From: Bulletin Intelligence
To: Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com
Subject: U S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, September 28, 2017
Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017 7:02:57 AM

Mobile version and searchable archives available here. Please click here to subscribe.

US Department of the Interior News Briefing

DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

Today's Table Of Contents

DOI In The News

• U.S. News & World Report: Three Trump Cabinet Secretaries To Visit Pennsylvania This Week.
• Aggregate Research Industries: Zinke, Pruitt Welcome Aggregates Industry To DC.
• E&E Publishing: Interior Officials Ready A Big Fashion Statement.
• Associated Press: New Mexico Gets $1.1M For Outdoor Recreation Projects.
• Washington Post: Zinke Says His Workers Are Disloyal. They Say His Personnel Moves Break The Law.
• Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News: Four NM Federal Lawmakers Decry Inaccuracies In Zinke Report.
• Bend (OR) Bulletin: Federal Fire Suppression Memo Gets Mixed Response; Forestry Experts, Managers Praise Intent, Criticize Approach.

• Law360: Interior Dept. Sued For Petroleum Institute Meeting Records.
• Jamestown (ND) Sun: Burgum: Goal Of Doubling Oil Production In North Dakota 'May Be Too Low'.
• The Hill: EPA Chief Flew On Private And Military Aircraft For Official Business: Report.
• Politico: Trump's Most (and Least) Popular Cabinet Members.
• Washington Post: Yes, Trump Can Revoke National Monuments.
• Conversation (UK): Experts Assess Interior Secretary Zinke's Proposals.
• Flathead (MT) Beacon: Don't Let Fake Narrative Block Monuments Review.
• Deseret (UT) News: Op-Ed: We Must Protect Wild Utah.
• Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: Thomas Mitchell: Zinke's National Monument Modifications Too Modest.

Bureau Of Land Management

• Wyoming Public Radio: Obama-Era Fracking Rule May Soon Go Back Into Effect, Or Not.
• CBS News: Senate Bill Could Trigger Mass Slaughter Of Wild Mustang.
• Santa Fe New Mexican: Tribes Ask Feds To Halt Drilling Leases In Chaco Region.
• WOUB-FM Athens (OH): Fracking Protesters: Our Concerns Are Being Ignored.
• Jackson Hole (WY) News & Guide: Game And Fish Open To BLM Land Transfers.
• Las Vegas Review-Journal: Judge Rejects Cliven Bundy's Request To Represent Himself.
• Bend (OR) Bulletin: BLM Needs To Answer Questions.
• Bend (OR) Bulletin: Common Sense Protection For Crooked River Ranch.

Bureau Of Reclamation

• US, Mexico Reach Deal To Conserve Colorado River Water.

Fish And Wildlife Service

• Sacramento (CA) Bee: US Fish And Wildlife Service Approved Delta Pumping Increase.
• U.S. News & World Report: US Agency To Decide If Pacific Walrus Is Threatened Species.
• Alaska Public Radio Network: Enviros Sound The Alarm On ANWR.
• Chesterfield (VA) Observer: James River Wildlife Refuge Opens To Public For A Day.
• Los Angeles Times: Man Smuggles Live Corals Inside Pringles Potato Chip Containers At LAX, Authorities Say.
• U.S. News & World Report: Two Florida Men Plead Guilty To Tying Up Endangered Key Deer.

National Park Service

• New York Times: National Parks Struggle With A Mounting Crisis: Too Many Visitors.
• Ste. Genevieve (MO) Herald: U.S. Rep. Smith Confident About National Park Legislation.
• WJLA-TV Washington: Giant Naked Woman Sculpture Planned For National Mall.
• Morristown (NJ) Daily Record: 23 From 13 Countries Took The Oath Of Allegiance In Morristown.
• Carteret County (NC) News-Times: NPS Reopening Cape Lookout Friday.
• Washington Times: Comment Period Extended On Olympics Mountain Goat Plan.
• Pocono (PA) News: Park Service Superintendent Donahue To Retire.
• Washington Post: Ranger: Yosemite Rock Fall Kills 1, Injures Another.
• Allentown (PA) Morning Call: East Stroudsburg Man Convicted Of Striking Park Ranger With Car.

Office Of Insular Affairs

• The Hill: Trump Says He Is "Thinking About" Jones Act Waiver For Puerto Rico.
• New York Times: Storms Amplified USVI's Economic Crisis.
• Marianas Variety: 80 Student Leaders Participate In Youth Summit.
• Marianas Variety: Marshalls Trust Fund Panel Meets In Hawaii.
• Marianas Variety: FSM Trust Fund Panel Meets In Hawaii.
• Additional Reading.

US Geological Survey

• Moab (UT) Sun News: Moab Watershed Study Completed.
• Additional Reading.

Top National News

• WISH-TV Indianapolis: Trump Touts Tax Cut Plan In Indianapolis.
• New York Post: Trump To Sign Order Allowing People To Buy Health Insurance Across State Lines.

• Washington Examiner: EPA Program Seeks To Engage Industry To Reduce Regulatory Burden.

Editorial Wrap-Up

• New York Times.
- "A Boondoggle Masquerading As Tax Reform."
- "Saudi Women Behind The Wheel."
- "The Corruption At The Heart Of March Madness."

• Washington Post.
- "Can't We Get This One Thing Right?"
- "Saudi Arabia Sheds An Ignoble Distinction."
- "Tom Price Should Pay Taxpayers Back."

• Wall Street Journal.
- "Tax Reform, If You Can Keep It."
- "Who Really Lost Alabama?"
- "Jeremy Corbyn On The March."

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

Three Trump Cabinet Secretaries To Visit Pennsylvania This Week.

The AP (9/27) reports that "the heads of the Interior, Labor and Energy departments under President Donald Trump are coming to Pennsylvania this week for a trio of unrelated events." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will "visit Valley Forge National Historical Park in King of Prussia on Thursday to learn about the facility and meet staff." Also on Thursday, Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta will "tour Signature Building Systems in Moosic to see the modular home builder while Energy Secretary Rick Perry will tour the Jeddo coal mine in Ebervale."

Zinke, Pruitt Welcome Aggregates Industry To DC.

Aggregate Research Industries (9/27) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt "welcomed the aggregates industry to Washington, DC during the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association's Legislative & Policy Forum/Fall Board Meeting." Both officials commented "on the burden of over-regulation facing businesses in the country." Zinke said, "If I didn't think that it could be done, I wouldn't be the Secretary. We have good people and we have great plans and great assets. We need to put them together and allow industry to innovate, think out of the box and get the job done. That's not too much to ask for a great country like ours."

Interior Officials Ready A Big Fashion Statement.

E&E Publishing (9/27, Doyle) reports that officials at the Interior Department are "now tailoring a lucrative uniform contract to help park rangers and other employees dress for success." According to the article, "the new uniform contract for eight different agencies could button up the business for the next five years and be worth an estimated $60 million to the winning vendor." Interior Department spokeswoman Heather Swift said, "Getting new uniforms for field personnel is actually a topic that is frequently brought up. The secretary and deputy secretary are both motivated to get this done for the [Interior] team." The article says that "the new uniform issue has become one of the pressing topics repeatedly cited by career employees on Interior's electronic 'ideas box,' established about a month ago (Greenwire, Sept. 25)."

New Mexico Gets $1.1M For Outdoor Recreation Projects.

The AP (9/27) reports that the US Department of the Interior announced $1.1 million in federal grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for New Mexico to use on outdoor recreation

and conservation projects. All 50 states are obtaining a portion of the $93 million set for distribution from the fund. Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) "said the fund in the past has protected places such as Ute Mountain near New Mexico's northern border and Valles Caldera in the Jemez Mountains."

The Dickinson County (IA) News (9/27) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "recently announced that $1,231,917 will be distributed to the state of Iowa for outdoor recreation and conservation projects from the Land and Water Conservation Fund."

The Newark (OH) Advocate (9/27, Martin) reports that Zinke also "announced that $2,782,023 will be distributed to the state of Ohio for outdoor recreation and conservation projects from the Land and Water Conservation Fund."

The Big Horn Radio Network (9/27) reports that Zinke "announced last week that $831,216 will be distributed to Wyoming from the Land and Water Conservation Fund."

Zinke Says His Workers Are Disloyal. They Say His Personnel Moves Break The Law.

The Washington Post (9/27, Fears) reports that according to a spokesperson, Department of the Interior Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall is attempting to "to determine if the U.S. Department of the Interior followed appropriate guidelines and best practices in the reassignment of Senior Executive Service employees." According to reassigned climate scientist Joel Clement's lawyer Katherine Atkinson, Clements "believes...that the administration targeted him because he was speaking out about the danger [of climate change] to Alaska Native Communities." Atkinson added that "as a result, they labeled him as a climate guy." The Post adds that Clement was moved to a position for which he had no experience.

Four NM Federal Lawmakers Decry Inaccuracies In Zinke Report.

The Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (9/27, Soular) reports that "four of five members of New Mexico's congressional delegation sent a letter this week to President Donald Trump's administration, urging officials to reject changes to national monuments as recommended by Interior Department Secretary Ryan Zinke." According to the article, "in particular, the Democrats in the state's delegation have taken aim at what they say are inaccuracies in Zinke's recently leaked report, which reviewed more than two dozen monuments across the country for possible changes." The group "notes, accurately, that Zinke's report recommends changes to monument management plans — formal documents used by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to guide its oversight of the lands in question — that don't exist."

