains in custody at the Hudson County Correctional Facility in New Jersey."

*Five Killed As Car Being Chased By Border Patrol Crashes.* The [CBS Weekend News](#) (6/17, story 4, 0:15, Quijano) reported that at least five people were killed Sunday when a vehicle "carrying as many as 14 people, including undocumented immigrants, crashed...in Big Wells, Texas, 100 miles south of San Antonio." According to the county sheriff, "the vehicle was being chased by Border Patrol Agents when it crashed." In the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/17, lead story, 2:55), Marcus Moore said that "12 undocumented immigrants [were] thrown" from the vehicle, which officials say was "traveling at 100 miles per hour."

The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (6/17, Luna) reports that the driver of the vehicle, "believed to a US citizen, was arrested but no information on charges have been released." The [New York Times](#) (6/17, Mervosh) reports that Dimmit County sheriff Marion Boyd "said two United States citizens – the driver and one passenger – were trying to smuggle 12 unauthorized immigrants."

### **Trump Blames Democrats For Policy To Separate Immigrant Parents From Children, Warns Of MS13 Threat.**

President Trump on Saturday [tweeted](#), "Democrats can fix their forced family breakup at the Border by working with Republicans on new legislation, for a change! This is why we need more Republicans elected in November. Democrats are good at only three things, High Taxes, High Crime and Obstruction. Sad!" In his [weekly address](#), the President added, "Americans must demand their lawmakers support the legislation we need to defeat MS-13 once and for all, and to ensure every American child in every American community can grow up in safety, and grow up in security, and in peace." The almost uniformly negative media coverage, which included nearly 10 minutes combined on the network newscasts, described Trump as disingenuous about the origins of the "zero tolerance" policy, which they emphasized was enacted by Attorney General Sessions earlier this year and not by Democrats.

Typical of the tone of the reporting was the [New York Times](#) (6/16, Davis), which says the President "repeated his false assertion that Democrats were responsible for his administration's policy of separating migrant families apprehended at the border" and he continued "a weekslong refusal to publicly accept responsibility for a widely condemned practice that has become a symbol of his crackdown on illegal immigration." The Times adds that although the White House "defended the practice this week" and Sessions "made a spirited case for" the policy, Trump has "steadfastly tried to deflect blame for the separation of children from their parents, consistently dissembling about why it is occurring." However, in an article saying the President "attacked Democrats in Congress over immigration in his weekly address," [The Hill](#) (6/16, Bowden) acknowledges Trump "has frequently used murders and other crimes committed by MS-13 members as justification for his administration's 'zero tolerance' immigration policy, which...Sessions enacted earlier this year."

On the lead [CBS Weekend News](#) (6/16, lead story, 1:15, Ninan) segment, correspondent Weijia Jiang asserted that despite the President's assertion, "it was Mr. Trump's own Justice Department that implemented a policy change in May requiring kids to be taken away from parents who are held in jail." An [AP](#) (6/16, Woodward, Yen) "fact check" states that the policy is "not Democrats' law. There is no law mandating the separation of children and parents at the border." The AP adds that "the separations are a consequence of a Trump administration policy to maximize criminal prosecutions of people caught trying to enter the U.S. illegally." According to the AP, prior to enacting the policy, "many people who were accused of illegal entry and did not have a criminal record were merely referred for civil deportation proceedings, which generally did not break up families."

In a more than 2,000-word front-page article, the [New York Times](#) (6/16, A1, Davis, Shear) states that although "seasonal spikes in unauthorized border crossings had bedeviled American presidents" for more than a decade, "for George W. Bush and Barack Obama, the idea of crying children torn from their parents' arms was simply too inhumane – and too politically perilous – to embrace as policy, and Mr. Trump, though he had made an immigration crackdown one of the central issues of his campaign, succumbed to the same reality, publicly dropping the idea" last year after White House Chief of Staff Kelly – then the Secretary of Homeland Security "touched off a swift backlash" in saying the policy was needed "to deter more movement along this terribly dangerous network." However, the Times adds that "advocates inside the administration, most prominently Stephen Miller, Mr. Trump's senior policy adviser, never gave up on the idea," which



the President approved last month.

In her [Washington Post](#) (6/16, Tumulty) column, Karen Tumulty concedes "there are many reasons people lie," but Trump "lies as a strategy – as evidenced by his latest whopper, which he keeps repeating, that Democrats are to blame for the administration's horrific new policy of ripping children of undocumented immigrants away from their parents." Tumulty adds that according to White House officials, the President "has calculated that he will gain political leverage in congressional negotiations by continuing to enforce a policy he claims to hate – separating immigrant parents from their young children at the southern border."

*Trump To Meet With House Republicans To Discuss Immigration Bills Next Week, Sources Say.*

Two House Republican aides told the [Washington Post](#) (6/16, Kim, Debonis) that the President on Tuesday is scheduled to meet with House Republicans "to discuss immigration – just days after his off-the-cuff remarks on the issue threw the GOP's carefully laid strategy into chaos," but [The Hill](#) (6/16, Greenwood) reports the White House did not confirm the meeting. [Politico](#) (6/16, Bade) says the meeting, if it takes place, "comes just a few days before House Republicans are slated to vote on a pair of immigration bills dealing with the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program."

Meanwhile, [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (6/16, story 9, 0:30, Llamas) reported Republican lawmakers plan to introduce "two immigration bills" next week, both of which the President is "already threatening to veto...if he doesn't get funding for the border wall." However, ABC's Stephanie Ramos said, "the White House is walking back those statements, as they've done before, saying the President will support both bills," and [CBS Weekend News](#) 📺 (6/16, story 3, 0:35, Ninan) correspondent Weijia Jiang reported "Republicans say that the President supports and could sign a package...they are crafting that would at least allow parents and children to be detained together."

However, according to [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (6/16, story 2, 2:30, McCoy) correspondent Kelly O'Donnell, "the more conservative hard-line approach is not likely to pass." As a result, O'Donnell suggested this prospect is "leaving open the door for a moderate compromise, which would address the separation of families, would grant legal status to young immigrants known as Dreamers, and beef up border security." In an article titled "Republicans Risking Conservative Backlash Over Immigration," the [AP](#) (6/17, Peoples) warns that "to many conservatives," House Speaker Ryan's compromise bill "is little more than 'amnesty.'" The AP adds "passage of the bill could alienate conservatives and depress turnout at a time when enthusiasm among Democrats is high. Yet scuttling the bill could turn off independent voters, an especially important bloc for House Republicans competing in dozens of districts that Democrat Hillary Clinton won in the 2016 presidential election."

*Border Patrol Official Predicts Family Separations Could Double.* Manuel Padilla Jr., the Border Patrol's chief for the Rio Grande Valley, told the [Washington Post](#) (6/16, Miller) "that his agents had separated 568 parents from children as young as 5 since the zero-tolerance policy was announced on April 6," although the detentions "represented only half the number of parents who could have been prosecuted for entering the country illegally, leaving Border Patrol plenty of room to ramp up family separations." Padilla said, "We are trying to build to 100 percent prosecution of everybody that is eligible." He added, "We are not there yet, but that is our intent."

Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (6/16, Spagat, Snow) reports Attorney General Sessions issued a new directive on Monday "declaring that gang and domestic violence will generally cease to be grounds for asylum," and it "could have far-reaching consequences because of the sheer volume of people...fleeing gang violence, which is so pervasive in Central America that merely stepping foot in the wrong neighborhood can lead to death." In interviews with the AP, several asylum-seekers at the border "cited gang violence as the main factor in fleeing their homelands. They planned to press on with their asylum requests in spite of the new rule."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/16) editorializes the Administration is trying to emphasize with its zero-tolerance immigration policy that asylum seekers need to "follow the rules," but "the real message being sent, judging by troubling reports of asylum seekers being turned away at legal border crossings, is that the administration has undertaken a drastic escalation of its efforts to limit immigration and discourage asylum seekers. No measure, it seems, is too extreme." The Post concludes that there are no "plans to set up temporary processing facilities, as was done during a surge in asylum requests during the Obama administration," because "just as the Trump administration doesn't think twice about trampling on American values by separating children from parents, it doesn't mind turning its back on the country's proud tradition of offering harbor to the persecuted."

*Outrage Continues Over Zero-Tolerance Immigration Policy.* On the lead [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (6/16, lead story, 2:45, McCoy) segment, Blake McCoy reported "national outrage" is growing



"over the Trump Administration's policy of separating families who cross this country's southern border," after the Department of Homeland Security announced yesterday that nearly 2,000 migrant children have been separated from their parents over the last six months. According to NBC correspondent Gadi Schwartz, US officials have detained "thousands of migrants" overall, for "both illegal and legal border crossings." Meanwhile, "an impromptu protest" took place Saturday outside a shelter for migrant children in San Diego, with another, "even larger" protest scheduled for Father's Day in Tornillo, Texas, "where a tent city has sprung up faster than residents there expected."

The [AP](#) (6/16, Warren) reports Rep. Will Hurd (R-TX) on Saturday toured one of the "tent-like shelter[s] for hundreds of minors who entered the country illegally" and he said the facility "is a symptom of a flawed strategy." Hurd added, "In the land of the free and home of the brave we shouldn't use kids as deterrence."

The [AP](#) (6/17) reports Sens. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Reps. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) also "visited a federal prison Saturday where immigrants from Latin America have been transferred and blasted the Trump administration for separating parents from children." Wyden said "what we saw over the last hour demonstrates that the Trump 'zero tolerance' policy makes zero sense and shows zero understanding of American values." Blumenauer added, "I think this is a shameful moment. It's outrageous. We are criminalizing people who are persecuted."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/16, story 8, 2:05, Llamas) correspondent Stephanie Ramos reported the Administration also caught "heat on social media," with former CIA Director Michael Hayden "tweeting this picture of what looks like a Nazi concentration camp, writing: 'Other governments have separated mothers and children.'"

[The Hill](#) (6/16, Bowden) reports former Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson told CNN on Saturday that the Trump Administration's immigration policy "is obviously a deliberate effort, short-term, to try to send a shock to the system and drive the numbers down," Johnson continued, "The system cannot sustain that longer-term." He added, "History shows us that, longer-term, the trends are going to revert back to where they were, 40,000-50,000 a month as long as we continue to ignore the underlying push factors in Central America." Johnson also said separating parents from their children "is not who we are as Americans. This is just simply wrong."

[The Hill](#) (6/16, Greenwood) reports George Little, a Pentagon spokesman during the Obama Administration, on Saturday [tweeted](#), "I think it's safe to say that if there was any shred of substance or meaning left to the #BeBest campaign, it disappeared instantly with the forced separation of parents from their children." According to The Hill, First Lady Melania Trump's initiative "promotes the well-being of children and their social, emotional and physical health."

[The Hill](#) (6/16, Sanchez) "Briefing Room" blog reports the United Methodist Church has issued a statement that "criticized the Department of Justice for the Trump administration's immigration policies of separating migrant families and denying asylum to those fleeing domestic abuse and gang violence." In the statement, which was written by the Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe, the church's general secretary, the church "also specifically called on...Sessions - who is Methodist - to 'immediately reverse these decisions.'"

[The Hill](#) (6/16, Anapol) also reports in its "Briefing Room" blog that Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the archbishop of New York, on Friday told CNN's Chris Cuomo that the Administration's zero-tolerance policy is "just unjust. That's unbiblical. That's un-American." Dolan continued, "There could be no Bible passage that would justify that." He added, "God's law trumps man's law."

Colleen Kraft, the president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, told the [Washington Post](#) (6/16, Phillips) that although a shelter for immigrant children in Texas run by the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement "looked, in many ways, like a friendly environment for children, a place where they could be happy," workers at the site are not allowed to "pick up or touch the children [and] they could not get their parents for them." The Post adds Kraft warned "such a situation could have long-term, devastating effects on young children, who are likely to develop what is called toxic stress in their brain once separated from caregivers or parents they trusted." According to the Post, "this kind of emotional trauma could eventually lead to health problems, such as heart disease and substance abuse disorders."

In his [New York Times](#) (6/16) column, Ross Douthat contends the immigration policy "is the wickedest thing the Trump administration has done so far - and you can tell exactly how wicked by observing how unwilling White House officials are to defend the policy on the merits." Douthat adds "the true rationale has been clear from the beginning" with the goal being to reduce "the number of families trying to make a dangerous border crossing by delivering the ones who get here into a child's nightmare and a parent's hell." He concludes "morally, E-Verify seems vastly preferable to the brutality of family separation and the harsher Obama-era measures that liberals have belatedly discovered. Trump is showing us what the greater cruelty looks like; that makes it

a good time to choose the lesser one."

[Breitbart](#) (6/16, Hanchett) reports New York Times columnist David Brooks on Friday's "PBS NewsHour" said, "If you take qualities like affection, mercy, charity, compassion, empathy out of an administration, you wind up with policies like this." Brooks added "Administrations of the past could have done this," but instead they said "it's just not who we are. We don't separate families. Maybe there's a legal pretext, but we don't do that. And that's because there's some native compassion and empathy. And that's been drained out of this policy. And it's abhorrent."

Meanwhile, [Breitbart](#) (6/16, Poor) reports former Republican National Committee Michael Steele and former Obama campaign aide Stephanie Cutter during an MSNBC panel on Friday both "described the Trump administration's handling of detained immigrants illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexico border as operating 'concentration camps.'" However, [The Hill](#) (6/16, Bowden) reports Fox News host Laura Ingraham on her show, "The Ingraham Angle," on Friday "defended the Trump administration and attacked...Steele" over his comments. Ingraham said, "We can't house kids the same way we house adult criminals, obviously, and sadly, you violate our laws, you're running afoul of the U.S. criminal system, and criminals are separated from their children all the time." She added, "To describe what we are doing at our border, where people cross the border illegally or present themselves and say, 'I want asylum,' as 'concentration camps' is both, I think, dismissive in minimizing the Holocaust and it's just wrong."

### **Trump: DOJ IG Report "Totally" Exonerates Him Of Wrongdoing In Russia Probe.**

President Trump, in an interview with Fox News' Steve Doocy and in a White House press conference on Friday morning, touted Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz's [report](#) on the FBI's handling of its investigation into Hillary Clinton over her mishandling of classified information as well as bias within the Bureau and asserted the findings "totally" exonerated his decision to fire former FBI Director James Comey. Media coverage, which included more than 13 minutes on the network newscasts, described the President as emboldened by the DOJ IG report and inaccurately suggesting the report vindicates his campaign in Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election.

In a front-page article, the [New York Times](#) (6/15, A1, Baker, Sullivan) reports that in the interview with Doocy, the President "went on offense...with a withering series of attacks on...favorite targets even as he hailed his relations with the leaders of North Korea, China and Russia." The Times says Trump "seemed energized by" the new DOJ IG report "excoriating the F.B.I., and portrayed his presidency as a string of unvarnished successes in foreign policy and the economy despite the unfair and even criminal forces arrayed against him." The Times reports the President said the DOJ IG report released on Thursday "exposed what he called 'the scum on top' of the F.B.I. as 'total thieves,' and he insisted that Peter Strzok, a senior F.B.I. agent who had spoken privately against him, should be fired." Trump also [tweeted](#), "FBI Agent Peter Strzok, who headed the Clinton & Russia investigations, texted to his lover Lisa Page, in the IG Report, that 'we'll stop' candidate Trump from becoming President. Doesn't get any lower than that!"

According to the [Washington Post](#) (6/15, Wagner), Trump "seemed to suggest that he had been cleared because of the criticism in the report directed at top FBI officials - whom he referred to as 'scum' - who had expressed animus toward him or otherwise used poor judgment during the investigation of Clinton." The Post notes that "several of those officials have also played key roles in the Russia investigation." However, the Post adds that "while the [DOJ IG] report...documented missteps by Comey and other FBI officials during the email probe, it found no evidence that the decision to clear Clinton was the result of political bias, and it was silent on the Mueller probe."

The [AP](#) (6/15, Flaherty, Tucker, Day) reports the President [tweeted](#), "The IG Report is a total disaster for Comey, his minions and sadly, the FBI. Comey will now officially go down as the worst leader, by far, in the history of the FBI. I did a great service to the people in firing him. Good Instincts. Christopher Wray will bring it proudly back!" Trump added during his interview with Doocy "the report 'totally' exonerated him, then point[ed] to accomplishments he said he's achieved and complain[ed] about not getting proper credit." The AP adds, "Then he turned to other reporters and went over the same list for another 20 minutes." According to the AP, "Trump's supporters have argued that the findings are proof of political bias at the FBI's highest levels that then tainted the Russia investigation, first led by the FBI and now by special counsel Robert Mueller."

The [AP](#) (6/15, Thomas) also reports the President acknowledged having "reservations about being interviewed by...Mueller, raising more questions on whether he will consent to an interview as part of the investigation." Trump "said...that he 'would like to talk' to Mueller, but the probe 'seems to be very biased.'" In its segment, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/15, story 2, 1:35, Llamas) showed a reporter asking Trump whether Mueller should be suspended, to which the



President replied: "We'll see what'll happen."

Meanwhile, in what another [AP](#) (6/15, Thomas, Bauder) article describes as a "sudden, unexpected and chaotic" interview and news conference, the President made a variety of "remarks – about North Korea, his zero tolerance immigration policy, the investigation into his campaign's ties with Russia – [that] offered enough fodder for television talkers to chew over all day and into the weekend." According to the AP, Trump teased the interview at 7:50 a.m., [tweeting](#), "Wow, the highest rated (by far) morning show, @foxandfriends, is on the Front Lawn of the White House. Maybe I'll have to take an unannounced trip down to see them?" On [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/15, story 6, 0:35, Holt), Kristen Welker said the President had "a clear strategy: He wanted to control the narrative on a day of mixed headlines, but...it was just unprecedented."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/15, Muñoz) reports that during the "impromptu" interview, the President "declared victory Friday regarding the revelations in the Department of Justice inspector general report." Trump said, "I beat Clinton dynasty. I beat Bush dynasty. And now, I guess, I'm hopefully in the process of beating very dishonest intelligence." He later reiterated the sentiment on Twitter, [saying](#), "I've had to beat 17 very talented people including the Bush Dynasty, then I had to beat the Clinton Dynasty, and now I have to beat a phony Witch Hunt and all of the dishonest people covered in the IG Report...and never forget the Fake News Media. It never ends!" The President also retweeted Mark Levin and several "Fox and Friends" segments expressing support for his position on the DOJ IG report.

The [New York Times](#) (6/15, Sullivan) reports the President, in his interview with Doocy, "said that he did not want to get involved in Justice Department matters but that what...Comey had done 'was a terrible thing to the people.'" Asked if Comey should be "locked up," Trump asserted, "Certainly he, they just seem like criminal acts to me. What he did was criminal." He added: "What he did was so bad in terms of our Constitution, in terms of the well-being of our country. What he did was horrible." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/15, Ballhaus) reports Trump later told reporters that the DOJ IG report shows "I've been totally exonerated."

However, a [New York Times](#) (6/15, Qiu) "fact check" emphasizes that the DOJ IG report "did not 'exonerate' Mr. Trump" because it "did not examine or make conclusions about the special counsel's investigation into the Trump campaign's ties to Russia." An [AP](#) (6/15, Flaherty) fact check similarly says "his claim to have been vindicated is not true."

In addition, Weijia Jiang of the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/15, story 4, 1:00, Glor) said the report "did not draw any conclusions about the President, but criticized James Comey's handling of the...investigation." Similarly, [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/15, story 2, 1:40, Holt) correspondent Kristen Welker emphasized that "the report was only about the FBI's handling of the Clinton email investigation, not the Russia probe." Welker described the report as "fodder, as the President sharpens his attacks against special counsel Robert Mueller."

A [Washington Post](#) (6/15, Phillips) analysis says that while "Trump is right: It looks terrible that an FBI agent involved in both the Hillary Clinton email and Trump-Russia investigations" was "partisan," the President "takes his response too far. A couple of FBI agents do not make up an entire agency. And independent investigators have said they found no evidence that the actual investigations were influenced by agents' personal bias." The Post adds the assertion was "just one of several examples of Trump way overplaying his hand on the Justice Department watchdog report."

[The Hill](#) (6/15, Folley) reports NBC "Meet the Press" host Chuck Todd [tweeted](#), "Today's POTUS performance was breathtaking in the sheer number of provable falsehoods, intentional mischaracterizations and outright lies uttered. Clearly someone feels emboldened. Will GOP leaders continue to shrug this off? Bury their head in the sand?" Todd [added](#), "Sad to see so many intellectually dishonest folks who think pointing out incorrect facts and blatant misconceptions is evidence of bias. Amazing the disease that has stricken so many."

*Giuliani, McConnell, McCarthy Argue DOJ IG Report Shows Mueller Should End His Investigation.* Appearing on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (6/15), Rudy Giuliani called on special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation to end. Giuliani said, "The IG report basically tells you that both prongs of the Mueller investigation are either corrupt or answered." According to Giuliani, the report "is a complete and absolute explanation of why Comey had to be fired. So how can it be on destruction of justice? Every reason for firing him is laid out here. He usurped the power of the attorney general. He leaked information illegally. He had a department that was leaking like a sieve at the higher level, please, not the agents in the New York office, not the agents in the Washington office. The lawyers and agents around him leaking information in exchange for gifts. That's called bribery." Giuliani also called for the probe to change to "an investigation of Comey and those FBI agents who should be fired today and imprisoned next week."

On the lead [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/15, lead story, 3:00, Llamas) segment, chief



justice correspondent Pierre Thomas reported Giuliani also told the [New York Daily News](#) that "Mueller's investigation is tainted and out of control." Giuliani said, "When the whole thing is over, things might get cleaned up with some presidential pardons."

In an interview with a [Washington Examiner](#) (6/15, Drucker) podcast on Thursday, Senate Majority Leader McConnell asserted that Mueller "ought to wrap...up" the investigation. He added, "It's gone on seemingly forever and I don't know how much more they think they can find out." According to McConnell, "If the IG is through, why can't the Mueller investigation finally wrap up?"

[Politico](#) (6/15, Forgey) reports House Majority Leader McCarthy on Friday told "Fox and Friends" that "the Mueller investigation has got to stop." He explained that based on the Strzok-Page texts, "If this was in a court of law, they would throw this case out."

Appearing on [CNN's New Day](#) (6/15), Rep. Matt Gates (R-FL) said, "I think we can all agree that it's a bad thing" that Strzok was both "the lead agent in the Hillary Clinton e-mail investigation" and "the lead agent in the Trump-Russia investigation." Gates added, "Remember, he said, 'we'll stop Trump' just nine days after" the FBI had begun surveiling Trump campaign aide George Papadopoulos, "and only six days before he was talking with his girlfriend about an 'insurance policy' against a Trump presidency."

At the opening of [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (6/15), former Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) praised DOJ IG Michael Horowitz "for doing a very thorough report that wasn't leaked in advance." According to Chaffetz, the report "is one of the most damning rebukes of the FBI that I think we have ever seen, and an attack on their integrity and their objectivity." He expressed hope that "this is the beginning of fixing it, because it is a mess." While Brian Kilmeade said, "I don't necessarily see political bias" in the actions former FBI director James Comey, Chaffetz argued that the DOJ IG detailed "562 pages of nothing but bias and animus." Chaffetz added, "At the top level...they definitely wanted Hillary Clinton to be president and they wanted to stop Donald Trump." Chaffetz concluded Mueller's investigation "is tainted by the fact that you had these people who had a political objective to take down Donald Trump."

In an analysis, [Politico](#) (6/15, Samuelsohn, Forgey) says that while "Trump and his allies seized Friday on the Justice Department inspector general's report into the Hillary Clinton email investigation to claim special counsel Robert Mueller's sprawling probe is corrupt and must end," the special counsel's team on Friday "chalked up another win when a federal judge ordered Paul Manafort be sent to jail over accusations of witness tampering ahead of the former Trump campaign chairman's upcoming criminal trial." Politico adds that "despite Trump's complaints, Mueller remains very much on the clock."

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (6/15, Dinan) reports Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), the ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, in an interview with C-SPAN's "Newsmakers" on Friday, "said there's no doubt Mr. Comey's decision to deliver a public criticism and exoneration of Mrs. Clinton in July, and his decision to send a letter in October announcing a brief reopening of the investigation, damaged the Democratic nominee." Nadler also "said the inspector general's report, while dinging Mr. Comey for defying Justice Department leaders, did not challenge the fired FBI director's credibility," which "he said...means Mr. Comey remains a viable and valuable witness against Mr. Trump in the ongoing Mueller probe."

*Sessions, Wray Pledge To Reform FBI Following DOJ IG Report.* The [AP](#) (6/15) reports Attorney General Sessions said at Lackawanna College in Scranton, Pennsylvania on Friday that the Justice Department will "confront any problems" and "deal with them" in a "proper, fair and appropriate way." [Reuters](#) (6/15, Mitchell) reports Sessions said, "We're not going to be defensive, we're going to confront any problems and we're going to deal with them one by one in a proper, fair and appropriate way."

Meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (6/15, Barrett) reports FBI Director Wray on Thursday "vowed the bureau would emerge stronger from the criticisms leveled in a 500-page inspector general's report that found insubordination, bias and unprofessional conduct among some of its most senior officials." Wray conceded the DOJ IG report contained "some sobering lessons" and he promised, "We're going to learn those lessons, and we're going to act on those lessons, and that's the way the FBI has always handled these things in the past, and that's what made the FBI stronger." However, [Breitbart](#) (6/15, Poor) reports conservative talk show host Rush Limbaugh criticized Wray for having "interpreted the report as saying the FBI had no 'political bias,' which Limbaugh said was a semantic word game." According to Breitbart, Limbaugh "added that Wray's pledge for more training contradicted that notion because if there were not political bias, there would be no need for training."

*Media Coverage Of DOJ IG Report Focuses On Criticism Of Comey, Downplays Bias Revealed By Strzok-Page Texts.* Aside from conservative media outlets, coverage of the DOJ IG report on the FBI's handling of the Clinton email investigation is focused more on criticism of former FBI director



James Comey than revelations about anti-Trump bias on the part of top FBI agents involved in the probe.

Andrew McCarthy of [National Review](#) (6/15, McCarthy) says the DOJ IG report "acknowledges that contempt for Trump was pervasive among several of the top FBI and DOJ officials making decisions about the investigation." McCarthy adds, "The question is not whether every Clinton-case decision was defensible considered in isolation; it is whether the quality of justice afforded to two sides of the same continuum by the same agents at the same time was...the same. It wasn't. One was kid gloves, the other was scorched earth." According to McCarthy, Clinton, "the candidate they were almost certain would win, got the case dropped," while, as for Trump, "the candidate they needed an 'insurance policy' against... the case against him is still going...and going...and going."

Byron York of the [Washington Examiner](#) (6/15, York) says "it didn't take long for defenders of the FBI's Trump-Russia investigation to claim that the Justice Department inspector general's report found no bias in the bureau's conduct of the Hillary Clinton email investigation." According to York, "The comments had an otherworldly feel to them, because the IG report not only found, but documented, at great length, an FBI culture that was infested with political bias – specifically a political bias against President Trump. ...The fact is, bias – political bias, anti-Trump bias – was pervasive in some quarters of the Trump-Russia investigation."

In his [Washington Post](#) (6/15, Rogers) column, Ed Rogers, the chairman of the BGR Group, asserts the DOJ IG report "makes clear...Comey was far from the unimpeachable, model boy scout that he has professed to be. He is, in fact, a bad apple who is pretentious not earnest." Nonetheless, Rogers warns that while "Trump will likely diminish the impact of the inspector general's findings by over-extrapolating them into" Mueller's probe, Republicans "should approach the report with a lot of specifics and a lot of respect."

Meanwhile, [ABC's Good Morning America](#) (6/15) covered the release of the IG report without once mentioning the tests from the FBI's Peter Strzok and Lisa Page, instead focusing exclusively on the criticism of Comey and the contention that Comey hurt Hillary Clinton by announcing that thousands of her emails had been found on Anthony Weiner's laptop just before the election. On [CBS This Morning](#) (6/15), Nora O'Donnell said, "The IG does not challenge the conclusion that Clinton should not have been prosecuted." After covering the report's criticism of Comey, Jeff Pegues went on to mention in passing that the IG concluded that Strzok and Page "may have acted improperly."

On [NBC's Today Show](#) (6/15), Hoda Kotb reported the IG "labels the actions of...Comey 'insubordinate,' but found no evidence he was driven by political bias." Kotb said the IG's report "also revealed more text messages between two FBI employees involved in the investigation. One from an agent who wrote, quote, 'we'll stop it,' when talking about Trump's bid to become President." Pete Williams went on to report, "This 500-page report seems to have something for everyone. Some Republicans say it reveals FBI bias," while "Democrats point out the report says there's no political motive driving the investigation." While he was dismissive of Trump's assessment of the DOJ IG's findings, Chuck Todd conceded the report "hurts [Comey's] 'credibility'" as a witness in the Mueller investigation.

The [New York Times](#) (6/15) editorializes the DOJ IG's "bombshell...proved to be something of a dud," as the conclusion of the report "can be summed up pretty tidily: Plenty of people did plenty of breathtakingly stupid things, but there is no evidence that political bias affected the outcome of the F.B.I.'s investigation." The Times adds that the report "confirms that mouthing off by a handful of officials did not add up to a secret plot against Mr. Trump," but "none of Mr. Horowitz's careful, nuanced assessments matter to the president and his defenders."

In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (6/17) asserts the that the DOJ IG report "found enough stupidity, insubordination and misjudgment to cast a cloud over the reputations of the FBI and" Comey, although it "did not find that Comey or the FBI was motivated by political bias in their investigation – a conclusion puncturing...Trump's theory of an FBI conspiracy to rescue Clinton from prosecution and pin phony Russian-interference allegations on him." USA Today says that while the report's findings "were damning enough without any embellishment," the President on Friday "twisted facts into falsehoods" when he "asserted that 'I've been totally exonerated,' and alleged that Comey's actions seem 'like criminal acts to me.'" USA Today adds "bottom line, the report was not about Russian involvement in the 2016 election. Trump has not been exonerated because Horowitz did not investigate Trump's actions."

**Manafort Jailed For Alleged Witness Tampering.** The [AP](#) (6/15, Day) reports Paul Manafort on Friday "was ordered into custody after a federal judge revoked his house arrest, citing newly filed obstruction of justice charges." The AP notes that "the move by U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson made Manafort the first Trump campaign official to be jailed as part of special counsel



Robert Mueller's investigation." According to the AP, Manafort, "already under intense pressure to cooperate with prosecutors in hopes of securing leniency...now loses the relative freedom he enjoyed while he prepared for two criminal trials in which he faces the possibility of spending the rest of his life in prison." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/15, Viswanatha) reports Jackson asserted she "cannot turn a blind eye to this allegation," which she said revealed Manafort was trying to undermine the case.

In a front-page article, the [New York Times](#) (6/15, A1, Lafraniere) reports Jackson also "said she was particularly disturbed that some of the contacts occurred after Mr. Manafort had been specifically ordered by another federal judge to avoid all contacts with witnesses involved in Mr. Mueller's investigation or prosecution of him." However, according to the Times, "Manafort's lawyers suggested that he had reached out innocently to his former colleagues, not knowing whether they had been contacted by Mr. Mueller's team."

In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (6/15, A1, Hsu, Nakashima, Barrett) reports Richard Westling, one of Manafort's attorneys, "urged the judge not to send him to jail, saying that it was not required by law and that doing so 'will create more challenges for the defense, which already faces trial in two courts.'"

On the lead [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/15, lead story, 2:40, Holt) segment, justice correspondent Pete Williams said Jackson's "order means Manafort will spend at least the next three months in jail, waiting for trials in both Washington and northern Virginia on charges of illegally hiding income from the Ukrainian lobbying." On the lead [CBS Evening News](#) (6/15, lead story, 2:35, Glor) segment Paula Reid reported "Manafort and his Russian business partner Konstantin Kilimnik allegedly asked European contacts to testify that their lobbying work did not take place in the US." Reid added the special counsel's team is "throwing everything they have at Paul Manafort to get him to cooperate. They've filed dozens of charges, his co-defendant has flipped, and now he's sitting in jail."

Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (6/15, Lynch, Strobel) reports that President Trump "said it was unfair to send Manafort to jail," and he [tweeted](#), "Wow, what a tough sentence for Paul Manafort, who has represented Ronald Reagan, Bob Dole and many other top political people and campaigns. Didn't know Manafort was the head of the Mob. What about Comey and Crooked Hillary and all of the others? Very unfair!" While Reuters highlights "none of Manafort's charges refer to the allegations of Russian meddling and largely pre-date the two months he worked as Trump campaign head," [Bloomberg News](#) (6/15, Voreacos, Dennis, McLaughlin, Harris) suggests that Manafort's jailing is "the latest sign of Trump's deepening legal challenges" while a front-page [Washington Post](#) (6/15, A1, Hamburger) article highlights that "Manafort is one of the most senior people in...Trump's political orbit to be indicted as part of the Mueller probe."

However, the [Washington Post](#) (6/15, Wagner) reports that while the President expressed sympathy for Manafort on Friday, he also "sought to distance himself from Manafort" and said he "has nothing to do with our campaign." Trump said, "He worked for Ronald Reagan, he worked for Bob Dole, he worked for John McCain or his firm did. He worked for many other Republicans. He worked for me for what? For 49 days or something? A very short period of time." The Post disputes the President's claim and emphasizes that "Manafort served 144 days as Trump's campaign chairman." In her [Washington Post](#) (6/15, Rubin) column, Jennifer Rubin similarly states that "despite Trump's suggestion Manafort is a nobody, Manafort headed the campaign for months (March to August 2016), during which the Republican National Convention was held."

*Judge Rejects Russian Company's Request To Review Evidence Showing It Helped Manipulate 2016 Elections.* [Reuters](#) (6/15, Layne) reports US District Judge Dabney Friedrich on Friday ruled Concord Management and Consulting LLC, "a Russian company charged with meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election," is not entitled to review material presented by Special Counsel Robert Mueller's prosecutors to the grand jury "and gave the two sides 10 days to agree on rules for sharing evidence." According to Reuters, prosecutors "charged Concord with funding a propaganda operation to sow discord during the election through social media." Reuters adds prosecutors "allege the company is controlled by Evgeny Prigozhin, who is known as 'Putin's cook' because his catering business has organized banquets for Russian President Vladimir Putin. Prigozhin has also been charged in the case." [Bloomberg News](#) (6/15, Harris, Dennis) reports Friedrich "said she is convinced the government has made a good case for a protective order for some of the evidence, estimated at as many as 10 million pages and terabytes of data."

*Goodlatte To Subpoena Strzok Over Anti-Trump Texts, Sources Say.* [Politico](#) (6/15, Cheney) reports that according to two sources, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte on Friday "formally notified his Democratic counterparts of his intent to subpoena Strzok, a step that launches a two-day waiting period before he can officially issue the subpoena, under committee procedures." Politico adds "Trump allies in Congress have long been clamoring to bring Strzok to



the Capitol. And the watchdog findings on Thursday emboldened them to launch fresh criticism of...Mueller's ongoing look at the Trump campaign's Russia contacts."

**Obama Administration Officials To Testify Before Senate Intel Committee About Anti-Trump Dossier.** The [Washington Times](#) (6/15, Boylan) reports Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr (R-NC) and Ranking Member Mark Warner (D-VA) announced on Friday that Victoria Nuland, a former State Department official "who reportedly connected FBI officials" to Christopher Steele, "the former British spy who wrote the infamous anti-Trump dossier," will testify next Wednesday in their first hearing about "the policy response to Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. elections." The Times adds "Michael Daniel, former White House cybersecurity coordinator and special assistant to President Obama, will also testify."

**Clapper: US Intelligence Agencies Identified Suspect Behind Russia-WikiLeaks Transfer.** In an interview with [Yahoo! News](#) (6/15, Isikoff), former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper said US intelligence officials were "pretty confident" last year that they identified the "suspect" who passed along hacked DNC emails to WikiLeaks in 2016. However, Clapper said, "I don't know whether the suspicions we had at the time were conveyed [to Justice Department special counsel Robert Mueller] or whether they were validated."

### **Media Analysis: Trump Risking "Trade War" With China By Imposing Tariffs.**

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/15, story 10, 0:30, Llamas) reported there is "a possible trade war heating up between the US and China," as the Administration on Friday "rolled out 25 percent tariffs on \$50 billion of Chinese goods – mostly industrial products, not consumer goods." [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/15, Baier) broadcast President Trump stating, "We're putting tariffs on 50 billion dollars' worth of technology and other things because we have to, because we've been treated very unfairly."

The [AP](#) (6/15, Thomas, Wiseman) says Trump has "brought the world's two biggest economies to the brink of a trade war...by announcing a 25 percent tariff on up to \$50 billion in Chinese imports to take effect July 6." The AP notes that the Chinese government "quickly responded that it would retaliate with penalties of the same scale on American goods." The AP reports that the President says he is "fulfilling a campaign pledge to crack down on what he contends are China's unfair trade practices and its efforts to undermine U.S. technology and intellectual property."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/15, story 7, 0:50, Glor) said "China wasted no time in retaliating" by announcing its own 25 percent tariffs "on American agricultural products and seafood, beginning July 6." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/15, A1, Davis, Salama, Wei) reports on its front page that shortly after the Administration unveiled its tariffs Friday, the Chinese State Council announced that it will levy retaliatory 25 percent penalties on similarly-valued US goods. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang vowed to defend China's interests and accused the US of "provoking the trade war."

[Reuters](#) (6/15, Lawder) says the US and China "appeared increasingly headed toward a trade war after several rounds of negotiations failed to resolve U.S. complaints over Chinese industrial policy, market access and a \$375 billion trade gap." Reuters says the Trump Administration "has completed a second list of possible tariffs on another \$100 billion in Chinese goods."

On its front page, the [New York Times](#) (6/15, A1, Swanson) says the new tariffs are "escalating a trade war between the world's two largest economies," and are "is the latest twist by a White House that has vacillated between taking a tough stance on Chinese trade practices and declaring that the trade war was 'on hold.'" According to the Times, "The White House's decision to pursue tariffs appears to be a victory for the more hard-line faction of the Trump administration, including trade advisers Robert E. Lighthizer and Peter Navarro, who has pushed for tougher action on China and opposed a move by others in the administration to reach a deal that would avoid a trade war."

[Bloomberg News](#) (6/15, Mayeda, Leonard) reports that Lighthizer said Friday that "an announcement on U.S. investment restrictions on China will follow in the next two weeks." Lighthizer is quoted as saying, in an interview with Fox Business, "Our hope is that it doesn't lead to a rash reaction from China. We hope that this leads to further negotiations and we hope it leads to China changing its policies, at least with respect to us, and opening up their market."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/15, A1, Lynch, Rauhala) notes on its front page that US and Chinese officials "in recent weeks had made progress on a deal that involved up to \$70 billion in additional purchases of American products." However, according to the Post, an anonymous "senior administration official" said unless the Administration "can somehow force China to change its industrial policies, American companies will lose out in a range of advanced technology markets."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (6/15, story 10, 1:40, Holt) reported the "unease" over a potential



trade war "led to a volatile session on Wall Street amid mixed reaction from business leaders and lawmakers from both parties." [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/15, Baier) reported that "markets went down right away on this news," but "at the end of the day, they clawed their way back." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/15, Parkin, Iosebashvili) analysis says the escalating US-China trade war caused commodity markets to tumble Friday, breaking from what was to be their best year since 2002. The Journal says while investors' anxiety weighed on other markets as well, no other major market was as significantly impacted as commodities, although the heightened trade concerns coincided with the Federal Reserve's more hawkish actions, the strengthening dollar, and fears over falling oil prices.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/15, Greene) reports the American semiconductor industry balked at the new tariffs, as a variety of semiconductors will be subjected to the 25 percent tariffs. The vast majority of chips that US companies import from China are designed in the US, and many chip components are manufactured in the US before they are sent to China to be assembled, tested, and packaged; according to the Semiconductor Industry Association, this means that American companies will be forced to pay duties on their own goods, including those initially built on US soil.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/15, Wei, Kubota) reports American multinationals are now bracing for the possible ramifications of China's retaliatory measures, which Beijing said would be of "equal scale and strength" to those announced by the Administration on Friday. The Journal explains that a trade war between the two largest economies in the world would inevitably inflict pain on consumers and businesses in both the US and China, these multinationals who operate in the mainland would particularly find themselves in the crosshairs.

In an analysis, [New York Times](#) (6/15, Irwin) "The Upshot" senior economics correspondent Neil Irwin questions whether the Administration's new tariffs on Chinese imports means the US is "engaged in what should be classified as a trade war," and if so, what possible economic consequences may result. "Definitely maybe," the Times concludes, quoting economists and analysts with varying positions on both matters. According to the Times, the Administration's "negotiating strategy has been erratic," and the US "might have a stronger negotiating position if it were joined by allies like Canada, Japan and the European Union." As for the possible impact of the Administration's moves on consumers, the Times says Americans "ultimately pay the bill for trade barriers in one way or another."

A [Washington Post](#) (6/15, Long) analysis says the Administration's decision Friday "means costs are going up for a lot of goods," because "tariff" is simply another "word for a tax, and Trump just announced significant new taxes on 1,102 items." To the Post, "This is no longer a war of words between Trump and China," and there "are actual economic consequences now." As a result, the Post says, "Americans will almost certainly face higher costs as companies pay more for parts they need to build cars, dishwashers and tractors, and then firms turn around and pass those higher prices onto consumers." [Reuters](#) (6/15, Johnson) reports FedEx said Friday that the tariffs slapped on Chinese products entering the US will make things more expensive for American consumers and companies, calling the tariffs "counterproductive to U.S. economic interests."

In an analysis, [Bloomberg News](#) (6/15, Leonard, Mayeda, Pickert) says in a "best-case scenario for the U.S., China would back down on technology issues and open its market to more American goods and services." Baker McKenzie partner Rod Hunter, a "former director of international economics at the White House National Security Council under President George W. Bush," said since Trump is widely expected to impose tariffs, US trade negotiators benefit because his position grants them leverage. At the same time, Bloomberg says, "the jury is still out on Trump's negotiating record as president." According to former National Security Council international trade director Michael Smart, "A trade war can be anything from a minor skirmish to a full-blown battle, with lots of collateral damage to American workers, farmers and consumers." Smart added, "We're not there yet, but it's scary, because it seems like we're on a path toward major conflict, and it's hard to see the off ramp."

In an analysis under the headline "This Was Not The Dream For U.S.-China Trade," the [Washington Post](#) (6/15, Mufson) says the Administration under former President Clinton "hailed the 2000 agreement that eventually brought China into the World Trade Organization as 'the most significant immediate action we can take to move China in the right direction,'" but "most of that sentiment" has since "vanished." The Post says the US and China have both "taken unexpected turns under leaders who seek to make their nations great again," particularly on trade. "Trump has an opportunity, some analysts say," because he "has the attention of foreign leaders, and they are eager to resolve trade issues." Few analysts, however, believe "he is agile enough or even inclined to pivot toward a constructive, obtainable agreement."

A [New York Times](#) (6/15) editorial outlines how President Trump's trade moves, including steel and aluminum tariffs and his "particularly strange" handling of Canada, are "not small or

isolated examples" of how the President's trade policies have harmed Americans, "as Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross seems to believe." The Times cautions that for farmers in "Wisconsin and Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas," these "losses are real now and could become enormous in the future," but that reality does not seem "to have registered with the president, who is obsessed with the trade deficit." The Times reiterates, "Threatening an all-out trade war, insulting our next-door neighbor and ally, will not change the nature of our economy, only damage it."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/15) editorializes that President Trump's new 25 percent tariffs on Chinese goods will fail to achieve the Administration's stated goal of responding to Chinese intellectual property theft and its "other unfair trade practices" – but the move will harm American companies and their employees. The Journal says if Trump is serious about confronting China's unfair trade practices, he should form a untied front with America's European, North American, and East Asian allies, as such a united front would pose a much larger political challenge to China's economy than unilateral US actions.

### **Trump Increasingly Seeking Advice From Cabinet Over White House Staffers.**

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/15, Bender) reports President Trump is increasingly seeking advice from his Cabinet rather than Chief of Staff Kelly and other White House staff. White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said the President "has a very good relationship with his cabinet. ... And he talks with them pretty regularly." The Journal references the President's praise of Secretary of State Pompeo for organizing the recent summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as an example, and suggests that Agriculture Secretary Perdue and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin have increased their influence with Trump whereas National Security Adviser Bolton's influence is among the officials with a weakened stature.

### **Senate Avoiding Poison Pill Riders In Legislation To Prevent Shutdown Fight Ahead Of Primaries.**

[Politico](#) (6/15, Ferris) reports senators from both parties have been writing legislation "virtually free of so-called poison pill riders that usually entangle the annual spending bills," in order to "avoid another paralyzing funding fight" ahead of the midterm elections this fall. The change, pushed by Sens. Richard Shelby (R-AL) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT), has "brought hope that the Senate can finally end its yearslong drought of individual funding bills on the floor, halting the cycle of shutdowns and trillion-dollar spending bills."

*WSJournal: Senate Inaction Makes August Recess Cancellation Meaningless.* In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/15) questions Senate Majority Leader McConnell's cancellation of the August recess, noting that the legislative body has refused to take up a \$15 billion spending rescission bill passed by the House last week. The Journal criticizes the Senate's inaction and Republican Senators' commitment to spending restraint, and openly questions what McConnell hopes to accomplish in August.

## **Editorial Wrap-Up**

---

### **New York Times.**

**"Gareth Rhodes In The 19th District."** The [New York Times](#) (6/17) endorses Gareth Rhodes in the Democratic primary in New York's 19th Congressional District. He is among seven Democrats competing to challenge Rep. John Faso, "who is considered one of the most vulnerable Republicans in the House." The Times says Rhodes, a "charismatic" former press aide for Gov. Andrew Cuomo, "stands out as the best candidate to take on — and beat — Mr. Faso in November. He offers the combination of intelligence, enthusiasm and empathy that is desperately needed in Washington today."

### **Washington Post.**

**"Mexico's Could-Be President Is A Lot Like Trump. That Doesn't Mean They'd Get Along."**

The [Washington Post](#) (6/17) editorializes that Mexico's front-running presidential candidate, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, "bears more than a passing political resemblance to President Trump – which doesn't mean the two are likely to get along." The Post explains López Obrador "has condemned" Trump, "vowed to reject his demand that Mexico pay for a border wall," and campaigned on "policies aim[ed] at curtailing trade with the United States." The Post says many Mexican voters are less concerned, at least for now, "about bad relations with the United States than the possibility that Mr. López Obrador could lead the country back to the failed statist policies of the 1970s, or worse, the catastrophic '21st-century socialism' of Venezuela." If he prevails, Mexican voters "will be, like the voters who backed Mr. Trump, blowing up the status quo without



a reliable sense of what will replace it" – likely resulting in "more trouble on both sides of the border."

*"Right Wingers Kill Clean Votes On 'Dreamers' – And Bring Up Two Worse Bills Instead."* The [Washington Post](#) (6/17) says in an editorial that House Speaker Ryan ended a push by GOP moderates to force a vote on protections for "dreamers" by "promising that the House would vote on two other bills more heavily influenced by the Republican Party's increasingly toxic immigration politics." The Post is critical of both bills and argues that if they fail, "the moderates can and should resurrect their effort to force votes on better bills."

*"More Libraries Are Going Fine-Free. That's Good For Everyone."* The [Washington Post](#) (6/15) editorializes that in "an era when e-books and new forms of entertainment have threatened to drive down library use, public libraries are increasingly looking to modernize and innovate. Some have turned to e-books or digital literacy programs to reach more patrons. Others have opted for a different approach: They have gotten rid of the pesky late fees that drive borrowers away." The Post concedes that while "not every library can afford to...jettison fines altogether," some "might find it more viable to eliminate a subset of fines, such as fines on children's books. Regardless, the experiences of libraries that have successfully implemented fine-free programs offer food for thought for other networks."

### **Wall Street Journal.**

*"A Troops For Nukes Trade?"* The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/17) editorializes that President Trump suspended the joint military exercises with South Korea without securing a concession from the North in exchange. It argues that the size of US forces in Korea can only be reconsidered if North Korea completely and verifiably gives up its nuclear program.

*"Responding To The Bias Response Team."* The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/17) editorializes that Attorney General Sessions recently promised to be "vigilant" in defending free-speech rights on campus, and last week the DOJ filed a statement of interest siding with the nonprofit Speech First. In the statement, DOJ says the university's policies and practices "ban a broad swath of core protected speech based solely on 'listeners' reaction.'" The Journal says the move puts other schools on notice.

*"No Country For American Locker Makers."* The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/17) editorializes that President Trump's 25% steel tariff has driven up the price of foreign steel and allowed domestic steel producers to raise prices. The Journal argues that as a result, US companies like Lyon and Republic, which dominate the market for American-made lockers and can't afford to raise prices.

## **Big Picture**

---

### **Headlines From Today's Front Pages.**

#### **Wall Street Journal:**

[The Bull Market's Next Test: Slower Earnings Growth](#)

[Immigration Pressure Builds On Republicans](#)

[US Auto Makers Are Putting Smaller Engines Into Big Trucks So They Guzzle Less Gas](#)

[The Force Behind Europe's Populist Tide: Frustrated Youth](#)

#### **New York Times:**

[Safety Concerns Grow As Inmates Are Guarded By Teachers And Secretaries](#)

[A Financier's Profit-Minded Mission To Open A Channel Between Kushner And North Korea](#)

[Pentagon Puts Cyberwarriors On The Offensive, Increasing The Risk Of Conflict](#)

[Leading Republicans Join Democrats In Pushing Trump To Halt Family Separations](#)

[A Shadow System Of Tracking By School Feeds Segregation](#)

[Trump Picks Economic Winners, Guided By Nostalgia](#)

#### **Washington Post:**

[Trump Ally Discloses Russian Meeting](#)

[S. Korean Businesses Look North With Hope](#)

[Fight For Detained Children Expands](#)

[On The Front Line In Saudi Arabia](#)

[Curing Addiction To Apps](#)

#### **Financial Times:**

[Merkel Seeks EU Crisis Talks As Migration Rocks Berlin Coalition](#)



[England Adopt New Tactics In Push For World Cup Glory](#)  
[South Korea Embarks On War Games Over Disputed Islets](#)

**Washington Times:**

[FBI Agent Pivoted Quickly From Clinton Email Case To 'Stop' Trump From Being Elected](#)  
[Trump Invited To Capitol To Clear Up Confusion On Carefully Crafted Immigration Compromise](#)  
[Lawmakers Who Were There Say Things Have Changed Since 1986 Amnesty](#)  
[Rechristening Themselves Pays Off For Some Big Political Names](#)  
[Energized Turkish Opposition Puts Erdogan In Real Danger Of Losing Power](#)

**Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:**

**ABC:** Border Security-Immigrant Children-Policy; New Jersey-Arts Festival Shooting; Severe Weather; Trump-DOJ Investigation; Afghanistan Bombings; Russia-Taxi Cab Driver Asleep At Wheel; Illinois-Prisoners Escape; Rental Scam; Tesla Car Fire; China-Tourist Attraction Ceiling Caves; California-Hikers Stranded; World Cup-Mexico Goal Earthquake; Rocky Mountains-Father Saves Child On Roadway.

**CBS:** Border Security-Immigrant Children; Border Security-Immigrant Children-Democrats; Border Security-Immigrant Children-Policy; San Antonio-Car Crash At Border; New Jersey-Arts Festival Shooting; Afghanistan Bombings; Severe Weather; Teens And Vaping; New Tech For Self-Driving Cars; Minnesota-State Baseball Tournament-Hug.

**NBC:** Border Security-Immigrant Children; Border Security-Immigrant Children-Policy; New Jersey-Arts Festival Shooting; Severe Weather; African Migrants Allowed To Dock In Spain; Charter Schools-Minority Children; World Cup-Mexico Goal Earthquake; Beyonce And Jay-Z Joint Album; Astronaut Peggy Whitson Retires; Yale Taste Test; Daughter Gives Part Of Liver To Father.

**Network TV At A Glance:**

Border Security-Immigrant Children-Policy – 7 minutes, 5 seconds

New Jersey-Arts Festival Shooting – 5 minutes, 35 seconds

Severe Weather – 3 minutes, 45 seconds

**Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:**

**ABC:** Seattle-Shooting At Local Wal-Mart; New Jersey-Arts Festival Shooting; Border Security-Immigrant Children-Policy; Japan-Earthquake.

**CBS:** Severe Weather; Border Security-Immigrant Children; San Antonio-Car Crash At Border; Trump-DOJ Investigation; Wall Street.

**FOX:** San Antonio-Car Crash At Border; Border Security-Immigrant Children-Policy; US Open Results.

**NPR:** New Jersey-Arts Festival Shooting; Border Security-Immigrant Children; FBI Report-Clinton Emails; Colombia-New Leader.

## **Washington Schedule**

---

### **Today's Events In Washington.**

**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with the National Space Council; participates in the signing ceremony for H.R. 3249, Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018; meets with Senator Shelby and Senator Moore Capito.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President for a meeting of the National Space Council; hosts a reception for members of the National Space Council and Users' Advisory Group.

**US Senate:**

2:00 PM Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on DoJ and FBI decisions on the 2016 presidential election – Hearing on 'Examining the Inspector General's First Report on Justice Department and FBI Actions in Advance of the 2016 Presidential Election' \* The investigation, begun in January 2017, is exploring areas including then-FBI Director James Comey's July 2016 announcement on Hillary Clinton's emails and his two subsequent letters to Congress, allegations of improper disclosures of non-public information, and questions over the timing of FBI release of certain Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) documents Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC

3:30 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on curbing corruption in Ukraine's energy sector – 'High Crimes and Pipelines: Curbing Corruption in Ukraine's Energy Sector' Helsinki Commission briefing, reviewing 'the challenges facing Ukraine's energy sector with a focus on corruption's role

in preventing necessary reforms'. Participants are RAND Adjunct Senior Fellow Amb. Bill Courtney, Center for Strategic and International Studies Senior Fellow Ed Chow, and Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada Member Nataliya Katser-Buchkovska Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm G11, Washington, DC

**US House:**

10:00 AM House Small Business Committee field hearing on small businesses in Western Kentucky – Field hearing on 'Exploring the State of Western Kentucky's Small Businesses', with testimony from First Community Bank of the Heartland President Bruce Kimbell; Swift & Staley President Leon Owens; Musselman Properties owner Edward Musselman; and Socially Present owner Jonas Neihoff Location: Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce, 300 South 3rd Street, Paducah, KY

2:00 PM House Small Business Committee field hearing on rural small businesses in North Mississippi – Field hearing on 'The Perspective of Rural Small Businesses in North Mississippi', with testimony from Woods Farm Supply owner Pat Woods; Hyperion Technology Group founder, President, and CEO Geoffrey Carter; Michael Hatcher & Associates President Michael Hatcher; and Summit Management Services President and CEO Jason Bailey Location: ServPro Training Center, 1160 Stateline Road East, Southaven, MS

3:30 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on curbing corruption in Ukraine's energy sector – 'High Crimes and Pipelines: Curbing Corruption in Ukraine's Energy Sector' Helsinki Commission briefing, reviewing 'the challenges facing Ukraine's energy sector with a focus on corruption's role in preventing necessary reforms'. Participants are RAND Adjunct Senior Fellow Amb. Bill Courtney, Center for Strategic and International Studies Senior Fellow Ed Chow, and Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada Member Nataliya Katser-Buchkovska Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm G11, Washington, DC

6:30 PM Dem Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton hosts community meeting on NPS policies on organized sports – Democratic Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton hosts a community meeting on National Park Service policies affecting the ability of organized sports teams to reserve space and play games on the National Mall Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2167, Washington, DC No votes scheduled in the House of Representatives

**Other:**

9:00 AM USGLC State Leaders Summit – U.S. Global Leadership Coalition State Leaders Summit, with day one speakers including Democratic Sen. Chris Coons, former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, USAID Administrator Mark Green, U.S. Institute of Peace President Nancy Lindborg, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Paul Selva and OPIC President and CEO Ray Washburne \* Other speakers throughout the summit include Republicans Sen. Todd Young and Rep. John Curtis, Democratic Reps. Jimmy Panetta, Tim Ryan and Brad Schneider, former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, U.S. Global Aids Coordinator Deborah Bix, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Dr Anthony Fauci, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Economic Growth, Education and Environment Michelle Bekkering, and Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Food Security Sean Jones, Panagora Group President and CEO Betsy Bassan Location: Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H St NW, Washington, DC

12:00 PM 'The Future of Housing Finance Reform' American Action Forum event – 'The Future of Housing Finance Reform' American Action Forum lunch event about reforming Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Department of Housing and Urban Development Senior Advisor Adolfo Marzol gives the keynote address, while Politico's Lorraine Woellert moderates the discussion Location: American Action Forum, 1747 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC

American Society of Naval Engineers (ASNE) hosts Technology, Systems and Ships 2018, focusing on the latest efforts of the Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Army to design and procure the next generation of weapons, systems and ships \* Event formerly known as ASNE Day Location: FHI 360, 1825 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC

7:00 PM 2020 Dem presidential candidate Rep. John Delaney book talk at Politics and Prose – 2020 Democratic presidential candidate Rep. John Delaney participates in author talk and reception on his new book, 'The Right Answer: How We Can Unify Our Divided Nation', in which he calls for 'bipartisan action, entrepreneurial innovation, and a renewed commitment to the American idea' Location: Politics and Prose Bookstore, 5015 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC

7:00 PM National Alzheimer's Dinner – National Alzheimer's Dinner hosted during the Alzheimer's Association AIM Advocacy Forum, with honorees including Republican Sen. Susan Collins, Democratic Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, and actress Alexandra Socha. Other speakers include actress Marcia Gay Harden, with emcee MSNBC and NBC News Anchor Richard Lui Location: Washington Marriott Wardman Park, 2660 Woodley Rd NW, Washington, DC

Association of Defense Communities Defense Communities National Summit – Association of Defense Communities Defense Communities National Summit. Speaking program includes

keynotes from Republican Sen. James Inhofe, Navy Secretary Richard Spencer, Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson, and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations and Environment Lucian Niemeyer; with other speakers including Democratic Reps. Scott Peters and Tim Ryan, Republican Reps. Mike Rounds, Scott Taylor, and Rob Wittman, officials from the Department of Defense, and other organizations Location: Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC

## Last Laughs

---

### Late Night Political Humor.

*John Oliver:* [On President Trump tweeting that “everybody can feel much safer” after his summit with Kim Jong-un]: “Okay, so for the record on that, Donald Trump telling me I can sleep well tonight is like the grim reaper telling me to have a happy birthday. His presence is the reason I will not.”

*John Oliver:* “Now, unfortunately, the deal Trump made with Kim Jong-un was pretty underwhelming. They agreed to work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, which isn’t just ambiguous compared to the multiple previous agreements involving North Korea; it’s also close to meaningless.”

**Copyright 2018 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC** Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform’s terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva’s [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at [BulletinIntelligence.com](http://BulletinIntelligence.com), or called at (703) 483-6100.

- Hagerstown (MD) Herald-Mail Media: Harpers Ferry Park Team To Conduct Parking Study.
- Jackson Hole (WY) News & Guide: Historic Teton Park Parcel Preserved.
- Cape Cod (MA) Today: National Seashore Announces New Exhibits At Province Lands Visitor Center.
- WTOP-FM Washington: Anacostia River Water Quality Gets First Passing Report Card Grade.
- San Jose (CA) Mercury News: Restoration Project Transforms Mariposa Grove.
- Pensacola (FL) News Journal: Pensacola Bay Ferry Service Ticket Prices, Start Date Announced.
- Raleigh (NC) News & Observer: Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Vandalized.

## US Geological Survey

- Reuters: Hawaii Volcano Summit Erupts With Fresh Ashfall.

## Opinion Pieces

- Gazette Opinion: Zinke Playing Politics In Yellowstone?
- Proposal To Gut Methane Rule Harmful To Arizona, Latino Communities.
- Additional Reading.

## Top National News

- Associated Press: Trump: "There Is No Longer A Nuclear Threat From North Korea."
- ABC: ABC News: Cohen "Likely" To Cooperate With Federal Investigators.
- Bloomberg News: Fed Says Economy "In Great Shape," Hikes Interest Rates.
- NBC: Media Analyses: GOP Confirming It's The Party Of Trump.

## Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
  - "Horror Multiplies In Yemen."
  - "Macedonia By Another Name."
- Washington Post.
  - "No 'Love' In North Korea."
  - "Secrets, Leaks – And Balance."
  - "Catastrophe Could Lie Ahead In Yemen."
- Wall Street Journal.
  - "The FBI's Document Blackouts."
  - "Powell Doesn't Get High."
  - "Brexit And Circuses."

## Big Picture

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

## Washington Schedule

- Today's Events In Washington.

## Last Laughs

- Late Night Political Humor.

## DOI In The News

---

### New Yellowstone Boss Named Following Predecessor's Ouster.

The [AP](#) (6/13, Brown) reports that a new superintendent of Yellowstone National Park was named Wednesday, "after his predecessor said he was being forced out by the Trump administration following a dispute over bison." Cameron "Cam" Sholly, the director of the National Park Service's Midwest region, will replace Dan Wenk, "who has been superintendent since 2011."

The [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (6/13, Wright) reports that in a statement announcing the selection, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said Sholly "has a track record of working with local communities and Tribes on important wildlife and conservation work and he's overseen some of the park service's most high profile park infrastructure projects in recent years." In an emailed statement, Wenk said Sholly is "a great selection." Wenk said, "He will continue the high standards of over the past 100 years of National Park Service management, for protection of Yellowstone while accommodating great visitor experiences. I look forward to working with him to assure a smooth transition of leadership in the world's first national park."

Also reporting are [CNN](#) (6/13, Ganim), [KTVH-TV Helena \(MT\)](#) Helena, MT (6/13), [KPAX-TV Missoula \(MT\)](#) Missoula, MT (6/13), [KELO-TV Sioux Falls \(SD\)](#) Sioux Falls, SD (6/13, Limon), and



[KTVO-TV Billings \(MT\)](#) Billings, MT (6/13).

### **House Republicans Propose Financial Penalties For States That Block Offshore Drilling.**

The [Washington Post](#) (6/13, Grandoni) reports the House Natural Resources Committee is expected to discuss a proposal today put forth by House Republicans "to impose hefty fees on states that do not approve of" offshore drilling, "a move that would pressure local leaders who oppose the Trump administration's plan to expand offshore leasing." The draft legislation would allow states "to disapprove of drilling offshore in up to half of the lease blocks off its coast without incurring a penalty," but "any state with a proposed lease sale that wants to put more than 50 percent of the blocks off-limits would be required to pay a fee equal to at least one-tenth the estimated government revenue that would have been generated" from the preempted drilling activity. [The Hill](#) (6/13, Sanchez) reports "the proposal also sets up a revenue-sharing scheme for states that allow drilling."

### **Federal Agency Announces Protection Of Recreation Zone.**

The [AP](#) (6/13) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced last week that the Bureau of Land Management will "withdraw the Johnny Behind the Rocks Recreation Zone public land near Lander for 20 years for the protection of recreational and cultural resources." The order published in the Federal Register on Friday "withdraws about 7.5 square miles (19.4 square kilometers) of federal land from location and entry under the U.S. mining laws, but not from leasing under the mineral leasing laws." The article notes that "public input gathered during a 2016 comment period showed broad support for the Johnny Behind the Rocks mineral withdrawal."

### **UAV Pioneer Bathrick A Finalist For Government Service Award.**

[Inside Unmanned Systems](#) (6/13) reports that "voting continues for the 2018 Sammies People's Choice award, and Mark L. Bathrick, Director of the Office of Aviation Services (OAS) in the Department of the Interior (DOI), is among the finalists for the top honor." Bathrick and his team are a 2018 Finalist for their efforts in Homeland Security and Law Enforcement. According to the article, "during the past decade, Bathrick has built the government's largest unmanned aerial vehicle fleet outside the Department of Defense, deploying 312 drones that flew nearly 5,000 times over public lands in 2017."

