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US Department of the Interior News Briefing

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DOI In The News

Interior Secretary Tours Cascade-Siskiyou Monument.

The Salem (OR) Capital Press (7/15, Perkowski) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke visited the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument on Saturday. While Zinke is "prepared to accept the premise that the area's flora and fauna justify a monument designation, Zinke said the Cascade-Siskiyou's boundaries seem arbitrary in some areas." He noted that "so far, nobody at the Interior Department has taken responsibility for drawing the boundaries or explaining their placement." According to Zinke, "it's become clear the boundaries weren't established at the direction of local U.S. Bureau of Land Management officials." He said, "They had nearly no input in drawing the boundaries and that concerns me."

The Ashland (OR) Daily Tidings (7/16, Freeman) reports that Zinke said his tour of the monument "reveals that 'a lot of the use is heavy recreation,' but he stopped short of saying some of those lands should be downgraded from monument status." Zinke added "that some lands now within national monument boundaries are 'better suited' under National Recreation Area status."

The AP (7/14, Selsky) reports that Zinke was scheduled on Saturday to meet with Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, who is "trying to persuade him to leave it alone, and will also tour the monument, which former President Barack Obama expanded in the final days in office by 48,000 acres." Brown said Friday in a statement, "The future of Oregon's federal public lands and the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument gives me great concern, as I know it does for many Oregonians. Oregonians have a long tradition of environmental stewardship and deep appreciation for our public lands, and I will make sure the voices of Oregonians are heard by Secretary Zinke and the federal administration."

The Medford (OR) Mail Tribune (7/16, Thomas) reports that "the one-hour meeting left

Brown with no indication of what Zinke's recommendation might be to President Trump in regard to the monument's designation and current boundaries." Brown said, "I urged [Zinke] and the federal administration to not backtrack on the monument and to not turn their backs on progress we have already made and look forward to working with the administration collaboratively as we seek to protect what we have created in Oregon." Brown "said Zinke expressed his desire to work collaboratively with the state of Oregon and 'take a holistic approach in terms of the expanded monument designation.'"

Additional coverage was provided by the Oregonian (7/14, Theen), the Bend (OR) Bulletin (7/15, Selsky), the Medford (OR) Mail Tribune (7/14, Freeman), the Ashland (OR) Daily Tidings (7/14, Freeman), the Clark County (WA) Columbian (7/15, Selsky), Oregon Public Broadcasting (7/14), KGW-TV Portland (OR) Portland, OR (7/14, Selsky), KDRV-TV Medford (OR) Medford, OR (7/15, Barrett), KTVZ-TV Bend (OR) Bend, OR (7/17), KOBI-TV Medford (OR) Medford, OR (7/16, Elliott), and KATU-TV Portland (OR) Portland, OR (7/16).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Washington (DC) Times (7/14, Selsky), the Fort Bend (TX) Herald (7/14), the Idaho Statesman (7/14, Selsky), the Jackson Hole (WY) News & Guide (7/15, Selsky), the Provo (UT) Daily Herald (7/14, Selsky), the San Luis Obispo (CA) Tribune (7/14, Selsky), and KPTV-TV Portland (OR) Portland, OR (7/14, Selsky).

Zinke: Trump Is Great Boss Because He 'Doesn't Micromanage'.

The Hill (7/16, Manchester) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "praised President Trump in a weekend interview, calling him 'the best boss' he's ever had." In an interview published on Saturday by Capital Press, Zinke said, "He's the best boss I've ever worked for. He doesn't micromanage."

Congressional Republicans Want Nevada Monuments Cut Back.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal (7/14, Brean) reports that in a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, "members of the all-GOP Congressional Western Caucus urged the reduction or repeal of 19 of the 22 monuments currently under review by the Trump Administration." The 17 lawmakers "who signed the June 30 letter are also calling for nine monuments to be rescinded altogether, four of them in Arizona, two in Utah and one each in California, Maine and Oregon." They say that "eight other monuments — four in California, two in New Mexico, one in Idaho and one in Montana — should be chopped down in size 'in coordination with state and local stakeholders.'"

Nye Awaits Secretary Zinke's Tour Of Basin And Range. The Pahrump (NV) Valley Times (7/14, Sokolova) reports that Nye County is "awaiting the visit" of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "who could redraw the boundaries" of the Basin and Range National Monument. Zinke's visit is "expected to take place later in July, however the exact date is still unclear." Alex Hinson, deputy press secretary for the Department of Interior, "said the dates of Zinke's trip have not been finalized yet."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the review of national monuments was provided by the St. George & Southern Utah Independent (7/16, Croft), the Ventura County (CA) Star (7/14, Roth), the Lodi (CA) News-Sentinel (7/15, Cathey), the Lake County (CA) Record-Bee (7/15, Raskin-Zrihen), the Deming (NM) Headlight (7/13), KOB-TV Albuquerque (NM) Albuquerque, NM (7/13), and KRWG-FM Las Cruces (NM) Las Cruces, NM (7/14).

Commentary appeared in the Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle (7/16), the Boulder (CO) Daily Camera (7/14), the New London (CT) Day (7/16, Mathews, Alonso), the Bonner County (ID) Daily Bee (7/16), the Santa Cruz (CA) Sentinel (7/15, Wender, Keeley), the Durango (CO) Herald (7/14, Pearson), the Clark County (WA) Columbian (7/15), and the Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (7/15).

Hunting And Fishing Groups Are Starting To Turn On Trump's Interior Secretary.

The Huffington Post (7/14, D'angelo) reports that when President Trump tapped Ryan Zinke "to lead the Interior Department, hunting and fishing groups around the country rejoiced." However, over the past four and a half months, "some of those same organizations have changed their tune as Zinke has cozied up to fossil fuel interests and come to support a budget proposal — one he initially vowed to fight — that would slash funding for land acquisition and conservation programs while promoting increased drilling and extraction on public lands." According to Whit Fosburgh, president of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, "'the level of frustration is growing daily' among outdoor groups." Fosburgh said, "To date, it's been overwhelmingly development, development, development — without even lip service to conservation. That is troubling."

Fight Over Copper Mining In Northern Minnesota Heats Up.

The UAP (7/15, Karnowski) reports that "the fight over whether to allow copper-nickel mining near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of northeastern Minnesota is shifting to the capital city as the U.S. Forest Service opens a new set of public meetings on its proposal to bar minerals exploration and development on more than 234,000 acres near the pristine wilderness for up to 20 years." The meetings in St. Paul on July 18 and in the Iron Range city of Virginia on July 25 "follow one held in Duluth in March." Mining advocates have "announced plans to boycott the St. Paul meeting" and "they plan a show of force at the Virginia event instead."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Greater New Milford (CT) Spectrum (7/16, Karnowski), the Minneapolis (MN) Star Tribune (7/15, Karnowski), Philly (PA) (7/15, Karnowski), the St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (7/15, Karnowski), the Washington (DC) Times (7/15, Karnowski), Yahoo! News (7/15, Karnowski, Karnowski, Press), and KAAL-TV Austin (MN) Austin, MN (7/15, Karnowski).

Additional coverage was provided by the Hibbing (MN) Daily Tribune (7/14, Lueck) and WCCO-AM Minneapolis (MN) Minneapolis (7/15).

'More Valuable Than Gold': Yellowstone Businesses Prepare To Fight Mining.

The Guardian (UK) (7/16, Woods, Montana) reports that around Yellowstone National Park, "mining companies anticipate the end of the Obama-era moratorium, but local businesses are fighting back." In November 2016, former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "announced a two-year moratorium on new mineral leases on 30,000 acres of federal public land in the Paradise Valley." In April 2017, Sen. Jon Tester "introduced a bill that would make the moratorium permanent." According to the article, "mine opponents are thrilled, but the bill faces a hard road forward in a Senate dominated by Republicans who share President Trump's commitment to expanding the extractive industries' footprint on public land."

Additional Coverage| Sackets Harbor Battlefield Receives $683k Toward Acquiring Horse Island.

Additional coverage of federal grants announced to protect battlefields was provided by the Watertown (NY) Daily Times (7/15, Block) and the Fredericksburg (VA) Free Lance-Star (7/15).

The House Of Representatives Should Stand Up For Public Lands.

In a piece for the Huffington Post (7/14, Rogers, Contributor), Will Rogers, President of The Trust for Public Land, writes that "the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and the Environment released its draft bill for fiscal year 2018 yesterday and it ignores the Trump Administration's harmful proposal to starve the Land and Water Conservation Fund." Rogers warns that "the disproportionate cuts proposed to The Land and Water Conservation Fund could have disastrous impacts across the country." He asserts that "the reckless proposal to wipe out the funding that protects our national parks and public lands is completely out of step with America's values and ignores the broad bipartisan support in Congress for the Land and Water Conservation Fund."

Respect, Just A Little Bit.

In an op-ed for the Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel (7/14, Walcher), Greg Walcher, president of the Natural Resources Group, writes that the Trump Administration has "reassigned several federal land managers to positions in other regions, or even in other agencies." Walcher finds it"noteworthy" that "this time is that some of the transfers signal an important shift in the federal approach to private property rights." According to Walcher, "that's because some of the officials being transferred are people who have created very prickly relationships with local communities and landowners." He concludes that "the new Administration's policy reversal is welcome news to landowners, who might feel less like Rodney Dangerfield ('no respect') and more like Aretha Franklin ('just a little bit')."

Bouquets And Brickbat.

The Beaumont (TX) Enterprise (7/15) extends a "bouquet" Big Thicket National Preserve Ranger Michael Hughes "for being honored with a Department of Interior Valor Award for his outstanding performance while responding to the May 2016 flooding throughout Southeast Texas."

Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down.

The Houston Chronicle (7/14) gives a "thumbs" to the nomination of Susan Combs for assistant secretary of policy management and budget at the Interior Department.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Halftown Faction Gets Nod To Lead Cayugas.

The Finger Lakes (NY) Times (7/16, SHAW) reports that "a faction led by Clint Halftown is the federally recognized governing body of the Cayuga Indian Nation." Assistant Bureau of Indian Affairs Secretary Michael Black issued the decision Friday. Black "said in addition to Halftown, the other members of the Cayuga Nation Council now recognized as the governing body are Timothy Twoguns, Gary Wheeler, Michael Barringer and Donald Jimerson." Halftown said in a written statement, "On behalf of the citizens of the Cayuga Nation, we are greatly pleased by this decision. It signifies an end to the bitter turmoil created by dissident members of our Nation. More important, it represents a new beginning where we can all work together to the betterment of our people."

