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US Department of the Interior News Briefing

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DOI In The News

Interior Chief Ends Nevada Trip For Monday Cabinet Meeting.

The AP (7/30, RITTER, SONNER) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke toured two national monuments in Nevada on Sunday and canceled plans for meetings Monday in the Las Vegas area in order to head back to Washington, D.C., for what he said will be a Cabinet meeting involving President Donald Trump's top appointees." Zinke toured the Gold Butte and Basin and Range national monuments, "but he didn't say he's made any decisions about whether to downsize the two monuments created last year by President Barack Obama before he left office." Zinke said, "Monuments have been adjusted ...18 times before, Zinke said. "So I don't think there's too much question that a monument can be adjusted. Whether a monument can be rescinded or not, that is a question for the courts."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Traverse City (MI) Record-Eagle (7/30, RITTER, SONNER), the San Francisco (CA) Chronicle (7/30, RITTER, SONNER), Business Insider (7/30, Ritter, Sonner), the Dayton (OH) Daily News (7/30, Ritter, Sonner), and the Bristol (VA) Herald Courier (7/30, RITTER, SONNER).

Additional coverage was provided by KSNV-TV Las Vegas (NV) Las Vegas (7/30, Clemons).

Zinke: Feds Must Ensure Monument Designation Is 'Smallest Area Compatible With Protection'. USA Today (7/31, Thomas) reports "in speaking with reporters, Zinke addressed concerns that the monument review might entail downsizing, which could leave formerly protected areas vulnerable to commercial development or mining." Zinke "stressed what he said is the importance of public access and ensuring any monument designation is 'the smallest area compatible with

protection of the object' — a phrase Zinke repeated several times throughout a 25-minute conversation with reporters." He said, "What I've learned in the monument review is that every monument is unique. In a lot of cases, people are afraid that public land is going to be sold so they feel like a monument is a tool to make sure that public land stays in public hands. Up front, I am an advocate to never sell or transfer public land, and so is the president."

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Caps Review Of Monuments With Bunkerville Visit. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (7/30, Rogers) reports that "the Riverside Road location where Zinke made his remarks is within 3 miles of the April 2014 armed standoff on the Virgin River between federal agents from his department and militia supporters of defiant rancher Cliven Bundy — the subject of a high-visibility trial in federal court in Las Vegas." According to the article, "Bundy's wife, Carol, said she was disappointed he didn't meet with her on his way to Gold Butte even though she has reached out to him through emails, certified letters and phone calls to his staff."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by U.S. News & World Report (7/30, RITTER, SONNER), the Washington (DC) Times (7/30, Ritter, Sonner), the Hilton Head Island (SC) Packet (7/30, RITTER, SONNER), ABC News (7/30, RITTER, SONNER), Philly (PA) (7/30, RITTER, SONNER), the Minneapolis (MN) Star Tribune (7/29, RITTER, SONNER), the Greeneville (TN) Sun (7/30, RITTER, SONNER), the Washington (DC) Post (7/30, Ritter Scott Sonner |, Ap), the St. Joseph (MO) News-Press (7/30, RITTER, SONNER), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (7/30, RITTER, SONNER), the Seattle (WA) Times (7/30, RITTER, SONNER), the Bristol (VA) Herald Courier (7/30, RITTER, SONNER), and the Daily Mail (7/30).

Additional coverage was provided by the Las Vegas (NV) Review-Journal (7/30, Rogers), the Las Vegas (NV) Review-Journal (7/30, Brean) and KSNV-TV Las Vegas (NV) Las Vegas (7/30).

Decisions Made With Enormous Support Should Stand. In an op-ed for the Las Vegas Sun (7/30, Torres), Jocelyn Torres, the Nevada program director for the Conservation Lands Foundation, writes that "more than 90,000 people spoke up in support of Nevada's national monuments — Basin and Range and Gold Butte — during the public comment period opened as part of President Donald Trump's executive order reviewing certain national monument designated under the Antiquities Act." However, "the monuments' fate remains unknown despite tens of thousands speaking up in support along with Native American tribes; federal, state and local elected officials; businesses and tourism groups like the Latin Chamber of Commerce and Nevada Resort Association; scientists; the arts community and archaeological, conservation and recreation groups." She concludes that "as we face many unknowns, and await Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's final recommendation to President Trump on national monuments, one thing is certain: Our time would be better spent moving forward restoring and enjoying our national monument than rehashing decisions made with input from community members, elected officials, businesses, archaeologists, recreationists and conservationists."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the Pahrump (NV) Valley Times (7/28, Brean, Martin), the Las Vegas (NV) Sun (7/28, Gonzalez), and KVVU-TV Las Vegas (NV) Las Vegas (7/31, Jacob).

By Helicopter And On Horseback, Zinke Reviews Monuments.

The AP (7/28, Lee) reports that "ranchers who want to scale back two national monuments in New Mexico competed for attention with the outdoor recreation industry as U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke conducted a series of private stakeholder meetings linked to a nationwide review of 27 monuments approved by past presidents." Zinke "skipped a heavily attended public forum about the future of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in southern New Mexico organized largely by monument supporters, amid a series of private meetings with ranchers, electric utility executives, irrigation district officials and some defenders of the monuments." The article says that Zinke's "tightly controlled visit, mostly away from the public's eye, is stirring concern among business owners — from fishing guides to local homebuilders — who say they increasingly depend on the flow of tourists and outdoor enthusiasts to the monuments."

Additional coverage was provided by the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (7/29, Soular), the Santa Fe (NM) Reporter (7/30, Grubs), and KOB-TV Albuquerque (NM) Albuquerque, NM (7/29).

Interior Secretary Zinke Surveys Sabinoso Wilderness. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (7/29, Oswald) reports that "at a June U.S. Senate committee hearing, Department of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich engaged in a testy exchange over a stalled deal that would provide public access to the federally designated Sabinoso Wilderness, 16,000 acres of spectacular canyon country in northeastern New Mexico 'landlocked' by surrounding private property." At the time, "Zinke wouldn't commit to accepting the particulars of a plan, first

announced last year, for the non-profit Wilderness Land Trust to donate an adjacent former ranch to the federal government as an access point for hikers, horseback riders and hunters to enter the wilderness." But "after a horseback ride with Heinrich and Sen. Tom Udall, an elk-and-chicken fajita lunch overlooking the Sabinoso's Canyon Largo and conversations with a couple dozen hunting and wilderness advocates, Zinke said he has 'very favorable impressions' of the access plan, with 'fine points' and 'final details' to be worked out."

Additional coverage was provided by the Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (7/30, Oxford) and the Santa Fe New Mexican (7/29, Oxford).

Montana Refuge Opened To Ranchers Who Lost Grass To Fires.

The AP (7/29) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is "opening the Charles M. Russell Wildlife Refuge to grazing for ranchers who lost rangeland in a large wildfire in eastern Montana." Refuge manager Paul Santavy "says the fire left some ranchers with no rangeland for cattle to graze." According to the article, "individual agreements will need to be negotiated, but refuge managers plan to allow ranchers to move cows onto the refuge and complete the paperwork later."

KECI-TV Missoula, MT (7/30, McDermott) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "We have a saying that Montana is one small town with really long roads, and as a neighbor in that small town, the Department is dedicated to providing disaster relief and resources where possible. When I talk about restoring trust between local communities and the federal government, and being a good neighbor, this is exactly what I mean. My staff and I heard from ranchers, equipment dealers, and other concerned citizens, and we all got to work. I applaud the quick work and flexibility of the team at the CMR for getting this done for the community."

The Billings (MT) Gazette (7/29, Lutey) reports that Zinke said, "At the end of the day, the government belongs to the people. We're happy to do it."

Zinke Denies Threats In Calls.

The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (7/29, Oswald) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "said Saturday that there was no threat in his calls to Alaska's two Republican U.S. senators last week after one of them broke ranks with the GOP on a health care vote." Zinke dismissed speculation in the media that the calls were "threatening." He said, "That's ridiculous. … Quite frankly, it's laughable."

The Hill (7/30, Henry) reports that the President has "unleashed a new group of advocates in his failed push to convince the Senate to repeal ObamaCare: his Cabinet." Both Interior Secretary Zinke and Energy Secretary Perry were "used by Trump in the battle, highlighting the president's willingness to exert pressure in new ways on lawmakers opposing his agenda." According to the article, "Zinke's threats in a phone call to Alaska Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, in particular, led to rancor."

Additional coverage was provided by The Hill (7/28, Henry, Cama), the Independent (UK) (7/28, Mortimer), and the Eugene (OR) Register-Guard (7/30, Goldberg).

Why Americans Are Fighting Over A Gorgeous Monument Called Bears Ears.

The Washington Post (7/30, Fears) reports on the fight over the Bears Ears National Monument. Opponents of the designation "regard it as a federal intrusion in a state where the U.S. government owns more than 60 percent of the land." However, supporters point to the "valuable sites in Bears Ears, containing pottery, drawings, dwellings and spiritual gathering places."

Interior Dept. Publishes Its 12 American Made Accomplishments Since Agency Was Founded In 1849.

Breitbart (7/30, Starr) reports that the Interior Department "recently published a list of accomplishments by the federal agency since it was founded in March of 1849, titled 'Made In America: 12 things brought to you by the Interior Department.'"

Editorial: National Parks Need More Help Than This.

The Loveland (CO) Reporter-Herald (7/29) editorializes that "and all 417 National Park Service units have maintenance needs," but national parks "would lose $400 million in funding in fiscal year 2018, under President Trump's proposed budget." The paper says that "if private groups are going to be relied on to provide 62.3 percent of the maintenance funding, as they are in this initial push," Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "will need to find donors to give $7 billion toward the $11.3 billion in needs and $4.26 billion from the government." It concludes that "if Zinke wants to

be seen as an advocate for the parks, he's got a lot more work to do."

Antiquities Act Of 1906: No Presidential License To Revoke National Monuments.

In a piece for the Huffington Post (7/30, Fein, Contributor), attorney Bruce Fein argues that "the text, spirit, and 111 year history of the Antiquities Act of 1906 militate against presidential power to revoke a national monument proclamation made by a predecessor president." He adds that "nothing in the text hints at presidential authority to revoke a national monument designation." Fein says that "if President Donald Trump or any successor desires the authority to revoke national monument designations, they should urge Congress to amend the Antiquities Act accordingly."

Additional coverage of the review of national monuments was provided by the Arizona Republic (7/28, Gabriel), the Bangor (ME) Daily News (7/29), the Boston Globe (7/30, Abel), the Eugene (OR) Register-Guard (7/30, Boddie), the Medford (OR) Mail Tribune (7/30, Hunter), and the New Bedford (MA) Standard-Times (7/30, Chase).

Coal Rule Rollback Shortchanges Treasury, Lands And Economy.