## **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

---

### **Tribal Affairs Agencies Make Progress, Not Enough To Satisfy Senators.**

[Cronkite News](#) (6/13, Henne) reports that "federal agencies that oversee Indian affairs are making progress toward fixing management shortcomings that landed them on a list of 'high-risk' agencies, but not enough progress to satisfy some senators." The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education and Indian Health Services have "for years been on the Government Accountability Office's high-risk list of federal programs that are vulnerable to mismanagement." Officials from those agencies told the Senate Indian Affairs Committee on Wednesday "that they are now meeting, or at least beginning to meet, GAO recommendations for improved operations. But senators, and other witnesses, said the agencies still have a way to go."

### **Land-into-trust Fix Added To Controversial Federal Recognition Bill.**

The [Nation Sun News](#) (6/13) reports that the Democrats in Congress are worried that the Tribal Recognition Act, H.R.3744, which would place "all federal recognition decisions in the hands of Congress will further politicize the cumbersome process." Rep. Raúl Grijalva said at a markup session on Wednesday morning, "The importance of federal recognition cannot be overstated and that is why simply leaving an act of Congress as the only path forward for tribal recognition is dangerous and misguided." However, "even though most Democrats voted to reject H.R.3744 at the session, Grijalva managed to sneak in an amendment." The measure "states that all land placed in trust prior to February 24, 2009, is 'hereby reaffirmed as trust land.'"

### **9th Circuit Leans Toward Renewing Class Action Discrimination Suit.**

[Courthouse News](#) (6/14, Christophi) reports that "a Ninth Circuit judge indicated Wednesday that he supported reviving a proposed class action accusing federal and Arizona state agencies of racial discrimination against American Indian children and their non-American Indian adoptive parents." Circuit Judge John Owens "said that an allegation by the plaintiffs – four minor children and their adoptive parents – that they were emotionally and psychologically harmed by a provision in the



Indian Child Welfare Act requiring American Indian children in foster care be placed with American Indian parents was their strongest for showing injury and standing to sue.” A decision to find standing by the Ninth Circuit “would send the case back to U.S. District Judge Neil Wake in Phoenix, who dismissed it for lack of standing because the plaintiffs hadn’t alleged ‘concrete and particularized’ injury stemming from the statute’s disputed provisions.”

## **Bureau Of Land Management**

---

### **City Council Members Discuss Cemex With Trump Administration Dept.**

Of Interior. The [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) Signal](#) (6/13, Duan) reports that Santa Clarita officials “recently returned from Washington D.C. after their first discussion with President Trump’s administration regarding a top concern for the city — an ongoing fight against the proposed gravel mine in Soledad Canyon.” The officials spoke with the Interior deputy secretary, David Bernhardt “on the community’s opposition to the mining project operated by Cemex.”

### **New Mexico Regulators Consider \$2B Transmission Project.**

The [AP](#) (6/13, Bryan) reports that “developers of a \$2 billion transmission project aimed at getting renewable energy from New Mexico and Arizona to large markets in the American Southwest are looking to clear one more regulatory hurdle as they seek state permission for the massive project.” SunZia in March submitted its application “for approval of locations and right of way widths for the massive power lines, triggering a public hearing process that began Wednesday before the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission in Santa Fe.” Developers said in their application “that they expect final approval from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to proceed with construction later this year and that a right of way permit from the New Mexico State Land Office is expected soon.”

### **BLM’s Utah Oil And Gas Lease Sale Nets \$186,617.**

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (6/13, Nemec) reports that the Bureau of Land Management in Utah said “Tuesday that it completed an oil and natural gas lease sale for 11 or 12 parcels offered, netting \$186,617.” The article notes that “of the 13,593 acres offered, 12,677 acres were leased.”

### **Acton Provides Mountain Biking Thrills.**

The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (6/13, French) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has “cooperated with Billings-area mountain bikers to create a fun play area about 30 miles north of Billings, the Acton Recreation Area.” The BLM has “invested in a large lot, vault toilet and picnic area.” Dave Lefevre, acting field manager for the Billings Field Office of the BLM, “praised the volunteer’s work.” He said, “The lion share of the investment has come from the volunteers.”

## **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

---

### **New Group Is Pushing For Offshore Drilling In Atlantic, Gulf.**

[WUWF-FM](#) Pensacola, FL (6/13, Dunwoody) reports that “despite repeated assurances that Florida waters will be exempt from a White House plan to expand oil and gas, proponents of drilling off the state’s coastline aren’t giving up,” referring to the American Petroleum Institute’s “Explore Offshore” coalition. “Cooperative efforts to coexist and produce our much-needed natural product from that area can and hopefully will be done,” said David Mica, Executive Director of the Florida Petroleum Council. “We’re going to be depending on a smart electorate here; Floridians need to recognize the difference here between the state’s waters and the federal waters,” said Mica.

*Oil Drilling Opponents: API Coalition Is ‘Fake’.* [South Strand News \(SC\)](#) (6/13, Stairs) reports that offshore oil drilling opponents described the American Petroleum Institute’s “Explore Offshore” coalition as a “fake” coalition. Frank Knapp Jr., president and CEO of the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce, and Peg Howell, co-founder of a grassroots group called Stop Oil Drilling in the Atlantic, “say that this coalition is an effort by oil companies to muddy the waters when it comes to support for seismic testing and drilling for oil and natural gas in the Atlantic Ocean.” Former Secretary of the Navy and Virginia Senator Jim Webb, a co-chair of the national group, “said this coalition is a much-needed, commonsense step for America’s energy future.”

## **Fish And Wildlife Service**

---

## **Michigan Gets \$1.25M From Feds To Upgrade Shooting Ranges.**

The [AP](#) (6/13) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has "approved \$1.25 million in funding to help Michigan improve its shooting ranges." The agency "authorized the funding over a five-year period under a program that levies an excise tax on the sale of firearms, ammunition, archery equipment and hunting licenses." According to the article, "grants have been awarded to Michigan Technological University in Houghton for its indoor shooting range and the Ogemaw Hills Sportsmen Association for development of an archery park in West Branch."

Also reporting are [WWTV-TV](#) Cadillac, MI (6/13, Firnbach) and [WJMN-TV](#) Marquette, MI (6/13).

## **Suit Seeks To Stop Suncoast 2 Toll Road Construction.**

The [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (6/13, Pittman) reports that "as construction workers begin clearing the forest at the end of the original Suncoast Parkway to build a second toll road, historic preservation and environmental activists filed suit this week to stop it in its tracks." The lawsuit, "filed Monday in the U.S. District Court in Tampa, pits a group called the Friends of Etna Camp against the U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." It "challenges the permit the federal government granted for the construction of the controversial eight-lane highway known as Suncoast 2, which runs through Hernando and Citrus counties."

Also reporting is the [Citrus County \(FL\) Chronicle](#) (6/13, Bates).

## **Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Won't Open Until At Least September.**

The [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (6/13, Bear) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "won't open trails at the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge until at least Sept. 15, according to court documents filed in a lawsuit pending against the agency." Up until the Monday filing, "the opening date, should it happen, has been nebulous and usually given as summer or late summer of 2018."

## **National Park Service**

---

### **Easy Trail Access From Estes Park To Rocky Mountain National Park Just Got \$400,000 Closer To Happening.**

The [Denver Post](#) (6/13, Paul) reports that "a \$400,000 federal grant will help pay for a new trail between a subdivision and Rocky Mountain National Park." According to the article, "the 1.1 mile path will connect the Mountain Meadows subdivision in Estes Park and the landmark." The dollars come from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and "will go to the town to help construct the trail."

### **North Dakota OKs Refinery Construction Near National Park.**

The [AP](#) (6/13, Nicholson) reports North Dakota's Health Department on Wednesday "issued a permit...allowing construction of an oil refinery about 3 miles (5 kilometers) from Theodore Roosevelt National Park, a project opposed by several national and regional conservation groups." The Davis Refinery faces "other hurdles, but the permission to build that followed a 1 1/2-year state review is a major victory for the project planned by Meridian Energy Group, based in California and North Dakota." Senior Project Manager Dan Hedrington said, "The confirming review by the (state) was the most thorough review I've been involved with in my career."

### **Officials: Stretch Of Snake River 'Nearly Impassable'.**

The [AP](#) (6/13) reports that "officials say a stretch of the Snake River in Wyoming is becoming increasingly hazardous as erosion, fallen trees and other natural effects continue to take a toll." River guide Jim Stanford "says the stretch from Deadman's Bar to Moose in Grand Teton National Park became 'nearly impassable' over the weekend." Park officials recommend "only boaters with advanced skills should attempt this section of river due to swift water, multiple braided channels and numerous obstructions."

### **Ancient Human Remains Discovered, Reburied On San Miguel Island.**

The [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (6/13, Carlson) reports that the 2005 discovery of ancient human remains on San Miguel Island, part of Channel Islands National Park, was "made public for the first time Wednesday." The article recounts how the National Park Service "took the information to a Chumash tribe with close ties to the northern Channel Islands, including San Miguel." Studies tried to determine if "Tuqan Man was Native American, and if so, whether his remains could be transferred to a tribe."



## **Harpers Ferry Park Team To Conduct Parking Study.**

The [Hagerstown \(MD\) Herald-Mail Media](#) (6/13) reports that Harpers Ferry National Historical Park will conduct a study "to assess congestion and parking issues at the train station lot in the Lower Town section of the park." A research team from DOT's Volpe Center will assist in the collection and evaluation of data.

## **Historic Teton Park Parcel Preserved.**

The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (6/13, Huffman) reports that the Grand Teton National Park Foundation last week celebrated "the purchase of the last private acre along Mormon Row, preserving it from development." The parcel, a "final remnant of private land T.A. Moulton homesteaded in 1906, went on the market last summer." The foundation is "now raising \$2.5 million for boat landings at Jackson Lake Dam, Pacific Creek and Moose Creek."

## **National Seashore Announces New Exhibits At Province Lands Visitor Center.**

[Cape Cod \(MA\) Today](#) (6/13) reports that Cape Cod National Seashore has "finished installation of new exhibits at Province Lands Visitor Center." The exhibits "focus on the nature and history of the geographic area of the seashore referred to as the Province Lands, and replace previous exhibits installed in the 1990s." Superintendent Brian Carlstrom said, "We think the new exhibits will encourage people to explore these many aspects of the seashore."

## **Anacostia River Water Quality Gets First Passing Report Card Grade.**

[WTOP-FM](#) Washington (6/13, King) reports that "the Anacostia River is closer to meeting goals for residents to swim and fish in it by 2025: For the first time ever, it's getting a passing grade of 'D-' on its 'State of the River' report card." Within Anacostia Park, the National Park Service has "worked to reduce the number of Canada geese." Jim Foster, president of the Anacostia Watershed Society, said, "They're here all year. They're peeing and pooping in the river. And then, a lot of people don't know this, they're eating our emerging wetland plants the second they pop out of the ground."

## **Restoration Project Transforms Mariposa Grove.**

The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (6/13, Rogers) reports that "after being closed to the public for nearly three years, Mariposa Grove, the storied forest of giant sequoia trees at Yosemite National Park first set aside for protection by Abraham Lincoln, is set to re-open Friday morning following completion of a \$40 million restoration project." The project, "the largest in park history, aims to restore natural serenity and take pressure off the massive trees' fragile root systems while also improving the flow of water to help the forest thrive in generations to come."

Also reporting is the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (6/14, Fimrite).

## **Pensacola Bay Ferry Service Ticket Prices, Start Date Announced.**

The [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (6/13, Gabriel) reports that "the operator of Pensacola's new ferry service and the National Park Service announced Wednesday that they have completed contract negotiations and that the service will start June 22." Dan Brown, superintendent of Gulf Islands National Seashore, "We are extraordinarily excited. This has been an incredibly complex process and we have cleared a major hurdle in getting the contracts finalized."

## **Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Vandalized.**

The [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (6/13, Bennett) reports that the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse was "vandalized, officials said on Wednesday." The National Park Service said on Facebook that someone etched the letters "SEF" into the bronze door of the lighthouse. [WRAL-TV](#) Raleigh, NC (6/13, Bowen) reports that Superintendent David Hallac said, "Many residents of Hatteras Island have served as lighthouse keepers in the 1800s and 1900s, taking care of the iconic structure and helping to protect mariners off the coast. It is important that we treat the lighthouse with respect to honor the structure itself and the legacy of those that served in it."

## **US Geological Survey**

---

### **Hawaii Volcano Summit Erupts With Fresh Ashfall.**

[Reuters](#) (6/13) reports that "the summit of Hawaii's Kilauea volcano erupted early on Wednesday and fissures on its eastern slope sent fountains of lava up to 160 feet (50 meter) high, as the volcano showed no signs of calming down after six weeks of intensified activity." The U.S.



Geological Service tweeted on Wednesday, "The summit explosion produced an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.4."

## Opinion Pieces

---

### Gazette Opinion: Zinke Playing Politics In Yellowstone?

In an editorial, the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (6/12) questions the rationale behind the reassignment of Yellowstone National Park superintendent Dan Wenk. The paper notes that Wenk said his removal may be related to bison policy. The Gazette asserts that "the balance of conservation and recreation that drives this Yellowstone economy must be guided by science, regardless of who is in charge." It concludes that "if Wenk's ouster is a political power play," Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "should know that the world is watching."

### Proposal To Gut Methane Rule Harmful To Arizona, Latino Communities.

In an op-ed for the [Arizona Capitol Times](#) (6/13, Monterroso), Ben Monterroso, executive director of Mi Familia Vota, warns about the impact on Arizona's environment if Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's proposal, "which effectively guts the Bureau of Land Management's Methane Waste and Prevention Rule, succeeds." Last week, Monterroso's group "signed a letter, along with 15 other Latino organizations, asking the BLM not to gut this important rule." In his view, "if the administration continues to disregard the concerns of the voting public, then we need a Congress that will hold the administration responsible for these and other attacks on our environment and public health." Monterroso concludes that "we need to make sure we safeguard Arizonan's health, protect our pocketbooks and prevent the waste from other states from polluting the air we breathe."

### Additional Reading.

- *Put Nature First To Preserve Yellowstone.* [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (6/13, Lichtendahl).
- *GUEST COMMENTARY: Partnerships Set Stage For National Park Service Status.* [Winchester \(KY\) Sun](#) (6/13, Sanders).

## Top National News

---

### Trump: "There Is No Longer A Nuclear Threat From North Korea."

The President's diplomatic efforts toward North Korea continue to receive very skeptical media reviews, which take strong issue with his claims that the summit produced tangible results toward denuclearization. The [AP](#) (6/13, Flaherty, Lederman), for example, calls Trump's claims "dubious," saying the summit "produced no guarantees on how or when Pyongyang would disarm." The [Washington Post](#) (6/13, Wagner) reports Trump "amped up claims of a highly successful summit" but "Democrats – and even some Republicans – grew increasingly skeptical about what had been accomplished," and CNN political analyst Kirsten Powers said on [CNN's The Lead](#) 📺 (6/13), "It is hard to know what [Trump is] trying to do here. Because if you look at it, it seems like he gave away a lot and didn't really get anything in return."

The President [tweeted](#) yesterday that "everybody can now feel much safer than the day I took office. There is no longer a Nuclear Threat from North Korea. Meeting with Kim Jong Un was an interesting and very positive experience. North Korea has great potential for the future!" [Added](#) Trump, "Before taking office people were assuming that we were going to War with North Korea. President Obama said that North Korea was our biggest and most dangerous problem. No longer – sleep well tonight! ... So funny to watch the Fake News, especially NBC and CNN. They are fighting hard to downplay the deal with North Korea. 500 days ago they would have 'begged' for this deal-looked like war would break out. Our Country's biggest enemy is the Fake News so easily promulgated by fools!"

CNN Senior Media Correspondent Brian Stelter said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (6/13), "It is no wonder why most Americans think this President is not fit to serve. Tweets like this suggest he doesn't know what has made America so great for over 200 years. That is the check and balance system between the executive and the judiciary and the press." In his opening monologue on [Fox News' Hannity](#) 📺 (6/13), however, Sean Hannity said, "Your mainstream, corrupt media, the destroy-Trump media has reached a new low. Despite so much success at home on the economy and abroad, not including this week here in Singapore, the President has been overwhelmingly portrayed negatively in the press." And now "the President is fighting back."

At any rate, media skepticism was widespread. The [AP](#) (6/13, Pennington, Lederman) says



"Trump stretched credulity at home and abroad" with his "chest-thumping tweet," which "seemed reminiscent of the 'Mission Accomplished' banner flown behind President George W. Bush in 2003 when he spoke aboard a Navy ship following the US invasion of Iraq." As Kevin Corke put it on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/13), meanwhile, Trump "unleash[ed] a tweet storm of optimism," but he returned to Washington "amid strong headwinds of skepticism." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/13, story 2, 3:20, Muir) reported that Kim "still has his nukes," and "the joint statement he signed in Singapore did not indicate how and when he would give them up. It also did not say that denuclearization would be 'verifiable' and 'irreversible.' ... Some saying the President gave a lot more than he got."

The [New York Times](#) (6/13, Baker, Sang-Hun) reports Trump "made his claims even though North Korea has not given up any of its nuclear warheads or missiles, nor dismantled any of its 141 known sites devoted to the production or use of weapons of mass destruction other than blowing up a test site." Asked Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, "What planet is the president on?" The [Washington Post](#) (6/13, Warrick) remarks on the "hundreds" of facilities "that exist across a North Korean weapons complex that has shown itself capable not only of making sophisticated nuclear and chemical weapons, but also of expertly hiding them from public view." That is "why weapons experts around the world expressed astonishment Wednesday at...Trump's claim."

Later yesterday, the President later sat down for an interview with Fox News' Special Report's Bret Baier, who told him the North has agreed to things before and gone back on their word, to which Trump [responded](#), "That's with a different president. And nobody has taken it this far, and presidents have never met with anybody from North Korea. It's been delegated to other people. ... This is something that should have been done years ago" before the North had its nuclear weapons. Trump later [said](#) he is "totally confident" that a verification system will be set up to ensure the North gets rid of its nuclear weapons – "and if we can't, we can't have a deal. It has to be verified." Baier asked Trump why he thinks Kim "raced to complete his nuclear program and then decided to give it up." Trump responded, "I think psychologically he felt it was important and I understand that."

Asked if he thinks China thinks they got what they want out of the summit, Trump [replied](#), "I think China would really like to see no nuclear weapons" in the region. He added, "Whether you are semi-friendly with a nation or not, when they have nuclear weapons, it can't be a positive feeling, it just can't be." He added that China has been "very helpful."

Trump was also [asked](#) about human rights and how "you call this relationship really good and that [Kim] was a very talented person," even though "he's executing people." Trump said that "when you take over a...tough country...I don't care who you are" or "how much of an advantage you have. If you can do that at 27 years old, that's one in 10,000 that can do that. So he's a very smart guy. He's a great negotiator." When Baier replied that Kim has "still done some really bad things," Trump said back: "But so have a lot of other people done some really bad things."

Sen. James Lankford said [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/13), "I think the President is being optimistic and it is just his nature that he walks in with a negotiation and expect everyone will live up to their part of the deal," but added, "if they change he responds rapidly to say you broke the deal and flips everything back over. So my assumption is the President is being consistent and that he will assume Kim Jong-un will keep up his part of the deal. If he doesn't, then we certainly will respond to that." Lankford also said, "We've seen words and words are a good first step but that is by far not the last step."

Fox News national security strategist Sebastian Gorka said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (6/13), "Donald Trump could not have achieved more than 24 hours, 25 hours he was awake. What more could he have achieved? At the end of the day, he is solving the problems other people left for him. This isn't just about the Obama Administration. This is about the last 25 years, from Bill Clinton onwards, the situation in this part of the world on the peninsula was getting worse and worse by the year. The nuclear capability, detonating nuclear warheads, launching ballistic missiles over the sea of Japan with a range of more than 2,000 miles. Those are not problems created by the Trump Administration. But guess was trying to solve it? Donald Trump. It's just facts."

A [Washington Post](#) (6/13) editorial says many of Trump's "false statements regarding North Korea and his summit meeting with" Kim "may be harmless," and some are even "justifiable in the context of a nascent diplomatic process." His remark that North Korea "does love him," however, "is obtuse, offensive and harmful," according to the Post, which explains, "No one in North Korea may criticize Mr. Kim and expect to survive." The Post concludes in writing that the thousands of people who have "looked to America and its democratic allies to stand for their dignity and freedom as human beings will feel a bit less hopeful about their future. They will feel betrayed."



They will be right to feel that way."

[Washington Post](#) (6/13) columnist E.J. Dionne Jr. also rejects the "deeply flawed but predictable arguments that have been offered in defense of Trump's lovefest with North Korea's brutal dictator and the president's approach to negotiation." Specifically, Dionne writes, Trump touted a "flimsy piece of paper" that "guaranteed absolutely nothing and contained far weaker promises than those wrung out of North Korea by earlier administrations – promises, by the way, that the 'very honorable' regime broke." Additionally, Dionne says, "Trump did not simply overlook the astonishing brutality of North Korea's regime" – he "heaped praise on Kim." Finally, Dionne writes, Trump "made real concessions to North Korea – beginning with the legitimacy that the Singapore extravaganza conferred on Kim and Trump's decision to call off joint military exercises with South Korea – without winning anything concrete in return."

**Poll: "Just Over Half Of All Americans," 30% Of Democrats Approve Of Trump's Handling Of North Korea.** [Reuters](#) (6/13, Milliken) reports that according to a new Reuters/Ipsos poll, "just over half of all Americans" approve of how Trump "has handled North Korea, but only a quarter think that his summit...will lead to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula." According to Reuters, "Thirty-nine percent believe the summit has lowered the threat of nuclear war between the United States and nuclear-armed North Korea, slightly more than the 37 percent who said they did not believe it changed anything." Reuters notes that although on 12% of Democrats approve of Trump's job performance, "about 30 percent said they approved of his handling of North Korea."

**Pompeo Calls Out "Insulting And Ridiculous And Frankly Ludicrous" Media Query.** In its lead story, the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/13, lead story, 2:40, Dickerson) reported that when asked why the words "verifiable and irreversible" weren't included in the agreement Trump and Kim signed, Secretary of State Pompeo "told reporters... 'I find that question insulting and ridiculous and, frankly, ludicrous,' arguing they are 'implied.'" The [Washington Post](#) (6/13, DeYoung) notes that when "asked specifically about verification of Pyongyang's denuclearization and whether it will be irreversible...Pompeo said: 'The modalities are beginning to develop. There will be a great deal of work to do. There's a long way to go. There's much to think about. ... But don't say silly things. No, don't. It's not productive.'"

**Pompeo Hits Back At Framework Critics, Says "Major Disarmament" Achievable By 2021.** [Reuters](#) (6/13, Brunnstrom) reports that Pompeo also said the US "hopes to achieve 'major disarmament' by North Korea within the next 2-1/2 years." Speaking to reporters in Seoul, Pompeo "was asked if he would like to accomplish major nuclear disarmament within Trump's current term." Pompeo answered, "Oh yes, most definitively. Absolutely ... you used the term 'major,' 'major disarmament,' something like that? We're hopeful that we can achieve that in the 2-1/2 years." According to Reuters, Pompeo "bristled at a question about why the words 'verifiable' and 'irreversible' were not in the summit joint statement, in the context of denuclearization." Pompeo is quoted as saying, "It's in the statement. You're just wrong about that... Because complete encompasses verifiable and irreversible. I suppose you could argue semantics, but let me assure you that it's in the document."

The [AP](#) (6/13) reports that Pompeo also said that he is "confident that US talks with North Korea will resume 'sometime in the next week.'" The [Washington Post](#) (6/13, DeYoung) notes that asked "specifically about verification of Pyongyang's denuclearization and whether it will be irreversible," Pompeo said, "The modalities are beginning to develop. There will be a great deal of work to do. There's a long way to go. There's much to think about."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/13, Gordon, Nasaw) says Pompeo said North Korea vowed to work toward "complete denuclearization" of the Korean peninsula, adding, "Let me assure you that 'complete' encompasses verifiable in the minds of everyone concerned. One can't completely denuclearize without validating, authenticating – you pick the word." [The Hill](#) (6/13, Manchester), [Washington Times](#) (6/13, Taylor), [Politico](#) (6/13, Nelson), [New York Post](#) (6/13, Moore), and [Townhall](#) (6/13, Pavlich), among other news outlets, also note Pompeo's comments.

**Graham: "If My Democratic Friends Get Behind" Trump, "We May Actually Get A Peace Deal."** Responding to Pompeo's statement in Seoul, Sen. Lindsey Graham said on [Fox News The Ingraham Angle](#) (6/13), "A very important statement that South Korea, Japan, and the United States through the summit went well and are together behind...Trump. Now if my Democratic friends get behind...Trump, we may actually get a peace deal."

Rep. Eric Swalwell said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/13) that he hopes the summit "produces denuclearization, but" he also hopes it's not just the US "giving up our security presence in the region and getting nothing in return." Swalwell added that Pyongyang "has a long record of deceiving US officials when it comes to denuclearizing." He argued that Trump is "giving too much credibility to a ruthless dictator who needs to be confronted with a forceful leader who is willing to help them rejoin the table of nations, but not somebody who's his new pal."



Sen. James Lankford said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/13) that, as Trump has done with "trade or other things," the President seems to walk into a negotiation "optimistic and assumes everyone keeps their word. And if they change he responds rapidly to say you broke the deal and flips everything back over." When asked if he thinks the North's nuclear threat is over, Lankford said, "I don't...because we've not seen denuclearization or dismantlement of weapons or a change in posture. We've seen words and words are a good first step but that is by far not the last step." When asked whether there's a "system" to verify denuclearization, Lankford replied, "We know how to do that. We worked with Iran...with the JCPOA and with other countries, and we know how to do verification." Meanwhile, Lankford said it's "reasonable" for the US to delay military exercises with South Korea.

*Japan Working To Arrange Abe-Kim Summit.* [Reuters](#) (6/13) reports "Japan is working on arranging a meeting between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and...Kim," with "one possibility including the premier's visit to Pyongyang around August, the Yomiuri newspaper reported on Thursday." Reuters adds that "citing multiple government sources, the paper said officials from the two countries had been in contact several times in recent months to negotiate a possible meeting between the two leaders."

*NYTimes Analysis: Allies Worry Trump Signaling US Pullback From Asia-Pacific.* The [New York Times](#) (6/13, Rich) reports that the Trump-Kim summit left US allies in the region "with new anxieties." Trump's "concessions to North Korea exacerbated their fears about the United States' long-term commitment to safeguarding the region." Trump suspension of military exercises with South Korea and his hope to remove the 28,000 US troops "blindsided American allies, including South Korea itself. It also raised questions about whether Mr. Trump's outreach to the North actually signaled a broader American retreat from the region."

The [AP](#) (6/13, Wong, Bodeen) reports that Ryan Hass, who directed China policy for the National Security Council under President Obama, says China "wants to see a reduction in foreign military forces in Northeast Asia and for the gap between Washington and its allies and partners to widen." Hass said, "Beijing is now on track to achieve these objectives at little cost."

*Kim Praises Trump As North Korean Media Claims US Made Major Concessions.* The [Washington Times](#) (6/13, Boyer) reports that Kim "is praising...Trump's 'realistic' approach to negotiations with Pyongyang, North Korea's leading state-run newspaper reported Wednesday after the landmark summit between the two leaders." The newspaper Rodong Sinmun said "Kim 'highly praised the president's will and enthusiasm to resolve matters in a realistic way through dialogue and negotiations, away from the hostility-woven past.'"

[USA Today](#) (6/13, Maresca) reports, meanwhile, that the Korean Central News Agency's coverage "underscor[ed] the meeting's propaganda value for a regime long isolated from the international community." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/13, story 2, 3:20, Muir) noted Pompeo's comments on disarmament and the wording of the agreement, but reported that "just as the President was declaring victory, so, too, was North Korea." Brian Todd reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/13) that North Korean state media is proclaiming Kim's summit "a resounding success." The North's official wire service cast it as "a huge win for Kim that...Trump has agreed to end the military exercises with South Korea," and "even spun the summit to say that...Trump expressed his intent to lift sanctions against Kim's regime. The President and his team actually say sanctions will remain in place for now."

The [New York Times](#) (6/13, Choe) reports that North Korea "wasted no time on Wednesday spinning the results in its favor, claiming it had won major concessions" from the US. State media said Trump "promised to eventually lift sanctions against the North and to end joint military drills with South Korea. It also said the United States had agreed to a phased, 'step-by-step' denuclearization process for the North, rather than the immediate dismantling of its nuclear capability." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/12, Cheng), [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/12, Kim), and [Washington Post](#) (6/13, Murphy), among other news outlets, run similar stories this morning.

*Body Language Expert Says Trump Dominated Kim At Summit.* The [Daily Caller](#) (6/13, Athey) reports "body language expert" Chris Ulrich "appeared on CNN Wednesday" and "said that President Donald Trump clearly dominated North Korea's Kim Jong Un during their historic summit." He "noted that Kim Jong Un had the upper hand in the first photo-op with Trump because he was standing on the left side of the photo, but added that Trump put his hand on Kim Jong Un's upper arm during their hand shake as a way of 'reestablishing dominance.'" Ulrich said Trump then "does something very interesting," when he "pats [Kim Jong Un] on the back and guides him out - again, he's establishing dominance."

*Norwegian Lawmakers Nominate Trump For Nobel Peace Prize.* The [New York Post](#) (6/13, Moore) reports Christian Tybring-Gjedde and Per-Willy Amundsen, two Norwegian lawmakers and members of the Progress Party, nominated President Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize. The two



lawmakers said Trump has "taken a huge and important step in the direction of the disarmament, peace and reconciliation between North and South Korea," according to Norway's NTB news agency.

**French Foreign Minister: Trump "Practically Hugged" Kim.** The [Washington Post](#) (6/13, Taylor) reports that French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian told a television station that while the meeting "was 'an undoubted step forward,' he was concerned about the erratic nature of U.S. foreign policy." Le Drian said, "In the space of just a day you see President Trump attacking [Canadian Prime Minister Justin] Trudeau, who is a historic ally, and you see President Trump breaking with his collective allies after the G-7 meeting in Quebec, and the next day practically hugged a dictator born into a communist dictatorship, which just a few days ago he said he was completely opposed to."

**CNN's Acosta Defends Questioning At Singapore Summit.** The [Daily Caller](#) (6/13, Athey) reports that on Wednesday, CNN chief White House correspondent Jim Acosta defended "his decision to shout questions at Kim Jong Un during this week's historic summit between the U.S. and North Korea in Singapore." The CNN correspondent "faced near-universal backlash after shouting questions at President Trump and Kim Jong Un while the two leaders were walking past reporters, and then again when they were signing an agreement at the end of the summit," when he "repeatedly asked Kim Jong Un if he was going to give up his nuclear weapons to strike a deal with Trump."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/13, Chasmar) reports that "Acosta, who already has a strained relationship with the Trump White House, was ripped as 'annoying' and 'attention-seeking' by conservatives after he was heard repeatedly questioning the two leaders as they signed a joint agreement to broker peace on the Korean peninsula." After Trump's 2020 campaign manager, Brad Parscale, "renewed his call for Mr. Acosta's press credentials to be revoked over the exchange," Acosta "fired back" on Twitter, "saying taking away his press credentials would be behavior suited for a dictator." Acosta "also defended himself on 'New Day,' telling his CNN colleagues that the summit was a "golden opportunity" to ask Mr. Kim directly whether he planned to give up his nukes." Acosta asserted, "There's a dictator in front of you who has nuclear weapons – why on earth wouldn't you ask that question?"