A New Look At Mashpee Tribe's Status.

The Cape Cod (MA) Times (7/14, Lindahl) reports that "as the federal government considers a route for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to retain its sovereign land while sidestepping a landmark 2009 U.S. Supreme Court case, Congress is studying whether the way the government creates reservations for tribes should be overhauled in the wake of that ruling." Legislation introduced in the House "earlier this year would create a 'fix' to the 2009 Carcieri decision, which made it difficult for tribes recognized after 1934, including the Mashpee tribe, to get land in trust, U.S. Rep. Norma Torres, ranking member of the Indian affairs subcommittee said at a hearing this week." James Cason, acting deputy Interior secretary, said at the Congressional hearing, The Interior Department "continues to search for a way to allow the Mashpee tribe's 171 acres on the Cape and 150 acres in Taunton, where it intends to build a casino, to remain in trust."

Editorial: Give Lumbees What They Deserve.

In an editorial, the Fayetteville (NC) Observer (7/12) supports extending full federal recognition to the Lumbee tribe. According to the paper, "all that's left to do is to resolve an issue of fairness, to ensure that the Lumbees get the same rights and assistance as every other recognized tribe in the United States."

Bureau Of Land Management

Montana Delayed Oil And Gas Drill Applications Less Than 100.

The AP (7/16) reports Montana has less than "100 delayed oil and gas drillings applications on federal land within the state, and the Bureau of Land Management is not the cause of delays in the state, a BLM official said." BLM field manager Scott Haight said, "In Montana, there were 84 pending applications and of those, 82 of them are in a pending status. There's no way of acting on them because they're in the Interior Board of Land Appeals."

Additional coverage was provided by the Billings (MT) Gazette (7/16, Lutey).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by U.S. News & World Report (7/16), the Washington (DC) Times (7/16), the Bristol (VA) Herald Courier (7/16), and the Idaho Statesman (7/16).

Federal Ranger's Testimony Sought In Steinle Murder Trial.

The AP (7/14, Elias) reports that "a federal agency is prohibiting a ranger from testifying about his stolen gun used to fatally shoot a California woman, whose 2015 death was referenced repeatedly by then-candidate Donald Trump to underscore his call to deport criminals living in the country illegally." Juan Francisco Lopez Sanchez, "who was deported five times, admits fatally shooting Kate Steinle while she walked with her father on a San Francisco pier crowded with tourists." Two years after the slaying, "the case is inching closer to trial." However, Lopez-Sanchez' attorneys are "now wrangling with the Department of Interior over whether Bureau of Land Management ranger John Woychowski can be called as a witness."

Additional coverage was provided by the San Francisco (CA) Chronicle (7/14, Ho) and KQED-FM San Francisco (CA) San Francisco (7/14, Emslie).

BLM Plans To Relocate 1,500 Wyoming Wild Horses.

The AP (7/14) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has "released a draft environmental assessment for a proposed relocation of about 1,500 wild horses." According to the article, "the assessment that was released on Wednesday calls for reducing populations in the Salt Wells Creek, Adobe Town and Great Divide Basin herd management areas to their low appropriate management levels." The AP says that "the overall population of the areas, 2,836 wild horses, exceeds the required management level of 1,560 animals."

Rallies Support Defendants In Bunkerville Standoff Case.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal (7/15, Bekker, Michor) reports that "hundreds of supporters turned out at a Las Vegas event Saturday night supporting the defendants facing trial in the Bunkerville standoff case." The crowd "gathered at Rainbow Gardens to hear speeches from Las Vegas City Councilwoman Michele Fiore, members of the Bundy family and even Roger Stone, an on-and-off adviser for President Donald Trump." The article says that "the overarching theme at Saturday event" was that "the 'mainstream media' hasn't given the Bundy family a voice."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Don't Risk Fishing, Tourism Jobs On A Small Amount Of Oil.

In an op-ed for the Press of Atlantic City (NJ) (7/16, Savitz), Jacqueline Savitz, a senior vice president at Oceana, writes that "late last month, the New England Fishery Management Council joined its Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic council colleagues in officially documenting concern over Trump administration-backed plans to use seismic airgun blasting to search for oil off the Atlantic coast." She argues that "offshore oil exploration threatens decades of progress toward making America's fish stocks great again and thereby threatens economies and livelihoods along the East Coast." According to Savitz, "it's not worth taking these risks, especially considering the small amount of oil at stake."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Delegation Supports Intake.

The Sidney (MT) Herald (7/15, Weele) reports that "the delegation for Montana and North Dakota have displayed its support this week for the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project." On Tuesday, "senators and representatives from Montana and North Dakota sent a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineeers and Bureau of Reclamation to urge those agencies to continue to support the project and not reallocate funding currently provided for the LYIP." The article says that "oral arguments that will determine the fate of the proposed project at the Intake Diversion Dam to make the project more fish friendly are scheduled to be heard during this month."

Effort To Bring Water To Eastern New Mexico Inches Along.

The AP (7/14, Bryan) reports that "the U.S. government is funneling another $5 million" to the Ute pipeline project. According to the article, "the pipeline would bring water from Ute Reservoir to Cannon Air Force Base, Clovis, Portales and other communities along the Texas-New Mexico border." The article notes that "the price has ballooned to more than a half-billion dollars, and the Bureau of Reclamation has acknowledged it could end up costing $750 million."

Gila River Agreement Shows Arizona Is Ready To Deal On Water.

The Arizona Republic (7/14) editorializes that "if we are to continue to prosper as communities into the distant future, we will need to work together to solve the problem of water scarcity." The paper says "that is why the 'consummation' July 14 of the five-party water-conservation agreement in Phoenix is so important." According to the editorial, "it demonstrates in deed the kind of creative cooperation that is essential if the West is to meet the greatest threat on its horizon."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Bald Eagle Threat: Lead Ammo Left Behind By Hunters.

The AP (7/16, Esch) reports that "bald eagles have made a remarkable recovery across the

United States since the pesticide DDT was banned 45 years ago, but the majestic birds are still dying from another environmental poison: lead from bullets and shotgun pellets in wildlife carcasses left behind by hunters." The issue is "that eagles and other scavengers eat the guts of deer or the carcasses of coyotes, woodchucks and other game shot by hunters." The article notes that "on former President Barack Obama's last day in office, Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe signed an order calling for phase-out of lead ammunition on federal lands by 2022." However, "President Donald Trump's new Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, reversed Ashe's order on his first day in office."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Olean (NY) Times Herald (7/16, Esch), the Niagara (NY) Gazette (7/16, Esch), ABC News (7/16, Esch), the Daily Mail (7/16), and WVEC-TV Hampton Roads (VA) Hampton Roads, VA (7/16).

Plaintiff In St. Tammany Landowner Vs. Frog Dispute Seeks Leap To U.S. Supreme Court.

The Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate (7/15, Pagones) reports that the Pacific Legal Foundation "filed a petition last week asking the Supreme Court to review the decision to designate the 1,500 acres as critical habitat" for the dusky gopher frog. According to the article, "while the lower courts held that the Fish and Wildlife Service acted within its discretion in making its designation, the plaintiffs were encouraged by a strong dissent on the part of six judges on the 5th Circuit, who said the decision gives the government virtually limitless power to designate 'critical habitat.'" The issue for the Supreme Court, "according to the petition, is whether the Endangered Species Act gives the federal government the power to designate as critical habitat private land that has no actual connection with a protected species and, even if does, whether the U.S. Constitution allows that."

Additional coverage was provided by Law360 (7/14, Rodriguez).

Newly Discovered Toad Species In Nevada Already Under Threat.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal (7/17, Brean) reports that "Nevada researchers just identified the first new species of toad found anywhere in the U.S. in 50 years, and the race is already on to save it from extinction." Conservationists are "preparing an emergency petition to have the Dixie Valley toad listed as an endangered species to protect it from a proposed geothermal energy project at the edge of its isolated home in Churchill County." According to the article, "their only known habitat is a spring-fed marsh covering just more than 2 square miles of federal land in the remote Dixie Valley, about 400 miles northwest of Las Vegas."

Group Calls For Release Of Mexican Gray Wolves In New Mexico.

The AP (7/17) reports that "environmentalists are asking that federal wildlife managers release more captive Mexican gray wolves into the wild in New Mexico to help with recovery of the endangered species." The Center for Biological Diversity "outlined its request in a letter to regional officials with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." The center "pointed to two family packs that biologists earlier this year identified for release and an additional three packs to bolster genetic diversity among wolves currently in the wild in New Mexico and neighboring Arizona."

Fish & Wildlife Service Will Conduct Sea Lamprey Survey In WNY Waters.

The Buffalo (NY) News (7/14, Pignataro) reports that "U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey crews will take to the upper Niagara River, lower Buffalo River and Cattaraugus Creek later this month to estimate the numbers of invasive sea lamprey in those waters." The survey will be conducted "between July 25 and Aug. 3."

Snakes, Lizards To Be Feature Of Dickson Mounds Kids' Day.

The AP (7/14) reports that Dickson Mounds Museum will "feature 'Snakes, Lizards and More' for its Kids' Day presentation on Sunday." The event celebrating World Snake Day is co-sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service .

The Government Is Now The Yellowstone Grizzly's Biggest Threat.

In an op-ed for the New York Times (7/14, McNamee), Thomas McNamee argues that the Yellowstone grizzly bear population has not truly recovered. He notes that "nearly all conservation biologists outside government say that an absolute recovery will never be possible for the Yellowstone grizzly population." McNamee claims that "the only way Yellowstone's grizzly bears can be expected to thrive in the long run is for their ecosystem to be connected by a corridor of occupied habitat to other grizzly populations — the one centered in Glacier National

Park to the north and others up the Rocky Mountain chain to Alaska." He concludes that "taking away federal protection now — with the bears' food sources plunging and their ecosystem isolated — is an act of either deceit or folly."

Additional commentary appears in the Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (7/16), the Idaho State Journal (7/14, Wuerthner), and the Charleston (WV) Gazette-Mail (7/15, McCoy).

National Park Service

Park Service Names Associate Director For Workforce And Inclusion.

The Sonora (CA) Union Democrat (7/14, McCarthy) reports that the National Park Service announced a new associate director for workforce and inclusion. According to NPSpublic affairs staff, Tony Nguyen is "in charge of all staffing and employee management programs for more than 22,000 employees in more than 400 national parks and offices." Michael T. Reynolds, acting director of the National Park Service, said, "We look forward to bringing in Tony's fresh perspective on how we can ensure that every NPS employee has a safe and respectful workplace."