In an op-ed for the Durango (CO) Herald (7/29, Brown), Todd Brown, a member of the Telluride Town Council, criticizes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for halting a rule that would have "closed a loophole that would stop the exploitation of taxpayer-owned national public lands." According to Brown, "over the past 30 years, the government's undervaluation of coal mined on national public lands may have cost taxpayers upward of $30 billion in lost revenue." He argues that "the staying of this rule, along with the department's interest in development of public lands for extractive industries, puts our communities at risk." In conclusion Brown urges the Trump Administration "to heed local calls to examine our federal coal program and fix it once and for all."

Montana's Wildfires Are Part Of Growing National Emergency, Should Be Treated Like Other Natural Disasters.

The Missoulian (MT) (7/30) editorializes that "wildfires are a growing national emergency," but "the United States government continues to manage them, and fund them, as though they were an unforeseen, temporary inconvenience." The paper argues that "just as hurricanes and floods are considered disaster emergencies in some parts of the country, so too should wildfires that threaten neighborhoods and livelihoods be met with swift action from the nation's emergency response agencies."

Washington Is Dysfunctional. This Senate Rule Change Could Help Fix It..

Sen. Ron Johnson writes in a Washington Post (7/28, Johnson) op-ed that the Senate confirmed 50 of President Trump's 229 executive nominations as of July 22, which represents only 22 percent of those nominated. By comparison, at the same point in President Obama's first term, the Senate confirmed 53 percent of nominees. Johnson says, "This situation is clearly the result of a breakdown in the Senate." Rules allowing senators to use hours or days to debate nominations are being abused, Johnson argues. A "simple proposal" he offers is to "Change the rules of the Senate to limit debate on sub-Cabinet and lower-court nominees to two hours on the Senate floor." He suggests that Senate committees can vet nominees and provide a report to the full Senate, after which they can then vote.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Wyoming Reservation Readies For Solar Eclipse Tourists.

The AP (7/30) reports that "tribal officials on Wyoming's Wind River Reservation are preparing for thousands of visitors looking for a prime spot to view next month's solar eclipse." According to the article, "more than 10,000 people are expected to come to Fremont County and the reservation, whose Crowheart community is on the center line of the Aug. 21 eclipse." Shoshone and Arapahoe Fish and Game director Art Lawson "says he will have three game wardens on patrol, plus officers brought in from Montana by the Bureau of Indian Affairs."

Bureau Of Land Management

Federal Ranger To Testify In San Francisco Murder Trial.

The AP (7/28, Thanawala) reports that "a federal agency has agreed to allow a ranger to testify at a trial over a fatal San Francisco shooting with the ranger's gun that became a flashpoint in the national immigration debate, a judge in San Francisco said Friday." According to the article, "the scope of the ranger's testimony will be determined by the judge who presides over Juan Francisco Lopez Sanchez's trial in the 2015 shooting of Kate Steinle, Judge Richard Loftus said." Federal officials "had previously resisted efforts" to have Bureau of Land Management ranger John Woychowski "testify about his stolen gun, but Loftus said the parties reached an agreement to produce the ranger as a witness."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Minneapolis (MN) Star Tribune (7/30, Thanawala), Philly (PA) (7/28, Thanawala), the Washington (DC) Post (7/28, Sudhin Thanawala |, Ap), the Washington (DC) Times (7/28, Thanawala), and the Daily Mail (7/28).

Additional coverage was provided by the San Francisco (CA) Chronicle (7/28, Ho) and KQED-FM San Francisco (CA) San Francisco (7/28, Emslie).

Court To Decide Fate Of Federal Fracking Authority.

E&E Publishing (7/28) reported the 10th US Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in the case determining if the federal government has the authority to regulate hydraulic fracturing, but the court may never issue an opinion on the matter. The Trump Administration is rolling back the rule and wants to freeze the case during the process. All three judges on the panel were skeptical about freezing the case indefinitely while the BLM conducts a new rule-making process to repeal the regulation. The BLM maintains that the lower court's ruling that the federal government lacks authority to regulate fracking is incorrect, but any decision would not be efficient and would interfere with the new rule-making process.

Utah Governor: Rethink Lease Sites.

The Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel (7/29, Webb) reports that Utah Gov. Gary Herbert is asking the Bureau of Land Management "to rethink its plans to offer oil and gas leases near Dinosaur National Monument due to potential disturbances that would result for visitors there." In a letter submitted to the BLM this week, said the state "wishes to ensure leasing of these parcels does not impact visual resources or cause light or sound disturbances" within the monument. The letter "doesn't outright call for the agency not to offer the leases in December, but appears to suggest that as a possibility."

Additional coverage was provided by the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (7/28, Maffly).

Energy Company Applies To Mine 4.1M Tons Of Coal In Colorado.

The AP (7/28) reports that the Bureau of Land Management "has to decide if it will allow an energy company to mine up to 4.1 million more tons of coal in northwest Colorado." Peabody Energy has "applied to lease 1 more square mile (2.6 square kilometers) of federal coal west of Steamboat Springs as part of an ongoing mining operation." The BLM "says it will make the decision under the President Donald Trump administration's energy policies."

Big Federal Wild Horse Roundup Planned In Northeast Nevada.

The AP (7/28) reports that "federal officials are planning the biggest roundup in years of horses roaming public rangeland in northeast Nevada." The Bureau of Land Management is "seeking public comments for an environmental assessment of the removal of more than 6,700 horses from area between Wells and Ely." The BLM "estimates the current wild horse population in the Antelope and Triple B wild horse complexes at about 7,700, not including foals born this year."

Las Vegas Water Pipeline Fight To Go Before Federal Judge.

The AP (7/29, Ritter) reports that "a decades-long fight over a plan to pump water from arid and sparsely populated valleys along Nevada's eastern edge and pipe it to thirsty Las Vegas is about to get its first hearing before a federal judge." According to the article, "environmental groups and American Indian tribes are expected to tell U.S. District Judge Andrew Gordon in Las Vegas on Monday that a proposed 263-mile (423-kilometer) north-to-south water pipeline just west of the Nevada-Utah state line amounts to a city water grab supported by incomplete and inadequate federal environmental studies." Southern Nevada Water Authority attorneys are "expected to argue that the state's largest metropolitan area and economic hub has to have water, and that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management properly granted rights of way for the pipeline to cross federal lands in 2012."

Additional coverage was provided by the Las Vegas Review-Journal (7/30, Brean).

U.S. Rep. Tom Emmer Pushes To Restore Mineral Rights.

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (7/29, Rao) reports that Rep. Tom Emmer is "pushing legislation that would ban the U.S. Forest Service from withdrawing mining rights in Minnesota without congressional approval." According to the article, "the move comes in response to the Obama administration's 11th-hour decision not to renew mining leases for Twin Metals in northeastern Minnesota." Before the House Natural Resources Committee on Thursday, Emmer testified "that the legislation simply allows people to exercise their mineral rights, and that all projects are still subject to stringent state and federal reviews and requirements."

The Virginia (MN) Mesabi Daily Tribune (7/29) editorializes that the White House, "with an actual direction given to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, could end this all where it stands." It says that "if that doesn't happen, Congress can simply pass Emmer's bill along through the House and Senate and straight to President Donald Trump's desk." But "if neither of those happen, the Range has only the comment period and Secretary Zinke left to lobby against moving forward on the study period and 20-year withdrawal."

Saving Wild Horses Requires Culling The Herd.

In an op-ed for the Denver Post (7/28, Kafer), Krista Kafer, "a professor, public policy analyst and writer," supports "congressional efforts to allow the slaughter of horses," but Kafer argues that current legislation does not to go "far enough." Kafer asserts that "the only humane solution to this unsustainable situation is to cull the herd."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Push For Arctic Energy Development Met With Criticism.

U.S. News & World Report (7/28, Huang) reports that "Alaskan lawmakers continue to push for energy development in the Arctic region, citing economic and national security incentives and highlighting regulatory safeguards for the environment." However, "critics say drilling can be done in less environmentally perilous areas while still boosting the local and national economies." Walter Cruickshank, deputy director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, told an audience at the Center for Strategic and International Studies "that in the near future, any oil and gas developments are going to take place in relatively shallow waters and closer to existing infrastructure." He said, "Longer term, it's hard to say what the investment will be, but there won't be any if there aren't leases made available for folks."

Oil Group Fights Enviros' Challenge To Offshore Drilling Order.

Law360 (7/28, Phillis) reported that the API asked an Alaska federal court to dismiss a complaint filed by environmental organizations challenging President Trump's executive order looking to review drilling in the Arctic and Atlantic, arguing it was brought in the wrong court.

Our Views: Assess Oil Potential Of East Coast Waters.

The Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate (7/30) urges President Trump "to push for exploration of oil and gas deposits off the East Coast of the United States." The paper emphasizes that "as the U.S. Interior Department said, assessments of whether there is an offshore mineral bonanza are out of date." It adds that "dramatic improvements in technology make it vital that a more comprehensive assessment of energy potential be made off the Atlantic coast."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Bill Would End Trinity River Fish Disease Preventive Flows, County Water Right.

The Eureka (CA) Times Standard (7/28, Houston) reports that "local tribal and government officials say a bill currently under U.S. Senate review would virtually end Trinity River dam water releases used to prevent fish kills and do away with Humboldt County's 60-year right to river water in favor of providing more water to Central Valley irrigators." Rep. Jared Huffman said the bill is "but one of several attempts over the years by Central Valley water contractors and suppliers, namely the Fresno-based Westlands Water District, to redirect more Trinity River water for their own interests."

Drag Boat Competitions Approved At East Park Reservoir.

The Red Bluff (CA) Daily News (7/29) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation "approved drag boat exhibitions and competitions at East Park Reservoir in Colusa County, California for up to five years." The article says that "the inaugural event, hosted by the California Hot Boat Association, is scheduled for Sept. 9-10 at Serenity Cove on the reservoir's east side."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

12 Years After Gulf Oil Platform Destroyed, Feds Start Investigating Environmental Damage.

The New Orleans Times-Picayune (7/28) reports that "twelve years after Hurricane Ivan destroyed a Taylor Energy Co. platform in the Gulf of Mexico, the federal government has finally started investigating how oil and gas that is still leaking from its wells damages natural resources." The flow of oil, "if left unchecked, could continue for 100 years or more," says the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. Last Thursday July 27, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration "confirmed the investigation." Keeley Belva, a spokeswoman for the oceanic agency, said, "NOAA is a trustee for the Taylor Energy Incident in Louisiana, and we are in the early stages of a Natural Resource Damage Assessment process."

Fish And Wildlife Service

GOP Pushes Bill About Gray Wolf.