### **ABC News: Cohen "Likely" To Cooperate With Federal Investigators.**

[ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (6/13, lead story, 3:00, Muir) reported that Michael Cohen "will now likely cooperate with federal investigators." The President "has acknowledged Cohen arranged the hush money to Stormy Daniels, but the President also said he did not believe Cohen would ever flip." ABC (Thomas) went on to report on "word he is parting ways with his own attorneys," and "among the reasons, a source says," is "concern over payment of legal fees. He is under incredible pressure." In an online report, [ABC News](#) (6/13, Stephanopoulos) said Cohen's decision to cooperate with prosecutors, "which is believed to be imminent, will likely hit the White House, family members, staffers and counsels hard."

[NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (6/13, lead story, 2:05, Holt) also mentioned "speculation he'll flip and become a government witness," and added (Welker) that whether he will is "the question looming over the White House tonight. ... So far, Cohen hasn't been charged and several sources familiar with the matter tell NBC news, he has not spoken with prosecutors." The [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (6/13, story 2, 1:25, Dickerson) reported, "As you might imagine, as a member of the President's inner circle, he would be an incredibly valuable witness to special counsel Robert Mueller and his investigation into any links between Russia and the 2016 Trump campaign."

The [AP](#) (6/13, Hays) cites an anonymous source that says Cohen "has not yet held any discussions with prosecutors about potentially cooperating in the investigation." However, the [New York Times](#) (6/13, Feuer, Rashbaum, Haberman) says "with Mr. Cohen's legal team in turmoil, the chances increase that Mr. Cohen could" do so, and [Bloomberg News](#) (6/13, Pettypiece, Voreacos) that "Cohen's move to switch lawyers was interpreted by some legal observers as a sign he may seek to cooperate with federal prosecutors."

[Reuters](#) (6/13, Freifeld) reports Cohen "will hire other counsel once the review is complete." An anonymous source tells Reuters that Cohen "wants to hire a lawyer who has a relationship with the US prosecutor's office in Manhattan." A "friend who spoke with Cohen in the past few days" says Cohen "has complained that he does not feel he has received enough support from Trump in dealing with the situation." [USA Today](#) (6/13, Johnson, Hayes), [Politico](#) (6/13, Gerstein), and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/13, Ballhaus, Hong), among other news outlets, also report on the speculation about Cohen's plans.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/13, Helderman, Hamburger) reports, meanwhile, that "Andrii V. Artemenko, a former member of the Ukrainian parliament, said in an interview that many of the



questions he faced during several hours of testimony Friday were focused on his interactions with Cohen." Artemenko "met with Cohen in January 2017 to discuss a back-channel peace initiative for Ukraine." The Post adds "the special counsel's ongoing questions about Cohen's activities indicate that Mueller remains intently focused on Trump's attorney, even after referring a separate probe into Cohen's business practices to federal prosecutors in Manhattan months ago."

When asked about the House Intelligence Committee not interviewing Cohen, Rep. Eric Swalwell said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/13), "We were completely unwilling as a committee because the Republicans wouldn't use the subpoena power to look into his communication logs, to look at his travel records." He added, "We asked Mr. Cohen for records to show that he wasn't over there and he wasn't willing to turn that over. I think this has to be a wake-up call for the House Intelligence Republicans, that we closed our investigation prematurely and now we're going to learn a lot more about a key witness." Swalwell said that if Cohen does flip, Trump is "in real trouble," adding, "Let's just be real. Honest presidents don't have fixers. ... So I think this is the beginning of a dark, dark storm coming for President Trump."

Former federal prosecutor Jeffrey Toobin said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/13), "Donald Trump knows that Michael Cohen wants a pardon and how much trouble he's in. ... And Donald Trump has not, he has not given a pardon yet. I think giving a pardon to Michael Cohen would be politically much more difficult than any of the other pardons so far because this there is no suggestion that Michael Cohen has any national security, government responsibility. ... It would be seen as very much a self interested act. But Donald Trump has broken many of the rules we've ascribed to him before and he may break these too."

Toobin said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/13), "I think it's also worth pausing to think how grotesque an idea it is that the President might pardon Michael Cohen. I mean, what is the public interest in pardoning Michael Cohen? Is he some victim of – is he a deserving person? Pardoning Michael Cohen would be solely an act of self-preservation on the part of the President. And the very idea that we're even thinking about that is really shocking to me. And it's an example of how much our sort of discourse is degraded that that's even a possibility."

*CNN's Borger: Cohen Issue "Very Much On The President's Mind."* CNN Chief Political Analyst Gloria Borger said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/13), "We've learned this is very much on the President's mind and that, in fact, as he was flying back in kind of a euphoric mood from North Korea, calling members of Congress to talk about the summit with Kim Jong-un, he was also calling his attorneys to kind of game out what would happen next."

*Giuliani: Mueller "Harassing" Cohen.* Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani said on [Fox News The Ingraham Angle](#) (6/13), "The reality is they are trying to frighten him. Michael is a tough guy, I don't think that will happen. And if he does [I] don't think he's going to lie." Giuliani also said on [Fox News The Ingraham Angle](#) (6/13), "We are very comfortable if he cooperates, and, including the things that Rosenstein said to President Trump himself, that he is not involved in that investigation. My concern is that the Mueller investigation is going on interminably, and I think it is reflected in public opinion. ... He's harassing...Cohen, and the Paul Manafort case seems to be falling apart. "

## **Fed Says Economy "In Great Shape," Hikes Interest Rates.**

[Bloomberg News](#) (6/13, Torres, Condon, Smialek) reports, "Federal Reserve officials raised interest rates for the second time this year and upgraded their forecast to four total increases in 2018, as unemployment falls and inflation overshoots their target faster than previously projected." Chairman Jerome Powell "told reporters following the decision – which lifted the Fed's benchmark rate by a quarter percentage point to a range of 1.75 percent to 2 percent – that the main takeaway was that 'the economy is doing very well.'" The [Washington Post](#) (6/13, Long) quotes Powell as saying, "Most people who want to find jobs are finding them, and unemployment and inflation are low," and the [Washington Examiner](#) (6/13, Lawler) as declaring that the US economy to be "in great shape."

In a press conference broadcast on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (6/13), Powell also said, "If you look at household surveys, confidence is high. Look at businesses, confidence is high. If you ask – if you survey workers about the job market, they'll say that it's a really good environment to find jobs. Survey businesses, they'll say workers are scarce. I think overall we have a really solid economy on our hands here. So what we're doing is we are trying to conduct monetary policy in a way to keep inflation above – right at – sorry. Not above but right at two percent." He added, "We've been very, very careful not to tighten too quickly," and "at this time, to continue on that gradual pace seems – continues to seem like the right thing."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/13, story 7, 1:30, Jarvis) reported that the economy is "booming," and "to keep it from overheating, that rate hike, with the Federal Reserve signaling



two more increases later this year." The [AP](#) (6/13, Crutsinger) similarly reports the Fed "took note of a resilient US economy," and that "economists said the Fed left little doubt that it's prepared to increase the pace of its credit tightening." The [New York Times](#) (6/13, Tankersley) indicates "a statement released at the end of the Fed's two-day meeting took several steps to show officials no longer view the United States economy as primarily needing a boost from monetary policy, and are beginning to worry more about the threat of inflation." As [USA Today](#) (6/13, Davidson) indicates, "for years after the Great Recession of 2007-09, the Fed kept its key rate near zero to stimulate sluggish growth." [Politico](#) (6/13, Guida), [Reuters](#) (6/13, Schneider), and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/13, Timiraos), among other news outlets, run similar reports this morning.

[NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (6/13, story 5, 1:55, Holt) offered a much more negative view on the Fed's decision, reporting, "The price you pay and the cost of borrowing getting more expensive. The Federal Reserve raising a key interest rate by a quarter of a point that could put pressure on potential buyers looking to purchase a new place or refinance." Added NBC, "With costs going up, some younger buyers and retirees are choosing to skip buying in favor of renting."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/13, Board) editorializes, meanwhile, that the Fed should take the possibility of rising inflation into account as it designs its monetary policy – or risk damaging the booming economy.

*Fed Expects Jobless Rate To Drop To 50-Year Low.* [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (6/13, story 7, 1:30, Jarvis) reported "the Fed also says that it expects the jobs market to continue improving," and that "unemployment will fall to 3.6 percent, the lowest since the late 1960s."

### **Media Analyses: GOP Confirming It's The Party Of Trump.**

[NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (6/13, story 6, 1:50, Holt) reported, "There are very big lessons to take away" from the midterm primary elections, "especially for Republicans who dare to defy President Trump." Trump critic South Carolina Rep. Mark Sanford "lost his first race ever." This "explains why Republican leaders are shying away from confronting the President on huge policy disagreements. Scrambling to avoid a showdown over immigration in the House and tariffs in the Senate." Ed O'Keefe reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (6/13, story 5, 1:30, Dickerson), "There's no question the GOP candidates are paying a price for bucking Mr. Trump," which is "why you hear so little criticism from most GOP lawmakers." Meanwhile, the "energy and the enthusiasm displayed by women is good news for Democrats heading into November."

In an analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (6/13, Weigel, Costa, Kim) writes, "Fiercely and undeniably, the Republican Party this week confirmed its rebranding as the party of Trump." Congressional leaders "swallowed the president's upending of long-standing party views on several major issues," meaning the party "appears united now not by fealty to ideas or policies but to a man." Republican voters have driven this move by adopting the president's positions and looking "the other way at a progression of missteps and conflicts that would have doomed prior presidents." However, the GOP's move is "fraught with danger." Trump has an "inability to transfer power down the ballot," and "most of the races that will determine control of the House are being fought in suburban districts, filled with women and independent voters who have been less in thrall to Trump than have elected officials and strongly Republican voters."

Under the headline, "It's Trump's Party Now As GOP Learns Not To Cross President," the [AP](#) (6/13, Mascaro) reports that "the lesson being learned by Republicans after Trump critic and GOP Rep. Mark Sanford lost his primary election" is "don't cross President Donald Trump." According to the AP, "[o]ne wrong turn – or in Sanford's case, many – and they could endure the wrath of a president who is quick to attack detractors as enemies, even those from his own party." The AP notes that earlier today, the President "took a victory lap," tweeting, "My political representatives didn't want me to get involved in the Mark Sanford primary thinking that Sanford would easily win – but with a few hours left I felt that Katie was such a good candidate, and Sanford was so bad, I had to give it a shot. Congrats to Katie Arrington!"

Trump said in an interview on [Fox News' Special Report](#) 📺 (6/13), "I think it's a whole different ball game. I think the economy is so good. I think the tax cuts have been incredible, far greater than even I thought they would be. The regulation cuts have been great. I've done more in 500 days than any President has done in their first 500 days. ... I think we are going to do very well, I really do. The economy is doing so well, we are doing so well as a nation, I think we are going to surprise people, and if you look at the numbers and the kind of turnouts like Texas, how many people showed up to vote as an example, how many Republicans showed up to vote, people were very surprised."

Rep. Mark Sanford (R-SC) said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) 📺 (6/13), "The race devolved down to, and that is are you for Trump or against Trump, and my message was grey, saying I support Trump on many ideas ... with the views of the folks that I represent, and I oppose on the



ones that I don't. I think that kind of nuanced approach is an awfully difficult message is approved last night to convey in this particular primary." He added, "I think it is important" Republicans criticize the President. "I think it is important that we have vigorous dissent. You know, it is okay, to disagree. ... Do we want a litmus test or folks agree with us? That is a distinction I have never seen before."

Dana Milbank, in a column in the [Washington Post](#) (6/13), writes, "Donald Trump's America has taken on a Dickensian pall," with plans for tent cities to house the migrant children it is detaining, separating children from their parents, deporting teens to countries they don't remember and where they are killed, and the GOP preventing a vote on the Dream Act. This has "the appearance of abject cruelty," so Republicans are talking about "their tender concern for the addicted." However, their proposals are "more campaign material than substance." Meanwhile, "the show of compassion rings hollow:" because GOP lawmakers "aren't willing to stand up to the source of their Dickensian dilemma": Trump. Milbank concludes, "Republicans may be afraid voters will see them as heartless – but they are more afraid of crossing Trump."

Republican Virginia Senate candidate Cory Stewart said on [CNN Cuomo Prime Time](#) (6/13), "What's happening inside of the Republican party is the party is changing. It's becoming the party of the little guy. Once upon a time, it was the Democrats who claimed to be the party of the working guy. No longer. They slammed the door in their face and now it's President Trump and the new Republican Party that is supporting working Americans, blue-collar workers."

CNN political analyst Kirsten Powers said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/13) that the GOP is "completely unified behind [President Trump] and I'm often at a loss to say why. Just because I don't think if you were to have followed Republican politics for as long as we have, a lot of stuff he does doesn't seem like the kind of things that Republicans used to like, and you can only point to Gorsuch so many times. But when it comes to other things, I think even what just happened in North Korea, what would have happened if that was Barack Obama, it would be nothing but stories about appeasement and the world would have exploded probably. So why they are so behind him I can't say, but they are and it is true, and anybody who criticizes him pays a high price."

*Corker: Support For Trump Almost "Cultish."* The [Tennessean](#) (6/13, Collins) reports, "Sen. Bob Corker lashed out again Wednesday at his fellow Republicans," saying that supporting President Trump is "almost...becoming a cultish thing." On Tuesday, "in a fiery speech on the Senate floor," Corker "blasted Senate Republicans for refusing to give a vote on bipartisan legislation that he is sponsoring to give Congress the chance to accept or reject tariffs imposed by the president," saying that his party members are afraid to bring it to a vote because it may displease Trump.

The [New York Times](#) (6/13, Rappeport, Fandos) reports, "Casting aside the party's long-held commitment to free trade," Senate Republicans chose not to stand up to President Trump on tariffs "for fear of poking the bear," according to Sen. Corker. This "setback for a core Republican principle...played out in public on the Senate floor, underscoring just how far most congressional Republicans would go to avoid confronting Mr. Trump ahead of the November midterm elections." Meanwhile, "the increasingly lonely forces of opposition within the party are" either leaving politics or not elected officials.

## Editorial Wrap-Up

---

### New York Times.

**"Horror Multiplies In Yemen."** A [New York Times](#) (6/12) editorial accuses President Trump of emboldening "Saudi and emirati leaders," arguing that because Trump shares "their antipathy for Iran," he "will sell them virtually any weapon they want." The Times also blames the Administration for supplying the Saudi-led coalition with "intelligence, refueling capabilities and other assistance," and for sending "mixed signals." The Times urges the Administration to "speak with one voice to its Arab allies, making clear that an attack" on the port "would be a disaster and that even considering such action reveals how futile their policy in Yemen has been." To the Times, "[w]orking with the Houthis and the United Nations on a cease-fire and a deal for neutral control of the port could be the first step to a political settlement that is the only hope for peace."

**"Macedonia By Another Name."** In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/13) welcomes the deal between Macedonia and Greece to rename the former the "Republic of North Macedonia," offering progress in "one of the world's most arcane, yet most intractable, disputes." The Balkans are a "maze of fierce and ancient grudges," and "when tempers rise in the Balkans, history teaches that there is no safe distance."



## Washington Post.

**"No 'Love' In North Korea."** A [Washington Post](#) (6/13) editorial says many of Trump's "false statements regarding North Korea and his summit meeting with" Kim "may be harmless," and some are even "justifiable in the context of a nascent diplomatic process." His remark that North Korea "does love him," however, "is obtuse, offensive and harmful," according to the Post, which explains, "No one in North Korea may criticize Mr. Kim and expect to survive." The Post concludes in writing that the thousands of people who have "looked to America and its democratic allies to stand for their dignity and freedom as human beings will feel a bit less hopeful about their future. They will feel betrayed. They will be right to feel that way."

**"Secrets, Leaks – And Balance."** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/13) writes the seizure of Watkin's records "could signal an aggressive campaign by the Trump administration to upend" the balance between society's need for a free press and its need to keep some information secret "and squelch the vital communication between reporters and their sources." The Post adds, "leaks are a legitimate and vital channel for a democracy, and they are not always illegal or about classified material." It concludes, "a rules-based system of keeping secrets must function properly and be respected."

**"Catastrophe Could Lie Ahead In Yemen."** The [Washington Post](#) (6/13) editorializes that "the United Nations and every major humanitarian agency have warned of dire consequences for the 22 million Yemenis who already depend on outside assistance, including 8 million on the brink of famine," but the offensive "nevertheless went ahead early Wednesday after receiving what amounted to passive assent from the Trump administration." To the Post, this means the US "will be complicit if the result is what aid officials say it could be: starvation, epidemics and other human suffering surpassing anything the world has seen in decades." The Post argues that the Administration "could have prevented the assault on Hodeida; instead, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo equivocated, thereby allowing it to go forward." The Post urges Congress to halt US "support for the intervention" and suspend "further arms sales" until "humanitarian assistance flows freely and peace talks are underway."

## Wall Street Journal.

**"The FBI's Document Blackouts."** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/13, Board) writes that the continuing proof that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein and FBI Director Christopher Wray unjustifiably redact documents in ways that appear to intend to frustrate Congressional oversight of the Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump investigations or prevent their agencies from being embarrassed means that Congress must continue its efforts to get the truth from the two.

**"Powell Doesn't Get High."** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/13, Board) editorializes, meanwhile, that the Fed should take the possibility of rising inflation into account as it designs its monetary policy – or risk damaging the booming economy.

**"Brexit And Circuses."** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/13, Board) casts the British government's attempt to leave the European Union as a circus with three rings of entertainment: Prime Minister Theresa May dealing with parliamentary oversight of a final Brexit deal; negotiations with Brussels going badly; and recently revealed emails suggesting that major Leave campaign funder Arron Banks was supported by the Kremlin. The Journal adds that Brexit supporters are failing to show the policy and political strength to sell the move, leading to an emerging consensus that Britain should partner with the EU post-Brexit. While this would prevent the country from realizing the best opportunities Brexit promised, it's a consequence of Brexit supporters not making the case for something better.

## Big Picture

---

### Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

#### **Wall Street Journal:**

[Fed Raises Interest Rates, Sets Stage For Two More In 2018](#)  
[\\$65 Billion Comcast Bid For Fox Assets Sets Off Disney Fight](#)  
[AT&T's Time Warner Prize—A Load Of Hollywood Headaches](#)  
[U.S. Preparing To Proceed With Tariffs On Chinese Goods](#)

#### **New York Times:**

[Trump Sees End To North Korea Threat Despite Unclear Path Forward](#)  
[Republicans Absorb New Lesson: Cross President Trump At Their Peril](#)

[Fed Raises Interest Rates And Signals 2 More Increases Are Coming](#)  
[Comcast Offers \\$65 Billion For 21st Century Fox, Challenging Disney](#)  
[Who Is Behind Trump's Links To Arab Princes? A Billionaire Friend](#)  
[Humanitarian Crisis Worsens In Yemen After Attack On Port](#)

**Washington Post:**

[Ravaged By The Disease He Studies](#)  
[Kim's Scattered Weapons Sites To Pose A Challenge](#)  
[GOP Continues Forging Itself In Trump's Image](#)  
[Comcast's \\$65 Billion Bid Sets Up Disney Duel](#)  
[Pressure On Trump Lawyer Intensifies](#)  
[Trump Boasts Of End To N. Korean Nuclear Threat](#)

**Financial Times:**

[Trump Says North Korea No Longer A Nuclear Threat](#)  
[Fed Lifts Rates And Projects Four Rises For 2018](#)  
[France Starts Asset Sales To Boost State Finances](#)  
[US, Canada And Mexico Win Joint Bid To Host 2026 World Cup](#)

**Washington Times:**

[Mike Pompeo Sees 'Major' Progress On North Korean Nukes In Trump's First Term](#)  
[Ballot Initiative To Divide California Into 3 States Offers Upside For Republicans](#)  
[Backdoor To Illegal Immigration Closing: U.S. Clears More Asylum Cases Than It Receives In May](#)  
[Trump Has Corey Stewart's Back, But GOP Leaders See Political Time Bomb](#)  
[Netflix Blasted Over Copycat Suicides After '13 Reasons Why' Season 3 Announcement](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

**ABC:** Trump-DOJ Investigation-Cohen; US-North Korea Relations; Wildfires; Weather Report; Las Vegas-Airport Power Outage; Las Vegas-Shooting-Bodycam Footage; Rising Loan Rates; California-Proposal To Divide State; World Cup Of Soccer; Penn State-Hazing Case; Seattle-Airport Shooting; New Jersey-Small Plane Crash; UK-Meghan Markle Trip With Queen; Raccoon Climbs 25-Story Building.

**CBS:** US-North Korea Relations; Trump-DOJ Investigation-Cohen; Border Patrol Agent Shot; Mexico-Politicians Murdered; Midterm Primaries; Guess Executive Chairman Resigns; FBI Warning-Online Scam; Wildfires; Antarctica-Ice Melting At Alarming Rate; Steve Scalise-Congressional Baseball Game; London-Man Refurbishes Phone Booths.

**NBC:** Trump-DOJ Investigation-Cohen; Wildfires; US-North Korea Relations; WH-Immigration Policy; Rising Loan Rates; Midterm Primaries; Kim Kardashian-Former Prisoner-Interview; Medication-Depression Side Effects; Raccoon Climbs 25-Story Building; World Cup Of Soccer; Cancer Patient Inspires Others.

**Network TV At A Glance:**

Trump-DOJ Investigation-Cohen – 6 minutes, 30 seconds  
US-North Korea Relations – 6 minutes, 25 seconds

**Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:**

**ABC:** US-North Korea Relations; Trump-DOJ Investigation-Cohen; Democrats Protest-Border Security; Immigration Bill; Wall Street.

**CBS:** US-North Korea Relations; WH-Sarah Sanders Departure Plans; Inspector General To Release Report On Clinton Email Server Investigation; Apple-Security Measures; Rising Loan Rates; Wall Street.

**FOX:** Inspector General To Release Report On Clinton Email Server Investigation; US-North Korea Relations; US Halts Military Exercises In South Korea.

**NPR:** Comcast And Disney Bid For Fox; James Wolfe Pleads Not Guilty; Texas-Man Faces Human Smuggling Charges; Rising Loan Rates.

## Washington Schedule

---

### Today's Events In Washington.

**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — No public events scheduled.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.



**US Senate:**

9:30 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including 'S. 2837, Preventing Drug Diversion Act of 2018', 'S. 974, CREATES Act of 2017', and 'S. 2245, KIWI Act', and nominations of Britt Cagle Grant to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, Allen Cothrel Winsor to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Florida, Patrick Wyrick to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, Edward Felten and Jane Nitze to be Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board members, Charles Goodwin to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Hawaii, R. Don Ladner to be U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of Florida, Susan Lewellyn Pamerleau to be U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Texas, and Gadyaces Serralta to be U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Florida Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Harry Harris Jr. to be U.S. Ambassador to South Korea; Tibor Peter Nagy Jr. to be Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs; and David Schenker to be Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC

10:00 AM Hearing on 'Update from the Comptroller of the Currency', with testimony from Comptroller of the Currency Joseph Otting Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC

10:00 AM Dems Sen. Bob Casey and Rep. Donald McEachin attend report launch on rural health care – Protect Our Care and Rural Forward release new report titled 'A Tough Row to Hoe: How Republican Policies are Leaving Rural Health Care in the Dust', via press event. Attendees include Democrats Sen. Bob Casey and Rep. Donald McEachin, Rural Forward Executive Director John Whitaker, and Protect Our Care Campaign Director Brad Woodhouse Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, SD-G11, Washington, DC

10:30 AM Senate Appropriations Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019', 'Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019', and 'Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2019' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 106, Washington, DC

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC

**US House:**

7:00 AM GOP Rep. Markwayne Mullin hosts annual Men's Health Month workout on Capitol Hill – Men's Health Caucus co-chair Republican Rep. Markwayne Mullin hosts his annual workout on Capitol Hill to celebrate Men's Health Month, open to all Members of Congress and Congressional staff Location: Upper D Park, Washington, DC

9:00 AM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on 'Navy and Air Force Depot Policy Issues and Infrastructure Concerns' – Readiness Subcommittee hearing on 'Navy and Air Force Depot Policy Issues and Infrastructure Concerns', with testimony from Naval Sea Systems Command Commander Vice Adm. Thomas Moore; Naval Air Systems Command Commander Vice Adm. Dean Peters; and U.S. Air Force Sustainment Center and Material Command Commander Lt. Gen. Lee Levy Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2212, Washington, DC

9:30 AM House Financial Services Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 5749, the Options Markets Stability Act', 'H.R. 5953, the Building Up Independent Lives and Dreams Act', 'H.R. 6035, the Streamlining Communications for Investors Act', 'H.R. 6068, the Counter Terrorism and Illicit Finance Act', and 'H.R. 6069, the Fight Illicit Networks and Detect Trafficking Act' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on 'Democracy Promotion in a Challenging World' – Hearing on 'Democracy Promotion in a Challenging World', with testimony from National Endowment for Democracy President Carl Gershman; International Republican Institute President Daniel Twining; and National Democratic Institute President Kenneth Wollack Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC

10:00 AM House Small Business subcommittee hearing on solutions to the workforce shortage – Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access Subcommittee hearing on 'Shrinking the Skills Gap: Solutions to the Small Business Workforce Shortage', with testimony from Kiddar Capital CEO Todd Hitt; Hamilton-Ryker IT Solutions President and CEO Kelly McCreight (on behalf of American Staffing Association); St. Marys Foundry President and CEO Angela Dine Schmeisser; and Always Best Care Senior Services owner Bryant Greene Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2360, Washington, DC

10:00 AM House Space subcommittee hearing on NASA cost and schedule overruns – Space Subcommittee hearing on 'NASA Cost and Schedule Overruns: Acquisition and Program Management Challenges', with testimony from Government Accountability Office Director of Contracting and National Security Acquisitions Cristina Chaplain; NASA Associate Administrator

Stephen Jurczyk, and Inspector General Paul Martin; and American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Executive Director Daniel Dumbacher Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2318, Washington, DC

10:00 AM Environment Subcommittee hearing on 'The Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Standards Program (CFATS) – A Progress Report' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC

10:00 AM Dems Sen. Bob Casey and Rep. Donald McEachin attend report launch on rural health care – Protect Our Care and Rural Forward release new report titled 'A Tough Row to Hoe: How Republican Policies are Leaving Rural Health Care in the Dust', via press event. Attendees include Democrats Sen. Bob Casey and Rep. Donald McEachin, Rural Forward Executive Director John Whitaker, and Protect Our Care Campaign Director Brad Woodhouse Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, SD-G11, Washington, DC

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'Discussion Draft H.R. XXXX, Enhancing State Management of Federal Lands and Waters Act', with testimony from Competitive Enterprise Institute Center for Energy and Environment Director Myron Ebell; Heritage Foundation Center for Free Markets and Regulatory Reform Herbert and Joyce Morgan Fellow in Energy and Environmental Policy Nick Loris; Sutherland Institute Coalition for Self-Government in the West Director Matt Anderson; and Nags Head, NC, Board of Commissioners, Mayor Ben Cahoon Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC

10:15 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on 'the digital advertising ecosystem' – Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on 'Understanding the Digital Advertising Ecosystem', with testimony from George Washington University Professor of Strategic Management and Public Policy Dr Howard Beales; Wunderman Global Chief Privacy Officer Rachel Glasser; and Trustworthy Accountability Group President and CEO Mike Zaneis Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC

12:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including 'H.R. 5788 – Securing the International Mail Against Opioids Act of 2018' and 'H.R. 5735 – Transitional Housing for Recovery in Viable Environments Demonstration Program Act' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC

#### **Other:**

8:00 AM Dem Rep. Adam Schiff and FCC Chairman Ajit Pai speak at Axios360 News Shapers event – Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff and Federal Communications Commission Chairman Aji Pai speak at Axios360 News Shapers event, in conversation with Axios Executive Editor Mike Allen and Managing Editor Kim Hart on the end of net neutrality, North Korea, and other news of the day Location: AJAX, 1011 4th St NW, Washington, DC

8:00 AM Code of Support Foundation launch PATRIOTlink at NPC – Code of Support Foundation launch PATRIOTlink, the nation's first cloud-based solution that 'enables any user free access to vetted, direct, cost-free veteran services', at National Press Club news conference. Speakers include U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Community Engagement Director Lelia Jackson, Code of Support Executive Director Kristina Kaufmann, Noblis Project Manager Yasamin Sekandari, and Rand Corporation Senior Behavioral Health Scientist Terri Tanielian Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC

9:00 AM Environmental Protection Agency public hearing on proposed changes to the Risk Management Program rule Location: William Jefferson Clinton East Building, 1201 Constitution Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC

9:00 AM CSIS discussion on economic opportunity in Africa – 'Successful Models for Private Sector-Led Economic Growth in Africa' Center for Strategic and International Studies report discussion, on how market-based approaches to development can help drive sustainable change and economic opportunity in Africa. Speakers include U.S. African Development Foundation President and CEO C.D. Glin, Initiative for Global Development President and CEO Mima Nedelcovych, Niger Delta Partnership Initiative Executive Director Heather Kulp, and Ambassador of Guinea to the U.S. Amb. Kerfalla Yansane Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC

9:00 AM Dem Rep. Joaquin Castro speaks at The Dialogue on education in Latin America and the Caribbean – 'The Future of Education in Latin America and the Caribbean: Possibilities for United States Investment and Engagement' Inter-American Dialogue discussion, with opening keynote from Democratic Rep. Joaquin Castro. Other speakers include IAD Education Program Associate Sarah Stanton, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Susan Bell, American Council on Education Center for Internalization and Global Engagement Associate Director Heather Ward, Institute of International Education Head of Program Development, Private Sector and Government Nicole Johnson, former U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Roberta Jacobson, and former



Peruvian Ambassador to the U.S. Luis Miguel Castilla Location: Inter-American Dialogue, 1211 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC

9:30 AM Army leaders lay wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to celebrate Army's 243rd birthday – Secretary of the Army Mark Esper, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley and Army Sgt. Maj. Daniel Dilley lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery to celebrate the Army's 243rd birthday. Ceremony hosted by Joint Force Headquarters – National Capital Region and the U.S. Army Military District of Washington Commanding General Maj. Gen. Michael Howard Location: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA

9:30 AM U.S. Chamber of Commerce wrap-up briefing – U.S. Chamber of Commerce Litigation Center holds 14th Annual Supreme Court End-of-Term Media Briefing, to discuss business cases argued during the Court's term. Speakers include U.S. Chamber's Senior Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and Chief Counsel John Wood, Arnold & Porter Partner Lisa Blatt, and Kirkland & Ellis Partner Paul Clement Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H Street Northwest, Washington, DC

9:30 AM Wilson Center discussion on China and Latin America – 'Another Great Leap Forward? China and Latin America in Turbulent Times' Wilson Center Latin American Program and Kissinger Institute on China and the United States discussion, on the role of China's global trade and investment strategy in the region, the perspective of Latin America toward China as well as China toward the region, and the possible consequences for U.S. foreign policy in both political and economic terms. Speakers include former Chilean Ambassador to China Jorge Heine, George Washington University Associate Professor Stephen Kaplan, George Washington University Economics and International Affairs Professor Maggie Chen, and Tokai Consulting CEO and Chair Gabriel Rozman Location: Wilson Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC

1:00 PM Dem Rep. Paul Tonko at CAP on 'Silencing Science' – 'Silencing Science: Risks Posed to Climate and Energy Data from Political Interference' Center for American Progress discussion with remarks from Democratic Rep. Paul Tonko. Other speakers include Center for American Progress founder John Podesta, former Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz, Harvard Kennedy School Senior Fellow Joel Clement, University of Virginia Environmental Sciences Professor Deborah Lawrence, and American Association for the Advancement of Science Policy Visiting Scholar Kei Koizumi Location: Center for American Progress, 1333 H St NW, Washington, DC

3:00 PM Wilson Center discussion on 'Building Resilience Through Integrated Regional Programming' – 'Building Resilience Through Integrated Regional Programming' Wilson Center Environmental Change and Security Program discussion, on how to build resiliency when facing uncertain future scenarios. Speakers include former USAID Planning for Resilience in East Africa through Policy, Adaptation, Research and Economic Development Program Deputy Chief Chelsea Keyser and former Chief of Party Scott McCormick, USAID Famine Early Warning Systems Network Team Leader James Verdin, and USAID Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment Office of Forestry and Biodiversity Senior Wildlife Advisor Mary Rowen Location: Wilson Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC

5:30 PM Congressional Baseball Game on 1st anniversary of shooting at GOP team training – Annual Congressional Baseball Game \* The annual game sees Democrats face Republicans, with funds raised going to charities including the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, the Washington Nationals Dream Foundation, the Washington Literacy Center and the United States Capitol Police Memorial Fund, created in gratitude to the officers who saved lives at the Republican baseball practice shooting in 2017 \* Today marks the 1st anniversary of the shooting during a Republican team practice that injured House Majority Whip Steve Scalise and three others. Rep. Scalise is on the Republican roster for this year's game Location: Nationals Park, 1500 S Capitol St SE, Washington, DC

6:00 PM FCC Chairman Ajit Pai speaks at Cato Institute on net neutrality – Federal Communications Commission Chairman Aji Pai speaks on 'Net Neutrality, Six Months Later' at Cato Institute #CatoDigital event, six months after the FCC voted to repeal 'net neutrality', regulations that had been enacted in 2015. Chairman Pai discusses what net neutrality is, why he supported its repeal, and what comes next for the future of the internet Location: Cato Institute, 1000 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC

Beating the Odds Summit with former First Lady Michelle Obama – Reach Higher Initiative Beating the Odds Summit to support first-generation college-bound students, co-hosted by college-to-career network handshake, with speakers including Reach Higher Initiative Founder and former First Lady Michelle Obama, former Teen Vogue Editor-in-Chief Elaine Welteroth, 'Hamilton' actor Daveed Diggs, 'Power' actor La La Anthony, and The Aspen Institute President and CEO Dan Porterfield Location: Twitter, 800 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC

Department of Justice releases report on DoJ and FBI decisions on the 2016 presidential election – Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General due to publicly release the first report of its 'Review of Allegations Regarding Various Actions by the Department of Justice and the FBI in Advance of the 2016 Election' \* The investigation, begun in January 2017, is exploring areas including then-FBI Director James Comey's July 2016 announcement on Hillary Clinton's emails and his two subsequent letters to Congress, allegations of improper disclosures of non-public information, and questions over the timing of FBI release of certain Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) documents Weblinks: <http://www.justice.gov>, <https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

## Last Laughs

---

### Late Night Political Humor.

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "Here in California, there will be a literally divisive measure on the ballot in November that, if it passes, would separate our state into three different parts. It's called the Cal-3 plan. It would divide California into three parts: the part that smokes weed, the part that smokes meat, and the part that smokes meth."