D.C.'s LGBT Landmarks Will Be Identified, Highlighted In An Online Database.

The Curbed Washington (7/14, Goldchain) reports that "every single LGBT landmark in the nation's capital is going to be identified, studied, and later inserted into a publicly-accessible online database." The Interior Department "awarded a $50,000 grant to the D.C. Historic Preservation Office within the D.C. Office of Planning (OP) in order to fund the project." It is "one of 13 projects in the nation funded by the U.S. Department of Interior that is aimed to benefit the National Register of Historic Places through increasing the number of listings associated with underrepresented communities."

Protected Wolves In Alaska Face Peril From Beyond Their Preserve.

The New York Times (7/14, Klein) reports that "a recent study suggests that efforts to limit populations of...predators outside" the borders of the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve is "having negative effects on wolves living within the preserve." The study, "published in June in Wildlife Monographs, suggests that when the Alaskan authorities were limiting wolf populations outside the Yukon-Charley preserve, survival rates of wolves within the preserve were lower than usual." The research "highlight the notion that managing wildlife within human-imposed boundaries requires communication and cooperation with the authorities beyond a preserve's boundaries, and could have implications for wildlife management programs elsewhere."

Training Ordnance Found On New North Carolina Island.

The AP (7/14) reports that "an ordnance disposal unit has removed a World War II-era training device from a new island off the North Carolina coast." According to the National Park Service, "the Hatteras Island Rescue Squad responded to a report of an old military device on the sand bar Friday." The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (7/14, Parker) reports that a Navy bomb disposal squad "removed the object from the beach of Shelly Island and said it was a World War II training ordnance." The unit "transported it to Virginia for safe disposal." National Park Service spokesman Boone Vandzura said, "The crew was very professional. We're happy that Cape Point and that area are reopened for the weekend."

Additional coverage was providedby WITN-TV Greenville, NC (7/14).

In The Grand Canyon, Uranium Mining Threatens A Tribe's Survival.

The Guardian (UK) (7/17, Walters) reports that the Havasupai tribe is raising concerns about a mining company's plans to drill to "extract high-grade uranium ore" within the Grand Canyon watershed. The company, Energy Fuels Inc, "pledges to operate safely, but the Havasupai and others say that's impossible to promise, especially as too little is known about subterranean water flow." They claim "that any contamination of the groundwater from the mining operations will end up in Havasu Creek, destroying an ancient way of life if they leave the canyon, sickening them if they stay."

Yellowstone Proposes Building New Youth Education Campus.

The AP (7/15) reports that Yellowstone National Park "wants to move and rebuild its youth education campus to expand dorm and classroom space." The park issued "an environmental

assessment last week that proposes building five dormitories." The park also "proposes new staff offices and a new dining area for youth educational programs."

Physically Disabled Persons Praise, Question Access To Acadia.

The Bangor (ME) Daily News (7/16, Kong, Ring) reports that Acadia National Park's effort to improve access for physically disabled people is drawing both praise and criticism. Meanwhile, the National Park Service, "in a five-year plan on accessibility, acknowledges that it is under-serving people with varying abilities and lays out a strategy to build momentum and advance the effort."

C&O Canal Trust Helps Park Service With Budget Shortfalls.

The Frederick (MD) News-Post (7/15, Anderson) reports that "for the past 10 years, the C&O Canal Trust, the official nonprofit partner organization of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, has done for the park what it cannot do for itself." According to the article, "in order to fill in some of the staffing gap and prevent major lapses in canal maintenance, the Trust has raised about $350,000 to directly fund repair projects, organized countless volunteer cleanup efforts, and has taken over many visitor service functions." The article notes that "recent repairs have included fixing a large section of the towpath that had been washed out by a river near the town of Potomac, and a major push to restore the historic homes that housed the families who operated the canal lock mechanisms in the 19th-century."

Facebook Founder Mark Zuckerberg Talks 'Climate Change' In Glacier Park.

KULR-TV Billings, MT (7/16, Lutz) reports that "Facebook founder, Mark Zukerberg took to his own Facebook account over the weekend to talk and share pictures of Glacier National Park." In his post, Zuckerberg said "I'm spending the afternoon at Glacier National Park in Montana with some National Park Service Rangers." According to the article, "it appeared the visit had something to do with Zuckerberg's interest in climate change." Zuckerberg said in his post, "The impact of climate change is very clear at Glacier."

MDI Couple Oversees NPS Digital Domain.

The Mount Desert (ME) Islander (7/14, Broom) reports that Ginny Reams, the web content manager, and Todd Edgar, the NPS.gov manager, is "responsible for building the systems that all of the parks use to maintain their websites." Edgar said, "We're constantly making changes and improvements. Over the last couple of years, we've made some pretty substantial ones." The article notes that "one of those improvements was making sure all of the park service websites were mobile friendly." Edgar said, "That was absolutely necessary because about half of NPS.gov's traffic is mobile now."

K-State Researches Bear Cams In Alaska National Park.

The Kansas City (MO) Star (7/14, Gutierrez) reports that "thousands of people around the world are spending hours online this month watching a bear cam in Katmai National Park and Preserve in southern Alaska." Meanwhile, "two researchers from Kansas State University are studying this bear love-in." The researchers "want to know whether people have the same emotional response to experiencing animals virtually, online, as they do seeing them in person at the park."

'Jr. Rangers' Offered I & M Canal Activities In July, August.

The AP (7/16) reports that "the I & M Canal National Heritage Area will have 'Junior Ranger' days on July 27 and Aug. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m." The National Park Service Junior Ranger program "offers young visitors a chance at a series of activities, questions and answers with the park ranger and a Junior Ranger patch."

Sequoia National Park Celebrates Latino Conservation Week.

The Porterville (CA) Recorder (7/15) reports that "in celebration of Latino Conservation Week, Sequoia National Park will play host beginning today to 20 young Latino adults from Los Angeles as they collect scientific data on sequoias, hike the Giant Forest, and learn about stewardship."

Point Reyes Legal Settlement A Victory For National Parks Everywhere.

In an op-ed for the Marin (CA) Independent Journal (7/15, Moskowitz), Deborah Moskowitz, president of the Resource Renewal Institute, writes that a federal court has "delivered a victory" to the Point Reyes National Seashore and, "by extension, to all of our nation's parks by approving a settlement agreement committing the park service to modernize its obsolete general

management plan based on an environmental impact study, and allow the public to comment to the plan." According to Moskowitz, the settlement "reached with park service means that by 2021 the seashore and those portions of the GGNRA now open to cattle grazing will have a refreshed, scientifically based general management plan that addresses these and other 21st-century realities."

Office Of Insular Affairs

INSIGHTS ON PBS HAWAI'I Giving A Damn.

PBS (7/13) provides a report on the migration of Micronesians to Hawaii with "a new environmental tragedy that threatens the Marshall Islands,"

Nuclear Weapons And Climate Change: A Double Whammy For The Marshall Islands.

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists (7/14, Bastian) reports that "although many areas of the Marshall Islands are threatened by radioactive contamination from US nuclear testing during the Cold War—and, more recently, by rising sea levels in a warming climate—the US military continues to use the Kwajalein Atoll for missile testing and other operations." The United States is "modernizing facilities in the Marshalls, just as it did during the age of nuclear testing." However, "these steps, seen largely as successes by the Pentagon and the American public, leave behind casualties." The article says that "for the Marshallese, casualties came in the form of deadly radiation and displacement during the period when America was testing the most powerful weapons the world had ever seen."

Palau Boasts Incredible Maritime Diversity.

The Japan Times (7/13, Kameda) reports that Palau has "boosted its efforts to preserve its rich maritime environment for generations to come, with some of the measures including the introduction of environmental protection taxes and education for children, an official from the Tokyo branch of the country's tourism office said at a recent seminar in Tokyo." Palau "boasts the Rock Islands Southern Lagoon, which was designated in 2012 as a mixed World Heritage site; one of only 35 such sites in the world that feature elements of both natural and cultural significance." Tsuyoshi Shibamura, marketing and sales coordinator of the Palau Visitors Authority Japan Office, told an audience at the Minato City Eco-Plaza on June 22, "It's like an aquarium in the sea, given the amazingly diverse species."

The Value Of Island Land Ownership.

In a piece for the Marianas Variety (7/14, Sakaziro), Christy Sakaziro writes that "throughout Micronesia, the incorporation of island societies into the Western market economy and the rising tide of privatization are washing away the collective ownership of land." As a result, "the decline in traditional kin-based lawn ownership is now notable in many islands."

US Geological Survey

PD Editorial: Congress Should Save Earthquake Warning System.

The Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat (7/15) editorializes that "an early-warning system created by scientists at Caltech, UC Berkeley and the universities of Oregon and Washington has shown great promise, and earthquake scientists are ready to roll it out along the West Coast — if the Trump administration doesn't kill federal funding for the program dubbed ShakeAlert." It argues that "abandoning the early-warning system would be, at best, shortsighted — trimming $10.2 million from a $3.5 trillion budget while virtually assuring much larger outlays for disaster relief programs in the future." It urges Congress to provide funding for the early warning system.

Top National News

Administration To Highlight US-Made Products During "Made In America Week."

Largely overshadowed by reporting on the Russia investigation and the healthcare debate, the Administration's "Made in America Week" generated largely negative coverage, which describes how many of the products made by Trump's own company are manufactured overseas. Media

analyses also casting the theme week as an effort by the Administration to distract attention from both the Russia and healthcare narratives.

The Washington Post (7/16, Rucker) says the theme weeks are "orchestrated by aides to bring discipline to the White House and focus Trump's schedule and message on a set of policies" and says that "highlighting US-made products is inconsistent with [Trump's] practices as a businessman." The Trump Organization has for years "outsourced much of its product manufacturing." Likewise, "the clothing line of Ivanka Trump, the president's older daughter and a senior White House adviser, relies exclusively on foreign factories employing low-wage workers in countries such as Bangladesh, Indonesia and China, according to a recent Washington Post investigation." The New York Post (7/16, Schultz) says Trump was elected "with a strong 'America First' agenda, despite family products manufactured overseas where labor is cheaper." White House director of media affairs Helen Aguirre Ferre was asked "whether any announcements of Trump family products being made in America will be forthcoming this week," to which she replied, "We'll get back to you on that."