The Daily Caller (7/28, Pearce) reports that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works "passed a bill Wednesday that would remove federal protections for gray wolf populations in Wyoming and the Great Lakes states." The "HELP for Wildlife Act" reinstates 2011 and 2012 Fish and Wildlife Service "final rules that remove federal protections for the wolf in Wyoming and delist the Great Lakes states gray wolves from the Endangered Species List." The bill also "bars judicial review of the final rules, leaving the FWS in control of any future federal protections."

Wildfire Won't Ruin Hunting Seasons At Okefenokee Refuge.

The AP (7/29) reports that "a recent wildfire that burned vast acreage near the Georgia-Florida state line hasn't stopped plans for hunting seasons to open in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "said in a news release that small game hunting for quail, rabbits and squirrels will open Aug. 15." Also, "seasons for deer, feral hogs and turkeys will open between September and March."

States Taking Over Grizzly Management Monday.

The Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle (7/30, Wright) reports that "state officials are excited about taking more responsibility for the Yellowstone ecosystem grizzly bears, but they say management will largely stay the same after delisting takes effect Monday." The animals will "no longer be listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and state wildlife agencies in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho will assume more authority over the bears, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service taking a backseat." Officials from Montana and Wyoming "said that while the change will erase a level of bureaucracy in their decision making, their focus will still be on keeping the population in good shape."

Delisting Would Put Panthers In Peril.

In an op-ed for the Bradenton (FL) Times (7/30, Compton), Glenn Compton, the Chairman of Manasota 88, writes that delisting the Florida panther "would be disastrous for the panther." Compton argues that "the Florida panther has not recovered in numbers to ensure its long-term viability as a species."

Connelly: Sage-grouse Aren't Pheasants, And Captive Rearing Is Doomed To Fail.

In an op-ed for the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (7/28, Connelly), Dr. Jack Connelly, a retired state wildlife agency research biologist, questions Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's support of "Wyoming's recent decision to raise sage-grouse in captivity as a 'conservation' measure." He notes that scientific research has "shared at least two things in common: All focused on the importance of habitat conservation and restoration, and none suggested captive rearing of sage grouse as a viable management tool for restoring or maintaining populations." Connelly urges the

state “to reconsider it at the next legislative session” and hopes “that the idea does not catch on in other states.”

National Park Service

Yellowstone National Park To Discipline Workers For Sexual Misconduct.

The AP (7/28, Brown) reports Yellowstone National Park will discipline as many as 10 of its maintenance workers “after an investigation found female employees were subjected to sexual harassment and other problems.” The park and the Department of Interior’s Office of Inspector General “launched its investigation last year, after a park employee complained to a local magazine and members of Congress that a pervasive ‘men’s club’ environment had encouraged the exploitation and abuse of female workers.” Additional steps to be taken at the park will include “instituting a new policy intended to curb the misuse of alcohol by employees after hours at remote work locations.”

Acadia Receives $192K For Trail Maintenance.

The AP (7/30) reports that Acadia National Park “says it will use a $192K competitive federal grant to fix up its trails.” Rep. Chellie Pingree “said the grant was matched by more than $259,000 raised by the group Friends of Acadia.” The money will “go toward deferred trail maintenance.”

National Park In Ohio To Get Nearly $1.5M In Federal Funds.

The AP (7/30) reports that “officials say Cuyahoga Valley National Park in northeast Ohio is receiving nearly $1.5 million in federal funding for its new visitor center.” The federal grant, which was announced last week, is “part of $50 million being given to 42 parks in 29 states for improvements.”

Grand Teton Park To Receive $2M For Jenny Lake Renovations.

The AP (7/30) reports that Grand Teton National Park will “receive $2 million to complete renovations around its feature attraction, Jenny Lake.” According to the article, “about $757,000 of that money is coming from the National Park Service’s Centennial Challenge Program,” and “the rest, $1.26 million, will come from the Grand Teton National Park Foundation.”

Officials At Mammoth Cave To Make Trail More Accessible.

The AP (7/29) reports that “officials at Mammoth Cave National Park are working to make a trail more accessible to people with disabilities.” The park is “building half-mile, 8-foot wide concrete walkway along the park’s Echo River Springs Trail.” The upgrades will “include four exhibits with tactile features for people who are visually impaired along with an improved parking lot and bathroom.”

Grand Teton Park Plans For Eclipse Crowd.

The AP (7/29) reports that Grand Teton National Park will “alter some road traffic and parking in order to accommodate an expected influx of people looking to view the total solar eclipse on Aug. 21.” According to the article, “fees will be waved at the Granite Canyon, Moose and Moran entrance gates to ease the flow of traffic.” The park has “designated five viewing areas — along the road to Kelly, the Gros Ventre Campground, the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose, Colter Bay and Jackson Lake Lodge.”

Dark Sky Designation Puts Joshua Tree National Park In A New Light.

The Los Angeles Times (7/29, Sahagun) reports that Joshua Tree National Park has “been certified as the 10th International Dark Sky Park in the U.S. National Park system.” The announced was celebrated last Wednesday.

After Wildfire, Gatlinburg Is Getting Back On Its Feet.

The AP (7/29, Ahillen) reports the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is bouncing back after a Nov. 28 blaze. According to the article, “new growth is well underway through most of the burn areas.” Also, “all but four of the 17 trails closed within the park in the fire’s aftermath have been reopened.”

National Park Service Releases Reconstruction Era Theme Study.

The Kingstree (SC) News (7/28) reports that the National Park Service has "published a theme study looking at nationally significant historic properties of the post-Civil War Reconstruction Era." The National Historic Landmarks theme study "identifies noteworthy resources related to the Era of Reconstruction that help tell the American story." Dr. Joy Beasley, National Park Service Acting Associate Director for Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science, said, "Discovering the lesser known stories of the Reconstruction Era and identifying places and people who impacted our collective American story is the result of two years of dedicated work by historians, field practitioners, and subject matter experts. This theme study continues to build upon our shared narrative as Americans; knowing who we are, where we came from, and understanding the events, activities, and places that shape us citizens today is at the heart of the National Park Service mission."

Savannah Native Appointed National Park Service Chief Historian.

The Savannah (GA) Morning News (7/28) reports that Turkiya L. Lowe has been appointed the chief historian of the National Park Service. She most "recently served as Southeast Region chief historian and chief for the Southeast Region's Cultural Resource Research and Science Branch where she oversaw the region-wide History and Cultural Anthropology Programs for 67 (now 70) National Parks within nine states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands."

Eradicating All Mountain Goats At Olympic National Park Isn't Wise.

In his column for the Victorville (CA) Daily Press (7/29, Matthews), Jim Matthews criticizes the document released by the National Park Service "to control the growing, introduced population on mountain goats in Olympic National Park in Washington." He argues against the preferred NPS solution "to eradicate the goats from the park, using live capture initially and then lethal methods until they are gone." Instead, Matthews proposes that "a hunting program on Olympic National Park would solve both the overpopulation problem and make the goats wary of humans, but it will still allow visitors to see a majestic Northwest native in the park."

Senior Pass Price Hike Not As Unreasonable As It Seems.

In an editorial, the Roseburg (OR) News-Review (7/30) observes that people are rushing to lifetime senior passes for national parks and federal recreational areas before prices go up on Aug. 28. But it argues that "$80 isn't really an unreasonable price for a lifetime pass to more than 2,000 sites — all of those run by the National Park Service, plus hundreds run by other federal agencies." It says that "eighty dollars just feels like a lot the first time you hear about the increase, because the price jump for the lifetime pass is so dramatic." The paper concludes: "In fact, it's an increase that's long past due. Those extra 70 bucks will go to a good cause. Those national parks and other recreation areas we're all so eager to visit will reap the benefits."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Amata Introduces Assistant Secretary Of Insular Affairs Nominee.

Samoa News (7/21) reports that Congresswoman Aumua Amata, "introduced President Trump's nominee for the position of Assistant Secretary of Insular Areas, Doug Domenech this morning in the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee hearing room." Amata told Senate panel, "My home district of American Samoa is an insular area, and I can think of no one I would like to see in the position more than Doug Domenech. His knowledge and experience of the region and the mission of the office is unparalleled, and I know that his leadership will be welcomed as we seek to craft real solutions for the constituents we serve. In fact, I have had the pleasure to see him in action, and know that he will hit the ground running."

American Samoa Gets $94,906 From Feds.

Marianas Variety (7/25) reports that Interior Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula "made available $94,906 for natural and cultural resource protection in American Samoa." Pula said, "We are pleased to support Gov. Lolo Moliga and the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources team in their efforts to preserve natural ecosystems vital to American Samoa's environment and the people's livelihood. American Samoa's natural resources are highly vulnerable to the impacts of land-based pollution, illegal near-shore fishing and changes in climate for which this funding is greatly needed."

Trump Administration Allegedly Threatens Alaskan Senators With Retribution After Health Care Vote.

Snopes (7/27, Garcia) reports the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee "announced on 27 July 2017 that it would postpone a vote on nominees" to both the Department of the Interior and the Department of Energy "until a date and time to be determined." The article notes that "three nominees to the Department of the Interior — Brenda Burman for commissioner of reclamation; Susan Combs for assistant secretary for policy, management and budget; and Doug Domenech for assistant secretary for insular affairs — were reportedly slated for consideration at that meeting."

Top National News

As He Mulls Next Steps, Trump Urges Senate To Tackle ACA Repeal Again.

HHS Secretary Price and other Administration representatives appeared on the Sunday morning political talk shows to discuss their next steps on repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, but a main focus of the limited coverage of the topic was on President Trump's continued Twitter cajoling of Republicans on Capitol Hill to act. Also getting attention is the President's threat to end payments to insurers under the ACA as part of his effort to "let Obamacare implode."

ABC World News Tonight (7/30, story 4, 2:05, Wright) reported, "The President is making it clear [that] he's not ready to accept defeat on healthcare reform. ... But the Republicans who voted against the bill have no regrets. Maine's Susan Collins says she got a round of applause at the airport when she landed in Bangor." Collins: "It was just amazing. I've never had that happen in the 20 years that I've been privileged to serve in the Senate." Wright: "President Trump has repeatedly said the only alternative to a repeal is to let Obamacare fail. ... He repeated that Friday, after the Senate's vote." Trump: "You know, I said from the beginning, let Obamacare implode. And then do it. I turned out to be right. Let Obamacare implode." On the CBS Weekend News (7/30, story 3, 1:25, Quijano), Errol Barnett reported, "With the implosion of Republican efforts to repeal Obamacare last week, President Trump's health secretary emphasized some things still need to be done. ... But Democrats want Republicans to come to the negotiating table and find ways to stabilize the existing framework."