Federal Fire Suppression Memo Gets Mixed Response; Forestry Experts, Managers Praise Intent, Criticize Approach.

The Bend (OR) Bulletin (9/27, Hamway) reports that "near the peak of one of the most disruptive fire seasons in recent memory across the Western United States, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke called for more aggressive fire suppression efforts." But "forestry experts and forest managers in Central Oregon said that while the memo had some good ideas, some of its approaches were too broad for the region's complex ecosystem, and limited without being accompanied by funding."

Interior Dept. Sued For Petroleum Institute Meeting Records.

Law360 (9/27, Lidgett) reports in a paywall only article, "A nonprofit government watchdog group on Wednesday hit the U.S. Department of the Interior with a federal lawsuit for allegedly refusing to hand over various records pertaining to a meeting that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke had with the board of directors of the American Petroleum Institute."

Burgum: Goal Of Doubling Oil Production In North Dakota 'May Be Too Low'.

The Jamestown (ND) Sun (9/27, Baumgarten) reports the annual North Dakota Petroleum Council meeting was held on Wednesday. Vincent DeVito, counselor on energy policy for the Interior Department, was among the speakers. DeVito said, "The Department of Interior being a better business partner for investors, those that want to develop on federal land, is the key to our strategy to energy dominance."

Additional coverage was provided by the Dickinson (ND) Press (9/27, Baumgarten).

EPA Chief Flew On Private And Military Aircraft For Official Business: Report.

The Hill (9/27, Greenwood) reports that Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt "used both private and military aircraft for official travel over the summer." Pruitt flew

from Cincinnati to JFK Airport on an Air Force plane on June 7 before boarding a commercial flight to Italy for the Group of Seven environment summit. An EPA spokesman told CNN that use of the military plane had been necessary "due to logistical obstacles and the need to schedule meetings with the Vatican before the G7 Summit." Both flights were "reportedly cleared by the agency's ethics council."

The Washington Post (9/27, Dennis, Eilperin) reports that "on July 27, records show, Pruitt and six staff members arranged a flight on a Department of Interior plane from Tulsa to the tiny outpost of Guymon, Okla., at a cost of $14,434.50."

Trump's Most (and Least) Popular Cabinet Members.

Politico (9/27) reports that in a poll on the popularity of Cabinet members, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke scored: "22% favorable, 22% unfavorable, 22% have no opinion of him, and 34% haven't heard of him."

Also reporting are The Hill (9/27, Bowden) and UPI (9/27, Shayanian).

Yes, Trump Can Revoke National Monuments.

In an op-ed for the Washington Post (9/27, Wood), Jonathan Wood, an attorney at Pacific Legal Foundation and an adjunct fellow at the Property and Environment Research Center, argues that "nothing in the Antiquities Act forbids the president from revoking or shrinking a national monument." For support, Wood points to history: "Seven presidents have shrunk national monuments, including President William Howard Taft, who reduced the Navajo National Monument by nearly 90 percent." Furthermore, Wood argues that "there is a reason we allow presidents to undo the actions of their predecessors. A president who could unilaterally set policy forever would have far too much power and be free of political checks and balances."

Experts Assess Interior Secretary Zinke's Proposals.

In a piece for the Conversation (UK) (9/27), four experts analyze Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendations on national monuments. Robert B. Keiter, Professor of Law at the University of Utah, writes that if a legal challenge is filed, "the case will likely turn on whether authority to modify national monuments can be inferred from the Antiquities Act's silence." Anthony Moffa, Professor of Law at the University of Maine; and Sarah Schindler Professor of Law at the University of Maine, write that Katahdin Woods and Waters is "already specially regulated to allow hunting and snowmobiling – activities that typically are prohibited in national parks and monuments." They argue that "Zinke's recommendation to add timber harvesting would violate the terms of the agreement and the careful balance between uses that the landowners sought." Syma A. Ebbin, Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Connecticut, writes that closing "monuments to high-impact and industrial fishing practices could help protect or restore the habitats, species and other important environmental features that the monuments were created to safeguard."

Don't Let Fake Narrative Block Monuments Review.

In an op-ed for the Flathead (MT) Beacon (9/27, Denowh), Chuck Denowh, the policy director of United Property Owners of Montana, writes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has "made an admirable attempt to solicit input from Montanans about how national monuments have affected our state." Denowh is dismayed "that effort has been drowned out by fake advertisements aimed at misleading Montanans and funded by out-of-state environmental groups." Denowh dismisses the claim that the monuments review will "result in the federal government selling federal land to private entities" as "ridiculous."

Op-Ed: We Must Protect Wild Utah.

In an op-ed for the Deseret (UT) News (9/27, Abdo), Mike Abdo writes that the Antiquities Act was "rightfully and appropriately invoked in the creation" of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and the Bears Ears National Monument. Abdo calls on citizens to speak out against Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's plan "to eviscerate and exploit our national monuments."

Thomas Mitchell: Zinke's National Monument Modifications Too Modest.

In his column for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (9/27, Mitchell), Thomas Mitchell calls Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendations on national monuments "far too modest." He notes that "Zinke recommended unspecified changes to the Gold Butte boundaries but totally ignored the massive 700,000-acre Basin and Range National Monument that straddles the border between

Nye and Lincoln counties, even though members of the Congressional Western Caucus recommended reducing it to 2,500 acres – 'the smallest area compatible,' as the law says, to protect the Indian petroglyphs there."

Bureau Of Land Management

Obama-Era Fracking Rule May Soon Go Back Into Effect, Or Not.

Wyoming Public Radio (9/27, McKim) reports that after a federal appellate court vacated a 2015 decision which stopped an Obama Administration Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fracking rule, the March 2015 rule may go into effect.

The Sublette (WY) Examiner (9/27, Ufford) reports that Wyoming, among other states, challenged the March 2015 BLM rule by "arguing the BLM does not have regulatory authority over fracking on public lands and that states' regulations provide sufficient guidance." Comments regarding the fracking rule were due to the BLM by Monday, Sept. 25.

Independent Oil, Gas Producers Push For The Withdrawal Of Hydraulic Fracturing Rule. DailyEnergyInsider (9/27, Randolph) reports that Monday the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA), and the Western Energy Alliance presented the Bureau of Land Management with comments urging the end of its March 2015 hydraulic fracturing rule on Native American and federal lands. According to the comments, rescinding the rule would allow the industry to save more than $220 million each year. The comments come after the BLM's recent proposal to retract the March 2015 rule. The comments also said, "the Associations are grateful that BLM now realizes that the one-size-fits-all solution the agency issued in 2015 was not an appropriate mechanism to address unsubstantiated public concern about hydraulic fracturing."

Senate Bill Could Trigger Mass Slaughter Of Wild Mustang.

CBS News (9/27) reports that "the fate of thousands of wild horses hangs in the balance as the Senate considers an amendment to a spending bill that would allow euthanasia of mustangs and burros roaming free on land owned by the federal government." The amendment would allow the Bureau of Land Management "to sell excess wild horses without an assurance they wouldn't be slaughtered." According to the article, "the matter will eventually be settled in negotiations between the Senate and the House."

It's A No Brainer: Republicans Should Be Opposed To Horse Slaughter. For the "Congress" blog of The Hill (9/27, Horowitz), author David Horowitz writes that congressional Republicans will "commit political suicide" if they "legalize the slaughter of America's wild horses." Horowitz points to polls which "show that 80 percent of men, 90 percent of women and 86 percent of Trump supporters oppose horse slaughter." He claims that "the push to slaughter wild horses is coming from a narrow – but powerful – special interest lobby in the D.C. swamp made up of millionaire and billionaire cattle ranchers on America's federal lands." Horowitz urges Republican leaders in the Senate "to come out forcefully against the House bill." He also wants President Trump to says "that he will veto any legislation to legalize the slaughter of America's horses."

Tribes Ask Feds To Halt Drilling Leases In Chaco Region.

The Santa Fe New Mexican (9/28, Moss) reports that "leaders of a dozen New Mexico pueblos are asking the federal government to stop all new oil and gas development near sacred sites surrounding the Chaco Culture National Historical Park, following the recent announcement of a preliminary plan by the Bureau of Land Management to lease thousands of acres in the region in early 2018." The All Pueblo Council of Governors, "in a resolution signed last week, said it is asking the BLM and Bureau of Indian Affairs to halt any further drilling leases and permits in northwestern New Mexico's Greater Chaco Region, generally defined as the land lying within at least a 10-mile radius of the national park, as well as other areas holding cultural significance between the tiny Navajo communities of White Rock and Nageezi in San Juan County." According to the resolution, the moratorium is necessary "to preserve sacred archaeological sites, protect views and maintain the darkness of the night sky at Chaco, deemed a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its vast collection of ancient ruins."

Fracking Protesters: Our Concerns Are Being Ignored.