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "The President took a victory lap on Twitter this morning, basking in the glow of his lovefest with Kim Jong-un. He's feeling very good about himself. I counted, as of 4:00 this afternoon, he had 14 straight tweets with an exclamation point at the end. Including this one: 'Just landed, long trip but everybody can now feel much safer than the day I took office!' That's true, I didn't feel safe that day."

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "Kim Jong-un is getting rid of his nukes the same way Donald Trump is building his wall. They're not."

**Jimmy Kimmel:** Trump is "right. He's a great judge of character. You can almost tell right at the beginning how the relationships are going to go. Like when, for instance, he met Jim Comey. You could almost tell. Jeff Sessions, you could tell the demeanor. Reince Priebus. Or Steve Bannon. Or his first wife, Ivana. Rex Tillerson. Or H.R. McMaster. Or Omarosa. Or Marla Maples. Or maybe even his two good friends, Bill and Hillary Clinton."

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "AT&T executives said they need to get into content creation and distribution in order to survive against technology companies like Amazon and Netflix. Another way to survive would be to fix your cell phone service, but you know."

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "Net neutrality rules, which are the rules that give everyone equal access to the internet; more than 80 percent of Americans support net neutrality. So of course, Trump's commissioner of the FCC decided to end it."

**Stephen Colbert:** "Donald Trump is back from his to face-to-face with Kim Jong-un, and that's a lot of face."

**Stephen Colbert:** "Sources say that ex-Trump lawyer Michael Cohen is likely to cooperate with federal prosecutors. Yes, Michael Cohen is going to sing like a canary, which is ironic, because it's Trump that looks like one."

**Stephen Colbert:** "One former White House official said even before the news that Cohen was cooperating broke, that 'Trump should be super worried about Michael Cohen. If anyone can blow up Trump, it's him.' Well, okay, that gives Cohen leverage, because the last guy who threatened to blow up Trump got his own summit."

**Stephen Colbert:** "Now, there's still hope for Trump. A person close to Cohen says he hasn't flipped yet. 'He's sending up a smoke signal' to Trump: 'I need help.' And that smoke signal's not a metaphor. Their pants are literally on fire."

**Stephen Colbert:** "Trump says the meeting was a complete success and that North Korea pinky-swore they'd give up their nukes, even if he didn't get it in writing."

**James Corden:** "Apparently, President Trump has a habit of ripping up official documents when he



is done with them. And because there's a legal requirement to preserve presidential records, White House staffers then have to piece the documents back together with scotch tape. It's been a lot of work. They've already had to put the Constitution back together three times."

**Trevor Noah:** "Finally. Time Warner and AT&T are joining forces. This is such great news for consumers. Because now we can get all of our horrible customer service in one place."

**Trevor Noah:** (On Trump assurances to FIFA that fans will be able to come to the US for the World Cup): "Okay, quick question: Why is Trump promising he will allow people to come to the United States in 2026? Because even if he won a second term, he would be done in 2025. That is some confidence right there. 'Don't worry in 2026, I will allow you all to come into my country.' 'But you won't be President then.' 'That's what you think.'"

**Trevor Noah:** "America has won the bid to host the FIFA World Cup. And it is so funny how a few years ago, Americans were like, 'FIFA is a corrupt organization that can't be – what, we won the bid? We won the bid! We won the bid! FIFA is normal now! We won the bid!'"

**Jimmy Fallon:** "This weekend is actually the 40th anniversary of the movie 'Grease.' To celebrate, President Trump and Kim Jong-un sang a duet of 'You're The One That I Want.'"

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Trump got back to the White House today. He walked through the doors and yelled, 'I'm home!' And then remembered he fired everyone."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "It came out today that Trump's lawyer Michael Cohen might flip on the President in the Russia investigation. Here is a photo of Cohen. Yeah, that's called 'resting snitch face.'"

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Here's some good news for the President: Tomorrow is his birthday. The White House is filled with balloons, champagne and streamers. He was flattered until he realized it was all left over from the party the staff threw when he left for North Korea."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Tomorrow, Trump turns 72. But he doesn't tweet a day over 12. It's very nice."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Today it was announced the US will host the 2026 world cup with Mexico. Players can either travel from the US to Mexico by plane or just walk past the wall that still won't be built."

**Seth Meyers:** "In a recent tweet, Ivanka Trump misattributed a quote from an American newspaper as a Chinese proverb. Which is weird, because usually she takes things that are Chinese and passes them off as American."

**Seth Meyers:** "California will vote on a proposal this fall that would split the state into three pieces. They'll be called California, Northern California, and Sad Thin People."

**Conan O'Brien:** "A new report came out that says that this past year...was a record-breaking year for Americans giving to charities. Yeah. ... In fact, just yesterday, President Trump gave away South Korea."

**Conan O'Brien:** "Yesterday, President Trump attacked Robert de Niro as someone – this is a quote – 'who's received too many hits to the head by real boxers.' Yeah. It was all part of Trump's speech entitled 'I Don't Understand How Movies Work.'"

**Conan O'Brien:** "The owner of the Bunny Ranch brothel won the primary for the Nevada state legislature. ... He won on his strong record of hiring women."

**Conan O'Brien:** "The Detroit Zoo announced it's sending 11,000 tadpoles to Puerto Rico to help restore their native toad population. ... Grateful Puerto Rico said 'Thanks. But could you send some electricity instead? Maybe a little electricity?'"

**Samantha Bee:** The Trump-Kim summit "did produce a few concrete items, even if they're the kind of hollow concrete Trump uses in his trashy hotels."

**Samantha Bee:** "The President has agreed to give up conducting military exercises on the Korean

peninsula. Now, this may sound like a huge concession from Trump, but you have to remember what he said in 'The Art of the Deal': 'I'm an idiot.'"

*Samantha Bee:* "The suspension of war games was a big surprise to our South Korean allies, who were under the impression that they were, you know, our allies."

*Samantha Bee:* Trump "announced a freeze on any new US sanctions against North Korea. Because Trump isn't about to economically screw North Korea like they're a bunch of savage Canadians."

**Copyright 2018 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC** Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at [BulletinIntelligence.com](http://BulletinIntelligence.com), or called at (703) 483-6100.



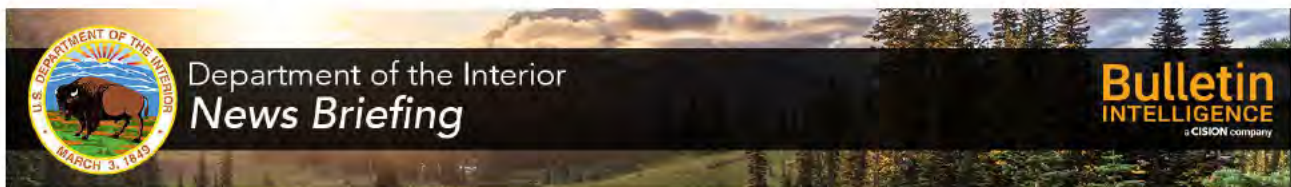
# Conversation Contents

**[EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, June 11, 2018**

## Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

**From:** Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>  
**Sent:** Mon Jun 11 2018 04:02:47 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, June 11, 2018

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



**DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018 6:00 AM EDT**

### Today's Table Of Contents

#### DOI In The News

- Washington Times: Trump Commits \$256 Million To Revive Long-Neglected National Parks, Gets No Thanks From Left.
- Fox News: Secretary Zinke: Free Trade Is Great, As Long As It's Fair.
- Politico: Zinke's Political Ties To Virgin Islands Improved Interior's Hurricane Response, Party Boss Says.
- Reuters: Environmentalists Slam Interior Chief Zinke Over Yellowstone Chief's Ouster.
- Oil and Gas Journal: US House Panel Examines Federal Onshore Oil And Gas Permitting Proposals.
- Reuters: Main Customer Of Arizona Coal Plant Goes Green, Ignoring Interior Department.
- Anchorage (AK) Daily News: Federal Judge Rejects Predator-Control Lawsuit Against Interior Department.
- Sierra (CA) Sun Times: National Parks Conservation Association Reports Secretary Zinke Expected To Sign Off On Another Year Of Every Kid In A Park Program.

#### Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Fort Peck Indian Reservation Sees First Fatal Heroin Overdoses In Recent Memory, Sheriff's Office Says.
- Tribe Pursues Energy Independence.
- Authorities Make Arrest In Eastern Utah Shooting Of A Man On Tribal Land.

#### Bureau Of Land Management

- Natural Gas Intelligence: BLM Reminds Field Offices Tools Available To Expedite Drilling Permits.
- Casper (WY) Star-Tribune: Prioritizing Recreation: BLM Proposes Building Up To 40 Miles Of New Trails At Popular Riding Spot Near Lander.
- Associated Press: Sinkholes, Poison Gas And Dynamite: Inside Abandoned Mines.
- Associated Press: Feds Hope To Conduct Horse Roundups In Western Colorado.
- Associated Press: Prosecutor: US Officers Justified In Fatal Colorado Shooting.
- Deseret (UT) News: BLM, Anonymous Donor Pony Up \$2K To Catch Spray-paint Vandals.
- Carlsbad (NM) Current-Argus: Marathon, Wescom Partner With BLM To Cleanup Public Lands.
- KTVH-TV Helena (MT): BLM Employees Test Drone Flying Skills In Bozeman.
- Twin Falls (ID) Times-News: BLM Holds Public Meeting For Sage-grouse Review.

- Craig (CO) Daily Press: BLM To Host Meeting On New Draft Sage-grouse Plan In Craig.

## **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

- Toxic Waste Sits Buried At Sea. Will It Be Rattled By Trump's Planned Seismic Testing?
- Sen. Bill Nelson Files Legislation To Keep Oil And Gas Rigs Off Florida's Coasts Until 2027.
- Va. Shore Residents Get A Measure Of The State Of Their Waters.

## **Bureau Of Reclamation**

- Settlement Being Negotiated In Lengthy US-Canada Water Fight.

## **Fish And Wildlife Service**

- Associated Press: Official Blasts Critic Of Nuclear Plant Cleanup.
- Public Radio International: No Refuge For Wildlife In Some US Wildlife Refuges.
- Kenai (AK) Peninsula Clarion: Refuge Repairing Boat Launch, Trails, And Cabins.
- Kenai (AK) Peninsula Clarion: Fish And Wildlife: Trees With Eagles' Nests Cut Down.

## **National Park Service**

- Washington Post: When's The Caps Parade? Tuesday Morning, On Constitution Avenue.
- Missoulian (MT): How Firefighters Gambled And Lost The Sperry Chalet.
- KDVR-TV Denver: Colorado National Monument Vandalized With 'Promposal'.
- Associated Press: Officials Continue Repairing USS Arizona Memorial.
- Associated Press: Glacier National Park Sees Highest-ever May Visitor Count.
- Associated Press: Yellowstone National Park Sets May Visitation Record.
- Associated Press: Fungus Associated With Bat Disease Detected In South Dakota.
- Northwest Florida Daily News: Pavilion At Gulf Islands Seashore Demolition Scheduled.
- Associated Press: Fee Set To Increase For Glacier Bay Cruise Ship Permits.
- Associated Press: 2 Dead After Glider Crash In Grand Teton National Park.
- Associated Press: Overdue Hiker, 76, Found Dead In Mount Rainier National Park.
- Associated Press: 3 Hurt In Separate Wildlife Attacks In Yellowstone Park.
- Associated Press: Kentucky Man Sentenced In Native American Artifacts Theft.
- Associated Press: Michigan Windmill Added To Register Of Historic Places.

## **Insular And International Affairs**

- Secretary Of The Interior Ryan Zinke Commends President Trump's Proclamation Of June As National Ocean Month.
- Mapp Joins Governors And Trump At FEMA Hurricane Prep Video Conference.
- Virgin Islands Hurricane Recovery Efforts Hobbled By Cash Shortage.
- V.I. To Receive Preservation Grant.
- Award Of \$2.8 Million For Dept Of Health.
- Gubernatorial Candidates Discuss Sales Tax And Funding For Education.
- 10-year Foreign Labor Extension For CNMI Passes House.
- Australian Official Wraps Up Whirlwind Island Hop In Marshall Islands.
- Pegasus Rocket, NASA Satellite Head For Launch Base In Pacific.
- Instability In The Pacific Islands: A Status Report.

## **US Geological Survey**

- Associated Press: Magnitude 4.4 Earthquake Shakes Part Of Northern Oklahoma.

## **Opinion Pieces**

- Selling The Protected Area Myth.
- Nat Robertson: Explore Offshore: More And Better Energy Exploration And Job Creation.
- Offshore Drilling Is Wrong For New England.
- Additional Reading.

## **Top National News**

- Associated Press: Trump Doubles Down On G7 Criticism As Kudlow, Navarro Slam Trudeau.
- NBC: Trump Touts "Excitement In The Air" As He And Kim Arrive In Singapore For Summit.
- ABC: Trump Heads To Singapore Ahead Of Summit With Kim.
- Reuters: Trump: Administration Will Not Endorse G-7 Statement.
- Fox News: Trump Meets G-7 Leaders Amid Anger Over Trade, Russia.



- Politico: House Approves First Spending Bill.
- Breitbart: Bipartisan Proposal Would Sell Off Government Assets To Help Pay For Infrastructure.
- Washington Examiner: House Republicans Block Obama-era Rules On Cost Of Climate Change.

### Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
  - "The Everyday Toll Of Gun Violence In America."
- Washington Post.
  - "Abiy Ahmed Pulls Off An Astonishing Turnaround For Ethiopia."
  - "A Wake-Up Call For New Approaches To Suicide Prevention."
  - "The Justice Department's Reputation Is In The Worst Danger Since Watergate."
- Wall Street Journal.
  - "Disruption Isn't Enough."
  - "The Senate's Nuclear Insurance."
  - "New Bang For A Michigan Buck."

### Big Picture

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

### Washington Schedule

- Today's Events In Washington.

### Last Laughs

- Late Night Political Humor.

## DOI In The News

---

### Trump Commits \$256 Million To Revive Long-Neglected National Parks, Gets No Thanks From Left.

The [Washington Times](#) (6/10, Richardson) reports that President Trump is "building a unique conservation legacy by focusing on the restoration and rehabilitation of America's majestic yet long-neglected national parks." The Interior Department "announced last week \$256 million in funding for infrastructure projects at 22 national parks, including the Great Smoky Mountains, Mount Rushmore and Yellowstone, marking another step toward the goal of wiping out a stubborn \$11.6 billion maintenance backlog." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said Wednesday, "The President is a builder, he loves to build and he loves our National Parks, so it is a natural fit that the Administration is dedicating so much attention to rebuilding our aging parks infrastructure."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Lowell \(MA\) Sun](#) (6/9, Sobey).

### Secretary Zinke: Free Trade Is Great, As Long As It's Fair.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke appeared on [Fox News](#) (6/9) to discuss the Trump Administration's stance on free trade and tariffs. Zinke backed President Trump's approach, asserting that "free trade is great, as long as it's fair."

### Zinke's Political Ties To Virgin Islands Improved Interior's Hurricane Response, Party Boss Says.

[Politico](#) (6/8, Lefebvre) reports the leader of the Republican Party in the US Virgin Islands, John Canegata, "suggested his fundraising group's 'behind the scenes' relationship with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke helped influence the department's response to last year's hurricanes in the island territory," with Canegata having "said he had direct access to Interior officials after the storm thanks to money his group raised for Zinke, whom he described as a 'close friend.'"

### Environmentalists Slam Interior Chief Zinke Over Yellowstone Chief's Ouster.

[Reuters](#) (6/9, Zuckerman) reports that "environmentalists on Friday accused the Trump administration of political interference and retaliation in the ouster of Yellowstone National Park's chief after his disputes with U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke over the park's celebrated bison." Environmentalists were "quick to accuse Zinke of selling out parks, public lands and wildlife in the West to oil and gas developers, sportsmen and ranchers, among others." The Sierra Club's Bonnie Rice said in a statement on Friday, "His decision to force out the superintendent of the world's first national park should be seen for what it is: political interference and retaliation for a Park Service

leader standing up for parks and wildlife rather than special interests.”

Also reporting is the [Huffington Post](#) (6/9, Papenfuss).

### **US House Panel Examines Federal Onshore Oil And Gas Permitting Proposals.**

The [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (6/8, Snow) reports that “a US House Natural Resources subcommittee discussed four proposals on June 6 that Republicans said would make onshore federal oil and gas permit application processing more efficient and fair.” However, “Democrats warned that if the discussion drafts became law, they would discourage public participation in deliberations under the 1970 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).” The article notes that “four of the five witnesses who testified generally supported the intent behind the proposals.” Katharine McGregor, deputy assistant Interior secretary for land and minerals, said, “BLM is working diligently to improve its permitting process, and its efforts are beginning to show results. In calendar year 2017, it approved 3,293 drilling permit applications on federal and Indian lands which generated approximately \$30.5 million in fees.”

### **Main Customer Of Arizona Coal Plant Goes Green, Ignoring Interior Department.**

[Reuters](#) (6/8, Volcovici) reports the Central Arizona Project, the largest purchaser of electricity from the Navajo Generating Station, “said on Friday it will instead source its electricity largely from a solar power project, ignoring an appeal by the U.S. Interior Department to buy more power from the plant to keep it open.” The CAP board “voted to sign a 20-year agreement to buy power from a solar project and also agreed to a five-year power deal with utility Salt River Project for electricity from a variety of sources.” The move “came despite a plea from the head of Interior’s Bureau of Reclamation, who last Friday wrote to board members to say that a 1968 law gives Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke power to require the CAP to buy energy from the Navajo Generating Station,” which is slated to close next year.

### **Federal Judge Rejects Predator-Control Lawsuit Against Interior Department.**

The [Anchorage \(AK\) Daily News](#) (6/8, Hollander) reports that “a federal judge in Anchorage has dismissed a lawsuit against a policy that allows predator control on Alaska’s refuges including gassing wolf pups in dens or shooting bears over bait stations.” The Center for Biological Diversity “sought the reinstatement of a 2016 federal policy banning numerous state-sanctioned predator-control policies for bears, wolves and other wildlife on federal refuges in Alaska,” but U.S. District Judge Sharon Gleason “dismissed the suit Friday, according to a one-page ruling.”

### **National Parks Conservation Association Reports Secretary Zinke Expected To Sign Off On Another Year Of Every Kid In A Park Program.**

The [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (6/9) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is “expected to renew the Every Kid in a Park program for another year and make new passes available starting on September 1, 2018.” Theresa Pierno, President and CEO for National Parks Conservation Association, said, “Since the Every Kid in a Park program began, fourth graders and their families across the country have downloaded passes to visit America’s national parks. We applaud the continuation of the program that has provided so many families and schools with access to America’s natural wonders. Thanks to the millions of Americans who spoke out in support of the program, these passes will continue to help support businesses in gateway communities and families share invaluable park experiences that will last a lifetime.”

## **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

---

### **Fort Peck Indian Reservation Sees First Fatal Heroin Overdoses In Recent Memory, Sheriff’s Office Says.**

The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (6/9, Tollefson) reports that “a rash of heroin overdoses in the past month in northeast Montana has law enforcement on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation worried.” The Roosevelt County Sheriff’s Office has “responded to two fatal overdoses and eight near-fatal overdoses in recent weeks and believes heroin – mixed with fentanyl – is responsible.” Stacy Zinn-Brittain, a supervisor with the Drug Enforcement Administration in Billings said, “There’s so much drug use on the Indian reservations in the state of Montana so that the cartels, the drug trafficking organizations, know that these reservations are pretty vulnerable.” The article notes that “drug problems on the Fort Peck reservation, home to the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes, have made the news most recently when Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke visited in May, meeting with Chairman Floyd Azure and others to hear about the growing meth problem.”



## **Tribe Pursues Energy Independence.**

The [Falmouth \(MA\) Enterprise](#) (6/8, Houghton) reports that "the Mashpee Wampanoag Community Development Corporation received \$94,000 this week as a follow up grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Division of Energy and Mineral Development to further develop what they are calling the Tribal Utility Corporation as well as a pioneering micro-grid eco-village." According to Mark D. Harding, president of the tribe's Community Development Corporation, "as a sovereign nation, the tribe would be able to buy energy directly from the grid and then provide energy at a much cheaper rate to tribal members." Also, "the grant will help the tribe move forward with seeking different renewable energy projects."

## **Authorities Make Arrest In Eastern Utah Shooting Of A Man On Tribal Land.**

[KTVX-TV](#) Salt Lake City (6/9, Gardiner) reports that "authorities have arrested a man wanted in connection to a shooting Thursday just east of Randlett on tribal land." According to Sandra Baker, Public Affairs Specialist Federal Bureau of Investigations, Brandon Redfoot, 22, was arrested "on tribal charges following a shooting that occurred around 7:45 p.m. Thursday outside a residence east of Randlett, on the Uintah & Ouray Indian Reservation."

## **Bureau Of Land Management**

---

### **BLM Reminds Field Offices Tools Available To Expedite Drilling Permits.**

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (6/8, Passut) reports that "in an effort to expedite its regulatory duties, including processing applications to drill (APD) oil and natural gas wells on federal lands, the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) reminded its field offices that they have tools available to streamline the process while remaining in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)." On Wednesday, the agency "issued an information bulletin (IB) outlining the process by which its field offices, when considering proposals for oil and gas development, can determine 'whether it can rely on existing NEPA analyses for assessing the impacts of a proposed action,' or whether a categorical exclusion (CX) is applicable." The BLM said, "The purpose of this IB is to remind BLM offices of the existing procedures for streamlining NEPA review under applicable statutes, regulations, and guidance and to encourage BLM offices to use these tools consistently and effectively."

### **Prioritizing Recreation: BLM Proposes Building Up To 40 Miles Of New Trails At Popular Riding Spot Near Lander.**

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (6/10, Peterson) reports that "in the last 15 years, the desert-like section of Bureau of Land Management land southeast of Lander has evolved." Local cycling groups have worked "together with the BLM, Wind River Backcountry Horsemen, the International Mountain Biking Association and the local community to turn the cow trails into well-planned, fun-to-ride and hike single track." On Thursday, the article says, the BLM "announced plans for much more." According to the article, "the existing trail system may be expanded almost five times to ultimately encompass more than 60 miles of trail. And in the process, more than 4,000 acres of nearby land will be withdrawn from mining."

### **Sinkholes, Poison Gas And Dynamite: Inside Abandoned Mines.**

The [AP](#) (6/9, Foy) reports that "when the 2015 fire in Owyhee County finally burned out, a team of experts from the Bureau of Land Management followed closely behind the wildland firefighters assessing the safety of public land known as the Owyhee Front." According to the article, "what concerned this BLM team were the abandoned gold mines that lay beneath the surface of the public land in the Owyhee Front – hazards exposed by the fire." The AP says that "abandoned mines, and thousands more spread across Idaho, are an ongoing risk and expense for both Idaho and the federal government."

### **Feds Hope To Conduct Horse Roundups In Western Colorado.**

The [AP](#) (6/10) reports that "federal land managers are hoping to conduct roundups to remove hundreds of wild horses in western Colorado this year." The Bureau of Land Management is "asking for public comment on a plan to use water and bait to corral wild horses in the Little Book Cliffs Herd Management Area near Grand Junction and remove 60." The BLM is also "proposing to use bait and helicopters to gather and remove 374 horses in the Piceance (PEE'-ants)-East Douglas Herd Management Area near Meeker." It is also seeking "to remove about 514 wild horses from the Sand Wash Basin Herd Management Area and areas near Maybell."

Also reporting is the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/10, Webb).

### **Prosecutor: US Officers Justified In Fatal Colorado Shooting.**

The [AP](#) (6/9) reports that "a prosecutor says he won't file charges against two federal officers who shot and killed a suspect in western Colorado because the suspect drew his weapon and fired first." Mesa County District Attorney Dan Rubinstein decided Bureau of Land Management officers were "justified in the shooting of 67-year-old Eugene Baylis."

### **BLM, Anonymous Donor Pony Up \$2K To Catch Spray-paint Vandals.**

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (6/8) reports that the Bureau of Land Management and "an anonymous donor are offering a \$2,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of individuals who spray-painted rocks at the Flume Trailhead in Dry Fork Canyon." According to the bureau, "vandals spray-painted several boulders with bright colors and it took several staff members multiple hours to remove it." Gary Torres, Green River district manager, said in a statement, "Graffiti is a growing problem in the basin. Restoring sites after deliberate vandalism is a complex, difficult process, and not always possible. The BLM is dedicated and committed to keeping public lands in a balanced condition for future generations."

### **Marathon, Wescom Partner With BLM To Cleanup Public Lands.**

The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (6/8, Onsurez) reports that Marathon Oil and Wescom Inc. on Friday "teamed up" with the Bureau of Land Management to "remove trash and debris tossed near the trailhead" at La Cueva Canyon. Kelly Saltzgiver, production superintendent with Marathon Oil, "said the company, with help from Wescom, plans to help beautify the area in the near future." According to the article, "those plans include improving trailhead signage, expanding and improving the parking area and even adding sitting and shade structures."

### **BLM Employees Test Drone Flying Skills In Bozeman.**

[KTVH-TV](#) Helena, MT (6/8, Babb) reports that "Bureau of Land Management (BLM) employees from all over the country came to Bozeman Thursday to test their skills flying drones." A group of about 16 people visited Montana State University's Experimental Farm "to fly the small quadcopter drones." BLM spokesperson Al Nash "believes departments will start to use drones more because there is less risk." Nash said, "If something bad happens, we have a relatively inexpensive aircraft that might get damaged, but there is no person on board. So we can consider using these in places where it might not be so safe to use a helicopter or fixed wing, or frankly where we might not be able to afford to use a traditional platform for aerial images."

### **BLM Holds Public Meeting For Sage-grouse Review.**

The [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (6/10) reports that the Bureau of Land Management will "hold a meeting in Twin Falls to provide information regarding the recently released draft amendments to greater sage-grouse plans finalized in 2015." Acting BLM Idaho State Director Peter Ditton said in a statement, "The 2015 sage-grouse plans have been in place for almost three years. We know what is working and what needs more attention. We are taking the opportunity to build on the plans and strengthen them, and look forward to comments from the public to help us to do so."

### **BLM To Host Meeting On New Draft Sage-grouse Plan In Craig.**

The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (6/8) reports that the Bureau of Land Management will "host a public meeting to help attendees learn about drafted changes to the agency's sage-grouse management plan" on Wednesday, June 27, at the Moffat County Fairgrounds. BLM Colorado Acting Associate State Director Andy Tenney said, "We have identified areas in Colorado where we can better align BLM's resource management plans with state and local conservation efforts. We look forward to continuing our conversation with the public."

## **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

---

### **Toxic Waste Sits Buried At Sea. Will It Be Rattled By Trump's Planned Seismic Testing?**

[McClatchy](#) (6/8, Pugh) reports that opponents of expanding offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean are raising concerns that seismic testing used in energy exploration "could cause toxins to leak from vast amounts of conventional munitions, chemical weapons and radioactive waste that now sits undisturbed on the ocean floor." The energy industry "strongly disputes claims that seismic tests would adversely affect the discarded munitions or chemical agents." According to Erik Milito,



director of Upstream and Industry Operations for the American Petroleum Institute, "There is absolutely no evidence that seismic testing has or would have any impact on any kind of munitions." He added, "We've never seen that or heard of that. We think it's just another fear-mongering attempt to try to create and stir doubts about our ability to do (the tests) safely."

### **Sen. Bill Nelson Files Legislation To Keep Oil And Gas Rigs Off Florida's Coasts Until 2027.**

The [Space Coast \(FL\) Daily](#) (6/7) reports US Sen. Bill Nelson introduced a measure Thursday to extend the moratorium on oil and gas drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico through "at least" 2027. The article observes that "the move comes amid reports that the oil industry...has launched a new campaign" in support of drilling in the eastern Gulf. to try to open up additional areas in the eastern Gulf to offshore drilling. Recalling that the Trump Administration had once pledged to exempt Florida from plans to expand offshore drilling nationwide, Nelson said, "Big Oil doesn't believe Florida is really 'off the table' to new drilling," and "they are making a new push to drill closer to Florida's shores. We can't let that happen!" The provision was filed "as an amendment to the annual defense bill that's currently being considered in the Senate."

### **Va. Shore Residents Get A Measure Of The State Of Their Waters.**

The [Delmarva \(MD\) Daily Times](#) (6/7, Vaughn) reports that during a keynote address at the annual "State of our Waters" meeting in Virginia this week, US Rep. Scott Taylor "got a round of applause when he reiterated" his opposition to offshore drilling. He acknowledged that Virginia's congressional delegation "is not 100 percent opposed to it," but said, "In my gut, I think we are going to be fine." However, Taylor said a survey of the country's available offshore resources is not "a bad thing," and "I think it's a smart thing to understand what our nation has."

## **Bureau Of Reclamation**

---

### **Settlement Being Negotiated In Lengthy US-Canada Water Fight.**

The [AP](#) (6/8, Nicholson) reports that "U.S. and Canadian officials are negotiating an end to a 16-year legal battle over a Missouri River water project in North Dakota, though the state of Missouri also has a stake and isn't part of the discussions." According to the article, "court documents filed May 3 show the Canadian province of Manitoba proposed a settlement in the dispute over the Northwest Area Water Supply project, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation countered with an alternative." Manitoba attorney Scott DuBoff wrote, "Manitoba, the Bureau and North Dakota are hopeful that within the next several weeks they will be able to agree to final settlement terms."