Reuters (7/30, Cornwell) reports in a brief item that "for the second day running," the President "tweeted his impatience with Congress' inability to accomplish its seven-year goal of replacing the Affordable Care Act." Trump tweeted, "Don't give up Republican Senators, the World is watching: Repeal & Replace...and go to 51 votes (nuke option), get Cross State Lines & more." The Los Angeles Times (7/30, King) reports that Trump "urged GOP senators to try again," even though Senate Majority Leader McConnell "said last week it was time to move on to other matters." The New York Post (7/30, Li) also briefly reports on Trump's tweet.

Axios (7/30, Swan, Nather) writes that Trump "is spoiling for war against the health insurance industry. ... On Twitter, the President threatened to end so-called 'bailouts' for health insurance companies – referring to payments the government makes to insurers so they can make insurance less costly for low-income people (as they're required to do)." While "it may sound like good politics for a populist Republican president" to do so, "the potential consequences are alarming. If Trump follows through on his Twitter-threat, insurers would dramatically raise prices – shredding the final layers of duct tape holding together the ACA insurance markets."

The Washington Examiner (7/30, Lim) writes that Trump's "repeated calls for Senate Republicans to ram through healthcare reform using the nuclear option conflict with his earlier aversion to the controversial parliamentary procedure." In November 2013, Trump tweeted, "Thomas Jefferson wrote the Senate filibuster rule. Harry Reid & Obama killed it yesterday. Rule was in effect for over 200 years."

John Dickerson said on the CBS Weekend News (7/30, story 6, 0:45, Quijano), "If the President keeps attacking Republicans, that didn't work in getting healthcare passed, and so it's difficult to see how more abuse from the President will help with the Republicans, in part because of his approval ratings, which are quite low."

The AP (7/30, Yen) reports, "The White House stepped up demands Sunday for revived congressional efforts on health care and suggested senators cancel their entire summer break, if needed, to pass legislation after failed votes last week." Aides said the President "is prepared in the coming days to end required payments to insurers under the Affordable Care Act as part of a bid to let 'Obamacare implode' and force the Senate to act." The Washington Times (7/30, Howell) says that "the Trump administration is on the warpath."

USA Today (7/30, Jackson) reports that Price "said during Sunday show interviews that the administration would look at current regulations they believe drive up health care costs, including the mandate that requires people to buy health insurance." Bloomberg News (7/29, Mohsin) reports that Price said that "'no decision's been made' on whether to continue key Affordable Care Act subsidies to health-insurance companies, but that the administration's job is 'to follow the law of the land.'" The Washington Times (7/30, Sherfinski) reports that on ABC's This Week, Price said, "All things are on the table to try to help patients. What we're trying to do is to make it so we have a healthcare system that responds to the needs of the American people."

Price said on NBC's Meet The Press (7/30, Todd), "I think what the President has explained and punctuates is his seriousness about this issue and his passion for turning the healthcare system in a direction that puts patients first, not government and not insurance companies." On ABC's This Week (7/30, Raddatz), Price said he believed the President's sentiment of letting Obamacare implode and then attempting to negotiate underlies "the seriousness that he understands the American people dealing with the current situation."

The Washington Times (7/30, Sherfinski) reports that Kellyanne Conway said Sunday that the President "will decide this week whether to cut off cost-sharing payments that go to insurance companies" under the ACA. Politico (7/30, Klimas) reports that Conway said on Fox News Sunday, "He's going to make that decision this week, and that's a decision that only he can make." Conway also said on Fox News Sunday (7/30, Wallace), "The President will not accept those who said it's 'time to move on.' He wants to help the millions of Americans who have suffered with no coverage."

Politico (7/30, Klimas) reports that OMB Director Mulvaney said on CNN's State Of The Union that "the Senate should not vote on anything else until it's voted again on repealing Obamacare." Mulvaney said, "In the White House's view, they can't move on in the Senate. You can't promise folks you're going to do something for seven years, and then not do it."

The Hill (7/30, Henry) reports that the President has "unleashed a new group of advocates in his failed push to convince the Senate to repeal ObamaCare: his Cabinet." Both Energy Secretary Perry and Interior Secretary Zinke were "used by Trump in the battle, highlighting the president's willingness to exert pressure in new ways on lawmakers opposing his agenda." Perry wrote an op-ed in the Cleveland Plain Dealer that did not mention his agency, which "raised eyebrows among good government groups and Democrats." And "Zinke's threats in a phone call to Alaska Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, in particular, led to rancor."

Collins Criticizes Proposed Cuts In Payments To Insurers. The Wall Street Journal (7/30, Burton) reports that Collins said Sunday that President Trump's threatened cuts in payments to insurers would be "detrimental" to the poor. She said on CNN's State Of The Union, "They're paid to the insurance companies, but the people that they benefit are people who make between 100% and 250% of the poverty rate. So we're talking about low-income Americans who would be devastated if those payments were cut off." Politico (7/30, Klimas) reports that Collins said that she is "'troubled' by the uncertainty those statements are creating, including destabilization of insurance markets."

Collins said on NBC's Meet The Press (7/30, Todd), "I don't accept the premise that we should not proceed to reform the law." She added that what needs to be done is "to go through the normal process, identify the problems, have hearings, hear from experts, hear from all the stakeholders, and produce a series of bills to fix the real flaws in the Affordable Care Act."

Ducey Gave McCain Okay To Vote For Senate Bill. The Arizona Republic (7/30, Nowicki, Sanchez) reports that during the debate over Senate repeal measures, Sen. John McCain "repeatedly invoked the name of Gov. Doug Ducey, saying he wanted to ensure any new law didn't punish their home state of Arizona. ... But despite eventually getting the go-ahead from Ducey," McCain voted against the final measure. A Republican aide "familiar with conversations between the governor and the senators told The Arizona Republic the governor 'was OK with this moving forward if it meant it was going to be a vehicle for a better bill.'"

Politico Magazine (7/30, Shenon) looks back at McCain's near-defection from the GOP in 2001 under encouragement from then-Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, writing that Daschle and other Democrats are now "questioning whether the party should mount a new campaign to lure McCain and other wavering Republican senators away from the GOP."

Centrist "Problem Solvers Caucus" Working On ACA Reform In House. Politico (7/30, Caygle, Demko) reports, "A coalition of roughly 40 House Republicans and Democrats plan to unveil a slate of Obamacare fixes Monday they hope will gain traction after the Senate's effort to repeal the law imploded." The "Problem Solvers caucus," headed by Reps. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ) and Tom Reed (R-NY), "is fronting the effort to stabilize the ACA markets ... Their plan focuses on

immediately stabilizing the insurance market and then pushing for Obamacare changes that have received bipartisan backing in the past."

Progressives See Lessons For Future Single-Payer Push In GOP Defeat. The Washington Post (7/30, Weigel) reports that "progressive Democrats who watched Republicans fail to unwind the Affordable Care Act are thinking harder about passing major expansions" of healthcare coverage. For many "younger activists and legislators, the push to undo the ACA with just 51 Senate votes is less a cautionary tale than a model of how to bring about universal coverage." While Democratic leaders have "not embraced" the effort, for many of them, the GOP's "near miss on repeal demonstrated boldness from which a future left-wing majority could learn." Referring to a single-payer plan, freshman Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA) said, "When we do have a Democratic president, and when we do have a Democratic majority, I'd support getting this through with 51 votes in the Senate."

Reuters Poll: Most Want ACA Kept Or Modified; Majority Says Congress Should Move On. Reuters (7/29, Kahn, Erman) reports that a new Reuters/Ipsos pol finds that 64 percent of Americans want "to either keep or modify the Affordable Care Act," up from 54 percent in January, "and a majority of Americans want Congress to turn its attention to other priorities."

Dionne: Nuns Spoke Out Against Senate Measures. In his Washington Post (7/30) column, E.J. Dionne spotlights Roman Catholic nuns who organized in opposition to the GOP legislation, calling "the Senate GOP's core proposal 'the most harmful legislation for American families in our lifetimes.' ... In speaking out as they did, the socially minded nuns – who do the work of justice and mercy every day in hospitals, clinics, homeless shelters and schools – made clear that depriving millions of Americans of health coverage truly is a moral outrage."

Trump Replaces Priebus With Kelly As Chief Of Staff.

President Trump announced Friday that he has replaced White House Chief of Staff Priebus with Homeland Security Secretary Kelly. Media coverage, which included 12 minutes on the network newscasts, was also extensive in print and online. The tone of the reporting on the staffing shakeup was mixed, with most analyses suggesting the change shows the strength of new White House communications Anthony Scaramucci in an Administration marred by turmoil, though conservative news outlets praised Trump for firing Priebus for his connections to the Republican Party establishment.

In the lead CBS Evening News (7/28, lead story, 2:55, Mason) segment, Major Garrett reported that the President "characteristically...broke the news on Twitter." In a front-page article, the Wall Street Journal (7/28, A1, Ballhaus, Nicholas) reports Trump in two tweets announced, "I am pleased to inform you that I have just named General/Secretary John F Kelly as White House Chief of Staff. He is a Great American...and a Great Leader. John has also done a spectacular job at Homeland Security. He has been a true star of my Administration." The President later added, "I would like to thank Reince Priebus for his service and dedication to his country. We accomplished a lot together and I am proud of him!" The AP (7/28, Lemire, Colvin) reports Trump also told reporters, "Reince is a good man. John Kelly will do a fantastic job."

The New York Times (7/28, A1, Baker, Haberman) in a front-page article reports "Priebus, the White House chief of staff who failed to impose order on a chaos-wracked West Wing, was pushed out on Friday after a stormy six-month tenure." The Times describes "Priebus's ouster [as] the latest convulsion in a White House that has been whipsawed by feuds and political setbacks in recent days" and says the President "became convinced that Mr. Priebus was not strong enough to run the White House operation and that he needed a general to take charge." In contrast, according to the Times, "Mr. Kelly, who has demonstrated strong leadership at the Department of Homeland Security, had become a favorite of Mr. Trump's." The Times adds that while "always seeming to be on the edge of ouster, Mr. Priebus saw his fate finally sealed a week ago when Mr. Trump hired Mr. Scaramucci, an edgy Wall Street financier, over the chief of staff's objections."

Bloomberg News (7/28, Olorunnipa, Talev) reports "the ouster of Reince Priebus, who said he delivered his resignation on Thursday, caps a week of intensified infighting at the White House in which he was embroiled in a public feud with...Scaramucci. It also comes as the administration suffered two stinging defeats in Congress."

According to Reuters (7/28, Holland, Rampton), "Priebus' 189-day tenure was the shortest in modern history for a White House chief of staff." Reuters reports that Priebus "had hoped to stay on at least a year but struggled to manage his unpredictable boss and was unable to get a handle on conflicting factions in the White House who have frequently squabbled." In the lead NBC Nightly News (7/28, lead story, 2:30, Holt) segment, Kristen Welker reported "a source

close to Priebus says he privately offered his resignation" on Thursday after Scaramucci "launched a profanity-laced tirade against him in the New Yorker," but "sources inside the White House say the President has been frustrated with Priebus' perceived lack of leadership for months and having put him in charge of healthcare, last night's defeat was the final straw."