WOUB-FM Athens, OH (9/27, Niemeyer) reports that "environmental activist groups say a federal agency is ignoring their concerns and protests over the leasing of land for oil and gas development in the Wayne National Forest." Bureau of Land Management officials "held a third

lease auction of the Wayne National Forest on Thursday, leasing another 141 acres to develop 'oil and gas reserves' in Monroe County." Local activist groups "protested in front of the Wayne National Forest's Marietta office on Sept. 9, but many of these protesters feel their efforts are brushed aside."

Game And Fish Open To BLM Land Transfers.

The Jackson Hole (WY) News & Guide (9/27, Gross) reports that Wyoming Game and Fish is "re-evaluating whether it wants to take on ownership of several riparian parcels scattered along the Snake River in Teton County." More than a decade ago the Bureau of Land Management "announced it wished to dispose of 24 parcels from the Snake's confluence with the Gros Ventre River to South Park."

Judge Rejects Cliven Bundy's Request To Represent Himself.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal (9/27, Ferrara) reports that "a judge on Wednesday denied Bunkerville rancher Cliven Bundy's request to represent himself at trial next month on charges related to a 2014 standoff with the Bureau of Land Management." U.S. Magistrate Judge Peggy Leen "asked Bundy a series of questions in order to determine whether he could act as his own lawyer in what is expected to be a lengthy trial with six other defendants." In the end, the judge decided defense attorney Bret Whipple "should remain as the trial attorney."

BLM Needs To Answer Questions.

In an editorial, the Bend (OR) Bulletin (9/27) questions when the Bureau of Land Management will "start being open about a private home built on 18 acres of public land near Prineville." The paper says that "the BLM needs to answer questions" since it is "the public's land that we are talking about, after all, and the public deserves to know how its disposition is being handled."

Common Sense Protection For Crooked River Ranch.

In an op-ed for the Bend (OR) Bulletin (9/27, Walden), Rep. Greg Walden writes that in response to the wildfire threat, residents of Crooked River Ranch have "done their part by thinning and trimming junipers to create defensible space around their homes." However, "encumbered by the red tape of a Wilderness Study Area (WSA), the federal government on the adjacent Bureau of Land Management-managed land has not done its part, leaving the community in harm's way." Walden has introduced legislation — the Crooked River Ranch Fire Protection Act — that "makes very targeted, common sense changes to allow for practical management of the fire fuels that surround Crooked River Ranch." According to Walden, "this legislation simply moves the WSA boundary a few hundred yards back to the canyon rim, giving firefighters the defensive space they need to help save the Crooked River Ranch community from the potential of a devastating wildfire."

Bureau Of Reclamation

US, Mexico Reach Deal To Conserve Colorado River Water.

The AP (9/27, Lee, Elliott) reports that "the United States and Mexico unveiled an agreement Wednesday to preserve the overtaxed Colorado River, including spending millions of dollars on conservation and environmental projects and drawing up plans to deal with any shortages amid drought and climate change." The United States "pledged to invest $31.5 million in water conservation projects in Mexico, such as lining irrigation ditches with concrete to reduce leaks and upgrading irrigation equipment to use less water." The nine-year agreement is "an amendment to a 1944 treaty that governs how the U.S. and Mexico share and manage the river, which flows through both nations. It expands on a 2012 amendment that expires at the end of this year."

Also reporting are the Los Angeles Times (9/27, Montero), the Las Vegas Review-Journal (9/27, Brean), the Arizona Republic (9/27, Loomis), the Arizona Republic (9/27), and the Los Angeles Times (9/27, Montero).

Fish And Wildlife Service

US Fish And Wildlife Service Approved Delta Pumping Increase.

The Sacramento (CA) Bee (9/27, Sabalow) reports that "federal fisheries regulators have

approved a controversial plan opposed by environmental groups that would allow for more pumping from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta this fall." On Wednesday, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "signed off on a proposal championed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and south state California water interests to ramp up Delta pumping starting next week." Paul Souza, the wildlife services regional director in Sacramento, said in a prepared statement, "We believe this modification will help strike a balance between this year's water needs for wildlife, agriculture and municipalities."

US Agency To Decide If Pacific Walrus Is Threatened Species.

The AP (9/27, Joling) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "faces a deadline this week to decide whether the iconic Pacific walrus will join the polar bear on the threatened species list." The agency "under a court settlement has until Saturday to decide whether the Pacific walrus should be put on the list because of threats to its sea ice habitat due to climate change."

Enviros Sound The Alarm On ANWR.

The Alaska Public Radio Network (9/27, Ruskin) reports that "environmentalists are warning that the Republican plan to cut taxes could include a move that would open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling." A draft of the Senate budget plan for 2018 is "likely to emerge next week." Although "no one expects the document to mention the Arctic Refuge by name," Lydia Weiss of The Wilderness Society "said she's concerned it will include vague instructions to the Senate Energy Committee to find a billion dollars or more in revenues." Weiss said, "There is no doubt that that is an invitation to Sen. Murkowski to attach an Arctic Refuge drilling rider."

James River Wildlife Refuge Opens To Public For A Day.

The Chesterfield (VA) Observer (9/27, Griset) reports that the Presquile National Wildlife Refuge will "open to the public this Saturday for its fifth annual field day." According to the article, "visitors to the refuge will have the opportunity to traverse the island's boardwalks, interior creeks and 3.5 miles of wildlife observation trails."

Man Smuggles Live Corals Inside Pringles Potato Chip Containers At LAX, Authorities Say.

The Los Angeles Times (9/27, Service) reports that "two Southern California men and representatives of two local companies are facing federal charges of illegally trading in live corals that are protected by an international treaty but frequently are used to decorate aquariums." Jose Torres is "charged with unlawfully attempting to export to Mexico some 20 varieties of live corals protected by the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora — known as CITES — according to the U.S. attorney's office." In a second indictment, Jorge Vazquez is "charged with unlawfully attempting to export live, CITES-protected corals."

Two Florida Men Plead Guilty To Tying Up Endangered Key Deer.

The AP (9/27) reports that "two Florida men have pleaded guilty to violating the U.S. Endangered Species Act for tying up three tiny Key deer in the back of a car in July." According to the article, "18-year-old Erik Yosany Damas Acosta of Miami Gardens and 23-year-old Tumani Anthony Younge of Tamara each face up to a year in federal prison after signing plea agreements Monday in Fort Lauderdale federal court." Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Watts-Fitzgerald "said prosecutors would ask for leniency at their Oct. 30 sentencing in Key West federal court."

National Park Service

National Parks Struggle With A Mounting Crisis: Too Many Visitors.

The New York Times (9/27, Turkewitz) reports that the number of national park visitors has "reached an unprecedented level, leaving many tourists frustrated and many environmentalists concerned about the toll of overcrowding." In 2016, the National Park Service "tracked a record 331 million visits, and after a busy summer, the system is likely to surpass that number this year." The article notes that "the crowding problem comes as the system faces the dual threat of a funding shortage and climate change."

U.S. Rep. Smith Confident About National Park Legislation.

The Ste. Genevieve (MO) Herald (9/27) reports that during his Farm Tour visit to Loida Ag, Rep. Jason Smith "expressed confidence that the legislation to establish a National Park Service unit in

Ste. Genevieve, introduced in June, will pass through the House." He said, "I've spoken to the chairman of Natural Resources and got a very good response. He's very open to the idea. I've been working with Senator [Roy] Blunt, and I'm very hopeful." The legislation has "been introduced in both a stand-alone bill and a portion of a bigger energy bill."

Giant Naked Woman Sculpture Planned For National Mall.

WJLA-TV Washington (9/27, Carter-Conneen) reports that "this fall, National Mall visitors might be surprised to find a giant sculpture of a naked woman near the Washington Monument." For a third year, organizers of Catharsis on the Mall "plan to bring music, art and activism to the National Mall over Veteran's Day weekend." If their "permit is approved, the sculpture would become a temporary fixture, allowed to stand there for four months." National Park Service spokesperson Mike Litterst said, "They do have the requirement of having at least one person with it at all times. You can't abandon structures or property as part of the vigil."

23 From 13 Countries Took The Oath Of Allegiance In Morristown.

The Morristown (NJ) Daily Record (9/27, Wright) reports that 33 people from 13 countries "took the oath of allegiance during a naturalization ceremony in Washington's Headquarters Museum Auditorium within Morristown National Historical Park." The ceremony was hosted by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and the National Park Service. The article notes that "it was the ninth time the National Park Service and USCIS partnered on a naturalization ceremony at a national landmark."

NPS Reopening Cape Lookout Friday.

The Carteret County (NC) News-Times (9/27) reports that the National Park Service "announced Wednesday that Cape Lookout National Seashore will reopen on North Core, South Core, and Shackleford Banks at 8 a.m. Friday." According to the park service, "based on current weather models, Hurricane Maria is down to 75 mph and her forecast track is to begin to move northeast of the park out into the Atlantic Ocean." The park "remains under a storm surge warning, with an estimated 2-4-foot surge continuing to pound southern Outer Banks beaches."

Comment Period Extended On Olympics Mountain Goat Plan.

The AP (9/27) reports that Olympic National Park officials are "giving people more time to weigh in on their plan to remove non-native mountain goats from the park." The Peninsula (WA) Daily News (9/27, Leach) reports that "the comment period, originally set to end Tuesday, has been extended to Oct. 10."

Park Service Superintendent Donahue To Retire.