Politico (7/16, Restuccia) reports that over the next three weeks, "the White House will hold events pertaining to three vaguely defined themes." In addition to "Made in America," the other themes are "American Heroes" and "American Dreams." The Hill (7/16, Delk) says the "Made in America" messaging campaign is "in preparation for the Senate's push to rewrite the US tax code." The Wall Street Journal (7/16, Bender) reports that press secretary Sean Spicer said the themes are part of an effort to set the stage for Trump's arguments for tax reform.

However, Bloomberg News (7/16, Sink) casts the theme weeks as "part of an effort to shift focus by a White House besieged by the investigations into Russian election meddling and struggling to pass a health-care bill." The AP (7/16, Colvin) similarly describes the Administration as "plagued by daily revelations related to the escalating Russia investigations," and says it is trying "to focus on issues that matter to the president's base." Ferre told reporters Sunday "that the White House will be hosting a 'Made in America' product showcase Monday featuring products from all 50 states." In addition, Trump "is expected to issue a proclamation Wednesday on the importance of making goods in America, and will travel to Virginia on Saturday for the commissioning of the USS Gerald R. Ford, a new aircraft carrier."

The Washington Examiner (7/16, Quinn) says that when reporters asked "why the White House wasn't launching a healthcare-themed week, particularly as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has struggled to gain support for the Senate's plan to repeal and replace parts of Obamacare," a "senior administration official" said, "It's something that enormous White House and administration resources have been devoted to since day one."

Detroit News Analysis: Steel Tariffs Could Hurt US Automakers. A Detroit News (7/16, Thibodeau, Lynch) analysis says that while US steel companies might benefit from the tariffs on steel imports being considered by the Trump Administration, the tariffs "could hurt US automakers and other industries – and raise prices for buyers of their goods." According to economists, "a protective tax on imported steel would give makers of domestic steel the incentive to raise their prices – just because they could." Such a move, they say, "would make US-made cars more expensive and push consumers to buy cheaper cars from foreign companies unaffected by the tariff."

US Firms Say China Has Fallen Short On Keeping Promises Made In Trade Deal. The Wall Street Journal (7/16, Schlesinger, Bunge, Andriotis) reports that while Commerce Secretary Ross declared in May that winning promises from China to open markets in finance and agriculture was a "herculean accomplishment" and "more than has been done in the whole history of US-China relations on trade," US companies say that although China has lived up to the letter of its promises, it has not lived up to the spirit. According to the companies, access to some areas has improved slowly and modestly, while obstacles in other areas will continue to be a hindrance for years.

WSJournal Analysis: Trump's Trade Agenda Tempered By World Economy. A Wall Street Journal (7/16, Davis) analysis says President Trump's protectionist promises during the campaign are being tempered by international economic changes and the institutions overseeing trade. The Journal says Trump has taken a different tack than his predecessors, who praised free trade but favored protectionist policies. Trump, the Journal says, threatened protectionism during the campaign, but his policies have been more modest.

Trump Officially Hires Lawyer Ty Cobb To Handle "Mounting Questions Over Russia."

President Trump on Saturday announced he has hired veteran attorney Ty Cobb as the White House special counsel to oversee the Administration's response to the various investigations into Russian collusion. While coverage in print and online of Donald Trump Jr.'s meeting with Russian

attorney Natalia Veselnitskaya subsided heavily from Friday, the network newscasts devoted nearly six minutes combined to the story. Reporting remained overwhelmingly negative toward the President's son and the Administration's defense of his actions.

ABC World News Tonight's (7/15, story 3, 3:05, Llamas) David Wright reported that on Saturday, "as some of the best golfers in the world played at his club here in New Jersey, the President naturally had a prime seat. But Trump won't get much of a break from mounting questions over Russia. The main focus now: that meeting Don Jr. had at Trump Tower last June with Russian sources he was told were peddling 'official documents and information that would incriminate Hillary, part of Russia and its government support for Mr. Trump.'"

Errol Barnett of the CBS Weekend News (7/15, story 2, 1:40, Ninan) similarly reported "President Trump appeared in good spirits greeting guests at the Women's US Open Golf Tournament at his Bedminster golf course. But privately, investors are concerned about revelations of Kremlin-linked attendees at a meeting in Trump Tower last year." Barnett added "Rinat Akhmetshin, a Russian-American with suspected links to Russian intelligence," claimed Friday that he had also attended the June 2016 meeting reportedly "between Donald Trump Jr., campaign manager Paul Manafort, son-in-law Jared Kushner, intermediary Rob Goldstone, and Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya." This revelation, said Barnett, "contradicts public statements from Donald Trump Jr., who based on emails he released, accepted the meeting hoping to receive damaging info about Hillary Clinton."

An AP (7/15, Lemire) analysis says "the day-after-day drip-drip-drip of revelations over the past week about Donald Trump Jr.'s contact with the Russian lawyer in 2016 underscores the White House's inability to shake off the Russia story and close the book on a narrative that casts a shadow over Trump's presidency." The AP adds that "no matter how presidential Trump may have looked on his back-to-back trips to Europe in recent days, the persistent questions about connections between Trump's team and Russia prevent him from savoring a public relations victory and building momentum for his stalled legislative agenda." According to the AP, "the investigations have thrown the White House off balance, leaving some officials on edge about whether there are more disclosures to come."

"However relaxed the President may appear," reported NBC Nightly News' (7/15, story 6, 1:05, Diaz-Balart) Kelly O'Donnell, Trump is "trying to change course," first by "playing down one crisis with his dismissive label referring to the 'Russia hoax story' in a tweet about the stock market rally, while making official his hiring of a new lawyer inside the White House, naming Washington veteran Ty Cobb as the President's special counsel." Reuters (7/15, Ainsley) says that "sources familiar with the hiring said Cobb would handle the White House's response to Russia-related investigations."

The Washington Times (7/15, Miller) reports Cobb, "a partner at the Washington law firm Hogan Lovells who specializes in white-collar crime," will also "coordinate with Mr. Trump's outside counsel, Marc Kasowitz," who had previously handled all White House press inquiries on the matter and "provided limited response to the news media." The Hill (7/15, Bowden) reports Cobb also has "experience as a federal prosecutor and defense attorney."

Meanwhile, USA Today (7/15, Schouten, Schnaars) reports that although Trump has "stockpiled nearly $12 million for his 2020 re-election campaign," the President's legal expenses have been "soaring as his administration deals with a rapidly expanding investigation into possible collusion between his campaign and the Russian government, documents released Saturday afternoon show." According to USA Today, Federal Election Commission filings reveal "Trump's campaign racked up more than $677,000 in 'legal consulting' fees between April and June, more than twice the $249,000 he spent on legal bills during the first three months of his presidency." USA Today adds that "most of the legal expenses were tied to his longtime election law firm, Jones Day," but also "a nearly $90,000 payment for legal expenses to his company, the Trump Organization, and $50,000 payment on June 27 to the law firm of Alan Futerfas, the New York-based criminal attorney now representing Donald Trump Jr." Politico (7/15, Severns) states that "the campaign spent significantly more in this area during the late spring and summer than during the first three months of the year, when it reported paying $249,344 on legal expenses. Trump has spent more than $4.5 million of campaign funds on legal costs since the beginning of his campaign."

Sekulow: Administration's Struggles To Make "A Fascinating Movie One Day." The Hill (7/15, Cohn) reports the President's attorney Jay Sekulow in a CNN's "Anderson Cooper 360" interview on Friday "dismissed allegations of lawbreaking by members of the administration as the plot of 'a fascinating movie one day. ... But none of it violates the law.'" Sekulow added, "The president has stated very clearly that he was not aware of the meeting and did not attend the meeting. And

that has been undisputed. No one has disputed that. So he was not aware of it, did not attend it."

NYTimes A1 Deems "Soviet Veteran" Akhmetshin A "Master Of The Dark Arts." In a front-page profile headlined "Soviet Veteran Who Met With Trump Jr. Is A Master Of The Dark Arts," the New York Times (7/15, Higgins, Kramer) reports Russian-American lobbyist Rinat Akhmetshin has had "one consistent message for the journalists who met him over the years at the luxury hotels where he stayed in Moscow, London and Paris, or at his home on a leafy street in Washington: Never use email to convey information that needed to be kept secret." The Times adds that while "he insisted" he was not "an expert in the technical aspects of hacking nor, a spy, Mr. Akhmetshin talked openly about how he had worked with a counterintelligence unit while serving with the Red Army after its 1979 invasion of Afghanistan and how easy it was to find tech-savvy professionals ready and able to plunder just about any email account."

WPost Profiles Publicist Goldstone Behind Trump Jr. Meeting. The Washington Post (7/15, Boburg, Gillum) profiles the "colorful" publicist Rob Goldstone, 57, who sent "the email to Donald Trump Jr. [that] described an intricate back channel between the Kremlin and the Trump campaign that could provide incriminating information about Hillary Clinton" and organized the meeting between the President's son and the attorney Natalia Veselnitskaya. The Post says that according to "friends and former associates," Goldstone is "a bon vivant who posts self-deprecating videos on social media, hobnobs with New York socialites and sometimes uses bluster and hyperbole to open doors." The Post adds "the boutique PR firm he has run for 20 years with a partner has relied on a small roster of clients and piecework, setting up shop for several years in rent-free office space and neglecting to pay taxes some years in the 2000s, according to interviews and records."

NYTimes Analysis: Ukrainian Payments To Manafort Illustrate Country's Corruption. The New York Times (7/15, Kramer) reports Trump's former campaign chairman Paul Manafort "recently filed financial reports with the Justice Department showing that his lobbying firm earned nearly $17 million for two years of work for a Ukrainian political party with links to the Kremlin," but "curiously, that was more than the party itself reported spending in the same period for its entire operation — the national political organization's expenses, salaries, printing outlays and other incidentals." According to the Times, "the discrepancies show a lot about how Mr. Manafort's clients – former President Viktor F. Yanukovych of Ukraine and his Party of Regions – operated" and also "in a broader sense...underscore the dangers that lurk for foreigners who, tempted by potentially rich payoffs, cast their lot with politicians in countries that at best have different laws about money in politics, and at worst are, like Ukraine in those years, irredeemably corrupt."

DeSantis Wants Rhodes To Testify On Leaks. The Hill (7/15, Bowden) reports Rep. Ron DeSantis, a member of the House Oversight Committee, on Saturday told conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt on MSNBC "that he wants former senior Obama administration official Ben Rhodes to testify on Capitol Hill." DeSantis, the chair of the national security subcommittee, said, "If you look at some of the leaks that have come out, for example, when the president's having a conversation with a foreign leader, there may be a memo that's created, distributed to the National Security Council. The next thing you know, it's on the front page of the paper." DeSantis added, "There's only so many places that would come from. And the Obama holdover working with Rhodes, that's a place we've been encouraged to look."