The Hill (7/28, Manchester) says that Priebus' dismissal has also "drawn new attention to a past tweet criticizing former President Barack Obama for going through a number of chiefs of staff." The Hill reports that in 2012, Trump said, "3 Chief of Staffs in less than 3 years of being President: Part of the reason why @BarackObama can't manage to pass his agenda." The CBS Evening News (7/28, story 2, 1:35, Mason) stated that "if you're keeping score, turmoil in the Trump Administration over the past six months has seen the ouster of national security adviser Michael Flynn, FBI Director James Comey, communications director Mike Dubke, press secretary Sean Spicer, and now...Priebus."

Nonetheless, the Washington Post (7/28, Rucker, Phillip, Costa, Parker) suggests the "major shake-up [is] designed to bring order and military precision to a West Wing beset for six straight months by chaos, infighting and few tangible accomplishments." The Post says "Kelly's hiring is expected to usher in potentially sweeping structural changes to the turbulent operation and perhaps the departures of some remaining Priebus allies. Kelly intends to bring some semblance of traditional discipline to the West Wing, where warring advisers have been able to circumvent the chief of staff and report directly to the president and sidestep the policy process, according to people with knowledge of his plans." An informal White House adviser said, "I think any observer...could...realize the White House is failing. ... And when the White House is failing, you can't replace the president."

In the lead ABC World News Tonight (7/28, lead story, 3:40, Muir) segment, chief White House correspondent Jonathan Karl also predicted "a purge of RNC veterans, Republican National Committee veterans, in the White House. The people that Priebus had brought in will be leaving, leaving very soon. Many of them today." The Hill (7/28, Fabian, Kamisar) says "speculation is [also] swirling about the future of [White House Chief Strategist] Bannon and other top aides as Trump shakes up his team."

In an analysis, the Washington Post (7/28, Phillips) contends that the President "with every staff move...seems to be moving ever further away from the Republican establishment and building a much more insular team that fits his narrow worldview. Nowhere is this more evident than in the Priebus-Kelly switch." The Post adds "it's not much of an overstatement to say that Priebus, along with Vice President Pence, was Trump's connection to Capitol Hill insiders" and suggests Trump's dismissal of Priebus and Spicer indicates he is done offering "olive branches" to the GOP establishment.

Meanwhile, Politico (7/28, Palmeri, Dawsey, Isenstadt) reports White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders "declined to directly answer whether Priebus or Trump made the decision for Priebus to go." She told reporters, "We all serve at the pleasure of the president. The conversations about this started with the president and Reince about two weeks ago." The Washington Times (7/28, Boyer) reports Sanders also praised Kelly, saying, "He has helped seal the border and reduced illegal immigration by 70 percent." She added, "He is respected by everyone, especially the people at the Department of Homeland Security. The entire administration loves him and no one is comparable."

Politico (7/28, Lima) reports Kelly in a statement said he was "honored to be asked to serve as the Chief of Staff." Kelly said, "I have been fortunate to have served my country for more than 45 years – first as a Marine and then as the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security." He added, "To the tremendous men and women of DHS, I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Secretary. When I left the Marines, I never thought I would find as committed, as professional, as patriotic a group of individuals. I was wrong. You accomplish great things everyday defending our nation and I know your exceptional work will continue."

The Hill (7/28, Byrnes) reports Priebus issued a statement Friday saying that his tenure as chief of staff "has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve this President and our country. I want to thank the President for giving me this very special opportunity." He added, "I will continue to serve as a strong supporter of the President's agenda and policies. I can't think of a better person than General John Kelly to succeed me and I wish him God's blessings and great success."

In an interview with Wolf Blitzer of CNN's Situation Room (7/28, 7:05 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), Priebus said he would not comment on what Blitzer described as Trump's "bitter accusations against you, specifically the leaking." Priebus called the allegation "ridiculous," but confirmed that he believes "there is leaking inside the White House." He said, "I think that Gen. Kelly should see

if he could get to the bottom of it and figure it out. But obviously unnamed sources are something that's been problematic and I wish him well, and I'm going to try to help him out. But obviously that's going to be on his plate and I hope he can get to the bottom of it." Priebus declined to say whether he believes the FBI should get involved in the investigation. In the CNN (7/28, Diaz) interview, Priebus also asserted, "Look, the President wanted to go a different direction. I support him in that." He continued, "General Kelly is a brilliant pick. ... We'll be working on a transition. It's not like it's a situation where there's a lot of ill feelings. I think this is good for the President."

Breitbart (7/28, Spiering) lauds the decision. Breitbart reports "Kelly earned the respect of the president as the head of his Department of Homeland Security (DHS), as the pair shared a deep respect for the rule of law and order" and says "Trump's decision signals that he wants more gravitas and discipline in his chaotic White House, relying on a retired Marine General to take the place of Priebus – who sometimes struggled to earn the respect of the president's staff." Politico (7/28, Bender, Hesson, Beasley) reports "Kelly's aides say" that he and the President have become "exceptionally close during the months he has served as the public face and chief defender of Trump's immigration policies."

The New York Times (7/28, Nixon, Shear) profiles "the square-jawed Mr. Kelly, the first general to hold the chief of staff position since Alexander M. Haig during the Nixon administration," and says he "will be an imposing and strait-laced figure in a West Wing filled with constantly warring aides and advisers, most of whom came to Washington with virtually no experience in federal government before Mr. Trump's victory last year." According to the Times, "The selection of Mr. Kelly was quickly praised by both Republicans and Democrats, who expressed hope that he would bring a swift end to the distracting feuds among the president's staff."

However, in a Daily Caller (7/28, Pfeiffer) article titled on the homepage "Trump Rinses Hands Of Priebus," the piece acknowledges that "Kelly, who has little political experience, will be taking on a job historically suited for Washington insiders." In the second NBC Nightly News (7/28, story 2, 1:20, Holt) segment, political director and moderator of "Meet the Press" Chuck Todd asserted that "of everybody in the President's orbit...Kelly was probably the best candidate he could have picked to be chief of staff, but he can only be successful if, number one, the President gives him some authority, at least on staffing, and number two, if there is an acknowledgment of where things get started and where they end." Todd said, "I imagine that somebody who has worn the uniform is going to be harder to end-run than" Priebus, but "ultimately it's about – what authority does this President give his new chief of staff?"

Pence Congratulates Kelly On Appointment, Thanks Priebus For Service. The Hill (7/28, Eberhardt) reports Vice President Pence on Friday "congratulated incoming White House Chief of Staff John Kelly on his appointment, moments after President Trump announced via Twitter that he would replace Reince Priebus with Kelly." Pence tweeted, "Congratulations to my friend General/Secretary John Kelly for being named @WhiteHouse Chief of Staff. I know you will do a great job! #MAGA." Pence added, "Well said, Mr. President. Grateful to Reince for his friendship and service to America. He's been a huge part of our success!"

Conway: For White House Staff To Succeed, Recognize That Trump Is "Your Superior." The Hill (7/28, Manchester) reports senior counselor Kellyanne Conway in Fox News interview on Friday "offered advice to her colleagues on Friday following a major staff shakeup: Don't treat President Trump like a peer." Conway "recalled a meeting with Trump in August when she was tapped as his campaign manager and told him she'd 'never' address him by his first name and said 'I don't consider myself your peer.'" According to Conway, "The reason I said that is because I do think that it is important to set up that level of deference and humility when you've got someone who's your boss, now the president of the United States, now the chief of staff, a general, a secretary, who is clearly your senior, your superior."

Duke To Become Acting DHS Secretary After Kelly Sworn In As Chief Of Staff On Monday. Fox News (7/28) reports Elaine Duke, "sworn in as the deputy secretary of Homeland Security on April 10 after she was confirmed by the Senate," will take over as acting Homeland Security Secretary on Monday after Kelly is sworn in as chief of staff. Fox News states that "in her position as deputy secretary, Duke led 'all efforts related to the strategic execution of DHS's vital missions,' according to her DHS biography."

Mulvaney Denies Reports Of White House "Chaos." The Hill (7/28, Concha) reports White House Budget Director Mulvaney in a Fox Business interview on Friday "accused the media of selling 'palace intrigue' stories on the administration while ignoring good news for the economy that President Trump is achieving." Mulvaney said, "I will push back a little bit on that whole chaos thing." He added the Administration on Thursday shared "a unified position on basic

principles on taxes. That is not chaotic. We just rolled out of the Office of Management and Budget late last week over 860 regulatory actions that we have delayed or stopped in the first six months of this administration. That is not chaos." Mulvaney concluded, "The chaos will play out in the media, it always does. Palace intrigue sells better than raw numbers, but the raw numbers are looking better and better, and that is because the administration is doing its work."

GOP Lawmakers Complain About Infighting In White House. Politico (7/28, Bade, Bresnahan) reports that "as House Republicans vented about the Senate's failure to repeal Obamacare at a private meeting Friday morning," Rep. Dave Trott "shocked the room when he said the president had been unhelpful on health care, according to sources at the meeting." Politico adds that Trott "worried aloud that constant White House infighting was distracting from the Republican agenda – and he said he felt the president could have done more to get the bill across the finish line." Politico states that Trott had been "simply vocalizing what's on many members' minds already, even if few say so publicly for fear of retribution. Hill Republicans are increasingly worried that Trump's penchant for drama – and the constant bickering in the West Wing – is going to crush their agenda."

US Lawmakers, Former Officials Discuss Foreign Policy Impact Of Cabinet Reshuffling. Lucas Tomlinson of Fox News' Special Report (7/28, 6:23 p.m. EDT, Baier) reported, "With the White House weighing a decision to deploy nearly 4,000 American troops to Afghanistan very soon, expect newly-installed White House Chief of Staff John Kelly to fall back on his more than four decades in uniform leading the Marines." Tomlinson continued, "Before becoming President Trump's Director of Homeland Security, Gen. Kelly served three tours in Iraq. In 2008, he led the entire Marine force in volatile western Anbar Province. ... In 2010, he became the highest military ranking officer to lose a son or daughter in combat."

In a telephone interview with former Defense Secretary Panetta, Bret Baier of Fox News' Special Report (7/28, 6:47 p.m. EDT, Baier), asked whether "it is comforting in some sense to have someone with Gen. Kelly's experience at the President's right side" in light of the North Korean threat and situations in Syria and Venezuela. Panetta responded, "I don't think there's any question that I feel a hell of a lot better about having John Kelly in the room and in the Oval Office when it comes to dealing with the crises the President has to confront abroad." Panetta added that Kelly "was my military aid, the person in touch with the military establishment at DOD, but he also dealt with the congressional inquiries that came in from both Republicans and Democrats, so he's got great experience not only in Washington but also in understanding what our military needs to do in order to remain the strongest on the face of the earth."