The Pocono (PA) News (9/28) reports that Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Superintendent John Donahue will "retire from the National Park Service on December 3, 2017, capping off a 38-year federal career that took him to numerous national park units in several different roles."

Ranger: Yosemite Rock Fall Kills 1, Injures Another.

The AP (9/27, Press) reports that "a rock fall Wednesday on the granite face of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park killed one person and injured another at the height of climbing season, an official said." The injured person was transported to a hospital near the park. The article says that "officials didn't provide details on the size of the rock fall, but climbers posted pictures on social media from hundreds of feet up the wall showing billowing white dust moments after the crash."

Also reporting are the New York Times (9/27, Haag), the Washington Post (9/27, Chason), the Los Angeles Times (9/27, Tchekmedyian), the New York Daily News (9/28, Elizalde), NPR (9/27, Campbell), the Huffington Post (9/27, Visser), and Reuters (9/27, Whitcomb).

East Stroudsburg Man Convicted Of Striking Park Ranger With Car.

The Allentown (PA) Morning Call (9/27, Hall) reports that "a federal jury in Scranton convicted a Monroe County man Tuesday of assault and fleeing law enforcement for striking a ranger with his car in a hit and run at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area last year." Damari Roulhac "faces a maximum of 10 years in prison and a $250,000 fine when he is sentenced Jan. 30."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Trump Says He Is "Thinking About" Jones Act Waiver For Puerto Rico.

The Hill (9/27, Bowden) reports that President Trump "said Wednesday that he is 'thinking about' lifting the rule barring foreign-flagged vessels from delivering goods between American ports to help hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico." Trump told reporters, "Well, we're thinking about [temporarily lifting the Jones Act], but we have a lot of shippers, and a lot of people, and a lot of people who work in the shipping industry that don't want the Jones Act lifted."

On ABC World News Tonight (9/27, story 3, 2:20, Muir), Eva Pilgrim said, "For Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, a waiver of that act was granted. The President says he's considering the same for Hurricane Maria, but that a lot of shippers and people who work in the shipping industry don't want it waived. The President is planning to visit Puerto Rico on Tuesday."

McClatchy (9/27, Daugherty, Ordoñez) reports that both Republicans and Democrats are telling Trump that Puerto Rico "is now a humanitarian crisis." But the Administration has not yet waived the Jones Act, even though it "was waived in Texas after Hurricane Harvey and in Florida after Hurricane Irma to allow for more efficient fuel delivery." Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló said that "he expects the Trump administration to eventually waive the law."

The Wall Street Journal (9/27, Andrews, Page) reports that Sen. John McCain, who has long sought repeal of the Jones Act, wrote in a letter to DHS, "It is unacceptable to force the people of Puerto Rico to pay at least twice as much for food, clean drinking water, supplies and infrastructure due to Jones Act requirements as they work to recover from this disaster. Now, more than ever, it is time to realize the devastating effect of this policy and implement a full repeal of this archaic and burdensome Act."

Seven House Democrats also signed a letter calling for a Jones Act suspension, and the Washington Examiner (9/27, Tritten) reports that a group of 145 House Democrats is urging Trump to send an aircraft carrier to Puerto Rico. In a Wednesday letter, they wrote, "To fulfill DOD's mission, we believe the aircraft carrier, USS Abraham Lincoln, should be sent to the region, similar to its deployment to Miami following Hurricane Irma." Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) said on MSNBC's Morning Joe (9/27), "I'm saying to President Trump, you need to quadruple your efforts and have a coordinated Department of Defense response to this. It's estimated we need at least about 50,000 troops there, even after Haiti we had 20,000."

The Washington Post (9/27, A1, Hernández, Lamothe, O'Keefe, Achenbach) reports the Administration "is rushing military hardware and personnel to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands as it becomes increasingly clear" that the federal response so far "has been inadequate and overmatched by the scale of the disaster." However, the AP (9/27, Fox, Coto) reports that many on the island are "waiting for help from anyone from the federal or Puerto Rican government. But the scope of the devastation is so broad, and the relief effort so concentrated in San Juan, that many people from outside the capital say they have received little to no help." The Los Angeles Times (9/27, Vives, Hennessy-Fiske, Etehad) reports that "for many in Puerto Rico, Hurricane Maria's aftermath has been even more harrowing than the mighty storm itself." But FEMA has been stressed by communications issues on the island, as well as by the attention still needed in the aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

Anthony Mason opened the CBS Evening News (9/27, lead story, 2:35) by reporting, "One week after Hurricane Maria invaded Puerto Rico, frustration is growing. Relief supplies are arriving on the island, but getting them to the nearly 3.5 million people in desperate need is close to impossible. Power is still out, and the FCC said today more than 91 percent of the cell phone sites are out of service." On NBC Nightly News (9/27, lead story, 2:55, Holt), Gabe Gutierrez reported, "Across the island, supplies still aren't getting where they're supposed to. ... The agonizing lines for gas begin before dawn, stretching for blocks in the sweltering heat. ... They tell you the federal help is coming, but you haven't seen it." Unidentified speaker: "No, we haven't seen anything." The CBS Evening News (9/27, story 2, 2:10, Mason) had a report on how the island's lack of electricity is exacerbating the growing health crisis.

Rosselló Praises Trump's Response To Maria. Reuters (9/27, Respaut, DiSavino) reports that Rosselló "has strongly praised" Trump's response, "defending the Republican administration against complaints of being slow to act and showing too little concern." In an interview with the New York Times (9/27, Robles), Rosselló said, "I have spoken to him at least five times. ... He has been acting proactively. He issued two pre-landfall emergency declarations for Puerto Rico. That had never been done before. He declared Puerto Rico a disaster area practically while the storm was still hitting Puerto Rico."

The New York Times (9/27, Nixon, Stevens) writes that while "some lawmakers have accused President Trump of failing to respond adequately to the crisis in Puerto Rico," an analysis of his actions "paints a more complicated picture." Trump "approved major disaster declarations

and ordered federal aid for the states of Texas and Florida, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico equally quickly – in each case, on the day the hurricane made landfall." But "he was not equally quick to visit each place in the storms' aftermath."

Puerto Rico Bondholders Offer $1 Billion Loan, Cancellation Of Power Company's Debt. The New York Times (9/27, Walsh) reports that the "investors holding the island power company's defaulted bonds...have offered to lend Puerto Rico $1 billion to pay for urgent repairs and to cancel $150 million of the power company's outstanding debt in the process." The loan "would not be enough to replace the island's aged electrical system," but the bondholders say that their offer "would allow Puerto Rico to apply for federal grants for long-term rebuilding that would not have to be repaid."

Federal Judge Warns That Exodus From Puerto Rico Would Have Lasting Impact. Second Circuit US Court of Appeals Judge José Cabranes, who was born in Puerto Rico, writes in the Washington Post (9/27), "A vast internal migration of US citizens is likely in the months ahead, as tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans, possibly 1 million or more over time, choose to move to the US mainland." This would be "an additional, slow-motion disaster inflicted on an island that can ill afford to lose any more of its best and brightest," and it would "accelerate and deepen the social and economic crisis in Puerto Rico."

Maria Returns To Hurricane Status, But No Longer Threatens Land. ABC World News Tonight (9/27, story 4, 0:20, Muir) and NBC Nightly News (9/27, story 3, 0:20, Holt) both briefly reported that Maria has returned to Category 1 hurricane status, no longer threatening land but causing dangers along the coast off North Carolina.

Storms Amplified USVI's Economic Crisis.

The New York Times (9/27, A1, Peters) reports that "the one-two punch of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria 14 days later" severely hurt the US Virgin Islands, which even before the storms "had barely enough cash to keep the government funded for three days" and a debt "so large that Wall Street stopped lending it money." As the islands' 103,000 residents "wait for doctors, medicine, fuel and manpower to rebuild the flattened communications and power grid, the economic toll from the storms is only starting to come to light."

80 Student Leaders Participate In Youth Summit.

Marianas Variety (9/28, Lirio) reports that "policy proposals to address concerns regarding the economy, the budget, health, welfare, education and the environment were presented to lawmakers by 80 high school students who participated in this year's Close Up Youth Summit held at Saipan World Resort on Sept. 20, 21 and 22." The event was sponsored by the Close Up Insular Areas Program which is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs.

Marshalls Trust Fund Panel Meets In Hawaii.

Marianas Variety (9/28) reports that "the Trust Fund Committee of the Trust Fund for the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands conducted its fiscal year 2017 fourth quarter meetings Aug. 31 in Honolulu, Hawaii." The article notes that "as of Sept. 30, 2016, assets of the Trust Fund for the People of the Marshall Islands were valued at $294,545,533."

FSM Trust Fund Panel Meets In Hawaii.

Marianas Variety (9/28) reports that "the Trust Fund Committee of the Trust Fund for the People of the Federated States of Micronesia conducted its fiscal year 2017 fourth quarter meetings on Sept. 1 in Honolulu, Hawaii." The article notes that "as of Sept. 30, 2016, assets of the Trust Fund for the People of the Federated States of Micronesia were valued at $466,938,730."

Additional Reading.