Democrats Call For More Scrutiny Of Kushner. Breitbart (7/15, Baker) reports Rep. Al Green on MSNBC's "AM Joy" on Saturday "said...that 'probable cause clearly exists' to have a grand jury investigate President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner for his meeting a Russian lawyer along with Donald Trump Jr. and Paul Manafort." Green added, "With reference to Mr. Kushner and this meeting that took place, there is one significant fact that we have to address, and that is, there is enough probable cause here for a grand jury to investigate. If the special counsel is doing his job, either he will have agents talking to Mr. Kushner or he will have a grand jury looking into this. There is probable cause for a grand jury to look into it and any prosecutor who says there is not probable cause is an outlier or outright liar because the probable cause clearly exists."

In a Politico Magazine (7/14, Price) op-ed, Ned Price, a special assistant to former President Obama for National Security affairs as well as a former spokesperson and senior director on the National Security Council, questions why Kushner continues to maintain a Top Secret security clearance in light of the latest revelations and argues his status "is an affront to America's national security and a slap in the face to the career professionals subject to a different set of rules." According to Price, if the Administration and Congress refuse to revoke Kushner's security clearance, then "there's an unmistakable double standard at play. Career officials, many of whom spend decades in service of their country, are subject to a different set of rules than those under the protection of the powerful. That's never how the system has worked, nor is it how it should

work."

Meanwhile, The Hill (7/15, Bowden) reports Rep. Maxine Waters on Friday "called on her colleagues across the aisle in the House and Senate to step up their criticism of President Trump as the investigation into possible collusion with Russia evolves." Waters said, "It's amazing that we have members of Congress who are defending and protecting this president. I am surprised." She added, "Here they are in the face of growing evidence that there have been contacts with, perhaps collusion with, and obstruction of justice by this president – they're willing to defend him. And I don't know if they're just scared of him, if they're frightened, if they don't have the guts to stand up. What is wrong with them, I just don't quite understand."

Publishers Compete For Rights To Comey Memoir. The New York Times (7/15, Alter) reports former FBI Director James Comey "is writing a book about his experience in public service, including his tumultuous and brief tenure in the Trump administration." The Times states that Comey "has been meeting with editors and publishers in New York in recent days, and is being represented by Keith Urbahn and Matt Latimer, partners at the literary agency Javelin. The book is expected to go to auction this coming week, and all the major publishing houses have expressed keen interest, Mr. Latimer said."

NYTimes, Columnists Criticize Trump Over Latest Russia Meeting Revelations. The New York Times (7/15) editorializes that "even without the widening scandal over election interference, President Trump would have had a hard time managing America's relations with Russia, which are as tense as at any time since the end of the Cold War." The Times contends that "the complex differences between the two countries will not be easily resolved" and warns Russian President Vladimir Putin "has shown a ruthless commitment to self-preservation that relies heavily on returning Russia to a mythical place of power and glory, not in helping the West build a more stable world." The Times adds the President "is making sound policy making even harder, though, with his admiration of Mr. Putin and his willingness to surrender the country's international leadership, which was on display during the Group of 20 meeting in Germany."

Meanwhile, USA Today (7/15, Rossman) reports Fox News anchor Shepard Smith on his "Shepard Smith Reporting" on Friday "slammed what he called 'lies' and 'deception' pushed by Donald Trump Jr. in a fiery Friday rant over emerging details of Trump Jr.'s meeting with a Russian lawyer last summer." USA Today says that Smith "launched into a tirade over Trump Jr.'s stance the meeting equated to nothing even as new details showed it included eight people." He asserted, "We're still not clean on this. ... Why all these lies? Why is it lie after lie after lie? If you clean, come on clean." Smith added "the deception...is mind-boggling. ... And there are still people out there who believe we're making it up and one day they're going to realize we're not."

In a New York Times (7/15, Green) op-ed, Bloomberg Businessweek senior national correspondent Joshua Green states that "as recently as five or 10 years ago, every major news outlet would have treated" Donald Trump Jr.'s meeting with a Russian lawyer in a bid to help his father in the election "as front-page news and a dire threat to Mr. Trump's presidency," but due to what had formerly been the "political fringe of right-wing talk radio, the Drudge Report and dissident publications like Breitbart News" as well as on Fox News "you're apt to find an alternative reality in which the same set of facts is rearranged to compose an entirely different narrative." According to Green, "The Breitbart mind-set – pugnacious, besieged, paranoid and determined to impose its own framework on current events regardless of facts – has moved from the right-wing fringe to the center of Republican politics." Green concludes "Don Jr.'s travails will be a good test of the resiliency of the new Republican worldview."

In his New York Times (7/15, Bruni) column, Frank Bruni contends that in regards to the President, "what we saw before Nov. 8 was what we got from Jan. 20 onward: a child in a man's suit, a knave in a knight's armor, a dangerous experiment with unforeseeable consequences." In reflecting back on Trump's first six months in office, Bruni says "we have to stop rolling our eyes when he brags about how much he has done, because he's right. He has done plenty." Bruni adds that "With his stances on climate change, trade and refugees and with all the air kisses blown at Vladimir Putin, he has altered our place in the world and splintered its postwar framework."

In her New York Times (7/15, Dowd) column, Maureen Dowd asserts "the night in Washington is dark and full of terrors. The Game of Trump has brought a pagan lawlessness never before seen in the capital." Dowd compares the President and his Administration to characters from "Game of Thrones," citing how "Don Jr. was not ashamed that he had gleefully met with Russians to collect dirt on Hillary Clinton. He was only annoyed, as he told Sean Hannity in the womb of Fox News, that the meeting turned out to be "a nothing" and "just a wasted 20 minutes." The thought that it was improper has not entered his mind."

In her Washington Post (7/14, Marcus) column, Ruth Marcus stated that while "every week – nearly every day – brings fresh, stomach-churning evidence of President Trump's unfitness for

office," his reaction to learning of his son's meeting with the Russian lawyer "may be the most revolting." Marcus acknowledged "Donald Trump Jr. at least had the decency to admit" that he should have "done things a little differently," but she condemned the President for his "staggering refusal to recognize the reality of Russian attempts to interfere in the election."

In a Politico Magazine (7/15, D'Amico) op-ed, Steven D'Amico, principal at the "Democratic opposition research" firm D'Amico Strategy and Communications who formerly served as "the research director at American Bridge 21st Century, where I led the investigative efforts targeting Trump," argued that despite the President's defense of his son's meeting "with a Kremlin-linked lawyer and a former Soviet spy promising dirt on Hillary Clinton" and suggestion other candidates would have done the same, "I know nothing is farther from the truth." According to D'Amico, "given the inexperience of Trump's team, you might get why they don't understand what 'opposition research' actually is," but "a good opposition researcher assembles the case against their opponent by lawfully compiling the best portfolio of evidence." He concluded "when digging for 'dirt,' you should not pursue information obtained illicitly, whether by Russian hackers or Nixonian Plumbers. And if by chance you stumble across it, you do what anyone running for office should do – report it to the authorities."

Russian-American Lobbyist Confirms Attendance At Meeting With Trump Jr., Veselnitskaya.

Russian-American lobbyist Rinat Akhmetshin, labeled by some articles as a former Soviet counterintelligence officer, confirmed to the AP on Friday that he had joined Donald Trump, Jr. and Russian attorney Natalia Veselnitskaya at a controversial meeting last year. All three network newscasts and most of the cable broadcasts led with coverage, while reporting was also extensive in print and online, and it greatly overshadowed President Trump's visit to Paris to celebrate Bastille Day and meet with French President Emmanuel Macron.

In the lead story for CNN's Situation Room (7/14, 5:01 p.m. EDT, lead story, 1:24, Acosta), National Correspondent Jason Carroll said that as President Trump "return[ed] to the United States after a morning Bastille Day parade in Paris, he lands amid a firestorm swirling around his son and top aides over a meeting with" Veselnitskaya, "held during his presidential campaign." Carroll reported "in addition to Donald Trump Jr., Jared Kushner, Paul Manafort, Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya, and publicist Rob Goldstone, the Trump Tower meeting included additional people, despite the President's statement Thursday." In a lead story for CNN's Situation Room's (7/14, 6:00 p.m. EDT, lead story, Acosta) second segment, Jim Acosta said the meeting was allegedly "arranged with a promise that the Trump camp would get dirt on Hillary Clinton from Moscow, information Trump Jr. says he never got." This "new disclosure," said correspondent Diane Gallagher, "represents yet another version of who was in the room and adds to a growing list of questions about why the story keeps changing."

According to NBC News (7/14, Dilanian, Lebedeva, Jackson), which broke the story, Akhmetshin was "a former Soviet counterintelligence officer who is suspected by some U.S. officials of having ongoing ties to Russian intelligence," though he "denies any current ties to Russian spy agencies." In an interview, he told the AP (7/14, Butler, Day) that Veselnitskaya had asked him to attend the meeting that day. He also "said Veselnitskaya brought with her a plastic folder with printed-out documents that detailed what she believed was the flow of illicit funds to the Democratic National Committee," and Akhmetshin recalled she said that they "could be a good issue to expose how the DNC is accepting bad money." However, Akhmetshin added, "Trump Jr. asked the attorney if she had all the evidence to back up her claims, including whether she could demonstrate the flow of the money. But Veselnitskaya said the Trump campaign would need to research it more. After that, Trump Jr. lost interest."

In a subsequent interview with the Washington Post (7/14, A1, Helderman, Hamburger) that was printed on its front page Akhmetshin "emphatically denied...that he ever worked as an intelligence agent though he did confirm that he served as an 18-year-old draftee for two years in a unit of the Soviet military that had responsibility for law enforcement issues as well as some counterintelligence matters." He asserted, "I never worked for the Russian government. I served as a soldier, for two years, like tens of millions of Russian young men who were drafted. I am proud of my military service. At no time have I ever worked for Russian government or any of its agencies. I was not an intelligence officer. Never."