On Fox News' Special Report (7/28, 6:12 p.m. EDT, Baier), former White House Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove said Trump's decision to replace Priebus with Kelly "was a deliberate decision" that "will be reflected in the policymaking process of government. Clearly Gen. Kelly, from a military background and his service at the Department of Homeland Security, is focused on methodical process." Rove added, "The very first week that President Trump was in office, he issued the executive order on immigration and on visas for people from terrorist states," and that "there is pretty good evidence that Gen. Kelly raised concerns about this, on a Wednesday or Thursday, saying basically back to his people at the White House, 'I've got concerns, this looks like it applies to current green card holders, I am worried about the lack of clarity on how it affects Iraqi civilians who helped American military.'" Rove said every one of Kelly's "objections turned out to be a major problem with the first iteration of the President's executive order on these visas from terror states." Fox News' Special Report's (7/28, 6:09 p.m. EDT, Baier) Catherine Herridge reported Kelly nonetheless "backed the President's controversial executive order to block entry from six predominately-Muslim countries and suspend the refugee program. While courts will have the final say, the policy is being enforced for the time being."

On CNN's Situation Room (7/28, 6:32 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), Sen. Richard Blumenthal said Kelly "has certainly been loyal to the President, but unfortunately, there has been not only the travel ban, the Muslim travel ban that has been struck down by some of the courts, upheld in part by the United States Supreme Court, that created a great deal of chaos and confusion. But also even just as alarmingly, the in effect draconian, sweeping changes in policy that have meant arrests and deportations of people who have been here, working hard for decades, heads of families, many of them with children who are US citizens, spouses who are US citizens." Blumenthal said these immigrants are "often given day's notice before they were going to be deported" to "places that are extraordinarily dangerous, even deadly for them if they are returned to Central America. And I would hope that maybe as Chief of Staff, Gen. Kelly would persuade the President that these immigration policies are deeply flawed and, in fact, betray American values."

When asked on CNN's Situation Room (7/28, 6:21 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) whether he agreed with Kelly's support of Trump's proposed border wall and hard-line stance on immigration, Rep. Mark Sanford responded, "For the most part, yes. Again, I think we have to secure our southern border. I've been clear about that for a long time."

Rebecca Berg of Real Clear Politics told CNN's Situation Room (7/28, 6:25 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that President Trump appears to have staffed his Administration with generals like Defense Secretary Mattis or "very, very wealthy people" from the business community, like "Wilbur Ross at Commerce, Rex Tillerson, former CEO of Exxon/Mobil, his Secretary of State." Trump's selection of Kelly as Chief of Staff is, Berg said, "another example of Trump needing someone" who "he views as a peer" – an advantage that "Priebus didn't have in his pocket."

WSJournal, Columnists Weigh In On Staffing Shakeup. The Wall Street Journal (7/28) editorializes that Priebus is not responsible for the turmoil in the White House, the President is. The Journal adds Kelly will likely face the same obstacles as Priebus does if Trump refuses to become more disciplined in his decision-making process and his public statements.

The New York Times (7/28) editorializes that Trump "presumably" wants Kelly "to bring order to an increasingly dysfunctional White House," but "Kelly's first and biggest challenge is to bring discipline to the president, since the chaos starts with him." The Times concludes "It may be that nobody is equal to the task of persuading Mr. Trump to stop blindsiding his staff and Americans with tweeted attacks and impromptu announcements; nobody can stop him from dragging the needle across his own daily agenda; nobody can get him to stop fooling around and govern. It is now Mr. Kelly's job to give it a try."

In her Washington Post (7/28, Marcus) column, Ruth Marcus contends "the Trump White House is imploding" and acknowledges "the temptation, of course, is to begin with" Scaramucci's recent "profane rant against soon-to-be-former White House chief of staff Reince Priebus and chief strategist Stephen K. Bannon. But the more powerful, more ominous evidence of implosion and its consequences is found in the collapse of congressional efforts to repeal/replace/do something, anything, with the Republican Party's chief nemesis over the past seven years: the Affordable Care Act." She also predicts Kelly is unlikely to "fare much better" than Priebus because "daily, the president's boundless anger seems to find a new target: He is variously unhappy with his lawyer/his strategist/his press secretary. There is always someone else for Trump to blame, never himself."

In her Washington Post (7/28, Parker) column, Kathleen Parker asserts "Trump had his worst day since he was elected president – we'll just call it Friday – and his worst week since the last one. Things can only get worser and worser, as the Bard would permit me to say." According to Parker, "A few Trump loyalists may wait for the last lifeboat, but it's only a matter of time before this administration capsizes, titanically." She adds the President's "chaotic White House operation is a constant reminder that no one's in charge. The cumulative effect of all of these affronts to normalcy, decorum and democracy is to reveal the profile of a deadly iceberg off the ship of state's bow."

Meanwhile, in her Washington Post (7/28, Sullivan) column, Margaret Sullivan says that "in every job, there are firing offenses," and for Scaramucci, "here's one that ought to qualify: not having a clue about how 'off the record' works." She cites his language attacking Priebus as "way beyond colorful, way behind 'inappropriate' and all the way into territory that – even in this bizarre moment in history – had the power to shock" and argues that "in any other world, his gig should be over, right now, before it's begun. But in Trump World, [his defense] makes perfect sense: Blame the media and move on."

However, in a Fox News (7/28, Gingrich) op-ed, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich praises Kelly and contends that if Trump and Kelly, "two powerful, experienced leaders [can] forge a unique working relationship," then "I predict the White House will become more orderly and disciplined – with clear lines of authority, serious planning and strong teamwork." He concludes that "If these two powerful leaders truly become a team, the Trump presidency will become one of the most effective in our history."

Trump Calls On Congress To Give More Leeway To Police In Speech Condemning MS-13 Gang Violence.

President Trump on Friday spoke to law enforcement officers at Suffolk County Community College in Long Island to promote his Administration's efforts to eradicate the MS-13 gang and to call upon Congress to give police additional leeway to use force when arresting suspects. While media coverage was focused on the President's replacement of White House Chief of Staff Priebus with Homeland Security Secretary Kelly and the CBS Evening News was the sole network

newscast to broadcast, reporting in print and online outlined some of the Trump's most controversial remarks at the event and examined his strained relationship with Attorney General Sessions.

Reuters (7/28, Rampton, Rosenberg) reports the President "painted a dark and brutal portrait of American communities he said had been ravaged by gang violence as he pressed Congress to help him stop illegal immigration and boost deportations." The New York Times (7/28, Haberman, Robbins) reports Trump "wound up delivering a de facto campaign rally with a spray of Long Island police officers applauding behind him." He also "as expected...called on Congress to fund hiring 10,000 more Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to crack down on undocumented immigrants in the United States, including those he said pose a criminal threat, and added that the initial spending for his proposed wall on the Mexico border was just approved by the House."

The Washington Post (7/28, Nakamura) reports Trump "warned of an uptick in violence from the transnational gang MS-13 that he said exploited weak political leadership and immigration enforcement to terrorize communities as the White House launched a renewed push to Congress to beef up funding for border security measures." Thomas Homan, acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, "said his agency has arrested 3,311 gang members this year, including 100 in New York, a majority of whom were affiliated with MS-13." According to Homan, "Targeting, arresting, and removing members of violent street gangs, such as MS-13, sends a clear message to criminal enterprises around the world: You are not welcome in the United States, and you'll find no harbor here." Tucker Carlson of Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight (7/28, 8:26 p.m. EDT, Carlson) reported that "the Department of Justice estimates there are more than 10,000 members [of MS-13] in the United States."

In an article headlined "Donald Trump Declares War On Gangs, Defends Law Enforcement," Breitbart (7/28, Spiering) reports he "also vowed to defend law enforcement and stop criminal illegal aliens from crossing the border." The President vowed, "From now on, we're going to enforce our laws, protect our borders, and support our police like our police have never been supported before." The Wall Street Journal (7/28, Ballhaus, Reinhard) reports he said, "You know when you see these thugs being thrown into the back of a paddy wagon, you just see them thrown in rough. ... I said, please don't be too nice." To applause of the audience, the President added, "When you guys put somebody into the car and you're protecting their head – you know... like don't hit their head, and they've just killed somebody – I said, you can take the hand away, OK?"

Meanwhile, the CBS Evening News (7/28, story 6, 1:50, Mason) broadcast Trump stating that his Administration's policy is "to dismantle, decimate, and eradicate MS-13. We will find you. We will arrest you. We will jail you. And we will deport you." Correspondent Don Dahler said that Trump chose the venue "because near the Suffolk County community college where he spoke, 17 gang-related murders happened over the past 18 months."

Police Cheer Trump For Critique Of "Pathetic Mayor," Prompting De Blasio To Push Back. The Hill (7/28, Greenwood) reports President Trump on Friday "drew a round of applause from law enforcement officials...after he took a swipe at mayors who don't let police 'do their job.'" He said, "I've met police that are great police that aren't allowed to do their job because they have a pathetic mayor or a mayor that doesn't know what's going on." The President added, "Were you applauding for someone in particular?"

The New York Times (7/28, Goodman) says Trump's remarks "appeared to take a swipe at the elected leader of his hometown, Mayor Bill de Blasio," when he "spoke of 'a pathetic mayor' who had not let the police 'do their job.'" According to The Times, "The White House did not respond to a request for clarification – and Mr. Trump mentioned other cities, including Chicago, in the speech – but he has criticized Mr. de Blasio and his policing policies in the past." The Times says de Blasio's mayoral campaign issued "a response soon after the speech that doubled as a fund-raising pitch for donations of as little as $3."

Chicago Marks 400 Homicides This Year As Trump Promotes Biker Cop. According to a Chicago Tribune (7/28) tally, Chicago has exceeded 400 homicides this year and the city "is on pace to have a deadlier year than 2016, when gun violence reached levels not seen in 20 years. ... While fewer people have been shot this year, more of them are dying from their wounds." The Tribune adds "the percentage of fatal shootings is running about 1.3 percent higher than last year."

The Chicago Tribune (7/28, Janssen) reports Trump on Friday "repeated his claim that he last year identified a mystery Chicago cop" to Mayor Rahm Emanuel who had been "part of a volunteer brigade of motorcyclists who escorted his campaign in Chicago last year" and had

insisted he "could solve the city's crime problem in 'a couple of days,'" but the President asserted that "he never heard back from Emanuel – a claim disputed by the mayor's spokesman Adam Collins, who said Emanuel never received the name." Chicago Police spokesman Frank Giancamilli said CPD has also been "unable to identify any Department member who had a conversation with then-candidate Trump."