- ***Ham Radio Hobbyists Are Connecting The Caribbean After Hurricane Maria.*** Motherboard (9/26, Emerson).
- ***FEMA Chief: Feds 'Working Tirelessly Around The Clock' To Aid In Maria Recovery.*** The Hill (9/26, Delk).
- ***Food And Water Distribution Pauses Territorywide.*** Virgin Islands Daily News (9/26, O'CONNOR).
- ***Business Leaders In St. Thomas Share 'Strong, Positive' Ideas With Mapp At Meeting; Express Optimism About Territory's Recovery ‹.*** Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR) (9/27).
- ***Trump To Visit Puerto Rico After Criticism Of Crisis Response.*** Financial Times (9/26, Weaver,

Platt).

US Geological Survey

Moab Watershed Study Completed.

The Moab (UT) Sun News (9/27, Trenbeath) reports that "findings from a completed U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) watershed study for Moab and Spanish Valley were presented on Thursday, Sept. 21, at the Grand Center to an assembled crowd of about 75 people." The three-year study, commenced in 2014, was "spearheaded by the Utah Division of Water Rights (DWRI), to determine the rate of recharge for the Glen Canyon Group and Valley-Fill aquifers in order to arrive at a water budget for Moab and Spanish Valley." The DWRI "plans to use the study's findings to aid in the development of a groundwater management plan to guide future development in both the Grand and San Juan County portions of the valley."

Additional Reading.

- ***Hurricane Irma: Former Holiday Isle Marina In Keys Tells Bat Captains To Stay Away.*** Miami Herald (9/27, Wadlow).
- ***Major Quake Disaster In Southern California Could Cause $300 Billion In Losses.*** CNBC (9/27, Daniels).
- ***Timelapse Video Shows Kamokuna Lava Delta Growing, Sinking.*** KFVE-TV Honolulu (9/27).
- ***3 Earthquakes Reported In West Texas Wednesday.*** KRBC-TV Abilene, TX (9/27).

Top National News

Trump Touts Tax Cut Plan In Indianapolis.

During a speech in Indianapolis on Wednesday, President Trump pitched the tax cut plan negotiated by the Administration and the Republican leadership in both chambers. Media coverage of the plan is heavy, but noticeably lighter than recent coverage of the President's comments criticizing the NFL. While the coverage almost universally highlights Trump's call for large cuts to individual and corporate tax rates, much of it is negative in tone, saying the plan leaves many questions unanswered and questioning Trump's assertion that the wealthy will not benefit.

WISH-TV Indianapolis (9/27, 5:01 p.m. EDT) reported that Trump "wasted very little time talking about how his tax plan could benefit the state and the country." Trump: "Americans waste so much money, billions and billions of dollars and many hours each year with our ridiculous tax code. More than 90 percent of Americans use assistance to prepare their taxes. Under our framework, the vast majority of Americans will be able to file their taxes on a single sheet of paper."

WTHR-TV Indianapolis (9/27, 5:04 p.m. EDT) reported that Trump "called on Americans to support his plan to bring back American jobs, wealth and the American dream." Trump: "If you demand it, the politicians will listen. They will answer, and they will act and, someday, many years from now, our children and our grandchildren will remember this moment in history as the time when ordinary Americans took control of their destiny and chose a future of American patriotism, prosperity and pride." In an exclusive interview, WTHR asked Trump how he squares raising the lowest individual tax and lowering the corporate tax. Trump said, "We're bringing the corporate tax down to a level where the companies that are leaving this country – they're going to be hiring a lot of people. It's all about jobs. So we're lowering the working people's – I call it the working people's tax way down. We're bringing the corporate tax down so that corporations won't leave the country and they'll hire a lot of people."

To the AP (9/27, Thomas), the President was in "full salesman mode" as he presented the plan, which "seeks to slash the corporate rate from 35 percent to 20 percent and create three individual tax brackets with rates of 12 percent, 25 percent and 35 percent, with a recommended surcharge on the very wealthy." Townhall (9/27, Pavlich) reports that Trump "urged voters to call their congressmen in support," saying, "Call your congressmen, call your senators, let them know you are watching. Let them know you're waiting. Tell them that today is the day for decision. That now is the time to heal this self-inflicted economic [wound] and that with their action, the future would belong to all of us. ... If you demand it, the politicians will listen. They will answer and they will act."

The Washington Times (9/27, Miller) reports that Trump "said tax reform hasn't been a partisan issue in Washington in the past, and it shouldn't be divisive this time, either." Trump said, "There is no reason that Democrats and Republicans in Congress should not come together to deliver this giant win for the American people and begin the 'middle-class miracle' once again." Pointing to Democratic Sen. Joe Donnelly, who traveled with him on Air Force One, Trump said, "If Sen. Donnelly doesn't approve it – you know he's on the other side – we will come here and campaign against him." The Indianapolis Star (9/27) reports that Donnelly has called for "a bipartisan effort that will give working and middle-class families greater economic security."

Other coverage is more negative in tone. For example, USA Today (9/27, Groppe) says Trump is "seeking a much-needed win as he recovers from Republicans' failure to repeal Obamacare and the loss of Luther Strange, Trump's chosen candidate in the Alabama Senate primary on Tuesday." USA Today adds that "many details are still to be worked out, including how much the changes would add to the deficit." Likewise, the Los Angeles Times (9/27, Puzzanghera, Mascaro) also says the plan leaves "a lot of unanswered questions."

The Wall Street Journal (9/27, Rubin) also points out the political stakes for the White House and congressional Republicans in the wake of their unsuccessful push to repeal the ACA. Republicans, the Journal says, are anxious to post a legislative victory in advance of the 2018 elections. Similarly, the New York Times (9/27, Davis, Rappeport) says Trump, who is "smarting from the latest defeat" of his efforts to repeal the ACA, "began a full-throttle push to slash taxes and salvage what is left of his foundering legislative agenda in Congress, proposing a politically challenging array of tax cuts for individuals and businesses that would constitute the most sweeping changes to the federal tax code in decades." The Times adds that Trump "offered few details about how working people might benefit from a plan that has explicit and substantial rewards for wealthy people and corporations." In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (9/27), David Ricks, chairman and CEO of Eli Lilly & Co., praises the plan, arguing that it will help repair the current tax code which puts American companies at a disadvantage on the world market.

On NBC Nightly News (9/27, story 4, 2:15), Lester Holt said Trump was "short on specifics on how middle class families would benefit." Peter Alexander added that "the long-awaited roll-out is lacking key details, leaving many questions unanswered," and Democrats are "not buying it." Senate Minority Leader Schumer: "He ain't walking the walk. This is aimed at the wealthiest people in America. They do far and away the best." Nancy Cordes said on the CBS Evening News (9/27, story 3, 2:30, Mason) that Republicans "made a show of unity today, even as analysts warned the plan could reduce government revenue by $2 trillion or more over the next 10 years." Reuters (9/27, Morgan, Cowan) highlights criticism that the plan "could add trillions of dollars to the deficit," citing warnings from analysts that "huge tax cuts would balloon the federal deficit and debt if economic growth projected by Republicans to offset the costs fails to materialize amid rising interest rates."

The Houston Chronicle (9/27, Diaz) reports that House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady, who will lead the tax reform effort in the House, said the framework is a "starting point for negotiations." The Chronicle adds that it "immediately came under fire from one of the top Democrats on the tax-writing committee, Lloyd Doggett," who said, "The superlatives never match the specifics. ... What President Trump and his Republican cohorts say this plan is, it isn't. The future of this bill depends upon how quickly the truth can catch up with the lie. From what we can already see, it is a blueprint for red ink."

White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short said on Fox News Special Report (9/27), "We are confident in this framework. We think it is one that will work. We think it's best for the American economy. It's best for the American family providing them significant tax relief but also keeping jobs here in America which is something the last administration suffered through. ... We need to get the economy growing and Congress knows that, the American people know that, and we need tax relief." Kellyanne Conway said on Fox News' Fox & Friends (9/27), "The vision is to make it simpler. Americans spend over six billion man hours a year...just complying with the code. The code currently favors the wealthy and privileged and the connected who can hire attorneys and accountants that can help them navigate and take advantage of these deductions and credits, many of which go away in the Donald Trump legislative plan for tax overhaul."

House Speaker Ryan said on Fox News' Hannity (9/27) that tax reform is "one of the most important things we can do to help people in the country. ... This is about economic growth, about bigger paychecks, more jobs, it's about a fairness system in our tax code so we're really excited about this. That's why we spent all this time working with the President and yes working with the Senate and House to make sure we're on the same page so we work off the common

framework to go from here to get this done." Ryan added, "There are a lot of people in this country working paycheck to paycheck. A lot of people in the country because of the slow growth economy never got the raise. A lot of economic anxiety. It's about them, letting those hard working taxpayers keep more of their own money and giving them a tax break."

Roll Call (9/27, McPherson) provides more detail on the policies in the framework released by GOP leaders, many of which "are ones included in the House Republicans' 'A Better Way' plan released last year." Politico (9/27, Faler, Bade) says while the plan "is heavy on the GOP's tax cut desires," it is "light when it comes to explaining whose taxes will have to go up to help control costs." Politico adds that the plan's cost "would run in the trillions," and GOP leaders "want to at least partially defray the cost with offsetting tax increases. But their plans for doing that, for the most part, are still a secret." Republicans plan to "delay spelling out who would have to pay more under their plan, in order to give opponents as little opportunity as possible to mount a counteroffensive."