In an interview with the New York Times (7/14, A1, Sullivan, Vogel, Goldman) that was also published on its front page, Akhmetshin said he attended the meeting in his capacity as a lobbyist at Veselnitskaya's request and insisted "I am a target of well-coordinated and financed smear campaign." Meanwhile, Donald Trump Jr.'s attorney Alan Futerfas "suggested in an interview on Friday that his client has not disclosed all the details of the meeting because it was hard to

remember." Futerfas asserted, "The frustrating part of this exercise is that it concerns events that occurred 13 months ago that were considered insignificant at the time and essentially forgotten."

Nonetheless, Bloomberg News (7/14, Voreacos, Pettypiece) reports "the revelation adds to the questions surrounding the now infamous meeting at Trump Tower and the extent of the contacts between Trump associates and Russians seeking to help the 2016 Trump presidential campaign." Rep. Denny Heck told CNN's Situation Room (7/14, 6:08 p.m. EDT, 8:12, Acosta), "We can turn the page on whether or not there was collusion," because there was "prima facie" collusion, but whether crimes were committed depends on "whether or not there was a quid pro quo, and that is not yet readily apparent."

In addition, Rep. Ruben Gallego told CNN's Situation Room (7/14, 5:10 p.m. EDT, 10:01, Acosta) he is concerned whether senior adviser Jared Kushner "purposely left" Akhmetshin "off the disclosure form. If this person is not someone we should feel threatened by, why leave him off the disclosure form? Two, we know in the room there was some element of a Russian spy there. Former KGB-ers, agents, and the word 'former' – is it a very loose word when it comes to the Russian spy agency," because "once a Russian spy, you're always going to be a Russian spy." Gallego continued, "Lastly, who are the other two people? We now know we have Paul Manafort, Donald Trump Jr., and Jared Kushner in a room with people that have ties to foreign intelligence, particularly Russians."

Meanwhile, "two sources familiar with the handling of the matter told" Yahoo! News (7/14, Isikoff) "that Marc Kasowitz, the president's chief lawyer in the Russia investigation, and Alan Garten, executive vice president and chief legal officer of the Trump Organization, were both informed about the emails in the third week of June, after they were discovered by lawyers for Kushner." According to Yahoo! News, the revelation "that Trump's lawyers were told about the emails in June raises questions about why they would not have immediately informed the president."

On CNN's Situation Room (7/14, 6:25 p.m. EDT, 25:04, Acosta), Senior Political Correspondent David Axelrod, "a former White House insider," said the multiple explanations and changing accounts are "terribly, terribly demoralizing." He also said that he has not seen a story snowball like this in "decades," and it "is consuming" the White House now that it has "reached this watershed." Axelrod called it "a public relations disaster that is cascading, and they've got a legal problem that is also cascading." Former State Department spokesman John Kirby said Russia is "not beneath using people who have loose or no relationship with the government" – so-called "cut-outs" – "in trying to co-opt them and find stuff out for them, prospectively innocently, but then they get sucked into a larger vortex, potentially espionage." Kirby added, "I don't know what the case is here with this meeting, but it certainly wouldn't surprise me if they used some of this meeting, and used the approach to it, to feel out the Trump campaign to see how much the Trump campaign really wanted to work with them."

Despite the President's praise of his son's transparency, Politico (7/14, Nussbaum) reports that "as new details about the meeting emerged in media reports" on Friday, "critics saw again what they described as a pattern of half-truths, dodges and outright falsehoods from the White House." In an analysis, Washington Post (7/14, Bump) correspondent Philip Bump examines "how Donald Trump Jr.'s depiction of what happened at that meeting has evolved" while in his Washington Post (7/14, Sargent) column, Greg Sargent contends the revelations will make the President's claims of being transparent "a lot harder to sustain" because it "underscores that we are seeing a pattern of what we might call obfuscation by omission."

In his New York Times (7/14, Brooks) column, David Brooks contends the version of Trump Jr. "we see through the Russia scandal story is not malevolent: He seems to be simply oblivious to the idea that ethical concerns could possibly play a role in everyday life." Brooks adds that "when the Russian government offer came across his email, there doesn't seem to have been a flicker of concern. Instead, he replied with that tone of simple bro glee that we remember from other scandals." He contends "the Trumps have an ethic of loyalty to one another" but "the House of Trump has sprayed an insecticide on any possible complementary code, and so they are continually trampling basic decency. Their scandals may not build to anything impeachable, but the scandals will never end."

In a Washington Post (7/14, Mowatt-Larssen) op-ed, Rolf Mowatt-Larssen, the Director of the Intelligence and Defense Project at the Belfer Center who formerly served as the Director of Intelligence and Counterintelligence at the Department of Energy and worked for 23 years as a CIA intelligence officer, warns the meeting "is in line with what intelligence analysts would expect an overture in a Russian influence operation to look like. It bears all the hallmarks of a professionally planned, carefully orchestrated intelligence soft pitch designed to gauge

receptivity, while leaving room for plausible deniability in case the approach is rejected." Mowatt-Larssen adds "the Trump campaign's willingness to take the meeting – and, more important, its failure to report the episode to U.S. authorities – may have been exactly the green light Russia was looking for to launch a more aggressive phase of intervention in the U.S. election campaign." While Mowatt-Larssen concludes "the suggestion that this was a nothing meeting without consequence is, in all likelihood, badly mistaken," Breitbart (7/14, Pollak) senior-editor-at-large Joel Pollak contends "there was no collusion, based on what is known thus far." Pollak adds "in the absence of any evidence of collusion, the media and the Democrats are talking about an 'attempt to collude,' which is a meaningless term, legally and literally."

Media Outlets Profile Russian-American Lobbyist. In the lead CBS Evening News (7/14, lead story, 3:15, Mason) segment, Major Garrett said Rinat Akhmetshin "was born in the former Soviet Union and served in its military. He has suspected ties to Russian intelligence. Akhmetshin, now a US citizen, lobbies to lift anti-Russian sanctions." The AP (7/14, Tucker, Braun) reports Akhmetshin previously "attracted congressional scrutiny over his political activities" and the Human Rights Accountability Global Initiative, a non-profit foundation he helped establish. The AP cites Congressional documents as showing the foundation "spent $290,000 last year on lobbying" and paid him at least $10,000 for his work. The AP adds Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley in March "pressed the Justice Department about why Akhmetshin has not registered as a foreign agent," stating in a letter that he "reportedly admitted to being a 'Soviet counterintelligence officer' and has a long history of lobbying the U.S. government for pro-Russia matters."

The Los Angeles Times (7/14, Wire) reports Akhmetshin "lobbied Rep. Dana Rohrabacher...at least twice about U.S. relations with Russia." The Times adds that Rohrabacher, the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia and Emerging Threats, "has long been known for encouraging improved relations with Russia, something that's made him an outlier in the Republican Party." The Hill (7/14, Easley, Solomon) reports this "lobbying effort," which was led by Akhmetshin, "his lobbying partner Robert Arakelian," former Rep. Ron Dellums, and former Export-Import Bank General Counsel Howard Schweitzer, "was directly connected to" Russian businessmen Denis Katzyv, Mikhail Ponomarev, and Albert Nasibulin who lobbying records said "support policies that would reinstate the ability for U.S. citizens to adopt Russian children." However, the three Russians "did not contribute money to the lobbying effort or own a piece of" Human Rights Accountability Global Initiative.

Meanwhile, CNN's Situation Room's (7/14, 6:05 p.m. EDT, 5:11, Acosta) Jim Sciutto described Akhmetshin as "the second Russian figure we've had to sort of familiarize ourselves with this week," with the first being Veselnitskaya, "who was the impetus really for this meeting." Sciutto said Akhmetshin was specifically lobbying on Russia's behalf against the Magnitsky Act. One "crucial" issue, said Sciutto, is whether Akhmetshin will be subpoenaed as a witness. Since "he's a dual national and has national citizenship, he can be subpoenaed to come before that committee," and when he does so, "he will be under oath." Sciutto continued (7/14, 5:29 p.m. EDT, 29:00, Acosta), "Early on, this red herring was just about" the Magnitsky law's "adoption tied to a major US sanctions program," but it now "raises the question of was there a quid pro quo premise to this."

The AP (7/14, Vasilyeva) says that central to concerns over the meeting are a group of "unlikely figures" that consist of "a billionaire real estate mogul, his pop singer son and a music promoter" as well as "a property lawyer, Russia's prosecutor general and a Russian-American lobbyist." The AP profiles the individuals who participated in the meeting. "A source familiar with the circumstances told" CNN (7/14, Staff) that in addition to Akhmetshin, Veselnitskaya, Trump Jr., Kushner, Manafort, and publicist Rob Goldstone, "there were at least two other people in the room as well, a translator and a representative of the Russian family who had asked Goldstone to set up the meeting. The source did not provide the names."

Veselnitskaya Admits To Contact With Russian Prosecutor General Over US Sanctions Law. In an interview with the Wall Street Journal (7/14, Forrest, Sonne), Veselnitskaya insisted she was not working for the Russian government, but she admits she was in contact with Russian Prosecutor General Yuri Chaika and other officials on a regular basis to discuss the Magnitsky Act.

DHS Confirms Veselnitskaya Was Granted Special Entry Into US On Request Of DOJ. The Homeland Security Department confirmed to The Hill (7/14, Solomon, Easley) on Friday that Veselnitskaya had been "granted special entry to the United States on multiple occasions in 2015 and 2016 at the request of the Justice Department." DHS also told The Hill that Veselnitskaya "eventually won a nonimmigrant work visa around the time she met President Trump's eldest son in New York last summer." According to DHS, Veselnitskaya repeatedly entered the US "between

September 2015 and February 2016 under a 'Significant Public Benefit Parole' document requested by the Justice Department so she could participate in a court case for a client." The Hill adds "the request was done 'in concurrence' with the U.S. attorney's office in New York City, which was enforcing a civil asset forfeiture case against Prevezon Holdings, a company owned by Russian businessman Denis Katsyv, whom Veselnitskaya represented as a private attorney in their home country."

However, a New York Times (7/14, Qiu) Fact Check piece states that the President this week "wrongly blamed former Attorney General Loretta Lynch for admitting the lawyer to the United States in the first place." The Times reports "the use of parole for entry is not particularly unusual, and approval authority lies with the Department of Homeland Security," even though the DOJ had made the request. The Times adds "there is no indication that Ms. Lynch was personally responsible for the decision."