## **Fish And Wildlife Service**

---

### **Official Blasts Critic Of Nuclear Plant Cleanup.**

The [AP](#) (6/8, Elliott) reports that "a U.S. official harshly criticized a Colorado health officer who questioned the safety of a former nuclear weapons plant and said he did not trust the federal government's assurances that the site was thoroughly cleaned up before being converted into a wildlife refuge." At issue is "the operation and cleanup of the Rocky Flats facility outside Denver, which made plutonium triggers for nuclear weapons for decades." Mark Johnson, health director of Jefferson County, "said he's not sure the area is safe despite a \$7 billion Superfund cleanup." Johnson has "questioned the trustworthiness of federal officials who say the site has been cleaned up and expressed doubts about the expertise of state health department officials who helped supervise the work." In response, refuge manager David Lucas sent an email Sunday "to chastise Johnson." The message "called Johnson's comments 'reckless and irresponsible' and accused him of misconduct for questioning the credentials of state health officials."

Also reporting is the [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (6/9, Bear).

### **No Refuge For Wildlife In Some US Wildlife Refuges.**

[Public Radio International](#) (6/9, Wernick) reports that "a new report from the Center for Biological Diversity finds that chemical pesticides, totaling half a million pounds, are sprayed annually within some United States national wildlife refuges." According to attorney Hannah Connor, who wrote the report, "the chemicals include some 'very problematic and well-known pesticides' such as dicamba, glyphosate, 2,4-D, and a pesticide called paraquat dichloride."

### **Refuge Repairing Boat Launch, Trails, And Cabins.**

The [Kenai \(AK\) Peninsula Clarion](#) (6/9, Boettger) reports that the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge is

"replacing a boardwalk and boat ramp into the Kenai River at the end of Soldotna's East Redoubt Avenue." According to Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Chief of Visitor Services Matt Conner, "crews are at work on the Refuge's Salmatof Public Access Boardwalk and Public Use Boat Ramp and plan to finish by July 1." Conner said, "It wasn't a critical need because people are still using it, but it'd be nice to take care of it before it gets worse."

### **Fish And Wildlife: Trees With Eagles' Nests Cut Down.**

The [Kenai \(AK\) Peninsula Clarion](#) (6/9, Petersen) reports that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service "says someone cut down three trees with bald eagles' nests in them near Anchor Point." The FWS "first found out about the felling in an aerial survey, later finding that the trees were likely felled this spring." According to the article, "a reward of up to \$2,500 is being offered to anyone who has information of the people involved with the tree-cutting that destroyed the eagle nests."

## **National Park Service**

---

### **When's The Caps Parade? Tuesday Morning, On Constitution Avenue.**

The [Washington Post](#) (6/8, Nirappil) reports that "Washington will herald its first major championship team in 26 years with a parade Tuesday morning to honor the Washington Capitals' Stanley Cup victory." Monumental Sports & Entertainment, "which owns the Capitals, announced details of the celebration Friday." The firm "applied for a permit from the National Park Service on Thursday morning, hours before the Capitals beat the Golden Knights in Las Vegas to take home the team's first Stanley Cup."

Also reporting are [WTOP-FM Washington](#) Washington (6/9, Roth, Moore) and [WRC-TV Washington](#) Washington (6/8).

### **How Firefighters Gambled And Lost The Sperry Chalet.**

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (6/8, Byron) reports that "as the Sprague fire danced slowly across the west side of Glacier National Park last summer, fire managers put the bulk of their resources into protecting Lake McDonald Lodge and nearby private homes." Officials "gambled that the fire would move west, toward the lake, and that rocky terrain, a sprinkler system, four firefighters and minimal fireproofing would protect the popular Sperry Chalet, about 2 miles to the east," but "they lost the bet." An investigation is being conducted on "the firestorm that left only the chalet's stone walls and two chimneys intact." Meanwhile, "documents requested by the Missoulian, known as Incident Action Plans or IAPs, outline what management actions were undertaken prior to the ember storm that burned the Sperry Chalet."

### **Colorado National Monument Vandalized With 'Promposal'.**

[KDVR-TV](#) Denver (6/10) reports that "National Park Rangers are trying to figure out who graffitied a 'promposal' on the Colorado National Monument outside of Grand Junction." Ranger Frank Hayde "says the vandalism was reported on May 23rd by someone who lives near the site." Hayde "says the graffiti is still up because preservationists need to analyze the damage, and make sure there aren't any historic works of art, like subtle paintings, that have been damaged due to the message."

Also reporting is [CNN](#) (6/10, Perano, Rice).

### **Officials Continue Repairing USS Arizona Memorial.**

The [AP](#) (6/9) reports that the National Park Service is "working as fast as possible to reopen access to the USS Arizona Memorial after cracks were discovered last month on the floating concrete pier near the metal access ramp, officials said." According to Jacqueline Ashwell, superintendent of the national monument, "the repairs to the pier could be simple, but the issue is complicated by the nature of the site." Ashwell said, "Some of the solutions may involve the need to do new environmental compliance. It's not like you dig a big anchor into the ground. You've got an archaeological site right next to it that's got the remains of over 900 men and the possibility of unexploded ordnance."

### **Glacier National Park Sees Highest-ever May Visitor Count.**

The [AP](#) (6/9) reports that "Glacier National Park says more than 195,000 people visited in May, a record for the month." The article notes that "the previous record for May was just under 184,000, set in 2016." The park's "increasing popularity is crowding its roads and parking lots."

Also reporting is the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (6/8, Lamon).



## **Yellowstone National Park Sets May Visitation Record.**

The [AP](#) (6/8) reports that "a record number of people visited Yellowstone National Park in May." The National Park Service said Friday the park welcomed "almost 447,000 visits in May, up 6 percent compared with May last year." The article notes that "year-to-date visitation is down slightly from the almost 600,000 people who had been to Yellowstone by this point in 2016."

## **Fungus Associated With Bat Disease Detected In South Dakota.**

The [AP](#) (6/10) reports that the National Park Service "says a fungus that causes a deadly disease of bats has been detected on bats in South Dakota for the first time." According to the article, "the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome was detected on one western small-footed bat and four big brown bats in Jackson County at Badlands National Park last month." The article notes that "while results confirm the presence of the fungus, they do not confirm the syndrome, which can only be confirmed by microscopic examination of tissue samples."

Also reporting is the [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (6/10).

## **Pavilion At Gulf Islands Seashore Demolition Scheduled.**

[Northwest Florida Daily News](#) (6/10) reports that "due to extensive structural damage caused by termites, Gulf Islands National Seashore will begin the removal of the Star Pavilion at Rosamond Johnson Beach on Monday." Part of the Johnson Beach parking lot will be "closed during the demolition and paving." According to a release, "all work will be completed on or before June 29."

## **Fee Set To Increase For Glacier Bay Cruise Ship Permits.**

The [AP](#) (6/8) reports that "the fee for cruise ship passengers travelling into Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve in southeast Alaska will increase next year." According to the article, "the permit fee for each passenger for the next decade will increase from \$5 to \$8.28."

## **2 Dead After Glider Crash In Grand Teton National Park.**

The [AP](#) (6/10) reports that "two people are dead after a glider crash in Grand Teton National Park." The park "said the wreckage was found Saturday after the two people on board failed to return from a flight from Driggs, Idaho." The National Park Service is investigating the incident.

## **Overdue Hiker, 76, Found Dead In Mount Rainier National Park.**

The [AP](#) (6/8) reports that "park officials say a 76-year-old hiker has been found dead in Mount Rainier National Park." According to park spokeswoman Patti Wold, "the man set out for a day hike on Mazama Ridge in the Paradise area Wednesday," and "he was reported overdue the next day." Search teams discovered "his body Thursday afternoon in the Paradise River drainage."

## **3 Hurt In Separate Wildlife Attacks In Yellowstone Park.**

The [AP](#) (6/9) reports that "three people have been hurt by wildlife at Yellowstone National Park in four days." Two women were "attacked by elk on June 3 and June 5 in the Mammoth community in the northwestern part of the park." Also, "on June 6, a bison gored a woman in the Lower Geyser Basin, 43 miles (68 kilometers) south of Mammoth."

## **Kentucky Man Sentenced In Native American Artifacts Theft.**

The [AP](#) (6/10) reports that "a Kentucky man has been sentenced to 15 months in prison for removing and selling artifacts from Native American graves." Federal prosecutors said "60-year-old Gary Womack of Woodburn was sentenced last week in Bowling Green federal court for his guilty plea to three felony violations of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act." According to the article, "the FBI assisted the National Park Service during a three-year undercover investigation."

## **Michigan Windmill Added To Register Of Historic Places.**

The [AP](#) (6/9) reports that "a windmill in western Michigan that's a popular tourist attraction has been added to the National Register of Historic Places." The National Park Service "says the De Zwaan Windmill at Windmill Island Gardens in Holland was added to the register following several years of efforts to have it recognized."

## **Insular And International Affairs**

---

## **Secretary Of The Interior Ryan Zinke Commends President Trump's Proclamation Of June**

## **As National Ocean Month.**

The [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (6/8) reports that President Trump's Proclamation declaring June 2018 as National Ocean Month "underscores the reasons for Interior's robust role in conserving and developing ocean resources, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke noted at the beginning of month-long observances." Zinke said, "President Trump emphasized in his Proclamation that 'By exploring, developing, and conserving the ocean resources of our great nation, we will augment our economic competitiveness, enhance our national security, and ensure American prosperity. The Department of the Interior has a robust role in all parts of that mission—exploration and development as well as our world-renowned conservation programs. These programs should be front and center in our minds when the President's Proclamation calls upon all Americans to 'reflect on the value and importance of oceans not only to our security and economy, but also as a source of recreation, enjoyment, and relaxation.'"

## **Mapp Joins Governors And Trump At FEMA Hurricane Prep Video Conference.**

The [St. Thomas Source](#) (6/7) reports that Gov. Ken Mapp "joined governors from across the country for a video teleconference Wednesday as Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator William Long and Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen met with President Donald Trump and his cabinet at FEMA headquarters." The meeting was an annual hurricane briefing. Long and Nielsen "updated Trump on preparations for this year's hurricane season and recovery efforts ongoing from last year's storms in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Texas and Florida."

## **Virgin Islands Hurricane Recovery Efforts Hobbled By Cash Shortage.**

The [Washington Post](#) (6/6, Craig) reports that "contractors tasked with rebuilding thousands of hurricane-damaged houses in the U.S. Virgin Islands have not been paid for months, exposing a rift over how to pay the bills in a territory facing a severe cash shortage." According to the article, "about 10,000 damaged homes in the islands are slated for repair through the Sheltering and Temporary Essential Power (STEP) program, for which the federal government has set aside \$186 million." The territory has asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency "to expedite release of those funds, because it can't afford to pay the contractors upfront." However, "FEMA has refused, citing procedures for the program."

## **V.I. To Receive Preservation Grant.**

The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (6/4, Carlson) reports that the Virgin Islands will "receive \$419,485 in grant funding for historic preservation efforts, according to a news release from the U.S. Interior Department, which announced Friday that \$3.2 million in funding is being made available to the U.S. territories and freely associated states." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "The Department of the Interior and the National Park Service are committed to preserving U.S., island, and tribal history heritage. Fees collected from drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf help fund important conservation tools like these grants. Through valuable partnerships we are able to assist communities across the U.S., tribes, and the U.S.-affiliated islands in the Pacific and Caribbean in ensuring the diverse historic places, culture and traditions that make our country unique are protected for future generations."

## **Award Of \$2.8 Million For Dept Of Health.**

The [Talane \(ASM\)](#) (6/6) reports that Congresswoman Aumua Amata welcomed "another significant federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) of \$2,825,506 for American Samoa." The Pacific Basin Grant is awarded under the Health Center Cluster Program of the Health Resources and Services Administration. Amata said, "Since Cyclone Gita earlier this year, American Samoa has been in greater need of assistance in many aspects..Once again, I appreciate the HRSA's attentiveness to American Samoa. I'm pleased to welcome these federal funds, and most importantly, the health benefits for our people."

## **Gubernatorial Candidates Discuss Sales Tax And Funding For Education.**

The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (6/4, Eugenio) reports that "a gubernatorial forum was held by the students at George Washington High School in Mangilao on Tuesday, May 15, 2018." Lt. Gov. Ray Tenorio, Sen. Dennis Rodriguez Jr. and former Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez, "during a K57 radio talk show, shared their plans and vision for public schools, which have \$90 million in deferred maintenance because of lack of funding."

## **10-year Foreign Labor Extension For CNMI Passes House.**



The [Guam Daily Post](#) (6/6) reports that “the U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday passed the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act.” H.R.5956 now goes to the Senate for approval.

### **Australian Official Wraps Up Whirlwind Island Hop In Marshall Islands.**

[Marianas Variety](#) (6/8, Johnson) reports, “Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and a team of parliamentarians from Australia wrapped up a whirlwind five-day visit to three north Pacific nations with a final stop in the Marshall Islands Wednesday and Thursday.” The Marshall Islands visit “included a meeting with President Hilda Heine, a reception with government, private sector and non-government representatives Wednesday evening, and a visit to a domestic violence prevention program prior to departing to Australia Thursday morning.” The article notes that “while Marshall Islands government leaders have been critical of what they see as Australia’s lack of commitment to climate action, this contentious issue was not broached by Bishop or Marshall Islands leaders at public events.”

### **Pegasus Rocket, NASA Satellite Head For Launch Base In Pacific.**

[Spaceflight Now](#) (6/6, Clark) reports that “the Pegasus XL rocket, fastened underneath an L-1011 carrier plane, took off Wednesday from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, en route to Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific Ocean.” The flight will “position the Pegasus rocket, its carrier jet, and support teams for final preparations for launch June 14 with NASA’s Ionospheric Connection Explorer, or ICON, a satellite designed to probe the link between Earth’s atmosphere and space weather.”

### **Instability In The Pacific Islands: A Status Report.**

The [Lowy Institute](#) (5/24, Firth) provided an analysis of the political situations in the Pacific Islands. According to the report, “the challenges to internal resilience in the Pacific Islands are both structural — in the form of issues arising from population growth, urbanisation, land, immigration, health, and gender relations — and particular to the political situation in each Island nation.”

## **US Geological Survey**

---

### **Magnitude 4.4 Earthquake Shakes Part Of Northern Oklahoma.**

The [AP](#) (6/9) reports the US Geological Survey has reported “a 4.4 magnitude earthquake shook parts of northern Oklahoma and neighboring Kansas.” According to “geologists the earthquake was recorded at 8:59 a.m. Saturday about 16 miles (26 kilometers) east of Cherokee.” In recent years, “thousands of earthquakes recorded in Oklahoma...have been linked to the underground injection of wastewater from oil and natural gas production” and “regulators have directed producers to close some wells.”

## **Opinion Pieces**

---

### **Selling The Protected Area Myth.**

In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (6/9, Conniff), author Richard Conniff writes that “since the early 1990s, governments have roughly doubled the extent of natural areas under protection, with almost 15 percent of the terrestrial Earth and perhaps 5 percent of the oceans now set aside for wildlife,” and “from 2004 to 2014, nations designated an astonishing 43,000 new protected areas.” These figures are “likely to increase,” Conniff expects, “as the 168 nations that are signatories to the 1993 Convention on Biological Diversity work to meet their target of 17 percent terrestrial and 10 percent marine protected area coverage by 2020.” However, Conniff points out there are “two big delusions” that raise concerns. He writes that “the first is that designating protected areas is relatively easy (and with publicity bonus points for politicians), but hardly anyone seems to be bothering with the hard work of actually protecting them.” The second issue is that politicians designate lands for protection while ignoring “the convention’s admonition to protect areas ‘of particular importance to biodiversity’ and instead focused almost entirely on maximizing acreage, according to a recent study in *Nature Ecology and Evolution*.”

### **Nat Robertson: Explore Offshore: More And Better Energy Exploration And Job Creation.**

In an op-ed for the [Winston-Salem \(NC\) Journal](#) (6/8, Robertson), Nat Robertson writes that the Interior Department’s National Offshore Leasing Plan “could bear enormous economic benefits for our state, as well as help increase U.S. energy supplies that could put downward pressure on

prices at the pump.” Robertson writes that “today’s technologies, technical standards and best practices, as well as a strong regulatory regime, help to ensure that offshore exploration and development today is safer than ever.” He concludes that “we all support expanding our energy portfolio to incorporate more renewable sources of energy as well, but to do that we need oil and natural gas to help provide affordable and reliable energy as this process unfolds.”

### Offshore Drilling Is Wrong For New England.

In an op-ed for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/10, Gates), Surfrider Foundation regional manager Melissa Gates argues that beaches are too valuable to New England’s economy to place them at risk from new offshore drilling, which poses a “grave threat” to the environment. Gates explained that the public will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the Trump Administration’s proposal to expand offshore drilling when a draft plan is released this fall, and also noted that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is currently accepting comments on “specific projects in waters off the shores of Rhode Island and Massachusetts” and “the bureau’s siting process.” According to Gates, “These are important opportunities to help steer the direction of our energy future, to protect the ocean we all love, and ensure clean energy projects advance responsibly.”

### Additional Reading.

- *COMMENTARY: Politics, Sports And The Vegas Golden Knights.* [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (6/10, MacKinnon).
- *Health Hazards Of Methane Necessitate Rule.* [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/11, Mansfield).
- *Gene Kistler: Conservation Fund Supports WV’s Recreation Economy (Gazette).* [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (6/10, Kistler).
- *Reckoning With History: The Devolution Of Conservation’s Trust Fund.* [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (6/8, Sowards).
- *The Rocky Flats Scare Brigade Gains A New General.* [Denver Post](#) (6/8, Carroll).
- *Navajo Didn’t Support Shrinking Bears Ears.* [Tucson \(AZ\) Sentinel](#) (6/10, Schipani).
- *His View: Our National Landscapes Are Under Strain.* [Moscow-Pullman \(ID\) Daily News](#) (6/9, Pezeshki).
- *Wild Horses, Feral Policy.* [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/10, Emmer).
- *Maria Fotopoulos: Grizzly Bears Deserve More Protection Than Government Is Giving Them.* [Santa Barbara \(CA\) Noozhawk](#) (6/10, Fotopoulos).
- *Wyoming Grizzly Hunt Is Ecologically Indefensible.* [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (6/10, Molvar).
- *Virgin Islands: The Last U.S. Acquisition.* [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (6/7, DiBacco).

### Top National News

---

#### Trump Doubles Down On G7 Criticism As Kudlow, Navarro Slam Trudeau.

Media reports cast a highly unfavorable light on the Administration’s rhetoric toward G7 allies, highlighting US officials’ strong criticism of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. To the [AP](#) (6/10, Gillies, Thomas, Lucey), the White House “escalated its trade tirade and leveled more withering and unprecedented criticism” against Trudeau, “branding” him “a back-stabber unworthy of President Donald Trump’s time.” The [CBS Weekend News](#) (6/10, story 3, 2:15, Quijano) referred to “escalating Trump-Trudeau trade tensions,” the [New York Times](#) (6/10, Swanson) calls this weekend’s summit “the rockiest annual meeting of major Western powers in decades,” [The Hill](#) (6/10, Samuels) says Trump’s top economic advisers “mounted scathing attacks” against Trudeau, and to the [Washington Times](#) (6/10, Howell), trade adviser Peter Navarro “used unusually harsh language...in blasting” the Canadian leader.

In a series of tweets last night, the President [said](#), “Fair Trade is now to be called Fool Trade if it is not Reciprocal. According to a Canada release, they make almost 100 Billion Dollars in Trade with U.S. (guess they were bragging and got caught!). Minimum is 17B. Tax Dairy from us at 270%. Then Justin acts hurt when called out!”

Trump [continued](#), “Why should I, as President of the United States, allow countries to continue to make Massive Trade Surpluses, as they have for decades, while our Farmers, Workers & Taxpayers have such a big and unfair price to pay? Not fair to the PEOPLE of America! \$800 Billion Trade Deficit. ... And add to that the fact that the U.S. pays close to the entire cost of NATO-protecting many of these same countries that rip us off on Trade (they pay only a fraction of the cost-and laugh!). The European Union had a \$151 Billion Surplus-should pay much more for Military! ... Germany pays 1% (slowly) of GDP towards NATO, while we pay 4% of a MUCH larger



GDP. Does anybody believe that makes sense? We protect Europe (which is good) at great financial loss, and then get unfairly clobbered on Trade. Change is coming!" He later [added](#), "Sorry, we cannot let our friends, or enemies, take advantage of us on Trade anymore. We must put the American worker first!"

[Reuters](#) (6/10, Chiacu) reports National Economic Council Director Larry Kudlow accused Trudeau of betraying Trump with "polarizing" statements on US trade policy that risked making the President look weak on the eve of a historic summit with North Korea. Kudlow "lashed out" at Trudeau as "amateurish" and "sophomoric" for a news conference he gave after Trump left the G7 summit on Saturday. The comments, Reuters says, "infuriated" Trump, who called Trudeau "very dishonest and weak" on [Twitter](#) on Saturday and then sent Kudlow and trade adviser Peter Navarro "to hammer the message home on Sunday morning news shows in an extraordinary assault on a close US ally and neighbor."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/10, Puzanghera) reports Kudlow told [CNN's State of the Union](#) 📺 Trump "agreed with the fairly generic trade language in the communique," but objected "when Trudeau said Canada would be forced to retaliate for US tariffs on steel and aluminum and would not agree to a sunset provision in a new North American Free Trade Agreement." Said Kudlow, "We were very close to making a deal with Canada on NAFTA...then we leave and he pulls this sophomoric political stunt for domestic consumption." [Politico](#) (6/10, Palmer) reports Kudlow said Trump "won't withdraw from NAFTA," but added, "I don't know [if negotiators will reach a deal], because I think, again, Trudeau's very unfortunate statements, his betrayal. He betrayed Trump." [Townhall](#) (6/10, Meads) characterizes Kudlow's interview with CNN's Jake Tapper as "tense," while the [Washington Times](#) (6/10, Howell), [Washington Examiner](#) (6/10, Scarry) and [Daily Caller](#) (6/10, Meads), among other outlets, also report his comments to CNN.

On [CBS' Face the Nation](#) (6/10, Brennan), Kudlow said, "The President is going to negotiate with Kim Jong-Un of North Korea in Singapore. It is a historic negotiation and there is no way this President is not going to stand strong, number one. He is not going to allow other people to suddenly take potshots at him hours before that summit, and number two, Trudeau should have known better."

The [New York Times](#) (6/10, Weiland) reports Kudlow said Trump pulled out of the G7 joint statement because a "betrayal" by Trudeau. "We joined the communiqué in good faith," Kudlow said. "You just don't behave that way, OK.? It's a betrayal." He added that Trump "had every right – every right – to push back on this amateurish Trudeau scheme." Navarro "echoed Mr. Kudlow's criticism" of Trudeau, "though in even harsher terms." Navarro told [Fox News Sunday](#), "There's a special place in hell for any foreign leader that engages in bad-faith diplomacy with President Donald J. Trump and then tries to stab him in the back on the way out the door." [USA Today](#) (6/10, Groppe) reports Navarro called Trudeau's comments "nothing short of an attack on our political system."

[Bloomberg News](#) (6/10, Wingrove) reports Navarro also "blamed Canada for the failure to finalize a reboot of the North American Free Trade Agreement." He told Fox, "We'd have a great deal with Nafta by now if the Canadians would spend more time at the bargaining table and less time lobbying Capitol Hill, and our press and state governments here."

To the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/10, Salama, Vieira, Munoz), Kudlow and Navarro's comments represent an escalation of personal attacks on Trudeau, and the [Washington Post](#) (6/10, Paletta, Achenbach) says the two advisers "echoed" Trump's "rhetorical assault on Trudeau, characteristically delivered on Twitter." [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (6/10, story 2, 3:45, Muir) said that after G7 summit, Trump's "relations with America's closest friends [are] now plunging to a new low." [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (6/10, story 4, 1:40, Holt) said US allies were left "stunned. Germans announcing new tariffs. French President Macron accusing Trump of incoherence and inconsistency. The Canadians defiant."

[Bloomberg News](#) (6/10, Niquette) reports "Trudeau's office, in turn, said the what the Canadian leader said on Saturday was nothing new." In a written statement in response to Trump's tweets, Trudeau's office said the Prime Minister's comments in public and in private with Trump were "nothing he hasn't said before" and that he was "focused on everything we accomplished here at the G7 summit."

[Politico](#) (6/10, Temple-West) says Trudeau's administration "punched back" on Sunday. Asked repeatedly by reporters about Navarro's "special place in hell" remark, Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland said: "Canada does not conduct its diplomacy through ad hominem attacks." She added, "One thing that I give thanks for is that I'm not responsible for explaining the reasoning behind any comments made by the officials of any foreign government." [Reuters](#) (6/10, Hopkins) also reports Freeland's comments, while the [New York Times](#) (6/10, Bilefsky, Porter) reports that "it takes a lot to rile" Canadians, but "after President Trump's parting shots



against Prime Minister Justin Trudeau...the country reacted with uncharacteristic outrage and defiance at a best friend's nastiness."

*After Summit "Blew Up In Spectacular Fashion," US Allies Indignant.* The [Washington Post](#) (6/10, Witte, McAuley) reports that a day after the G7 summit "blew up in spectacular fashion," US allies "were indignant. They were defiant. Yet they were hardly shocked by the outcome of a critical global gathering that had gone worse than any that longtime foreign policy players had seen." To the US' closest partners, "the pattern has become disturbingly familiar," and "for many in Europe, the question now is how best to preserve any kind of multilateral cooperation."

[The Hill](#) (6/10, Sanchez) reports France on Sunday "took a jab" at Trump for his comments at the G7 summit, saying that the country would stand by the summit's joint communique, despite Trump's refusal to endorse it. In a statement, Macron's office said, "International cooperation cannot depend on fits of anger or little words. Let us be serious and worthy of our people." [Politico Europe](#) (6/10, De La Baume) says France "took a swipe" at Trump, declaring that international cooperation could not depend on "fits of anger" or "little words."

[Bloomberg News](#) (6/10, Donahue) reports German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in an interview Sunday that it's "a bit depressing" that Trump reneged on the G7's joint statement. Said Merkel, "It means that we as Europe have to stand up for our principles, potentially together with Japan and Canada." Merkel, [Reuters](#) (6/10, Nienaber) reports, also said Europe "will implement counter-measures against US tariffs on steel and aluminum just like Canada."

John King said on [CNN's Inside Politics](#) 📺 (6/10), "I don't remember a Sunday morning like this where the Canadian prime minister, the neighbor to the north, is furious at the President. The President of France, the Chancellor of Germany, the allies left mad at the President, angry at the President, thinking the President doesn't get it. And the President decided after he left to blow up a negotiated document and essentially stoke a war with the six countries that are viewed as America's closest, most trusted allies."

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/10, Bender, Nissenbaum, Gordon) runs an analysis of Trump's negotiating tactics, while Max Boot writes in his [Washington Post](#) (6/10, Boot) column that the President's "outbursts turned the summit into the G-6 vs. G-1," and his aides "piled on, with...Kudlow accusing Trudeau of a 'betrayal' and Peter Navarro saying there's a 'special place in hell' for the Canadian prime minister. No US officials have ever spoken this way about any US ally, ever. These are the kind of words that normally precede military action."

Margaret Talev of Bloomberg said on [CNN's Inside Politics](#) 📺 (6/10), "The President is counting on two things. One is that the Republican leadership and the Republican Congress will either stick with him or at least keep their disgruntlements on the down low. And number two, he is counting on the fact that the G6 – let's call them that for the moment – is not going to push back. They haven't so far."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/10, Board) editorializes that while Trump takes pride in shaking things up, as President he'll be judged not on how much of former President Obama's legacy he dismantles but on how much he builds of his own.

*Lawmakers Weigh In On Trump's Decision Not To Sign Joint Statement.* The [New York Times](#) (6/10, Weiland) reports Democrats "expressed alarm" Sunday at Trump's decision to back away from the joint G7 statement. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) told [CNN's State of the Union](#) 📺, "This wasn't just with Trudeau. This is with our best allies. Not to sign a statement of solidarity, which stands for everything that we stand for, is a big mistake."

On [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (6/10, Brennan), Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA) affirmed his support for Sen. Bob Corker's (R-TN) proposed measure that would give Congress greater authority on US tariffs, saying, "Under Article One of the US Constitution that is a prerogative of the Congress. Right now, the President is actually driving our allies away from us as we need them even more, while welcoming in the Russians. So I think the conversation which Senator Corker has raised is something that on a bipartisan basis is welcome. I think it is time for the United States Congress to begin once again to reassert its authority under Article One to play a key role in the imposition of any tariffs."

[USA Today](#) (6/10, Groppe) reports Sen. John McCain "pushed back Saturday against Trump's refusal to sign the G7 statement," tweeting, "To our allies: bipartisan majorities of Americans remain pro-free trade, pro-globalization & supportive of alliances based on 70 years of shared values. Americans stand with you, even if our president doesn't." On [ABC's This Week](#) 📺 (6/10, Stephanopoulos), Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), responding to McCain's comments, said, "I'm not so sure a majority of Americans believe that globalization and free trade is in our interests. I believe that. John McCain believes it. But the reason we're having problems here at home, Brexit, Italy, there's a movement all over the world to look inward, not outward. I think it's a mistake. But I'm not so sure most Americans agree with John McCain and Lindsey Graham."



The [Daily Caller](#) (6/10, Rodgers), meanwhile, reports Illinois Democratic Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi joined the President "in blasting...Trudeau." In a statement released Sunday, Krishnamoorthi said, "While I have serious concerns about President Trump's approach to trade talks with Canada, Prime Minister Trudeau has placed our trade relationship with Canada at risk by publicly feuding with President Trump on the world stage."

Sen. Pat Toomey said on [Fox News' The Journal Editorial Report](#) (6/9), "What I think Congress needs to do is take this authority back. I don't think it was ever a good idea to hand it over to the Administration. ... The fact is the President is in my view misusing the national security provisions as a way to promote a protectionist trade policy."

[Axios: Trump Told Macron EU Is "Worse" Than China On Trade.](#) According to a report by [Axios](#) (6/10, Swan), when French President Emmanuel Macron visited Washington in April, he and President Trump "had a tough conversation about trade that foreshadowed the breakdown of transatlantic relations at the G7 summit." Citing an unnamed source, Axios reports Macron said to Trump, "Let's work together, we both have a China problem." Trump responded that the EU is "worse than China."

[United Steelworkers President: Metals Tariffs Crucial To National Security.](#) Leo W. Gerard, president of the United Steelworkers, writes in [USA Today](#) (6/10, Gerard) that the Administration's metals tariffs are not "a simple job-preservation measure. President Trump levied them to try to secure sufficient domestic production capacity of these vital metals for defense – for planes and tanks and for critical infrastructure." To Trump Administration, he argues, "is right that they are crucial to security."

[USA Today](#) (6/10, Board) editorializes that the tariffs "aren't any more popular at home than they are abroad. Several Senate Republicans are pushing a measure that would roll them back. And Charles and David Koch, the billionaire brothers who support numerous GOP causes and candidates, are pouring money into anti-tariff advertising and lobbying campaigns. None of this should come as a surprise, as the tariffs are colossally stupid and counterproductive."

[Leonhardt: "Trump Tries To Destroy The West."](#) [New York Times](#) (6/10) columnist David Leonhardt writes that Trump is "trying to destroy" the alliance between the US and Western Europe. "If a president of the United States were to sketch out a secret, detailed plan to break up the Atlantic alliance, that plan would bear a striking resemblance to Trump's behavior," he continues. Leonhardt goes on to argue that "whatever the reason, his behavior requires a response that's as serious as the threat. For American voters, it means understanding the real stakes of this year's midterm elections. They are not merely a referendum on a tax cut, a health-care plan or a president's unorthodox style. They are a referendum on American ideals that are older than any of us."

### **Trump Touts "Excitement In The Air" As He And Kim Arrive In Singapore For Summit.**

All three networks led their broadcasts Sunday night with reports on President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un's arrival in Singapore ahead of Tuesday's summit. Early Monday morning, the US President [tweeted](#), "Great to be in Singapore, excitement in the air!" [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/10, lead story, 3:10, Holt) said the "world [is] holding its breath" roughly 24 hours before the two leaders meet face-to-face in Singapore "in search of common ground over North Korea's nuclear weapons program." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/10, lead story, 4:00, Muir) reported that the "eyes of the world now are on the 36-year old dictator," whose "new shift to diplomacy comes after a year of escalating provocations." Trump "says he'll know immediately if Kim is serious."