The Washington Post (9/27, Paletta, Debonis, Johnson) similarly reports that the framework "left many key questions unanswered," and adds that Republicans were "careful not to identify numerous tax breaks they might remove, focusing instead on promises to lower rates." In Indianapolis, The Hill (9/27, Fabian, Jagoda) says Trump promised that the plan is "'not good' for wealthy individuals like himself." He said that "the 'wealthy and well-connected' can beg him all they want for a more favorable tax plan, but that 'it's not going to help.'"

However, a USA Today (9/27, Przybyla) analysis says the plan "would eliminate the individual Alternative Minimum Tax and estate taxes" and "tax so-called 'pass through' businesses at 25%," all of which "could greatly benefit Trump and his family's business empire." Likewise, a New York Times (9/27, Appelbaum) analysis reports that the plan "is a potentially huge windfall for the wealthiest Americans," citing its call to "sharply reduce taxation of business income," and eliminate the estate tax, "which affects just a few thousand uber-wealthy families each year, and the alternative minimum tax, a safety net designed to prevent tax avoidance." A separate New York Times (9/27, Qiu) analysis says Trump and Republicans offered "several misleading and false claims to bolster their framework for the overhaul." While Trump said the wealthy will not benefit, Roberton Williams, an analyst at the Tax Policy Center, said they "almost certainly" will as a result of the estate tax and alternative minimum tax repeals. The Times adds that lowering the top marginal income tax rate "would also benefit the wealthy, though the plan does not specify which income levels it would affect."

In an op-ed for USA Today (9/27), Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch calls the framework "a major step forward for tax reform" and "a huge win for middle-class families and low-income taxpayers." Sen. Cory Gardner said on CNN's Situation Room (9/27), "I think there is a lot of merit to this plan. ... I think this is a significant advancement over the complex system we have today. So I like this. I believe I can support something like this. There is a lot of to do in this process yet, a lot of room to continue this debate."

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (9/27, Mauriello) reports that Sen. Pat Toomey, a member of the Senate Finance Committee who helped develop the framework, told reporters, "The biggest thing people are going to see is a tax deduction for themselves, a simplification in terms of their filing, and I think they're going to see a very strong economy. They're going to see more job opportunities, upward pressure on wages, bigger job gains [and] fewer unemployed people." Toomey "expects a Senate vote on the federal budget in the next two weeks, and that would clear a path for tax reform later this fall." Toomey "hopes it to be signed into law by year's end." However, in the lead story for ABC World News Tonight (9/27, lead story, 2:35, Muir), Jonathan Karl said that is "an extremely ambitious timeline. This will be a heavy lift even to get done by next year. That said, there is immense pressure on Republicans, both here at the White House and on Capitol Hill, to show that they can deliver on this."

Thursday's editorial pages are divided over the plan with traditionally conservative outlets voicing support and traditionally liberal outlets criticizing it. A Washington Examiner (9/27) editorial laments that it has taken Republicans so long to offer a plan after taking "unified control of the government" 11 months ago, but says it is "a great start" and expresses hope that it "quickly becomes legislation then law, and thus quickly fosters economic growth and new well-paid jobs." The Wall Street Journal (9/27) says in an editorial that the plan could jump start the economic expansion and increase wages but Republicans must do a better job of promoting it than they did with their healthcare plan and resist special interests as it make its way through Congress.

A USA Today (9/27) editorial takes a different view, saying that the plan's "call to reduce the top corporate tax rate from 35% to 20%...is sound and overdue," as is "the effort to simplify what President Trump correctly called the 'ridiculously complex' individual income tax code," but,

"a lack of fiscal restraint, plus two unwarranted giveaways to America's financial elite, make this version unworthy of support." The New York Times (9/27) also opposes the plan, arguing in an editorial that it would "greatly increase the federal deficit, would not turbocharge economic growth and could leave many middle-class families worse off by ending deductions they rely on." Moreover, it "would do little or nothing to improve the lot of the working class, a group President Trump says he is fighting for" and would "instead provide a windfall to hedge fund managers, corporate executives, real estate developers and other members of the 1 percent."

Home Builders Endorse Plan, Increasing Vulnerability Of The Mortgage-Interest Deduction. Politico (9/27, Woellert) reports that while members of the housing industry "typically lock arms to defend the mortgage-interest tax deduction," the National Association of Home Builders "split with industry allies" to endorse the plan, "increasing the vulnerability" of the deduction "that was once considered untouchable." Politico adds that while many in the industry "publicly criticized the White House tax plan released Wednesday, many quietly admit they're playing defense."

Politico Analysis: Changing Top Rate Has No "Predictable Effect On Economic Growth." Reporting that the Tax Foundation "argued in its analysis of Trump's 2016 campaign proposal that lowering the top income tax rate would lead to increased job opportunities," a Politico (9/27) analysis examines "each time the country changed the top income tax rate and the following five years of GDP per capita growth rate" and found that "changing the top income tax rate does not have a predictable effect on economic growth."

LATimes Analysis: Californians Face A "Big Financial Hit" Under GOP Plan. A Los Angeles Times (9/27, Puzzanghera) analysis says the plan would be a "big financial hit" to many Californians due to its elimination of the federal deduction for state and local taxes, which Sen. Dianne Feinstein cited as "one reason the plan was a 'non-starter' for her." The Times also says the plan's "new limits on the deduction for home mortgage interest, which would have a greater effect on states with higher housing costs, such as California and New York," leave "open the possibility of another big hit."

Trump To Sign Order Allowing People To Buy Health Insurance Across State Lines.

The New York Post (9/27, Fredericks) reports that President Trump said Wednesday that he will sign a "very major" executive order "allowing people to buy health insurance across state lines – a move that would expand consumers' options and possibly lower costs." Trump said he will probably sign the order next week so that "people can go out across state lines, do lots of things, and buy their own healthcare." Sen. Rand Paul revealed the plan Wednesday morning on MSNBC's Morning Joe (9/27), saying, "I think there's going to be big news from the White House in the next week or two, something they can do on their own." Paul added that Trump "can legalize on his own the ability of individuals to join a group or a health association across state lines and buy insurance."

The Washington Post (9/27, Eilperin, Cunningham) says conservatives have "long championed" allowing insurers to offer plans across state lines, arguing it "would lower premiums by fostering greater competition." The Post adds that Administration officials "are confident that addressing this issue would make Paul more open to backing future health-care legislation."

EPA Program Seeks To Engage Industry To Reduce Regulatory Burden.

The Washington Examiner (9/27, Siciliano) reports that the EPA is launching a new program called "Smart Sectors" to work more closely with the energy industry, with the "primary focus of reducing regulations." The sectors the EPA will target includes oil and gas, iron and steel, and utilities and power generation. According the EPA, "Sectors were selected based on each sector's potential to improve the environment and public health."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"A Boondoggle Masquerading As Tax Reform." The New York Times (9/27) argues in an editorial that the Republican tax reform plan would "greatly increase the federal deficit, would not turbocharge economic growth and could leave many middle-class families worse off by ending deductions they rely on." Moreover, it "would do little or nothing to improve the lot of the working class, a group President Trump says he is fighting for" and would "instead provide a windfall to hedge fund managers, corporate executives, real estate developers and other members of the 1 percent."

"Saudi Women Behind The Wheel." The New York Times (9/28, Board) editorializes in favor of Saudi Arabia allowing women to drive, commenting "it is the 21st century in most of the world, after all, and there's not a single other country with so nonsensical a restriction."

"The Corruption At The Heart Of March Madness." The New York Times (9/28, Board) editorializes about college basketball, saying that it has "made much of its money by sleazy recruitment and exploitation of teenage stars." It says college basketball "is supposed to be, but hasn't been for some time, an innocent and amateur sport."

Washington Post.

"Can't We Get This One Thing Right?" In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/27) writes that Congress should pass legislation that ensures current DACA beneficiaries are safe from deportation. While acknowledging it is "fair to haggle over details of the dreamers' long-term legal status," the Post argues that dreamers "are regarded with nearly universal sympathy" and deserve to be granted legal status.

"Saudi Arabia Sheds An Ignoble Distinction." The Washington Post (9/27) editorializes in favor of Saudi Arabia's decision to lift its ban on women driving cars, even though it says it is "a bid to divert the world's attention from the country's other human rights abuses and its war in neighboring Yemen." The Post adds that the change "doesn't address the other restrictions under guardianship laws" but it "is a step in the right direction."

"Tom Price Should Pay Taxpayers Back." The Washington Post (9/27) editorializes that it is difficult "to think of someone in Washington these days who might rival [HHS Secretary] Price for brazen hypocrisy." The Post points out, "This is the very same Mr. Price, remember, who, as a congressman from Georgia for the past 12 years, piously condemned the federal government's 'reckless spending.'" Now, according to the Post, "it turns out that Mr. Price is as spendthrift a swamp creature as you could find in Washington's marshy environs." The Post calls upon Price to "repay American taxpayers the funds...squandered on these jaunts" aboard private airplanes.

Wall Street Journal.

"Tax Reform, If You Can Keep It." A Wall Street Journal (9/27) editorial says the Republican tax reform plan could jump start the economic expansion and increase wages but Republicans must do a better job of promoting it than they did with their healthcare plan and resist special interests as it make its way through Congress.