New York Police Departments, Immigration Advocates Criticize Trump Speech. The Hill (7/28, Manchester) "Briefing Room" blog reports the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) on Friday issued a response to Trump's address, "saying officers are trained to treat all people with 'dignity and respect.'" In a statement, the IACP said, "Managing use of force is one of the most difficult challenges faced by law enforcement agencies. The ability of law enforcement officers to enforce the law, protect the public, and guard their own safety, the safety of innocent bystanders, and even those suspected or apprehended for criminal activity is very challenging." The IACP added, "For these reasons, law enforcement agencies develop policies and procedures, as well as conduct extensive training, to ensure that any use of force is carefully applied and objectively reasonable considering the situation confronted by the officers."

The Hill (7/28, Manchester) "Briefing Room" blog reports the Suffolk County Police Department responded Friday to Trump's comments advocating for tougher treatment of suspects, tweeting, "The SCPD has strict rules & procedures relating to the handling of prisoners. Violations of those rules are treated extremely seriously." The SCPD added, "As a department, we do not and will not tolerate roughing up of prisoners.."

The Hill (7/28, Delk) reports New York Police Commissioner James O'Neill earlier Friday said the department would not be represented at Trump's speech because "We have a lot to do, a lot of work to do in New York City." However, The Hill acknowledges "The commissioner's jurisdiction of New York does not extend to all of Long Island, where the meeting on gang violence is taking place. It is not clear if the NYPD would have been expected to attend the event."

Daniel Altschuler of Make The Road New York told Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight (7/28, 8:32 p.m. EDT, Carlson) that while Trump calls MS-13 the biggest problem for immigrant families, Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the real "threat to immigrant communities," because ICE "is a rogue and out-of-control agency. Ten immigrants have died in detention because of actions by Immigration Enforcement." He added, "This is a rogue agency that the President is seeking to empower. What we are saying is that we refuse and refute the criminalization of immigrant communities."

Sessions Hails Law Enforcement For Often "Thankless" Work, Hopes For Improved Relationship With Trump. Attorney General Sessions, speaking in El Salvador to address a graduation ceremony for the International Law Enforcement Academy, told the AP (7/28, Gurman) that he is "eager to use his aggressive work against the MS-13 street gang to help mend his tattered relationship with" the President following "a week of sour performance reviews from his boss." Sessions said MS-13 is "one of many issues that we share deep commitments about." Sessions added that the gang "is in a very expansive mode and we need to slam the door on that. We need to stop them in their tracks and focus on this dangerous group."

Politico (7/28, Nelson) reports the "embattled" Sessions also "said Friday that law enforcement work is 'often thankless,' a remark that comes as he has been under withering criticism from his onetime ally, President Donald Trump." Sessions told graduates, "While there are good days and bad days in any job, one thing has been clear to me, it is a privilege to serve one's country in law enforcement, to wake up each morning and fight the fight for the rule of law. ... It is hard work and often thankless, but the right to be safe in your community is the right on which all the others are based."

Meanwhile, CNN's Situation Room's (7/28, 6:55 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Wolf Blitzer said that under Trump's presidency, "there have been some positive developments clearly" on MS-13. White House reporter Kaitlan Collins acknowledged, "There's been a few," such as declining border crossings. Yet, Trump has "time and time again" distracted "from those things that are working for him." Collins added that in Long Island, Trump "was talking about the election," rather than "focusing on what...Sessions is doing in El Salvador right now," talking "with law enforcement officials about combating the MS-13 gang."

Asked if he believes Attorney General Sessions will retain his post, Trump's former campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, told Bret Baier of Fox News' Special Report (7/28, 6:21 p.m. EDT, Baier), "That's a difficult question," in part because "it was a mistake for Jeff to recuse himself" from the Russia investigation. Lewandowski added that as long as Trump is "happy with the work that he's doing, particularly on the MS-13 crisis," Sessions will likely remain.

Police Veterans Warn Phoenix Immigration Policies Could Embolden Cartels. Writing in Breitbart (7/28, Arce), retired Phoenix police detective Robert Arce says that as the city's officials and police department prepare "to implement a soft approach to dealing with illegal immigrants during traffic stops and investigations, veteran law enforcement officials worry that the measure could provide a safe haven for Mexican drug cartels and lead to yet another explosion in gory crime scenes." According to Arce, "the concern among veteran detectives is that this policy could have the same effect that a previous policy did that led to Phoenix seeing a record setting number of murder[s] linked primarily to illegal immigrants and Mexican drug cartels."

Border Patrol Agents Seize Almost $8 Million In Drugs Over Two Days Along Texas Border. Breitbart (7/28, Price) reports Customs and Border Protection officers and Border Patrol agents this week "teamed up to seize almost $8 million in drugs at and near the Texas-Mexico Border in Laredo." Breitbart states that "CBP officers discovered a large amount of cocaine, crystal methamphetamine and heroin in two separate busts on July 22," which were estimated to have more than $1,183,000 in street value.

Address Of Suffolk County Community College Is 1001 Crooked Hill Road. The Hill (7/28, Smilowitz) reports Trump's speech to law enforcement officers was held at Suffolk County Community College, which is located at 1001 Crooked Hill Rd. and "is just blocks away from a major highway called the Long Island Expressway – often referred to by locals as the L.I.E." The Hill highlights that "Trump labeled Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton 'Crooked Hillary' during last year's campaign, sometimes shortening it on Twitter to 'Crooked Hill' or just 'Crooked H.'"

Mnuchin Pressures Congress To Raise Debt Ceiling Before Deadline.

Bloomberg News (7/28, Woods) reports Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin in a letter Friday "stepped up pressure on lawmakers to raise the government's borrowing limit, even as House members left town for their five-week recess." Mnuchin said "it is critical that Congress act" to raise the debt ceiling before Sept. 29, though "the Congressional Budget Office estimates the Treasury can fund the government through early- to mid-October under the current borrowing limit." According to Bloomberg, "Treasury has been relying on special accounting maneuvers since March to stay under the nearly $20 trillion debt cap."

Meadows Forecasts Clean Debt Ceiling Hike In October. The Hill (7/28, Elis) reports House Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows said Friday that he "believes Congress will adopt a continuing resolution (CR) instead of passing spending bills for 2018 by October and that a clean debt ceiling hike will pass with Democratic support, contrary to the wishes of conservative Republicans." Meadows said, "September is going to be a very difficult month. I mean, obviously all of this is coming into play right away, all the fiscal issues and deadlines are going to make it extremely difficult to get everything done in a piece-by-piece basis." He added, "We're almost anticipating a bigger bill with a whole bunch of things put together that would maybe bring a whole lot of Democrats on board and pass with less than a majority of the majority."

White House Kicks Off Tax Reform Push, Mulvaney Says That Goal Is To Cut As Much As Possible.

"The White House and congressional Republicans – backed by business and conservative groups – are mustering forces to muscle through a large tax cut package later this year," the Washington Post (7/28, Paletta) reports, which began with their release Thursday of "a broad statement that set out principles for the tax overhaul plan they hope to pull together" but lacked details. The Post adds Republicans "face many hurdles and have yet to gel behind a strategy" and "no member of the White House's senior economic team has been a part of a major tax overhaul bill." However, White House Budget Director Mulvaney said Friday on CNBC "that the goal was to cut taxes as much as politically possible." Mulvaney asserted "the central debate" remains "how big is tax reform going to be? How big are the tax reductions going to be?"

Ryan Pledges To "Do Tax Reform Better" Than Healthcare. Politico (7/28, Nelson) reports House Speaker Ryan in an interview with Fox Business that aired Friday said, "We looked at healthcare and said let's make sure that do tax reform better and differently, so we have had exhausting meetings – not exhausting, we've exhausted these points between all three branches, all three decision makers: Senate, House, White House." Ryan added, "We've had meeting after meeting after meeting to make sure we see it the same way and on common ground."

However, a Wall Street Journal (7/28, Rubin) analysis warns the Republican Party's failure to pass a healthcare bill to replace the Affordable Care Act will have repercussions on the GOP's tax reform push and could show the difficulties in building consensus on the legislation.

Tax Policy Center Analysis: Americans Earning Between $150,000-$300,000 To See Tax Hike. The Wall Street Journal (7/28, Saunders) reports a new study from the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center of President Trump's tax reform proposals and past statements suggests that Americans who earn between $149,400 and $307,900 will have their taxes increase if the Administration successfully reforms the tax code.

US Economy Continued To See "Slow And Steady" Growth In Second Quarter.

The CBS Evening News (7/28, story 9, 0:15, Mason) reported that the economy grew at a rate of 2.6 percent in the second quarter of this year, which is "more than double the first quarter rate." For eight consecutive years the economy has continued to grow, "the third-longest expansion in US history."

However, the New York Times (7/28, Schwartz) says this growth rate is "well short of the pace President Trump has promised and lower than what many experts had been anticipating until recently." The Times says the Commerce Department's report Friday "is a sign that the economy remains on track, with underlying growth in line with where it has been since the current recovery began eight years ago this summer."

GDP growth since the US emerged from recession in 2009 has averaged 2.1 percent, the Wall Street Journal (7/28, Sparshott) reports. In comparison, the Journal says growth over a 10-year period in the 1990s averaged 3.6 percent and growth over a 9-year period in the 1960s averaged 4.9 percent. This slow, steady growth, it says, has helped generate a long period of job growth and created stability in the economy.

Growth rates were the fastest in Texas at 3.9 percent, West Virginia at 3 percent, and New Mexico at 2.8 percent, the Wall Street Journal (7/28, Chaney) reports. The growth in these states is attributed to a revitalized mining sector, which has benefited from the recovery in commodity prices.

Meanwhile, in an analysis titled "White House Tailors Jobs Message To Its Base In Rust Belt," the Wall Street Journal (7/28, Stokols, Morath) suggests Trump has been focused on promoting manufacturing because he is already looking ahead to his reelection campaign.

Sasse: Adolescents Should Get Jobs, "Learn How To Become An Adult." Sen. Ben Sasse writes in the New York Times (7/28, Sasse) that while "Adolescence is a great thing," we have "made it too long." Sasse recalls his own childhood, waking up at five am to work in the fields to detassel corn. He says most agricultural work today is done by machine and there are fewer household chores needing to be done. Students entering college having done very little "hard physical work." Sasse argues that if "done right," adolescence "should not be an escape from adulthood; it should be when we learn how to become adults." He offers suggestions of things parents can do to help "create experiences for our kids that build character."

Republicans To Push Tax Reform Over August Recess.

The Hill (7/30, Jagoda) reports that in the wake of an announcement from Republican leaders and the White House of "a consensus on goals for tax reform," Republicans "will be vigorously selling tax reform over the August recess," and "they'll have business groups and conservative advocacy organizations helping them in the efforts." The Washington Times (7/30, Sherfinski) reports that while GOP leaders "insist they won't make the same mistakes with tax reform," that they did with healthcare, "there are enough similarities between the two issues that lawmakers are worried." The Times points out that Republicans enter the debate "with only vague principles, have struggled to pique Democrats' interest and have received conflicting signals from the White House about priorities."