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (6/10, lead story, 3:15, Quijano) reported Trump told reporters Saturday "that he was feeling very good about this upcoming meeting," but Ben Tracy said in a second segment on the [CBS Weekend News](#) (6/10, story 2, 2:20, Quijano) that Trump "seems to be hedging his bets a bit, saying that he may not reach a deal with Kim Jong-Un to give up his nuclear weapons or that if he does, it could become a process that takes some time."

[USA Today](#) (6/10, Jackson) reports Trump arrived Sunday "prepared to declare victory in talks with nuclear-armed North Korea – regardless of what happens." En route, Trump [tweeted](#), "We have a chance to achieve a truly wonderful result for North Korea and the World," [predicting](#) that Kim "will work very hard to do something that has rarely been done before ... Create peace and great prosperity for his land." The [Washington Times](#) (6/10, Miller) reports that when a "reporter shouted out a questions about how Mr. Trump feels about the high-stakes summit," he replied, "Very good." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/10, Kim) likewise says Trump "expressed confidence Saturday that the summit would be a success."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (6/10, story 2, 2:15, Holt) showed Secretary of State Pompeo saying that Kim "has indicated to me personally that he is prepared to denuclearize, that he understands



that the current model doesn't work," but NBC's Andrea Mitchell reported that "skeptics are doubtful. ... A more realistic outcome: the first diplomatic steps to ending Korean War." [Politico](#) (6/10, Johnson) reports Pompeo "disputed the notion that the president is moving the goalposts," telling reporters Thursday that Trump "has always understood that this was a process."

Kim, meanwhile, landed in Singapore hours ahead of Trump. According to the [AP](#) (6/10, Klug, Lucey, Miller), Kim was greeted at the airport by Singapore's foreign minister, and later "smiled broadly Sunday evening as he met with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong." Kim told Lee through an interpreter, "The entire world is watching the historic summit between (North Korea) and the United States of America, and thanks to your sincere efforts...we were able to complete the preparations for the historic summit." Meanwhile, US and North Korean officials "are set to meet Monday morning in Singapore to make final preparations for Tuesday's meeting."

[Politico](#) (6/10, Staff) and [Breitbart](#) (6/10, Spiering) report Trump was also greeted by Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, and according to the [New York Post](#) (6/10, Moore), Trump is expected to meet with Lee on Monday. The [Washington Post](#) (6/10, Fifield) reports Trump and Kim are scheduled to meet face-to-face Tuesday morning, and the [Daily Caller](#) (6/10, Pickrell) says the talks will take place at the Capella Hotel on Sentosa Island. The [New York Times](#) (6/10, Rich) says Trump, "who has declared that he did not need to prepare for the two-day meeting, will pit his negotiating skills against the leader of one of the world's most isolated countries."

[Reuters](#) (6/10, Holland) reports Trump was accompanied by Secretary of State Pompeo, National Security Adviser Bolton, Chief of Staff Kelly and Press Secretary Sarah Sanders. Among those traveling with Kim are Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho and Kim Yong Chol, "a close aide of Kim who has been instrumental in the diplomacy that culminated in Tuesday's summit." Kim Yo Jong, leader Kim's younger sister, "was also spotted in his delegation."

According to unnamed sources, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/10, Cheng, Jeong, Wong) reports Kim is scheduled to depart Singapore at 2 p.m. Tuesday, just five hours after the summit is set to begin. Trump, meanwhile, is set to leave Wednesday morning. [Bloomberg News](#) (6/10, Talev, Olorunnipa, Jacobs) says that "depending on how the talks go, Trump has signaled the summit could collapse within minutes or stretch into future meetings and perhaps even include a follow-up encounter at Mar-a-Lago."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/10, Miller) reports the Korean Central News Agency said the summit would address "wide-ranging and profound views on the issue of establishing new DPRK-US relations, the issue of building a permanent and durable peace-keeping mechanism on the Korean Peninsula, the issue of realizing the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and other issues of mutual concern."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/10, Nakamura) reports on the crowds gathered in Singapore, where [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/10, story 8, 1:40, Muir) said "so many people [are] lining the streets...for glimpses of the two leaders. ... The security presence is enormous." Meanwhile, in South Korea, "this group gathered to pray for peace ahead of the meeting, holding these signs of a unified Korean Peninsula." [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/10, story 3, 1:30, Holt) Richard Engel reported from Seoul where the summit "is seen as a matter of life and death." Engel added that "everyone's hoping that this summit will be successful. There's talk of peace. And I don't think there's anywhere in the world where they're more optimistic, more hopeful that Donald Trump will be able to pull it out. But there is also this concern because they have so much at stake. If this summit goes badly, then are we once again in the state where war is on the table?"

The [Washington Times](#) (6/10, Taylor) reports that the "stakes are so high" for Tuesday's talks that the "national security community is braced for the possibility of a rapid spiral toward nuclear brinkmanship if the talks between the two men turn sour."

An [AP](#) (6/10, Miller, Lucey) analysis of the talks says Trump's "seat-of-the-pants foreign policy is facing its toughest test yet as he attempts...to personally broker an end to North Korea's nuclear program." The "impulsive American president, who just this weekend sowed chaos within the Western alliance, is set to face his match on the global stage as he prepares to meet Kim" on Tuesday.

Peter Baker writes for the [New York Times](#) (6/10) that the President over the weekend "escalated a bitter clash with some of America's closest allies," leaving him "estranged from America's partners at the very moment he is about to stride onto the most important world stage he has assumed since taking office. Aides attributed his outburst over the weekend to his feeling undercut as he prepared to meet with...Kim...while critics said he had stiff-armed his friends at the expense of a unified front." Regardless, Baker says the "rupture with other major powers was sure to shadow the session between the two in Singapore on Tuesday."

[USA Today](#) (6/10, Jackson) similarly says Trump was making "last-minute preparations



Monday for his meeting with Kim...in the shadow of his blow-up with western allies at the G-7 summit — a good sign to his backers, not so good to others.”

**Trump Reviews Intel File On Kim Ahead Talks.** [Axios](#) (6/10, Swan) reports that over the past ten years, “allied intelligence agencies have pieced together a profile of the young Kim Jong-un from extensive interviews with teachers, students, food preparers, and other staff at the elite Swiss boarding school that Kim attended during his adolescence, according to a source” who reviewed the files. According to Axios, “In his intelligence briefings to prepare for his historic summit in Singapore, President Trump has shown intense interest in the personality and quirks of the reclusive Kim.”

**Lawmakers Weigh In On Talks.** The [Washington Post](#) (6/10, Cunningham) reports that “two top senators indicated Sunday that they generally agree on what a good nuclear deal with North Korea might look like, but they differed sharply on whether to back it up with a military Plan B.” Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-SC) said on ABC’s “This Week” that he’s “100 percent” pleased with a letter top Senate Democrats sent President Trump last week insisting that any deal with North Korea must include a permanent dismantling of the country’s nuclear and ballistic-missile programs. But Graham “also called on his colleagues to go a step further and authorize use of military force if diplomatic routes fail.” Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ), however, “said he’s not ready to back a congressional Authorization for Use of Military Force” until he is confident “the path to peace really isn’t obtainable” without military action.

Asked on [ABC’s This Week](#) 📺 (6/10, Stephanopoulos) about the President’s mindset going into the summit, Graham said, “I think he’s very much ready. I think what he’ll convey to North Korea is he wants a peaceful resolution to the nuclear threat as well as to end the Korean War. The goal is to eliminate their nuclear missile program, not contain it. Do it in a win-win fashion.” Graham added that there are “three outcomes: Peace, where we have a win-win solution; military force, where we devastate the North Korean regime and stop their program by force; or to capitulate, like we have done in the past. And Donald Trump is not going to capitulate. So there’s really only two options. Peace or war.” The [Washington Times](#) (6/10, Howell) also reports Graham’s remarks.

On [ABC’s This Week](#) 📺 (6/10, Stephanopoulos), Sen. Bob Menendez said, “We have to give a chance at peace. That’s why we outlined very clearly what a successful agreement would be. A complete, irreversible, effort at the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Pretty much what the Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, said before the Senate Relations Committee when I asked him questions, as well as the National Security Adviser, Ambassador Bolton. Our standard is trying to define clearly what success is. Getting a deal with North Korea is not the difficult part. In fact, three administrations, President Clinton, President Bush, President Obama – have acquired some form of a deal only to ultimately have them fail.”

Asked on [CBS’ Face The Nation](#) (6/10, Brennan), what a deal should entail to gain congressional support for the lifting of sanctions against North Korea, Ed Markey (D-MA) said, “The President first of all is going to have to extract from Kim a definition of what denuclearization means. Right now, there is a vast gulf between what the United States and North Korea believe that word means. On our side, we believe it means a removal of all nuclear weapons and delivery capacity on the Korean peninsula. Kim does not actually agree with that. We would also want an inventory of all of their nuclear weapons sites, all of their ballistic missile sites, all of their development, manufacturing, research facilities to be made public and for there to be a final way of ensuring that there is a dismantlement of those facts which is taking place again on a final basis.”

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) told [CNN’s State of the Union](#) 📺 (6/10, Tapper), “North Korea is on its way to becoming a clear and present danger to the United States. I have watched its nuclear programs as carefully as I could as a member of the Intelligence Committee. They have done six nuclear tests, they have developed a missile system, they probably have up to 60, maybe more nuclear weapons. They are trying to fit a nuclear warhead on an intercontinental ballistic missile. They have not tested that yet. But when they do, it gives them the ability to hit the United States. It is a government that is not within the community of nations. It is an isolated government, unpredictable, with what appears to be a growing nuclear prowess. I think this sends a lot of danger signals. I think the President does have a chance to put in motion meaningful dialogue.”

Jonathan Martin of the New York Times said on [CNN’s Inside Politics](#) 📺 (6/10), “What I’m curious how much latitude the hawks in his own party will give him. Look, the Republican Party has taken a hard line on North Korea for a long time. There has not been much of an appetite for negotiation, especially negotiation with no sort of clear ground rules going in. This is totally open-ended.”



*NYTimes Analysis: China "Jittery" Ahead Of Summit.* The [New York Times](#) (6/10, Perlez) reports that in the "sudden rush of diplomacy involving North Korea, China has appeared to have the upper hand, hosting the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un, twice before his long-anticipated Singapore summit meeting with President Trump even begins. Yet as Mr. Kim prepares to finally meet Mr. Trump in Singapore on Tuesday, some analysts say Beijing appears to be getting a sudden case of the jitters." Analysts say Chinese leaders, "who are unused to being on the outside looking in, are growing anxious about whether they can keep" Pyongyang "in its current orbit around China. Leaders in Beijing are worried, experts say, that Mr. Kim might try to counterbalance China's influence by embracing the United States."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/10, Morrongiello), meanwhile, reports that Kim arrived Sunday in Singapore on "a Boeing 747 lent to him by the Chinese government."

*North Koreans Largely Unaware Of Summit.* The [AP](#) (6/10, Talmadge) reports that "with all the international attention focused on Singapore and the historic summit" between Trump and Kim, "most North Koreans are still largely in the dark about the momentous — and potentially life-changing — events that are about to take place." State-run media has reported that the two leaders plan to meet, "but has offered few specifics, including where and when."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/10, Murphy), meanwhile, reports that ahead of Tuesday's summit North Korean defectors are "considering a question that until recently seemed foolish to ask: Could they one day return home?"

*NASIC Commander Says North Korean Missiles Could Reach Continental US.* David Martin reported on [CBS' 60 Minutes](#) (6/10) that the Singapore summit "is surely one of the greatest high-wire acts in diplomatic history — two unpredictable leaders meeting...to negotiate the total elimination of what, just last year, was considered the gravest threat facing the United States." While President Trump "is demanding the complete dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear weapons program," Kim Jong-un sees "the nuclear warheads and the missiles that would carry them" as "his country's most valuable possession." Martin added that National Air and Space Intelligence Center commander Sean Larkin says "the North Korean threat went to a whole new level" last summer. Larkin: "They demonstrated the ability that they could reach the continental United States."

*WSJournal: US Needs Nuclear Deterrent Regardless Of Summit's Outcome.* The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/10, Board) editorializes that regardless of the outcomes of Tuesday's summit, the US still needs to be prepared for nuclear attacks. The Journal notes that the Senate this week is expected to vote on its version of the National Defense Authorization Act, which includes improvements to the nation's missile-defense systems. It calls on the Senate to approve the measure and ensure that it gets funding.

## **Trump Heads To Singapore Ahead Of Summit With Kim.**

In its lead story, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/9, lead story, 3:10, Vega) reported President Trump is on his way to Singapore tonight, having "boarded Air Force One in Quebec late this morning, pulling out of the G7" summit in Canada early. Before leaving, Trump held "a last-minute, wide-ranging news conference," during which he called the summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "a one-time shot" and said he hopes to "start at least a dialogue" with Kim. At the same time, Trump said "he'll be able to see if Kim...is serious about easing tensions in an instant," explained ABC's Martha Raddatz. "And if the North Korean dictator isn't serious, President Trump says he'll walk out of the room."

The [AP](#) (6/9, Lucey) reports President Trump told reporters that he has "a clear objective" for his upcoming talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, though he acknowledged that potential progress "will always be spur of the moment." He described Tuesday's meeting in Singapore as a "one-time shot" for Kim and characterized it as a "mission of peace." Speaking shortly before departing Canada for the talks, the President said it's "so far, so good," and said he thinks "it's going to work out very well."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/9, Nakamura) reports the President predicted he will know almost immediately when meeting Kim whether the North Korean leader is serious about negotiating a nuclear deal, "suggesting his intuition is enough to size up the leader of the world's most opaque authoritarian regime." Said Trump, "You know the way they say you know if you like somebody in the first five seconds? Well, I think very quickly I'll know whether something good is going to happen. I think I'll also know whether it will happen fast." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/9, Salama) quotes Trump as saying, "I feel that Kim Jong Un wants to do something great for his people, and he has that opportunity and he won't have that opportunity again. It's never going to be there again. Who knows, there's a good chance it won't work out."

Meanwhile, [USA Today](#) (6/9, Jackson, Fritze) reports Trump left the G7 summit "early to get



to Singapore. He is expected to complete the long flight Sunday evening in Singapore, Sunday morning Washington time." Kim "is expected to arrive at Changi airport on Sunday, a source involved in the planning of the trip" told [Reuters](#) (6/9, Rampton), and [Bloomberg News](#) (6/9, Epstein, Olorunnipa) highlights that the summit is scheduled to start at 9 a.m. Singapore time on Tuesday. The plan "is for it to wrap up in the evening and, if things go well, for there to be a joint declaration, according to a US official."

A [New York Times](#) (6/9, Landler) analysis says the summit "could turn out to be primarily the get-to-know-you session that many expect," but if Kim "makes any moves toward disarmament, he is likely to press for security guarantees in exchange." Dan Balz writes for the [Washington Post](#) (6/9, Balz) that while the "prelude to Tuesday's meeting has been anything but smooth," the goal "has not shifted. The president wants North Korea to agree to complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearization. But if the goal hasn't changed, the expectations have. Trump once seemed to suggest it could all happen in a single meeting between the two leaders, the inverse of how such negotiations normally take place. He now concedes that Tuesday's summit, if successful, will be only the first step in a lengthy process."

Under the headline "Many Have Their Doubts About Trump-Kim Summit," the [AP](#) (6/9, Lederman, Lee) reports US allies and lawmakers of both parties expressed concerns that the President "may impulsively give in on issues they say should be deal-breakers." Senate Minority Leader Schumer (D-NY) and Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ), the ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in a recent letter "called for any agreement with North Korea to meet five key points: that all weapons of mass destruction be removed or dismantled; that there be no uranium enrichment or plutonium reprocessing; that it end all ballistic missile testing; that it allow "anytime, anywhere" inspections of its facilities; and that a deal be permanent." Senate Majority Leader McConnell (R-KY) last week also warned Trump not to "get snookered" while Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) recently predicted Kim will "try to get as much sanctions relief as possible without having to give up his weapons."

A [Washington Post](#) (6/9) editorial admits "there's no easy, snap-your-fingers recipe" to achieve denuclearization and warns "there are big traps." The Post asserts "a summit that results in headline-grabbing commitments may be a first and necessary step. But agreements will have no meaning if they don't lead to verifiable and lasting results." The Post concludes that as "the Cold War cleanup shows that full disclosure is critical," the President "must demand that North Korea come clean about all its nuclear programs, as well as chemical and biological weapons research and development."

[New York Times](#) (6/9, Kristof) columnist Nicholas Kristof asserts that although Trump's focus for the summit "is rightly on nuclear weapons," the Administration should not "forget...North Korea is by far the most totalitarian country in the world." According to Kristof, "Trump should make clear to Kim that what makes a nation 'modern' is not just McDonald's franchises, but also an end to torture and a measure of freedom."

*Pence Tells Warmbier Family That Summit Will Show Son "Will Not Have Died In Vain."* [Fox News](#) (6/9, Dedaj) reports Vice President Pence said at the Faith and Freedom Coalition "Road to Majority" Convention on Saturday that he spoke with the father of Otto Warmbier and "assured [him], as the president said two days ago, their beloved son, Otto Warmbier, will not have died in vain." Pence continued "the eyes of the world" are on the President ahead of the summit with Kim and he "commended Trump on his success thus far with North Korea, speaking of that country's participation in the Winter Olympics, the suspension of all ballistic missile testing and, recently, the release of three American hostages." Pence added, "After years of failed policies and broken promises last year, President Trump ended the failed policy known as strategic patience and he took a strong stand."

*NYTimes A1: Trump Lacks Adviser With Nuclear Expertise.* In a front-page analysis, the [New York Times](#) (6/9, A1, Davenport) says that as Trump prepares to meet Kim Jong-un to negotiate denuclearization, "he is doing so without the help of a White House science adviser or senior counselor trained in nuclear physics." According to the Times, Trump is "the first president since 1941 not to name a science adviser, a position created during World War II to guide the Oval Office on technical matters ranging from nuclear warfare to global pandemics." There is also "no chief scientist at the State Department," and "a State Department spokeswoman referred questions to the National Security Council." Those who have participated in past nuclear negotiations "say the absence of such high-level expertise could put [Trump] at a tactical disadvantage in one of the weightiest diplomatic matters of his presidency."

*Former US Envoys Reflect On Past Attempts To Negotiate With North Korea.* Robert Gallucci, a former assistant secretary of state, Wendy Sherman, a former under secretary of state for political affairs, Christopher Hill, a former assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson told the [AP](#) (6/9, Pennington) about "their own, often-

difficult experience of negotiating with North Korea" and provided advice for current Administration officials.

**WPost A1: Kim Aims To Use Summit To Consolidate Power.** In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (6/8, A1, Fifield) says "Kim Jong Un has chalked up a lot of firsts since taking power at the end of 2011" and "he will rack up another one here Tuesday, when he becomes the first North Korean leader to meet with a sitting U.S. president." According to the Post, "for President Trump, it offers an opportunity to prove his self-described masterful negotiating skills and score a diplomatic victory after a year of 'maximum pressure' on North Korea. As for Kim, his objectives are clear – and eminently relatable for the American president." The Post adds Kim's strategy is "designed to portray him as the responsible leader of a nuclear-armed state" and with a goal of improving "the economy by getting rid of the international sanctions imposed as punishment for last year's provocations, or at least getting Beijing to stop implementing them."

**Sources Say Negotiations On Possible US Embassy In North Korea Are Already Underway.** The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/9, Morrongiello) states that a successful summit "could reportedly lead the U.S. to establish official diplomatic ties with North Korea that would include the opening of an American embassy in Pyongyang." Administration officials have raised "the possibility of normalized relations between the two countries during meetings with their North Korean counterparts in Singapore, New York, and the demilitarized zone ahead of the June 12 summit between Trump and Kim, [Axios](#) (6/9, Swan) reported Sunday." However, a "senior National Security Council official" would not "confirm whether official diplomatic ties were being discussed."

**Abe Lobbying Trump To Consider Japan's Interests Ahead Of Summit, Source Says.** [Reuters](#) (6/9, Kelly) reports Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo "in dozens of conversations...has counseled...Trump to avoid making concessions to North Korea that could upset East Asia's balance of power, including a military retreat from South Korea that would leave Tokyo alone on the front lines against China's growing power." A source in "Abe's policy circle" said, "The big picture is that any withdrawal of U.S. forces from the peninsula would benefit China." They added, "In 10 years, the U.S. could be out of Korea and Taiwan could be like Hong Kong."

**Singapore Enacts Tough Security Measures Ahead Of Summit.** Ben Tracy of the [CBS Weekend News](#) (6/9, story 2, 1:25, Ninan) said security measures are already in place ahead of the summit, "and everybody is now just waiting for President Trump and Kim Jong Un to arrive." The Capella Sentosa, the hotel at which the summit "will take place, is already on lockdown and closed to the public," and the hotels where Trump and Kim plan to stay also have "a visible security presence." In addition, "Singapore is designating the zones around the hotels and the summit location as special event areas with stricter security" and has also instated "air space restrictions, including a ban on drones." The only thing "still unknown," Tracy said, "is what, if anything, the summit will actually accomplish."

### **Trump: Administration Will Not Endorse G-7 Statement.**

After departing the G7 summit en route for his meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore, President Trump on Saturday [tweeted](#), "Based on Justin's false statements at his news conference, and the fact that Canada is charging massive Tariffs to our U.S. farmers, workers and companies, I have instructed our U.S. Reps not to endorse the Communiqué as we look at Tariffs on automobiles flooding the U.S. Market!" Trump [added](#), "PM Justin Trudeau of Canada acted so meek and mild during our @G7 meetings only to give a news conference after I left saying that, 'US Tariffs were kind of insulting' and he 'will not be pushed around.' Very dishonest & weak. Our Tariffs are in response to his of 270% on dairy!" While media coverage of the President's announcement was limited, reporting highlighted that the tweet came a few hours after Trump during a press conference said he warned G7 leaders that the US will no longer be "the piggy bank that everybody is robbing."

Under the headline "Trump Torpedoes G7 Effort To Ease Trade Spat, Threatens Auto Tariffs," [Reuters](#) (6/9, Rampton) says the tweets "threw the G7's efforts to show a united front into disarray." Reuters adds "Trump's bombshell announcement that he was backing out of the Group of Seven communiqué, made after he left the summit in Canada early, torpedoed what appeared to be a fragile consensus on the trade dispute between Washington and its top allies." The [AP](#) (6/9) notes the tweets were issued "from Air Force One just as Canada released the joint statement."

Meanwhile, a front-page [Washington Post](#) (6/9, A1, Paletta, Gearan) article describes the President's comments at the press conference as his "most defiant trade threat yet to his counterparts from around the globe. But there were numerous signs here that leaders of other countries stood their ground, having stiffened after months of attacks and insults." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/9, Salama, Mackrael, Vieira) says Trump nonetheless dismissed suggestions of tensions



with other G7 leaders – describing the relationship as “a 10” – and blaming past US leaders for “bad” trade deals. Said the President, “I congratulate the leaders of other countries for so crazily being able to make these trade deals that were so good for their countries and so bad for the United States. But those days are over.”

Trump, the [New York Times](#) (6/9, A1, Shear) reports on its front page, said he had brought up with fellow G7 leaders “the dramatic prospect of completely eliminating tariffs on goods and services, even as he threatened to end all trade with his counterparts if they didn’t stop what he said were unfair trade practices.” The President told reporters eliminating all trading barriers would be “the ultimate thing,” and “railed about what he called ‘ridiculous and unacceptable’ tariffs on American goods.” [Reuters](#) (6/9, Rampton) quotes Trump as saying, “You go tariff-free, you go barrier-free, you go subsidy free. I did suggest it and people I guess were going to go back to the drawing board.”

In an article headlined “Trump Turns Tables On G7 Allies With Free-Trade ‘Proclamation,’” [Bloomberg News](#) (6/9, Epstein, Argitis, Delfs) says Trump “shook up” the summit “with a proposal to eliminate all barriers to global trade, a shift from his aggressive tariff threats ahead of the summit.” German Chancellor Angela Merkel “said that she agrees with Trump’s push for freer trade.”

In addition, [Reuters](#) (6/9, Sieg, Foster) reports Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe “said...no country benefits from protectionism, and that all measures should be consistent with World Trade Organization rules.” Reuters adds that while Abe conceded “anxiety and dissatisfaction with globalization at times led to protectionism and intense confrontation between countries,” he said, “We must not turn back the clock.” Abe asserted, “For the G7 to have exchanges of measures that restrict trade will not be in the interests of any country.”

However, [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (6/9, story 2, 2:35, Vega) correspondent David Wright reported Trump “threw down the gauntlet just before leaving Quebec, telling reporters he’ll cut off trade with any nation that doesn’t stop what he considers to be unfair trade practices,” but [USA Today](#) (6/9, Fritze) states that Trump “did not indicate that he had received any concessions in his negotiations on trade at the summit.”

The [AP](#) (6/9, Lucey, Gillies, Thomas) also reports the President’s “abbreviated stay...saw him continuing the same type of tough talk on trade as when he departed the White House,” accusing the summit’s host, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, of being “indignant.” In its lead [CBS Weekend News](#) 📺 (6/9, lead story, 2:35, Ninan) segment, Weijia Jiang said that while “the elite group of leaders offered friendly public displays and words” at the summit, Trudeau “vowed not to back down” when Trump held “firm on keeping new US tariffs on steel and aluminum, warning other countries not to retaliate...and suggesting fees on American exports should come down.”

[The Hill](#) (6/9, Bowden) reports that although Nebraska Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE) in a statement on Saturday said that “if the President is actually serious about leading the expansion of a G-7 no-tariff, free-trade agreement, that’s tremendous, tremendous news – for the U.S. and for the free nations of the world,” he also “chided the president for ‘whining’ about trade deficits with Canada, the European Union, and other trade blocs, accusing Trump of ‘pretending like we’re losers’ on the global stage.” [The Hill](#) (6/9, Gstalter) reports Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) [tweeted](#), “To our allies: bipartisan majorities of Americans remain pro-free trade, pro-globalization & supportive of alliances based on 70 years of shared values. Americans stand with you, even if our president doesn’t.”

[The Hill](#) (6/9, Gstalter) reports Senate Minority Leader Schumer (D-NY) [tweeted](#), “Are we executing Putin’s diplomatic and national security strategy or AMERICA’s diplomatic and national security strategy? After the last few days, it’s hard to tell.” House Minority Leader Pelosi (D-CA) [tweeted](#), “This week started with @realDonaldTrump boosting a Chinese company identified as a national security threat to the U.S. It ended with him standing up for Russia and alienating our allies at the G7. #MAGA.” [The Hill](#) (6/9, Seipel) reports Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY) also [tweeted](#), “With every brash tweet, President Trump concedes the US’s role as leader of the free world.”

*Trump Reiterates Call To Reinstate Russia In G8.* [Bloomberg News](#) (6/9, Epstein, Olorunnipa) reports President Trump on Saturday reiterated his call to bring Russia back into the G8, “stoking an already-fraught relationship between the US and its allies” at the G7 summit. Trump told reporters, “I would rather see Russia in the G8 as opposed to the G7. I would say the G8 is a more meaningful group than the G7, absolutely.” Trump first floated the idea of Russia’s return Friday, winning “a quick endorsement from Italy,” but Germany and the UK “warned Russia would need to change its behavior in order for the G8 to be revived.”

A front-page [New York Times](#) (6/9, A1, Shear, Baker) article says Trump “has found himself isolated on the global stage for taking actions viewed by America’s closest allies as destructive and even illegal,” and on Friday, he “deepened that rift by...calling for Russia to be reinstated as a



member of the world's most elite group of nations without insisting on any of the conditions the West has demanded in terms of ending its intervention in Ukraine." On Saturday, Trump "made clear his belief that Russia's actions in Crimea should not stand in the way," saying, "It's been done a long time."

However, [Reuters](#) (6/9, Strupczewski) reports that the G7 leaders in a "strongly worded statement" on Saturday "urged Russia...to stop undermining democracies and said they were ready to step up sanctions against Moscow if necessary." They said, "We urge Russia to cease its destabilizing behavior, to undermine democratic systems and its support of the Syrian regime." They also "condemned an attack...in Britain on a former Russian spy using a Russian-made military grade nerve agent, saying it was highly likely Moscow was responsible because there was no other plausible explanation."

*Trump Says NAFTA Negotiators "Pretty Close" To Reaching Deal About Sunset Clause, But Trudeau Disagrees.* [Bloomberg News](#) (6/9, Wingrove) reports President Trump said Saturday that NAFTA negotiators are "pretty close" to agreeing on a sunset clause, "a sticking point in talks, while warning the three-way pact can only survive if major changes are made." The President told reporters on the sidelines of the G7 summit, "Two things can happen on NAFTA. We'll either leave it the way it is as a threesome deal" and "change it very substantially," or "we're going to make a deal directly with Canada, directly with Mexico." He also warned, "If a deal isn't made, that would be a very bad thing for Canada and it would be a very bad thing for Mexico. For the United States, frankly, it would be a good thing. But I'm not looking to do that. I'm not looking to play that game."

However, [Reuters](#) (6/9, Ljunggren) reports Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau "rejected a U.S. demand for a sunset clause in NAFTA but said he was prepared to compromise on the issue." Trudeau said, "There will not be a sunset clause [because] we will not, cannot sign a trade deal that expires automatically every five years." He continued, "I think there are various discussions about alternatives that would not be that, and that would not be entirely destabilizing for a trade deal, and I think we are open to creativity."

*Trump Arrives Late To G7 Gender Equality Meeting.* The [AP](#) (6/9, Gillies) reports President Trump "arrived late" for a gender equality meeting at Saturday's G7 summit, prompting Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau "to kick it off without waiting for 'stragglers' to arrive." Trump "created a distraction when he walked in late," missing Trudeau's introductory statement and entering the room "while Gender Equality Advisory Council co-chair Isabelle Hudon was speaking." [Trudeau](#) and Canadian Foreign Minister [Chrystia Freeland](#) "later tweeted photos of the women's empowerment meeting, showing Trump's empty chair."

*Trump Defends His Criticism Of "Very Dishonest" Press.* The [AP](#) (6/9, Lucey, Superville) reports the President "stepped to the microphone alone Saturday to take reporters' questions, just the second time he'd done so since taking office more than a year ago," and "defended the steady stream of attacks" against the media. Trump said he is critical of coverage about his Administration "because the U.S. press is very dishonest. Much of it, not all of it." Trump added some reporters are among "the most outstanding people I know. But there are many people in the press that are unbelievably dishonest. They don't cover stories the way they're supposed to be. They don't even report them in many cases if they're positive. So there's tremendous – you know, I came up with the term 'fake news.'" The President continued, "It's a lot of 'fake news,' but at the same time I have great respect for many of the people in the press."

Meanwhile, the [Daily Caller](#) (6/9, Athey) reports that White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders on Saturday also "called out a CNN producer for fake news about the G7 Summit." According to the DC, "the saga started when Dan Scavino, an assistant to the president, tweeted out a behind-the-scenes photo of 'negotiations' at the annual summit." The DC says "CNN producer Greg Hughes, apparently unhappy that the photo showed a number of world leaders gathering around...Trump, insisted that the photo was just 'clever visual messaging' and claimed without evidence that the event was a 'group signing.'" In response, Sanders [tweeted](#), "Congratulations! Once again you are wrong. There is no 'some kind of group signing' taking place. It was all negotiations. We were there. You were not. @Scavino45 tweet is 100% factual. Will you retract your 'clever' and completely inaccurate tweet?"

In addition, [Breitbart](#) (6/8, Spiering) reported White House counselor Kellyanne Conway asserted at the Faith and Freedom Coalition "Road to Majority" Convention on Friday that the establishment media is "miserable" covering Trump's presidency. Conway added, "I'm quite comfortable explaining all of the good going on." She continued, "I think it took me a little bit of a while to understand that, with the White House behind you, you're speaking on behalf of America and to America, and I don't return the snark and bark in kind."