"Who Really Lost Alabama?" The Wall Street Journal (9/27) says in an editorial that Alabama Republicans' frustrations over Senate Majority Leader McConnell's inability to get ACA repeal through may have tipped the balance in the Senate primary runoff to Roy Moore.

"Jeremy Corbyn On The March." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (9/27) writes that British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn is offering an economic program of higher personal and corporate taxes and rent control – a program that has been shown to be unsuccessful in the past and is a recipe for economic decline today. The Journal warns Corbyn is receiving greater political traction because of divisions among conservatives and conservatives' failure to make the case against Corbyn's policies.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:
GOP Tax Overhaul Aims For Corporate Cuts, Simpler Code
SEC Probes Departure Of PepsiCo's Former Top Lawyer
Retail Stores Made Elmira, NY, An Unlikely Success—Now They're Gone
Health Insurers Stay In ACA Despite Fears Of Last-Minute Exits

New York Times:
Trump Proposes The Most Sweeping Tax Overhaul In Decades
Trump Tax Plan Benefits Wealthy, Including Trump
Hugh Hefner, Who Built Playboy Empire And Embodied It, Dies At 91
Roy Moore's Alabama Victory Sets Off Talk Of A GOP Insurrection
In The Virgin Islands, Hurricane Maria Drowned What Irma Didn't Destroy
Catalan Officials Squeezed As Madrid Tries To Stop Independence Vote

In College Basketball Scandal, Follow The Money ... And The Shoes
North Korea Skaters Seek Olympic Bid, And Diplomats Cheer

Washington Post:
GOP Proposes Deep Tax Cuts With Few Details
Inequality Gaps Persist Despite Widespread Gains
'Victory Lap'? Gorsuch's Critics Cry Foul Over Speeches.
US Sends Military Assets To Aid In Puerto Rico Recovery
Ala. Loss Leaves Trump Weakened, Isolated

Financial Times:
Donald Trump Seeks To Slash US Corporate Tax Rate
South Africa Trade Union March Demands Zuma Step Down
US Move Against Bombardier Risks Reprisals
Wolfgang Schäuble To Step Down As German Finance Minister

Washington Times:
FBI Pursuing Equal Number Of Domestic Terrorism And Jihadi Threats, Director Says
'Revolutionary Change': Trump Promises Major Tax Relief For American Workers, Businesses
Lawsuits Aim To Change Winner-Take-All Electoral College System By 2020 Presidential Race
Both Sides Make Emotional Pleas As Lawmakers Oppose Physician-Assisted Suicide In D.C.
Bloated Cost, Poor Performance Of U.S.-Made Blimp Result In Rare Rebuke Of Thai Military

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: White House-Tax Reform; Trump Administration-Excessive Spending; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Hurricane Tracking; Afghanistan-Rocket Attack; Russia Meddling Investigation-Facebook; NCAA Bribery Scandal; Sacramento Police Standoff; Ukraine Military Base Explosion; Killer Clown Murder Case; Highway Standoff; Southwest-Passenger De-Boarded; Delta-On Flight Texting; Adopted Eastern European Orphans.
CBS: Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Hurricane-Puerto Rico Health Crisis; White House-Tax Reform; Alabama GOP Senate Runoff; White House-Agenda Misplays; White House-Border Wall; NCAA Bribery Scandal; White House-Refugee Limit; Trump Administration-Excessive Spending; Switzerland-Longest Suspension Footbridge.
NBC: Hurricane-Puerto Rico 1; Hurricane-Puerto Rico 2; Hurricane Tracking; White House-Tax Reform; Trump Administration-Excessive Spending; NCAA Bribery Scandal; Dead North Korean Prisoner-Parents Interview; Afghanistan-Rocket Attack; Health-Food Allergies; Russia Meddling Investigation-Facebook; Delta-On Flight Texting; Obama-Daughter Goes To College; Disney World-Alligator Attack Aftermath.

Network TV At A Glance:
Hurricane – 12 minutes, 10 seconds
White House-Tax Reform – 7 minutes, 20 seconds
Trump Administration-Excessive Spending – 5 minutes, 10 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: White House-Tax Reform; Trump Administration-Excessive Spending; California National Park Accident; Wall Street News.
CBS: White House-Tax Reform; Trump Administration-Excessive Spending; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; New York City-School Stabbing; California National Park Accident.
FOX: White House-Tax Reform; California National Park Accident.
NPR: Hugh Hefner Dies; White House-Tax Reform; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Japan-Parliament Reelection.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:
PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke; participates in the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the National Security Council; greets Vice Premier Liu Yandong of the People's Republic of China.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Meets with business leaders and Michigan families to discuss the need for tax reform; delivers formal remarks regarding tax reform; participates in a tour of Weldall Manufacturing, Inc.; meets with local business leaders, community officials, and Wisconsin families to discuss the need for tax reform; participates in a Republican National Committee reception.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Agriculture Committee hearing on rural development, energy programs, and the Farm Bill – Hearing on 'Rural Development and Energy Programs: Perspectives for the 2018 Farm Bill', with testimony from U.S. Department of Agriculture's Anne Hazlett; USDA Rural Housing Service Acting Administrator Richard Davis; USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service Acting Administrator Chadwick Parker; USDA Rural Utilities Service Acting Administrator Christopher McLean; Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development Executive Director Aleta Botts; Kansas Rural Water Association General Manager Elmer Ronnebaum; Coweta-Fayette EMC President/CEO Christopher Stephens; Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative CEO Denny Law; Iowa State University NSF Engineering Research Center for Biorenewable Chemicals Director Dr Brent Shanks; and Harvest Energy Solutions President Mark Olinyk Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC http://agriculture.senate.gov/

9:30 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Amy Coney Barrett and Joan Louise Larsen to be U.S. Circuit Judges for the Sixth Circuit; Brian Allen Benczkowski to be Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division; Eric Dreiband to be Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division; William Campbell Jr. to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee; Thomas Lee Robinson Parker to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee; Halsey Frank to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Maine; D. Michael Hurst Jr. to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi; Jeffrey Jensen to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri; Thomas Kirsch II to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana; and William Powell to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia, as well as 'S. 1766, SAFER Act of 2017' Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC http://judiciary.senate.gov/

9:30 AM Senate Banking Committee hearing on North Korea – Hearing on 'Evaluating Sanctions Enforcement and Policy Options on North Korea: Administration Perspective', with testimony from Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Crimes Sigal Mandelker; and Acting Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Susan Thornton * Earlier this week, the Department of the Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control designated eight North Korean banks and 26 individuals linked to North Korean financial networks in response to the country's 'ongoing development of weapons of mass destruction and continued violations of United Nations Security Council Resolutions' Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC http://banking.senate.gov/

10:00 AM Senate Transportation subcommittee hearing on TSA modernization – Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee hearing on 'TSA Modernization: Improvements to Aviation Security', with testimony from Springfield-Branson National Airport Director of Aviation Brian Weiler; Cargo Airline Association President Stephen Alterman; Smiths Group Vice President of Government Relations Sissy Pressnell; and International Air Transport Association's Michael White Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC http://commerce.senate.gov https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce

4:00 PM Senate Indian Affairs roundtable on federal permitting and infrastructure project review – Senate Committee on Indian Affairs roundtable discussion on 'Best Practices in Tribal Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement: Federal Permitting and Infrastructure Project Review in Indian Country' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 628, Washington, DC http://indian.senate.gov https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee

Senate HELP Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, with agenda including nominations of Patrick Pizzella to be Deputy Secretary of Labor; Janet Dhillon and Dr Daniel Gade to be Equal Employment Opportunity Commission members (with Dhillon to be chair, upon confirmation); and Carlos Muniz to be Department of Education General Counsel Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC http://help.senate.gov/

US House: 9:00 AM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of 'H.R. 2792 – Control Unlawful Fugitive Felons Act of 2017' and 'H.R. 3823 – Disaster Tax Relief and Airport and Airway Extension Act' Location: Washington, DC http://www.house.gov/

9:00 AM POSTPONED: Hearing on 'Document Production' Location: U.S. Capitol, HVC-210, Washington, DC http://intelligence.house.gov/ https://twitter.com/HouseIntelComm

9:00 AM Markup hearing on 'H.R. 1159, the United States and Israel Space Cooperation Act'

Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC http://science.house.gov https://twitter.com/HouseScience

9:30 AM House Space subcommittees joint hearing on the solar eclipse – Research and Technology Subcommittee and Space Subcommittee joint hearing on 'The Great American Eclipse: To Totality and Beyond', with testimony from National Science Foundation Acting Assistant Director for Mathematical & Physical Sciences Dr James Ulvestad; NASA Associate Administrator for the Science Mission Directorate Dr Thomas Zurbuchen; Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy Executive Vice President Dr Heidi Hammel; National Solar Observatory astronomer Dr Matthew Penn; and Adler Planetarium Director of Public Observing Michelle Nichols-Yehling * 21 Aug solar eclipse was the first total solar eclipse to cross the contiguous U.S. since 1918, with a thin path of totality running from Oregon through Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina to South Carolina Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC http://science.house.gov https://twitter.com/HouseScience