House Speaker Ryan said on Fox News Sunday Morning Futures (7/30, Bartiromo), "It is more important for us than anything that we get tax reform done because we think it's absolutely critical for strong economic growth." Ryan added, "I feel much more confident that we are going stick the landing on tax reform because we have now said we have consensus, here is the framework, let's go get it done."

American Action Network Will Spend Up To $20 Million To Promote Tax Reform. The Charlotte (NC) Observer (7/30, Glueck) reports American Action Network will be giving a "multi-million dollar boost" to Republicans in their effort to pass tax reform legislation, as the group "expects to spend as much as $20 million" in support of what it calls the "Middle Class Growth Initiative." The initiative is to "promote tax cuts for 'working families and small businesses,'" and "simpler, fairer and pro-growth" tax reform. It plans to "offer a comprehensive message on tax reform through radio, television, mail and digital ad buys."

Mnuchin: Debt Limit Must Be Raised By Sept. 29.

The Wall Street Journal (7/30, Davidson) reports that Treasury Secretary Mnuchin said in a letter to lawmakers on Friday that the debt ceiling must be raised by Sept. 29 or the government could run out of money to pay the bills, which means that when lawmakers return from August recess, they will have 12 working days to address the issue.

EPA Museum Being Changed To Reflect Trump Administration Priorities.

The Washington Post (7/30, Eilperin, Dennis) reported that a miniature museum at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Building depicting the EPA's history and mission is facing scrutiny. The museum, "which opened just days before President Barack Obama left office, is being reworked to reflect the priorities of the Trump administration, an effort that probably will mean erasing part of the agency's history."

Researchers: If It Is Real, Policy Response To Climate Change Is Open To Debate.

In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (7/30), David Henderson, a research fellow with the Hoover Institution and an economics professor at the Naval Postgraduate School, and John Cochrane, a senior fellow of the Hoover Institution and an adjunct scholar of the Cato Institute, argue that even if climate change is real, the correct policy prescription remains open to debate.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Britain Joins The Shift To Electric Cars." The New York Times (7/31, Board) editorializes that Britain's pledge to end new gas and diesel car sales by 2040 "is good news for the planet and for human health, even if caveats and challenges abound." The success of the effort, says the Times, will depend not only on "an upgrade in generating capacity, improved batteries and new sources of government income to replace lucrative fuel taxes," but also "on where the electricity comes from." Nonetheless, the Times concludes, "Bringing people around is a big challenge in the fight against climate change," so "the announcements by Britain, France, India and Norway are important, and the more governments that follow suit, the better."

"Pakistan's Prime Minister Falls, Again." In an editorial, the New York Times (7/31, Board) laments that "the decision of the Pakistani Supreme Court to disqualify" Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is not "a triumph for the rule of law," but rather "a sad commentary on the state of affairs in Pakistan that the best hope on all these fronts after Mr. Sharif's fall from power – remarkably, his third ouster – is that things don't get worse." The Times says Sharif's ouster also threatens "the future of Pakistan's troubled relations with the United States and India," as well as hopes for "any improvement in relations with the Trump administration." Despite its "unpromising" prognosis, the Times acknowledges the leadership reshuffling "does create opportunities for some change of course," so the Administration "should make every effort to persuade Mr. Sharif's successor that eradicating terrorists in Afghanistan is in the interests of both countries."

Washington Post.

"The Public Is Still Waiting For Answers On A District Police-Involved Shooting." In an editorial, the Washington Post (7/30) criticizes the US Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia for delays in the investigation of the Sept. 11, 2016, fatal shooting of motorcyclist Terrence Sterling, arguing the slow pace is "typical of the office's lack of urgency in handling these critical matters." The Post says the delay "leaves the public wondering how much official interest there is in getting to the bottom of police-involved shootings."

"The Ouster In Pakistan Is Actually A Glimmer Of Hope." A Washington Post (7/30) editorial writes that "once again, Pakistanis are being reminded" that "in the nation's 70-year history, not one prime minister has served out a full five-year term." The latest example came Friday, when Pakistan's Supreme Court "disqualified — essentially dismissed — Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on grounds that he had lied to the nation about his family's wealth and financial dealings." The Post says the court's ruling offers "a glimmer of hope for accountability and rule of law in a nation that could use much more of it."

"The Man Who May Disenfranchise Millions." In an editorial, the Washington Post (7/30) says that in an email to a Trump transition official, Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, who now chairs President Trump's election integrity commission, "said he was preparing an amendment to the National Voter Registration Act to allow states to demand documentary proof

of citizenship for new registrants." The Post says the commission is "stacked with Kobach clones who have made voter suppression into a political cottage industry," and if it "endorses the Kansas model, or even recommends requiring documentary proof of citizenship as a condition of voter registration, millions of Americans will face disenfranchisement, and democracy itself will be at risk."

Wall Street Journal.

"The Regime Change Solution In Korea." A Wall Street Journal (7/30) editorial argues that the North Korean crisis is accelerating and that a new US strategy is needed. According to the Journal, CIA Director Pompeo recently suggested that the Administration may be contemplating a goal of regime change in Pyongyang, and offers its support for the idea, saying Friday's ICBM test shows there's is no time to waste.

"A Fiduciary Rule Reckoning." The Wall Street Journal (7/30) says in an editorial that the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday will hear arguments from business groups trying to overturn a lower court decision upholding the Obama-era Labor Department's new fiduciary rule on retirement accounts. The Journal is very critical of the rule, arguing that it hurts the people it is intended to help, and express hope that the Fifth Circuit will roll it back.

"Putin's Advances In Syria." The Wall Street Journal (7/30) writes in an editorial that Russia last week moved to consolidate its strategic gains in Syria by ratifying a 49-year lease on Hmeymim air base. The Journal says the long-term lease solidifies Russia's position as the defender of the Assad regime and sends a message that it plans to remain even after the defeat of ISIS.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:
US Companies Post Profit Growth Not Seen In Six Years
Trump Deepens GOP Divide
OPEC Has A Crippling Problem: Its Members Can't Stop Pumping
Four Activists Challenge Plans To Carve Up DowDuPont

New York Times:
Putin, Responding To Sanctions, Orders US To Cut Diplomatic Staff By 755
Republicans Worry That White House Disarray Is Undermining Trump
Big Rigs, A Human Smuggling Mainstay, Often Become Rolling Traps
Hot Spot For Tech Outsourcing: The United States
More New Yorkers Opting For Life In The Bike Lane
China Shows Off Military Might As Xi Jinping Tries To Cement Power

Washington Post:
Venezuelan Vote Escalates Crisis
For Sessions, A Swift And Steadfast Souring
US Flies Bombers Close To N. Korea
Putin Tells US To Cut Diplomatic Staff By 755
Asylum Seekers' Cases Failing

Financial Times:
Flanders Battle Centenary Stirs Memory Of Hell
Pimco Pulls In $50bn Active Cash As Investors Drawn To New Star
Seven Dead As Venezuelans Protest Over New Assembly
Trump's Rift Widens With Republicans

Washington Times:
Republicans Move To Tax Reform, But Fight Feared Similar To Obamacare Repeal
Trump Administration Suggests Ending Enforcement Of Obamacare's Individual Mandate
Special-Ops Troops' Drug, Alcohol Abuse Prompts Call For Congressional Review Of 'Culture'
'No Drama' Kelly Joins White House In Effort To Control Chaos, Infighting, Leaks
Man 'Marries' His Laptop, Sues For State Recognition And A Wedding Cake

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Australia-Terrorism Plot Foiled; North Korea-Missile Test; Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation; WH-Healthcare Reform; Venezuela-Political Turmoil; Caribbean-American Attacked; Minneapolis-Manhunt; North Carolina-Islands Power Outages; Colorado-Treasure Hunt Deaths; Smartphone App-Bullying; New Jersey Gov-Temper; Germany-River Crossing Scare; Honolulu-Pedestrian Smartphone Ban; Ferrari Clashing; Elderly Sky Diver.
CBS: North Korea-Missile Test; Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation; WH-Healthcare Reform; WH-Staff Shakeup; Australia-Terrorism Plot Foiled; Venezuela-Political Turmoil; North Carolina-Islands Power Outages; Hot Car-Child Death; Ohio State Fair-Ride Accident; ISIS-Child Fighters; Gulf Of Mexico-Red Snapper Season; Long Island Beach-Sand Art.
NBC: Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation; North Korea-Missile Test; Australia-Terrorism Plot Foiled; Venezuela-Political Turmoil; North Carolina-Islands Power Outages; Airline-Seat Sizes; Sunday Night Program Note; Russian Antivirus-Cyber Security; Baseball-Hall Of Fame; UK-2040 Gasoline Car Ban; Bird Lover.

Network TV At A Glance:
North Korea-Missile Test – 4 minutes, 20 seconds
WH-Healthcare Reform – 4 minutes, 15 seconds
Venezuela-Political Turmoil – 4 minutes, 15 seconds
Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation – 4 minutes, 10 seconds
Australia-Terrorism Plot Foiled – 3 minutes, 50 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: North Korea-Missile Test; WH-Healthcare Reform; Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation; LA-Restaurant Car Crash; Alabama-Jail Escape.
CBS: Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation; Venezuela-Political Turmoil; WH-Healthcare Reform; NBA News; Baseball-Hall Of Fame; Wall Street News.
FOX: New WH Chief Of Staff; North Korea-Missile Test; Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation; LA-Restaurant Car Crash.
NPR: Venezuela-Political Turmoil; Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation; WH-Healthcare Reform; Taiwan-Typhoon Landing.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:
PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in the swearing-in of White House Chief of Staff John Kelly; leads a Cabinet meeting; meets with US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman; meets with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson; presents the Medal of Honor.
VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Meets President Giorgi Margvelashvili and PM Giorgi Kvirikashvili of Georgia and visits US and Georgian troops participating in the Noble Partner exercise.
US Senate: 4:00 PM Senate aims to end debate on Eleventh Circuit judicial nominee – Senate convenes and proceeds to executive session to resume consideration of the nomination of Kevin Newsom to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, including a vote on a motion to invoke cloture on the nomination Location: Washington, DC http://www.senate.gov/
US House: On recess until 5 September.
Other: Young America's Foundation Annual National Conservative Student Conference – Young America's Foundation Annual National Conservative Student Conference. Speakers include former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Republican Sen. Mike Lee, and former U.S. Treasurer Angela Buchanan Location: George Washington University, 2121 I St NW, Washington, DC www.yaf.org https://twitter.com/yaf

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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