*USA Today Analysis: Merkel's "Stare Down Photo Sums Up Trump's Time At G7."* [USA Today](#) (6/9, Collins) reports German Chancellor Angela Merkel [shared](#) a photograph on Instagram of her



and French President Emmanuel Macron "seeming to stare down President Trump," who "is staring back, arms crossed," in "what appears to be a tense moment."

### **Trump Meets G-7 Leaders Amid Anger Over Trade, Russia.**

President Trump traveled to Canada on Friday to attend the G7 economic summit and suggested that Russia should be reinstated into the group. Media coverage, which included nearly seven minutes on the network newscasts, was also heavy in print and online. Reporting highlighted that Trump's suggestion was met with near-universal opposition, with objections coming from both Republican and Democratic lawmakers as well as other G7 leaders, with the exception of the newly installed Italian government. In addition, analyses characterized the Administration's "America First" policies as responsible for the tensions that pervaded the summit.

In the lead [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/8, 6:01 p.m. EDT, Baier) segment, correspondent Bret Baier reported Trump is "in Quebec for a truncated appearance at the G7 economic summit," where his "confrontational trade policies are the headline," as is his "highly controversial idea of resurrecting Russia's membership in that elite club." White House correspondent Kevin Corke said Trump "raised a few eyebrows around the globe" with that suggestion, which represents "the latest reminder of his unconventional style, and to some, of his imprudent approach to global politics." On [CBS This Morning](#) (6/8, 7:06 a.m. EDT, Dickerson), Weijia Jiang also highlighted that "Trump's 'America First' mantra has led to policy decisions that have angered US allies" while the [AP](#) (6/8, Lucey, Gillies, Miller) similarly emphasizes the President had "inflamed allies with his isolationist policies, including withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris climate accord and the international Iran-nuclear agreement."

In a front-page article, the [New York Times](#) (6/8, A1, Baker) declares that "rarely has President Trump's role as a disrupter on the world stage been starker." The Times states that "at a moment of tumult over trade and nuclear security, he is shaking up the international order to make friends with America's enemies and enemies out of America's friends." The Times adds that at the G7, "Trump was the odd man out as he quarreled with Europeans and Canadians over trade and pushed for the reinstatement of Russia four years after it was cast out." [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/8, 5:05 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Wolf Blitzer also said that Trump, who had "already [been] feuding with America's closest allies," on Friday "raised the stakes dramatically...by calling for Russia's readmission to the group." Chief White House correspondent Jim Acosta added Trump "made jaws drop" with that suggestion.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (6/8, story 3, 2:00, Holt) White House correspondent Kristen Welker similarly said a "bitter battle" was already brewing at the G-7 meeting with US allies angered "over the trade war the US has sparked with new tariffs last week," but then Trump dropped the "bombshell, complaining there was someone missing." In a front-page article, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/8, A1, Vieira, Mackrael) reports the President said, "We have a world to run. We should have Russia at the negotiating table."

[Reuters](#) (6/8, Oliphant) reports "even Moscow seemed to reject" Trump's "controversial idea," which was only endorsed by new Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, who tweeted that reinstating Russia would be "in the interests of everyone." On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/8, 5:05 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), Acosta said Trump's call to readmit Russia to the organization left "other foreign leaders and members of Congress to remind the President that Russia was kicked out of the G8 for its invasion of Ukraine, not to mention its meddling in the 2016 election and the recent poison attack in the UK – all blamed on the Kremlin."

A front-page [Washington Post](#) (6/8, A1, Paletta, Gearan, Wagner) article similarly reports the President's suggestion "further provok[ed] U.S. allies outraged or unnerved by Trump's swerve to trade protectionism." The Post labels Trump's comments as "a repudiation of the position the G-7 took in 2014 to exclude Russia because of what the remaining members called the illegitimate annexation of Crimea from Ukraine." The Post also reports "Trump's suggestion...was heavily criticized by political opponents back home," including Senate Minority Leader Schumer, "who said Trump was 'turning our foreign policy into an international joke.'"

[The Hill](#) (6/8, Folley) "Briefing Room" blog also reports Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL) [tweeted](#), "'Nobody has been tougher on Russia than Donald Trump' – President Trump, April 2018. Now watch President Trump grovel at the feet of our adversary and punish our strongest allies." [The Hill](#) (6/8, Bowden) reports Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) [tweeted](#), "Ok, really: what does Putin have on @realDonaldTrump? Russia has attacked our election, invaded Ukraine, slaughtered innocent Syrians, and yet Trump does Russia's bidding while alienating our allies who stand with us. Which country is the American President working for?"

In addition, [The Hill](#) (6/8, Bolton) reports Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE) rejected Trump's proposal, saying in a statement, "This is weak. Putin is not our friend and he is not the President's buddy."



Sasse added Russian President Vladimir Putin is "a thug using Soviet-style aggression to wage a shadow war against America." [The Hill](#) (6/8, Bolton) reports Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) [tweeted](#), "No, Russia should not be added to the G-7." [The Hill](#) (6/8, Bolton) reports Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) also "excoriated" Trump in a statement "blasting the move as the 'antithesis' of principled realism and 'a sure path to diminishing America's leadership in the world.'" McCain added, "The president has inexplicably shown our adversaries the deference and esteem that should be reserved for our closest allies."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/8, 6:12 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI) said that he believes the "long-term impact of [reinstating Russia would be] very, very damaging to our country." Cicilline added, "Part of our ability to have national security for our country and to promote good policies that protect the United States both in terms of terrorism and national defense and economic activity is because of our strong alliances and our partnerships. People need to rely on the United States and our leadership in the world, and to have the seven most advanced economies meet and to be starting fights with so many of our key allies and at the same time" suggest the involvement of Russia, which has "engaged in really nefarious behavior," suggests that the President has a "fundamental misunderstanding" about the Russian threat that is "confusing to our allies and friends around the world."

[The Hill](#) (6/8, Anapol) reports former Vice President Joe Biden [tweeted](#), "Putin's Russia invaded its neighbors, violated our sovereignty by undermining elections, and attacks dissidents abroad. Yet our President wants to reward him with a seat at the table while alienating our closest democratic allies. It makes no sense."

Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (6/8, A1, Shear) concedes in a front-page article that "the notion of readmitting Russia to the world's most exclusive club reflected the unusually friendly approach that Mr. Trump has taken to Russia since becoming president, a policy at odds with both Republicans and Democrats in Washington as well as leaders in Europe." The Times says that Trump's "seemingly off-the-cuff suggestion also sharpened the sense of isolation for the American president at a summit meeting that some have branded the 'G6+1.'"

On [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/8, 6:03 p.m. EDT, Baier), Corke said Trump "stood with world leaders for the traditional family photo, though the smile seemed to belie the tension beneath the surface." David Wright of [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/8, story 3, 2:25, Vega) reported that while Trump "was all smiles" for the photo, other G-7 leaders are "fuming over Trump's stiff new tariffs on steel and aluminum." On the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/8, story 6, 2:30, Glor), Weijia Jiang said that while Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau "produced an all-smiles photo of the G-7 leaders," hours before Trump's arrival, "the President was not so friendly."

On [ABC's Good Morning America](#) (6/8, 7:03 a.m. EDT, Vega), Cecilia Vega reported Trump "in a series of tweets" on Friday morning was "lashing out." On [NBC's Today Show](#) (6/8, 7:03 a.m. EDT), Kristen Welker reported the President [tweeted](#), "Canada charges the U.S. a 270% tariff on Dairy Products! They didn't tell you that, did they? Not fair to our farmers!" He [continued](#), "Looking forward to straightening out unfair Trade Deals with the G-7 countries. If it doesn't happen, we come out even better!" Trump [added](#), "I am heading for Canada and the G-7 for talks that will mostly center on the long time unfair trade practiced against the United States. From there I go to Singapore and talks with North Korea on Denuclearization. Won't be talking about the Russian Witch Hunt Hoax for a while!"

The [New York Times](#) (6/8, Sullivan) reports that "the feisty tweets came a day after the leaders of France and Canada accused the United States on Thursday of an illegal economic assault on their countries by levying tariffs of their steel and aluminum industries out of national security concerns." While a [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/8, Meichtry) article titled "End Of L'Affaire: Trade Spat Halts Trump-Macron 'Bromance'" reports the warm relationship Trump had enjoyed with Trudeau and French President Emmanuel Macron seems to be at an end for now, [Reuters](#) (6/8, Ljunggren) says that at "their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the fractious G7 summit, Trump followed Trudeau's diplomatic introduction by joking that Trudeau had backed down on retaliatory tariffs." Trump quipped, "Justin has agreed to cut all tariffs, all trade barriers between Canada and the United States, so I'm very happy," prompting Trudeau to reply: "So I'd say NAFTA is in good shape."

[Reuters](#) (6/8, Rampton) reports Trump and Macron additionally "struck a conciliatory tone with Trump saying that the relationship was special, but that sometimes tests occur when it comes to trade." Macron also "said on Friday it was possible to make progress on trade issues that have split the United States and its allies." [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/8, 6:14 p.m. EDT, Baier) broadcast Trump saying at a joint news conference alongside Macron, "The United States has had a very big trade deficit for many years with the European Union, and we're working it out. And Emmanuel has been very helpful in that regard. And something is going to happen, and I think it



will be very positive. We also had a very positive meeting a little while ago on NAFTA. So this is turning out to be an interesting day. But we had a very, very good meeting on NAFTA with" Trudeau "and his representatives. But I want to thank you. It was very helpful today. I also want to congratulate you, because I'm reading what's going on in France. You've got great courage. You're doing the right thing. Nothing is easy. But what you're doing is the right thing. And it's a wonderful country. It's a special country. And you have a special president."

According to [Politico](#) (6/8, Herszenhorn), Trump also "floated the idea of ending all tariffs and trade barriers between the U.S. and its G-7 allies – an unexpected pitch that comes amid a tit-for-tat trade war Trump recently launched." Officials told Politico that "at the end of a contentious meeting on trade disputes at the G-7 summit in Quebec," Trump said, "We should at least consider no tariffs, no barriers – scrapping all of it." Politico adds the President's suggestion "was quickly challenged by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who asked, 'What about subsidies?'"

[Bloomberg News](#) (6/8, Delfs, Donaldson, Argitis) reports that while German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Friday "said it remains uncertain whether the talks will produce a joint communique," Trump "told reporters at his bilateral meeting with Trudeau that he thought there would be a joint statement coming out of the summit, though he didn't specify whether he was referring to a final joint communique or to separate side agreements." Bloomberg says Merkel also "proposed the creation of a "shared evaluation mechanism" on U.S. trade, a forum aimed at defusing tensions between the U.S. administration and the European Union," which "has the support of Macron and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, a French official said." [Reuters](#) (6/8, Strupczewski) reports Juncker also offered to come to Washington, DC to resolve the trade dispute "in a friendly manner," according to "an official who followed the talks," and Trump gave "a nod of acceptance in response, the official said."

In another article, [Reuters](#) (6/8, Rinkek) reports that according to Merkel, "representatives of European Union countries at the G7 meeting in Quebec agreed that the conditions to readmit Russia to the group of advanced economies were not yet met." Merkel asserted, "We all agreed that a return of Russia to the G7-format summits can't happen until substantial progress has been made in connection with the problems with Ukraine."

[Reuters](#) (6/8, James) reports British Prime Minister Theresa May on Friday also warned Trump and the EU "of the dangers of entering a tit-for-tat trade war over tariffs, urging both sides to instead focus on China's excess steel production," according to a senior UK official. Reuters adds that "the British stance reflects May's need to keep favor with the Trump administration as she looks for a bilateral trade deal to soften the economic impact of leaving the EU, and her island nation's post-Brexit dependency on free commerce." [Reuters](#) (6/8, James) reports May insisted the US and UK remain "good friends" and acknowledged "sometimes we disagree on issues but when we disagree because of the nature of our relationship we're able to have that frank and open discussion."

However, [Reuters](#) (6/8, Vey) acknowledges "expectations for a major breakthrough on trade at the summit...remain low, with U.S. allies focused on avoiding rupturing the G7, which in its 42-year history has tended to seek consensus on major issues." [AFP](#) (6/9, Otton, Comte, Benhamou) reports that while G7 leaders "spent Friday hunting for a face saving formula to mask the deep rift inflicted on the Western alliance," no document "will conceal the damage inflicted by the US leader's aggressive imposition of tariffs on what had been some of Washington's closest allies."

[Reuters](#) (6/8, Ljunggren) reports Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland also conceded the summit has "so far been cordial, but Canada will not change its mind when it comes to illegal U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs" and she "said the idea floated by U.S. President Donald Trump that Russia be re-admitted to group has not been raised in any formal way at the summit."

In addition to coverage of the President's remarks on Russia and trade, the [Washington Times](#) (6/8, Boyer) highlights that Trump "arrived late at the summit site in Quebec, and he's already announced he will leave the party early." On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/8, 6:09 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), Acosta reported Trump is scheduled to leave the G7 summit "earlier than expected" so he can to prepare for his summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and what "may be the most important negotiations of his life." Acosta added the President will not attend the G7's "meetings on climate change and the state of the oceans." On [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (6/8), Steve Doocy said "the irony is, he has two summits in the next couple of days, and the summit with the North Korean dictator could actually be less tense than the summit...in Quebec."

Meanwhile, [Bloomberg News](#) (6/8, Wingrove, Donaldson, Fouquet) reports "Trump's comments appear to have caught his own administration off-guard." Bloomberg adds that unlike the President, Defense Secretary Mattis on Friday described Russia "as a danger to Western security." According to Mattis, "Threats to our collective security have not waned, whether



terrorism to the south or Russia's aggression and hybrid threats to the east."

**EU Ambassadors Criticize US Tariffs In Open Letter.** [The Hill](#) (6/8, Folley) "Briefing Room" blog reports that 29 EU ambassadors to the US in an open letter in the [Washington Post](#) on Friday criticized "Trump's new tariffs on imports [as] a significant step in a 'protectionist direction' and concluded by calling for the two economies to 'focus on what benefits us both.'" The Hill highlights that the letter ran the day of the G7 summit "amid heightened conflict between Trump and other G-7 members over the tariffs and following Trump's suggestion that Russia be reinstated into the group."

**Media Analyses Criticize Trump For Suggesting Russia Be Readmitted To G7.** In a front-page article titled "In Trump, Some Fear The End Of The World Order," the [Washington Post](#) (6/8, A1, Deyoung) reports European Council President Donald Tusk said, "What worries me most...is the fact that the rules-based international order is being challenged." Tusk added Trump's actions "play into the hands of those who seek a new post-West order where liberal democracy and fundamental freedoms would cease to exist."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (6/8, 5:51 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), Brian Todd warned the "public battles that Trump is having with his allies in Canada and France are playing right into Putin's hands," and analysts believe "it's the kind of endorsement" that Putin "could only dream of getting," and "it's coming from a very powerful source: the President of the United States." Todd said Trump's "impromptu idea" is "exactly the type of victory critics say Putin wants." Former Deputy Secretary Tony Blinken told CNN that Trump's invitation "really does make Vladimir Putin's day," as it is "accomplishing everything Putin has set out to accomplish in dividing the United States from its closest partners." Experts believe Putin "isn't so much trying to strengthen his own hand as he is trying to destroy others." Todd said that is why, "analysts say, Trump's public battles with his NATO allies, Justin Trudeau and Emmanuel Macron, play right into Putin's hands."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (6/8, 5:30 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) national security analyst Samantha Vinograd said the "interesting thing here is what the President didn't say in that statement before the media. It should be an aspirational goal for all of us that Russia be invited back into the now-G7 – Russia is a major economy, it plays a huge role on the major stage – what the President didn't add on is what Russia had to do to be invited back to the party, and that's similar to what he said about Kim Jong-un."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (6/8, 5:10 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), former National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes said Trump's suggestion is "astonishing," as Russia was kicked "out of the G8 because they annexed Crimea and had violated the most basic tenant of international order." He continued, "What we're seeing before our eyes is kind of the unraveling of the post-WWII international order, with the US and our allies at the center of that. And the fact of the matter is that's going to have profound consequences for US security and global security for years to come, and frankly, that's exactly what" Russian President Vladimir Putin wants.

Joel Rubin, a deputy assistant secretary of state in the Obama Administration who currently teaches at Carnegie Mellon University, told the [AP](#) (6/8, Lederman, Lucey) that Trump's embrace of Russia and North Korea were "completely antithetical" to US foreign policy objectives. Rubin added, "If Obama had done that, the criticism coming down on him would have been a fusillade, coming from Capitol Hill and congressional Republicans. ... But there's nary a whimper."

In a [New York Times](#) (6/8, Rice) op-ed, Susan Rice, the national security adviser during Obama's second term, warns Trump is helping to carry out Putin's objectives, which are "to restore Russia to global greatness at the expense of the United States and to divide Europe by weakening NATO and the European Union." She concludes "there is no evidence that Mr. Putin is dictating American policy. But it's hard to imagine how he could do much better, even if he were."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (6/8, 6:33 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), former CIA analyst Philip Mudd said it is unlikely Trump's comment on Russia's return to the group will impact US operations with allied foreign intelligence services, because when faced with a joint threat and citizens are threatened, "you are pushed to provide information at the intelligence level, regardless of diplomatic differences." He said on other matters where the US is divided from its allies diplomatically, like the Iran nuclear deal, "you've got to wonder whether there will be a trickle-down effect on that, when the alliance gets together." Meanwhile, Mudd [recalled](#) 📺 that in "mid-March this year, the British authorities – our closest ally on the planet, along with people like the Canadians – had to convene an emergency meeting because Russian-backed individuals attempted to murder people" on British soil, "and that's politically correct?" Mudd said Trump "can't even meet one-on-one with Theresa May, evidently, in Canada, but he can call" for Russia's re-inclusion in the group. Mudd said this is "not just about economic cooperation with the other countries, it is about shared values."

On [CNN's New Day](#) 📺 (6/8, Berman), Council on Foreign Relations President Richard Haass



said the President's decision to impose tariffs was "the straw that broke the camel's back." Haass added, "It didn't happen in a vacuum. It began with this inaugural speech, his embrace of protectionism, 'America First,' getting out of the Paris climate pact, getting out of the Iran nuclear deal – now the tariffs done in the name of national security imposed on allies, I think that's what did it." According to Haass, while "there are some legitimate trade disputes, you don't resolve them unilaterally...with tariffs" and "treating [allies] as enemies."

On [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/8, 6:37 p.m. EDT, Baier), Byron York of the Washington Examiner said Trump "seems totally focused on North Korea," as he arrived in Canada late and is leaving early. Moreover, York said, Trump "is simply incapable of engaging in the kind of diplomatic niceties that you have to deal with, that you have to do at these meetings." As for Trump's comment on Russia, Charles Lane of the Washington Post said for Trump "to sound this note of urgency, that we have to get Russia back in the room so we can run the world together, is just at odds with" its aggressive actions in "recent history, and I'm sure it must have been very puzzling and dismaying to these traditional Western allies." However, York also [predicted](#) Trump "is going to come away with something." York added Trump's comments on NAFTA renegotiations show "that he's actually thinking about fundamentally restructuring some of these agreements," and because the US GDP far exceeds that of its allies, "the other countries don't have any other choice but to negotiate with him."

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/8) criticizes Trump for deciding "to sow ferment within the G-7" and "antagonize America's closest allies" by proposing to readmit Russia and says his behavior "is more than a childish tantrum or a play for attention. It is an undermining of those values that the G-7 was meant to safeguard." The Post adds that "not only the allies but Americans, too, must come to grips with the fact that the ostensible leader of the free world may not really believe either in the free world or in leading it." The Post concludes that "if it is the United States' portion, in partnership with other peer nations, to lead, that imposes a responsibility to do so in more than its own narrow self-interest."

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/8) editorial also criticizes Trump's proposal to readmit Russia to the G7 as misguided. The Journal also warns the proposal only benefits Russian President Vladimir Putin's efforts to divide the US and EU. The Journal adds that if the G7 is to be expanded, membership should first be extended to India, Australia, Brazil, or South Korea.

### **House Approves First Spending Bill.**

[Politico](#) (6/8, Burton) reports on Friday, the House [approved](#) on a bipartisan 235-179 vote, "a fiscal 2019 spending package...that may actually make it to President Donald Trump's desk and become the first spending bill signed into law on time since 2016." The bill includes "energy programs, the VA and military projects." It is part of "a mad dash on Capitol Hill to get all 12 spending bills through Congress and across Trump's desk before Oct. 1." The reason, Politico says, is that "GOP leaders are anxious to avoid another massive omnibus this fall." The vote for the bill consisted of 212 Republicans and 23 Democrats, while 163 Democrats and 16 Republicans opposed the bill.

### **Bipartisan Proposal Would Sell Off Government Assets To Help Pay For Infrastructure.**

In an exclusive report, [Breitbart](#) (6/8, Boyle) says "a bipartisan group of lawmakers is working on an infrastructure package" that would "sell off government debt assets and split the money between deficit reduction and infrastructure spending." The cost-neutral proposal would not only "cost taxpayers nothing," but "would transition wasteful government assets into serving as a revenue-raising tool," Breitbart adds, with a focus on "distressed debt assets" at the Department of Agriculture.

### **House Republicans Block Obama-era Rules On Cost Of Climate Change.**

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/8, Siciliano) reports Republicans in the US House "on Friday took a step forward in reining in the Obama administration's method of assessing the cost of carbon dioxide pollution when developing regulations." The House voted "along party lines, to include a rider blocking the use of the climate change cost metric to an energy and water spending bill." The amendment "bars any and all funds from being used under the bill to 'prepare, propose, or promulgate any regulation that relies on the Social Carbon analysis' devised under the Obama administration on how to value the cost of carbon." The "rider was added to the spending bill less than 24 hours" after EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt "proposed new rules to dial back the use of the carbon cost metric in EPA regulations."

### **Editorial Wrap-Up**



## New York Times.

**"The Everyday Toll Of Gun Violence In America."** An interactive [New York Times](#) (6/10) editorial says mass killings, like the 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting, "garner more attention because they are, by definition, so horrific," but they "represent just a fraction of the nation's gun violence." The Times says "most harm done by guns does not prompt such national self-examination."

## Washington Post.

**"Abiy Ahmed Pulls Off An Astonishing Turnaround For Ethiopia."** The [Washington Post](#) (6/10) editorializes that the "rush of developments" under Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's leadership, including the decision to lift a state of emergency that left the nation "trapped in a cycle of unrest, repression and more unrest," signals "an astonishing turnaround under a new and dynamic young leader." Yet, the Post says, it "remains to be seen whether" Abiy can sustain this reform drive in the face of "opposition from hard-liners." One "key question will be whether economic reforms, including the sale of shares to foreign investors in large state companies and the privatization of others, will bring in enough hard currency to allow payments on foreign debts and ease import bottlenecks." If Abiy succeeds, the "return of economic dynamism would go far to address the long-festered unrest; if that is accompanied by genuine political liberalization, the cause of democracy in Africa could get a historic boost."

**"A Wake-Up Call For New Approaches To Suicide Prevention."** A [Washington Post](#) (6/10) editorial says the recent suicides of Kate Spade and Anthony Bourdain "should serve to highlight suicide as a serious and growing public-health problem that demands attention and action." Their deaths, alongside a CDC report which said that "nearly 45,000 Americans age 10 or older died by suicide in 2016...making it the 10th-leading cause of death," should "serve as a wake-up call for new, more comprehensive approaches to suicide policies and strategies."

**"The Justice Department's Reputation Is In The Worst Danger Since Watergate."** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/10) criticizes the Justice Department for refusing to defend the ACA from "a frivolous legal challenge" which claims that the individual mandate "is suddenly unconstitutional, because Congress last year zeroed out the amount the uninsured must pay the government." The Post argues that "defending major, duly passed federal statutes is a core Justice Department responsibility," adding that the Department has "built a reputation for evenhandedness and independence over the course of decades. That reputation is now more in danger than it has been since Watergate."

## Wall Street Journal.

**"Disruption Isn't Enough."** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/10, Board) editorializes that while President Trump takes pride in shaking things up, as President he'll be judged not on how much of former President Obama's legacy he dismantles but on how much of he builds of his own.

**"The Senate's Nuclear Insurance."** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/10, Board) editorializes that regardless of the outcomes of Tuesday's summit, the US still needs to be prepared for nuclear attacks. The Journal notes that the Senate this week is expected to vote on its version of the National Defense Authorization Act, which includes improvements to the nation's missile-defense systems. It calls on the Senate to approve the measure and ensure that it gets funding.

**"New Bang For A Michigan Buck."** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/10, Board) praises a decision by Michigan lawmakers for repealing the state's prevailing wage law for public construction projects. According to the Mackinac Center, a Michigan think tank, added about \$400 million a year to the cost of such projects.

## Big Picture

---

### Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

#### **Wall Street Journal:**

[U.S.-Canada Trade Feud Escalates After Fought G-7 Summit](#)  
[Trump, Kim Jong Un Gird for High-Stakes Summit in Singapore](#)  
[A Year After Amazon Devoured Whole Foods, Rivals Are Pursuing Countermoves](#)  
[Emerging-Markets Rout Boosts Contagion Fears](#)

#### **New York Times:**

[Escalating Clash With Canada, Trump Is Isolated Before North Korea Meeting](#)  
[For All His Deals, Trump Has Never Faced An Adversary Like Kim Jong-Un](#)



[Millions In Bribes Go Unpunished In Mexico As Election Nears](#)  
[Trump Upends Global Trade Order Built By U.S.](#)  
[Mitt Romney Wants In Again. There Is One Catch.](#)  
[Tony Awards 2018: 'The Band's Visit' And 'Harry Potter' Prevail](#)

**Washington Post:**

[A Once Unimaginable Journey](#)  
[Trump and Kim Arrive For Historic Meeting](#)  
[Trump Steps Up Attack On Trudeau](#)  
[The Web As You Know It May Soon Be Altered](#)  
[Political Outsiders Test The Fit Of A '20 Run](#)  
[The Red Bishop's Rise And Fall](#)

**Washington Times:**

[Trump, Kim Arrive In Singapore: U.S.-North Korea Summit Is On](#)  
[High Stakes: National Security Community Braces For Nuclear Brinkmanship If Summit Fails](#)  
[Larry Kudlow Calls Justin Trudeau's Verbal Attacks 'Amateurish,' A 'Betrayal'](#)  
[Russians Overlook Weak Soccer Team, See National Glory In World Cup Tournament](#)  
[Three Virginia Republicans Running For Senate Use Different Tactics To Chase Trump Base](#)  
[Trump Commits \\$256 Million To Revive Long-Neglected National Parks, Gets No Thanks From Left](#)

**Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:**

**ABC:** US-North Korea Relations-Summit; Trump-G7 Summit; Severe Weather-Colorado Wild Fire; Severe Weather; Cleveland-Explosion Investigation; Anthony Bourdain-Suicide; Minnesota-Teen Saves Friend From Drowning; Salmonella Outbreak; Vince Vaughan Arrested; Triple Crown Winner; US-North Korea Relations-Singapore.

**CBS:** US-North Korea Relations-Singapore; US-North Korea Relations-Summit; Trump-G7 Summit; Somalia-Special Ops Agent Killed; Cleveland-Explosion Investigation; Border Security-Immigrant Children; Salmonella Outbreak; NYC-Porto Rican Parade; French Open; Better Business Bureau-Scam Warning; Opioid Epidemic; Triple Crown Winner.

**NBC:** US-North Korea Relations-Singapore; US-North Korea Relations-Summit; US-North Korea Relations-South Korea; Trump-G7 Summit; Cleveland-Explosion Investigation; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Severe Weather-Colorado Wild Fire; Anthony Bourdain-Suicide; Trump-Emergency Executive Orders For Coal; Nashville-Woman Sentenced To Life As Teen Pleads For Second Chance; French Open; Triple Crown Winner; World Cup Soccer-Liverpool Muslim Player.

**Network TV At A Glance:**

US-North Korea Relations-Summit – 8 minutes, 35 seconds  
US-North Korea Relations-Singapore – 8 minutes, 5 seconds  
Trump-G7 Summit – 7 minutes, 40 seconds  
Cleveland-Explosion Investigation – 1 minute, 55 seconds

**Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:**

**ABC:** US-North Korea Relations-Singapore; Trump-G7 Summit; Severe Weather-Colorado Wild Fire.

**CBS:** US-North Korea Relations-Singapore; Trump-G7 Summit; Severe Weather-Colorado Wild Fire; Tennessee-Child Endangerment; Tony Awards; French Open.

**FOX:** US-North Korea Relations-Summit; Trump-G7 Summit; Cuba-Diplomat Health Incident.

**NPR:** US-North Korea Relations-Summit; Border Security-Arrested Immigrant Commits Suicide; Italy-Barring Migrants' Arrival; Severe Weather-Colorado Wild Fire; Salmonella Outbreak.

## **Washington Schedule**

---

### **Today's Events In Washington.**

**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — participates in a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Singapore; participates in an expanded bilateral meeting and working lunch with the Prime Minister of Singapore; participates in a meet and greet with the U.S. Embassy in Singapore.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

**US Senate:**

3:00 PM Senate votes on beginning debate on FY'19 NDAA – Senate convenes and resumes

consideration of a motion to proceed to 'H.R.5515, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019', with agenda including a vote on the motion Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC

#### **US House:**

2:00 PM House Natural Resources Committee oversight field hearing on cormorants – Oversight field hearing on 'Examining Effects of Mismanagement of the Cormorant in the Great Lakes Region', with testimony Michigan United Conservation Clubs Executive Director Daniel Eichinger; Les Cheneaux Landing Manager Mark Engle; Oden State Fish Hatchery Lake Huron Basin coordinator Randall Claramunt; and Migratory Bird Program Region 3 chief Tom Cooper Location: Alpena Community College, 665 Johnson Street, Alpena, MI

No votes scheduled in the House of Representatives Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC

#### **Other:**

8:30 AM AG Sessions speaks at EOIR Annual Training Conference for Immigration Judges – Attorney General Jeff Sessions delivers remarks at Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) Annual Training Conference for Immigration Judges Location: Sheraton Tysons Hotel, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Tysons, VA

12:00 PM GOP Sen. Chuck Grassley speaks at Heritage Foundation on farm subsidy reforms – Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley speaks on 'Common Sense Farm Subsidy Reforms' at the Heritage Foundation, before panel discussion with Environmental Working Group Senior Vice President Scott Faber and Taxpayers for Common Sense Senior Policy Analyst Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC

## **Last Laughs**

---

### **Late Night Political Humor.**

*John Oliver:* "We begin with the upcoming North Korea summit, which is just two days away, and if you are wondering how hard Trump has been preparing, deep down, you know the answer to that. ... 'It's not about preparation, it's about attitude.' That's not even a viable strategy on 'RuPaul's Drag Race,' where, bring the attitude, sure. But you'd better also bring your knowledge of wigs, makeup, fashion, and tucking technique, or sashay away, my friend."

*John Oliver:* Trump and his supporters have been "derisively referring to the Mueller investigation as a witch hunt," which is "a strange claim considering Mueller's team has, in the past year, charged 20 people and three companies and gathered five guilty pleas. So if this is a witch hunt, witches exist, meaning we should change all references in our history books to 16th-century witch hunts to read, 'That time, we were right to murder all those teenage girls in a lake.'"

*John Oliver:* "It is important to remember, Mueller wasn't tasked with finding proof of collusion. The word 'collusion' doesn't even appear in his appointment letter. In actuality, he was tasked with looking into links and coordination between the Russian government and anyone associated with the Trump campaign, as well as 'any matters that arose or may arise directly from the investigation.' That's a pretty broad mandate. So saying the investigation has to shut down if there's no collusion is like saying a game of Scrabble has to end because you fit all the letters in your mouth. Well, congratulations, but those aren't really the rules that we agreed to."

**Copyright 2018 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC** Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at [BulletinIntelligence.com](http://BulletinIntelligence.com), or called at (703) 483-6100.