9:30 AM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on Congressional Review Act compliance – Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Subcommittee hearing on 'Rulemakers Must Follow the Rules, Too: Oversight of Agency Compliance with the Congressional Review Act', with testimony from Pacific Legal Foundation DC Center Executive Director Todd Gaziano; Heritage Foundation Institute for Constitutional Government Senior Legal Research Fellow Paul Larkin Jr.; Virginia Cattlemens Association Executive Director Jason Carter; and University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law Professor Rena Steinzor Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC http://judiciary.house.gov/ https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary

9:30 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on insurance for nonprofits – Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining Insurance for Nonprofit Organizations', with testimony from Southeast Nonprofit Insurance Programs President Kevin Cothron; Nonprofits Insurance Alliance Group founder and CEO Pamela Davis; Congressional Research Service Specialist in Financial Economics Baird Webel; and American Insurance Association Vice President for Federal Affairs Tom Santos Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC http://financialservices.house.gov https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H. Res. 422, Urging the adherence to the 'one country, two systems' policy as prescribed in the Joint Declaration between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Question of the Hong Kong', 'H.R. 425, FTO Passport Revocation Act of 2017', 'H.R. 1196, Counterterrorism Screening and Assistance Act of 2017', 'H.R. 1660, Global Health Innovation Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2658, Venezuela Humanitarian Assistance and Defense of Democratic Governance Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3320, To direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes', 'H.R. 3329, Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3342, Sanctioning Hizballah's Illicit Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act', and 'H.R. 3445, AGOA and MCA Modernization Act' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC http://www.hcfa.house.gov https://twitter.com/HouseForeign

10:45 AM Democratic Leader Pelosi weekly presser – Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi will hold her weekly press conference. Location: HVC Studio A (Enter through HVC-117), Capitol Visitor Center. http://www.democraticleader.gov/ https://twitter.com/NancyPelosi

11:00 AM Congressional Task Force on Election Security first public forum – ROOM CHANGE – Congressional Task Force on Election Security holds its first public forum, 'Securing America's Elections: Understanding the Threat', hearing from former Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson and former Under Secretary for National Protection and Programs Suzanne Spaulding * Task Force was created to address 'the lack of action to protect electoral infrastructure following Russia interfering and attempting to influence the 2016 presidential election', and is chaired by House Committee on Homeland Security Ranking Member Bennie Thompson and Committee on House Administration Ranking Member Robert Brady Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1302, Washington, DC democrats-homeland.house.gov https://twitter.com/HomelandDems

11:30 AM House Speaker Paul Ryan holds weekly press briefing Location: HVC Studio A, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.speaker.gov https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan

3:30 PM POSTPONED: Speaker's Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs second hearing – POSTPONED: New Speaker's Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs holds second hearing, 'Are We 'Federalizing' Federalism? A Primer on Federalism, State and Local Government and Interrelations with the Federal Government'. Witnesses include Yale Law School Dean and

Professor Heather Gerken, George Mason University Professor of Government Dr Timothy Conlan, and Georgetown University Law Center Professor of Legal Theory Randy Barnett * In May, House Speaker Paul Ryan and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi announced the creation of the bipartisan group of lawmakers focused on balancing the interests between federal and local govts Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC https://robbishop.house.gov/ https://twitter.com/RepRobBishop

Other: 9:00 AM Washington Ideas Forum concludes – Washington Ideas Forum, hosted by The Atlantic in partnership with the Aspen Institute, concludes. 'Leaders from politics and govt to business and culture' convene to 'tackle the issues confronting the country and the world, including politics and policy, economics and trade, race and justice, education, global affairs, technology, and beyond'. Speakers today include Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Sen. Mark Warner, Republican Sen. Jeff Flake, former CIA Director (Gen.) Ret. David Petraeus, Aetna Chairman and CEO Mark Bertolini, Zillow Group CEO Spencer Rascoff, Veritas Genetics Co-founder and CEO Mirza Cifric, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Washington, DC, Mayor Muriel Bowser, The Washington Post National Political Reporter Robert Costa, The New York Times White House Correspondent Maggie Haberman, NBC News Correspondent Katy Tur, and ABC News Chief White House Correspondent Jonathan Karl Location: Sidney Harman Hall, 610 F St NW, Washington, DC WashingtonIdeas.com https://twitter.com/WashingtonIdeas #WashingtonIdeas

9:00 AM SEC Chairman Clayton speaks at 'Perspectives on Securities Regulation' event – 'Perspectives on Securities Regulation' Brookings Institution Center on Regulation and Markets event, exploring the opportunities and challenges facing securities markets 10 years after the financial crisis, featuring a conversation with Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Jay Clayton and a panel discussion with SIFMA President and CEO Kenneth Bentsen Jr., Georgetown University Professor of Law Christopher Brummer, Davis Polk & Wardell partner Annette Nazareth, and Nasdaq Executive Vice President for Global Trading & Market Services and CEO Thomas Wittman Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC http://www.brookings.edu https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst #SecuritiesRegs

9:30 AM GOP Rep. Kevin Brady speaks on tax reform at the Heritage Foundation – House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady speaks on 'Tax Reform for Middle Class Americans' at the Heritage Foundation, focusing on 'creating Main Street jobs, growing middle-class paychecks, making taxes fairer, and helping hardworking Americans, not Washington special interests' * President Donald Trump yesterday discussed new details on the framework for tax reform, during a speech in Indianapolis Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org https://twitter.com/Heritage

1:00 PM Halcyon Dialogue VIP Robotics Showcase – Halcyon Dialogue VIP Robotics Showcase, including panel discussions on 'Emerging Robotics Technology' and 'Policy Opportunities in the Robotics Age', with speakers include Republican Rep. Will Hurd, former White House Chief Technology Officer Megan Smith and robotics entrepreneur Helen Greiner. American Association for the Advancement of Science CEO Dr Rush Holt discusses findings from the 'Shaping Robotics Policy for the 21st Century' report * Event also features multiple robotics demonstrations * A public event takes place tomorrow Location: Halcyon House, 3400 Prospect St. NW, Washington, DC halcyonhouse.org https://twitter.com/HalcyonInspires

1:30 PM GOP Rep. Kevin Brady speaks on tax reform at U.S. Chamber of Commerce – House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady speaks on 'the path forward for pro-growth tax reform' at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce * President Donald Trump yesterday discussed new details on the framework for tax reform, via a speech in Indianapolis Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St NW, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com https://twitter.com/USChamber

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "[Donald Trump] is right, no President has ever accomplished what he's accomplished. After nine short months, we have more nuclear weapons pointed at us than ever before in the history of the United States."

Stephen Colbert: "Here's how Roy Moore describes our nation's racial divide. ... Blacks, whites, reds, and yellows? I hope he's talking about the Power Rangers."

James Corden: "Yesterday, Twitter started testing a brand new feature to let some users post tweets with 280-character limits, which is twice the amount that is currently allowed. Yeah, 'cause that was the big problem with Twitter."

James Corden: "On Monday, it came out that Jared Kushner used private emails in his White House job. Today we learn he's registered in New York as a woman. Do you guys realize what this means? Jared Kushner is Hillary Clinton."

Trevor Noah: "Now, I don't know if you see what just happened [in Alabama]. But this is like what happened to Bernie Sanders last year. Remember, he said to his voters, 'Vote for Hillary.' And then a lot of them went, 'No. We're with Bernie.' And he said, 'Yeah, I'm Bernie. I'm telling you to vote for Hillary.' And they were like, 'That's not what Bernie would do. Sit down, old man. We're with Bernie!'"

Jimmy Fallon: "President Trump has finally addressed the situation in Puerto Rico. He said that he'll travel there on Tuesday. Trump said he's bringing lots of supplies in case he gets bored or hungry on the flight over."

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump unveiled his new tax plan, and said that it would actually benefit people who pay the least taxes. Then Americans said, 'So, you?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Paul Ryan actually said that the tax plan will let people file their taxes on a postcard. 'Cause if there's one group you can count on to fix the IRS, it's the Post Office."

Jimmy Fallon: "I read that investigators could start interviewing White House staff as part of the Russia investigation as soon as this week. When Trump heard that, he was like, 'You know what? I better head to Puerto Rico right away.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Twitter is testing a 280-character limit for users. Twitter says that it will revolutionize the way that we start fights with North Korea."

Seth Meyers: "Twitter announced yesterday it will be increasing its character limit from 140 to 280 characters per tweet, on a trial basis. So we're now officially at war with at least 17 more countries."

Seth Meyers: "While discussing the corporate tax rate today, President Trump said that 20 is his ideal number and he is not negotiating that number, which is the same thing he says when he orders chicken McNuggets."

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump introduced his new tax plan today. I know you're all excited about it. That was a really great reaction. That's what happens when like an air mattress deflates."

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump says his new tax plan would greatly simplify the US tax code. It would divide everyone into two brackets: taxpayers and President Trump."

Conan O'Brien: "There are rumors that NFL legend Peyton Manning may run for Senate. Sure. Why not? Experts say there's no way mixing the NFL and politics could possibly go wrong."

Conan O'Brien: "It's been reported that morale is very low among the Taliban. You know things are bad when suicide bombers are too depressed to go to work."

Copyright 2017 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's terms of use. 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, or called at (703) 483-6100.