Conway: Goalposts Of Russia Investigation Continue To Move. The Hill (7/14, Delk) reports senior counselor Kellyanne Conway in an interview with "Fox & Friends" on Friday "accused opponents of the White House of moving the goalposts on allegations of collusion between President Trump's campaign team and Moscow." According to The Hill, Conway "describ[ed] the controversy as nothing more than a conspiracy theory in remarks first noted by" Politico (7/14, Nelson), which states that she said "the goal posts have been moved" because Hillary Clinton and others had "promised systemic, hard evidence of systemic, sustained, furtive collusion that not only interfered with our election process but indeed dictated the electoral outcome."

Caputo Defends Himself Against Accusations Of Involvement In Alleged Russian Collusion. Reuters (7/14, Cowan) reports Michael Caputo, an adviser to Trump's presidential campaign, testified before the House Intelligence Committee on Friday and insisted "he never heard of anyone in the campaign talking with Russians." Caputo and his attorney, Dennis Vacco, subsequently conducted a three hour press conference broadcast by CNN's Situation Room (7/14, 5:32 p.m. EDT, 32:01, Acosta). Caputo asserted, "I intentionally stayed out of the hair of the White House and the Administration, especially since my name was brought up in the context of the Russia investigation. Nobody in the administration or the White House needs my telephone number on their call list, needs me on their visitor logs, or needs e-mails from me. As soon as this is over, I would like to get back in touch with the Administration and the White House, but for God's sake, you guys got to end this stuff." Vacco said, "The takeaway here is that he had no Russian contacts during the course of his involvement in the campaign." Vacco added the Senate Intelligence Committee has asked his client for information – "principally emails" – and "we're in communication with them right now." He called the committee's request "rather broad and expansive in terms of time and subject matter, so that's what we're negotiating right now, some limitation at lead in terms of the breadth of the request." He again stressed "subpoenas were not involved, and we've provided information to this committee voluntarily," and "anticipate to do the same with the Senate Committee."

CNN's Situation Room's (7/14, 5:42 p.m. EDT, 42:42, Acosta) Jim Acosta said during the press conference, Caputo "was very passionate" and "said he had no contact with the Russians, that he didn't even use Russian dressing." CNN's Situation Room (7/14, 6:48 p.m. EDT, 48:08, Acosta) Special Investigative Correspondent Drew Griffen, who spoke with Caputo prior to his testimony, said Caputo told him "he's been unfairly dragged into this, almost in tears after his testimony. ... And he says it's just because of his former work in Russia – nothing else – because, he says, while he worked at the Trump campaign," he did not "hear any discussions about Russia." In video footage from the interview, Caputo explained that "in fact, we were so busy just trying to keep up with the sun rising and setting on that campaign, that I can't imagine anyone had the time, nor the wherewithal, to go out there, even do something like this." Caputo added, "The idea that somebody at that campaign would have had the forethought and the treachery or the resources to go out and do this is laughable."

In an appearance on Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight (7/14, 8:07 p.m. EDT, 7:04, Carlson), Caputo called his hearing before the Committee "a fishing expedition" in part because the members of the committee asked him about matters as far back as 1994, and questioned him about his wife, who was born in Ukraine. Caputo pointed out that "there is difficulty going on between" Russia and Ukraine, and therefore "if you are from Ukraine, that doesn't make you a fan of Russia." Caputo also demanded an apology from Rep. Jackie Speier for accusing him of involvement.

Parscale To Testify Before House Intelligence Committee. The AP (7/14, Bykowicz) reports Brad Parscale, the data and digital director for Trump's presidential campaign, "said Friday he will speak with the House Intelligence Committee later this month as part of its Russia probe." In a

statement, he "said...that he is 'unaware of any Russian involvement' in the data and digital operations of Trump's campaign. He said he is voluntarily appearing before the panel and looks forward to 'sharing with them everything I know.'"

House Intelligence Committee Postpones Testimony Of Stone. Bloomberg News (7/14, House) reports the House Intelligence Committee on Thursday "postponed the scheduled July 24 closed-door testimony of former Donald Trump campaign adviser Roger Stone in its probe of Russian meddling in the presidential election, Stone's lawyer said Friday." Stone's attorney, Robert Buschel, told Politico (7/14, Samuelsohn), "For now, it's canceled with an advisement it will be rescheduled at an unspecified time." Politico adds Rep. Adam Schiff, the top ranking member on the House Intelligence Committee, "appeared to confirm the delay during an interview with CNN on Friday, even while adding that Stone can still expect to be get a request to appear before the panel." Schiff said, "Mr. Stone will certainly be coming. He's very much a person of interest." However, Schiff added, "The reality is we have a certain order in terms of receiving documents. Our decisions on schedules are made on what's best for the basis of the investigation."

Meanwhile, Julianna Goldman of the CBS Evening News (7/14, story 2, 2:15, Mason) called Caputo "a protégé" of Stone and she reported Stone's "appearance before the House committee later this month was postponed so members have more time to prepare. For his part, Stone says he's had no contact with Russian officials, but he told our Jeff Pegues he was in touch with Russian hacker Guccifer 2.0 and with WikiLeaks during the campaign." Goldman added that "Trump's long-time attorney Michael Cohen is also scheduled to appear before the committee in September. Both the House and the Senate are still in the early stages of their investigations, which will eventually move up the ladder to the President's inner circle."

Trump Plans To Hire Cobb To Lead Legal Team On Russia Probes. Bloomberg News (7/14, Jacobs) reports the President "plans to put a veteran Washington lawyer, Ty Cobb, in charge of overseeing the White House's legal and media response to investigations into Russian meddling in the 2016 campaign, a White House official said," and Cobb is "expected to join the White House at the end of the month." Bloomberg adds that "according to the people familiar with the move, Cobb is intended to be traffic cop, enforcer of discipline, and public spokesman – the point person for queries from congressional panels and the Justice Department special counsel Robert Mueller."

Romney McDaniel Skeptical GOP Can Pay Administration's Legal Bills. The Hill (7/14, Greenwood) reports Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna Romney McDaniel said Friday on WMAL's "Mornings on the Mall" radio show "that she doesn't know if it is legal for the party to pay the Trump administration's legal bills related to investigations of possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia." Romney McDaniel said, "I don't even know if that's legal, if we would even be allowed to do that. ... That would have to go through the lawyers first before it would come to us." She added, "I'm always going to look to support the President. But we've gotta just make sure that anything we do is legal and then we'd have to talk to people who donated to us and make sure they'd want to do it that way. There's other ways to support the President. There's a legal defense fund that you could start. There's lots of other ways. But we, of course, support the President."

Kushner To Replace Gorelick On Russia Case With Lowell. Senior adviser Jared Kushner's "high-powered lawyer" Jamie Gorelick will no longer represent him over the Russia probe, but "will continue to work on the matters for which we were originally retained, with regard to ethics compliance, the SF-86 process, and related issues," she told Politico (7/14, Conway) on Friday. Gorelick added Abbe Lowell will replace her on Russia-related investigations, as "Bob Mueller and three of our partners left the firm to form the Special Counsel's Office."

Breitbart (7/14, Shaw) cites Yahoo! News in reporting that "Lowell has represented clients including disgraced Democratic Sen. John Edwards and American lobbyist Jack Abramoff and will exclusively represent Kushner in inquiries from congressional committees and...Mueller." However, Breitbart says that "sources told Yahoo News that Gorelick's days were numbered as Kushner's top lawyer once Lowell was hired over a month ago, as it would be rare for two prominent lawyers to share responsibility in such a probe."

GOP Lawmakers, Voters Largely Defend Administration. The CBS Evening News (7/14, story 3, 2:20, Mason) reported "the President's supporters are standing by him." Dean Reynolds added that "six months into his presidency, they have four words of advice for Mr. Trump – steady as you go."

The New York Times (7/14, Peters) says that the "veneration" of Russian President Vladimir Putin by "some prominent Republicans" in recent years "helps explain why revelations about Russia's involvement in the election – including recent reports that members of Mr. Trump's inner

circle set up a meeting at which they expected a representative of the Russian government to give them incriminating information about Hillary Clinton – and Mr. Trump's reluctance to acknowledge it, have barely penetrated the consciousness of the president's conservative base." According to the Times, "Putin is no archvillain in this understanding of America-Russian relations. Rather, he personifies many of the qualities and attitudes that conservatives have desired in a president of their own: a respect for traditional Christian values, a swelling nationalist pride and an aggressive posture toward foreign adversaries."

The Hill (7/14, Delk) reports Rep. Dave Brat, a member of the House Freedom Caucus, in a MSNBC interview "defended...Trump against allegations that his campaign colluded with Russia, saying 'everybody colludes' in Washington." While Brat acknowledged "the Russians were obviously involved in our election process," he added, former President Obama "knew that for several months, didn't do anything about it."

Rep. Ron DeSantis told Breitbart (7/14, Hayward) that he wants "an investigation into possible leaks of classified information by former FBI Director James Comey" and he criticized special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation because of "all the prosecutors he's brought in, and it's almost as if he just hired the legal department at the Democratic National Committee." According to Breitbart, DeSantis "complained" that "I mean, you have all these maxed-out donors to Hillary Clinton. Could he not find one Republican?" DeSantis added, "I'm not saying you can't be a good prosecutor if you donate to a Democrat or a Republican or whatever. But it's just odd that the people he's bringing in are all on one side of the fence. The law firm he pulled all these from, they have some very strong Republicans who are very accomplished that he could have asked, but he didn't do that."

However, The Hill (7/14, Bowden) reports Rep. Adam Kinzinger in an interview with CNN's "New Day" on Friday "pushed back...on President Trump's claim that 'many people' would have taken the meeting with a Russian lawyer that ensnared his eldest son." Kinzinger said he would "absolutely not" have taken such a meeting and said, "Frankly, if it happened to me, would call the FBI and say, 'Hey, this government or that government is offering information – do you want me to take this meeting as counterespionage or something?'" Nonetheless, he asserted, "There are some on the other side of the aisle who are really hysteric about this. I've heard the word treason. This isn't treason."

In her Washington Post (7/14, Rubin) column, Jennifer Rubin blames Trump Jr.'s ethical lapses involving his meeting with Russian lawyer on the Republican Party and contends "it's a party as unfit to govern as Trump is unfit to occupy the White House. It's not by accident that Trump chose to inhabit the party that has defined itself in opposition to reality and to any 'external moral truth or ethical code.'"

Pelosi, Democrats Push To Expand Russia Probe. The Washington Post (7/14, Demirjian) reports House Minority Leader Pelosi "said Friday that she thinks President Trump and his family members may have violated campaign finance law, and potentially laws prohibiting cybercrime and espionage as well, through their meetings with Russian operatives during the 2016 presidential campaign." Pelosi outlined the laws she believes Trump Jr., Kushner, and campaign manager Paul Manafort broke and "called on the president to revoke Kushner's security clearance." However, the Post says Pelosi "was careful not to call for impeaching Trump, saying that 'the laws are certainly clear – when the facts are clear, then this Congress will make a decision in that regard.'" The Washington Times (7/14, Persons) reports Pelosi also "announced plans Friday to force House Republicans to take on-the-record positions on President Trump's possible Russian ties." She asserted that "Republicans in Congress should stop hiding, and stop hiding the truth from the American people."

The Hill (7/14, Delk) reports Reps. Ruben Gallego and Ted Lieu "read Donald Trump Jr.'s emails regarding a 2016 meeting with a Russian lawyer on the House floor Friday, calling them a 'smoking gun' in the probe into Russia's meddling in the 2016 presidential election." The Hill adds that they "brought with them a large poster board to the House floor featuring a Time magazine cover from this week, which has the words 'Red Handed' printed underneath Trump Jr.'s face." Rep. Dana Rohrabacher "took to the floor afterwards, saying that the Democratic lawmakers were using "sinister sounding descriptions" of Trump Jr.'s contacts with Russia."

Meanwhile, Reuters (7/14, Sims) reports Rep. Maxine Waters, the ranking member of the House Financial Services Committee, and other Democrats in Congress "have renewed efforts to find possible links between" Trump and Russia by focusing upon Germany's Deutsche Bank as well as Russian lenders Sberbank and Gazprombank. Waters said she has "filed a resolution of inquiry demanding the U.S. Treasury Secretary hand over documents in his possession, 'relating to President Trump's financial connections to Russia, certain illegal financial schemes, and related information.'" Reuters adds the resolution "specifically...is seeking documents that may have

been unearthed by the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network that could show any ties between Trump's finances and Russia." According to Reuters, the request applies to "Trump, and 22 of his closest associates, including family members and top White House and campaign advisers."

Politico (7/14, Cheney) reports Rep. Don Beyer, Rep. Mike Quigley, and other Congressional Democrats that have been "raising questions about Jared Kushner's campaign contacts with Russia are beginning to ask: What did Ivanka Trump know, and when?" Beyer told Politico, "We learned this week that Ivanka Trump's husband, Jared Kushner, updated his filing of that form three times, most recently to include the June 2016 meeting … Did Ivanka Trump disclose that meeting on her initial SF-86 filing? Has she updated her security clearance paperwork to reflect this and other meetings which Jared Kushner failed to disclose subsequently?" He added, "The high standard to which we hold Advisors to the President requires that we get answers to these questions, and I intend to raise them with the Trump Administration."

However, Breitbart (7/14, Madine) reports that in a setback for Democrats, the Federal Election Commission declined Commissioner Ellen Weintraub's proposal for "new rulemaking regarding alleged foreign influence in the 2016 election to target conservative media including the Drudge Report and Breitbart News." In a statement, Vice Chair Caroline Hunter and Commissioners Lee Goodman and Matthew Petersen asserted they "cannot support proposals that would burden the free speech rights of American citizens based on incomplete information about foreign activities in the 2016 election."

Russia Threatens To Expel Americans Over Seized Diplomatic Compounds. The New York Times (7/14, Nechepurenko) reports a spokeswoman for the Russian Foreign Ministry warned Friday that the government "is losing patience and is prepared to expel American diplomats if the United States does not reverse its decision to expel 35 Russian diplomats and block access to Russian diplomatic estates." Reuters (7/14, Osborn, Tsvetkova) reports Maria Zakharova "said…too many American spies operated in Moscow under diplomatic cover and said [Russia] might expel some of them to retaliate against the United States." According to Reuters, the threat "reflects rising frustration in Moscow over the Trump administration's refusal to hand back two Russian diplomatic compounds which were seized at the same time as some of Russia's diplomats were sent home last year." Reuters adds that she also "complained…that U.S. officials were not issuing visas to Russian diplomats to allow Moscow to replace the expelled employees and get its embassy back up to full strength."

Bossert Says US-Russia Cyber "Dialogue" Remains Possible, But No Intel Sharing. The Washington Times (7/14, Blake) reports White House homeland security adviser Tom Bossert on Friday "defended [the President's] decision to discuss forging an 'impenetrable' cybersecurity unit with his Russian counterpart last week, but said Washington and Moscow must come to an understanding before pursuing any sort of partnership." Bossert said, "President Trump, I believe, is right in his continued assertion that even with countries with whom we have friction or disagreements, we have a responsibility on behalf of the American people to continue to have conversations to the extent that they can yield a positive result."

However, Politico (7/14, Bennett, Geller) reports "Bossert stressed that while any sort of 'partnership' with Russia is off the table, the door is still open for a 'dialogue.'" Bossert insisted, "We are not discussing a partnership here. We wouldn't have the conversation about partnership. But we had to have a dialogue, and that's where we'll start." Politico adds that "such conversations are mostly in line with Obama-era digital diplomacy between Washington and Moscow, and would be typical for any new administration, cyber policy experts said."

Meanwhile, under the headline "White House Says US-Russia Cyber Unit Would Not Share Intel," The Hill (7/14, Uchill) reports Bossert asserted the focus of such a unit would be on developing the norms of "what is acceptable behavior in cyberspace and what norms and expectations that we'll have moving forward." GSA Removes Kaspersky From List Of Approved Vendors. Reuters (7/14, Finkle, Menn, Volz) reports Russian cybersecurity software firm CEO Eugene Kaspersky "had a big American dream" to be a "major vendor to the U.S. government," but he was "never able to overcome lingering suspicions among U.S. intelligence officials that he and his company were, or could become, pawns of Russia's spy agencies." The General Services Administration on Tuesday "removed Kaspersky from a list of approved vendors, saying GSA's mission was to ensure the security of U.S. government systems." In addition, FBI agents "last month interviewed Kaspersky employees, asking whether they reported to Russia-based executives and how much data from American customers could be seen by Russian employees, according to three current and former employees."

Hacker Says State Department Official's Email Has Been Breached. The Hill (7/14, Chalfant) cites Foreign Policy in reporting "a hacker calling himself 'Johnnie Walker' sent an email Tuesday

morning alleging to have hacked emails from the unnamed official's account." The email claims the account belongs to an official "said to specialize in matters related to Russia at the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, a member of the intelligence community that aims to use intelligence to serve U.S. diplomatic efforts," The Hill adds.

WSJournal Questions Timing Of Republican Operative's Alleged Suicide. CNN's Situation Room (7/14, 5:50 p.m. EDT, 50:48, Acosta) correspondent Brian Todd reported on "serious new questions" surrounding the timing of Republican activist Peter Smith's alleged suicide, in which he left a "strange suicide note" that detailed "his reported attempt" to acquire "those Clinton emails hacked by the Russians during last year's campaign." Smith "was found dead in his room in this hotel near the Mayo Clinic in Rochester" in mid-May. Police ruled Smith's death a suicide, and the medical examiner's report, quoted Todd, said he had "placed bag over head and attached helium source." The 81-year-old allegedly "left a road-map" that, according to police, explicitly said "there was no foul play" leading to his death. However, Todd said Smith told the Wall Street Journal that he had "been contacted by someone from the 'Dark Web' claiming to have Clinton's personal emails," and claimed he reached out to former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn to help authenticate them. Rep. Eric Swalwell, in video footage, asserted Smith's efforts "should be probed further, and I hope it now gets folded into what we're doing" in the Russia investigation.

France Recognizes Trump As Guest Of Honor At Bastille Day Parade.

French President Emmanuel Macron named President Trump on Friday as the guest of honor at the country's annual Bastille Day parade. However, the limited media reporting highlighted that Trump's recognition on his final day in Paris was overshadowed by domestic controversy.

In the lead story for Fox News' Special Report (7/14, 6:01 p.m. EDT, lead story, 1:13, Baier), Chief White House Correspondent John Roberts said Trump, in "a rare and very prestigious moment," was "the guest of honor at France's Bastille Day parade." He was the first President to receive the honor "since President Bush in 1989." However, Roberts added Trump's day "was tempered by yet another twist in his son Don Jr.'s meeting with Russian attorney Natalia Veselnitskaya." In the lead story for ABC World News Tonight (7/14, lead story, 4:00, Muir), Chief Investigative Correspondent Brian Ross similarly said that upon Trump's return, "he was met by an afternoon rainstorm and new questions about whether his son, Don Jr., has told the full story of his meeting with the Russian lawyer." In another lead story, NBC Nightly News 's (7/14, lead story, 2:50, Holt) Peter Alexander said after "taking part in French Bastille Day celebrations," Trump returned to the US and "to a parade of problems."

Nonetheless, USA Today (7/14, Bhatti, Onyanga-Omara) reports "France put on a dazzling Bastille Day display for President Trump on Friday, an occasion that marked both the founding of French democracy and the centennial of the United States' entry into World War I." USA Today adds that "the colorful parade along the French capital's famous Champs-Élysées included U.S. soldiers marching with their French counterparts." According to the Washington Post (7/14, McAuley, Johnson), the President "could be seen eagerly leaning forward in his seat of honor and gesturing to his wife or Macron as each new spectacle came forth. During short lulls, Trump would pull Macron in for a conversation."

The Wall Street Journal (7/14, Ballhaus, Horobin) similarly reports the President appeared to enjoy the ceremony while the New York Times (7/14, Haberman) states that "the American president, who has a fascination with displays of military strength, had hoped to have tanks and jets at his own inaugural parade, but he was told he could not. So the Bastille Day parade seemed like a natural fit for Mr. Trump, who sometimes appears bored at public events but who seemed transfixed at the performance in Paris."

The Hill (7/14, Bowden) reports the President on Friday also "proclaimed that the United States' relationship with France is 'stronger than ever' in a captioned photograph with...Macron." Trump tweeted, "Great evening with President @EmmanuelMacron & Mrs. Macron. Went to Eiffel Tower for dinner. Relationship with France stronger than ever."

CNN (7/14, Collinson) reports the President later "showed how much he appreciated the hospitality, tweeting a picture of he and Macron, heads close together, deep in conversation as they watched the parade with the Arc de Triomphe in the background." The President tweeted, "It was a great honor to represent the United States at the magnificent #BastilleDay parade. Congratulations President @EmmanuelMacron!"

Breitbart (7/14, Moons) reports the President then tweeted, "The United States mourns for the victims of Nice, France. We pledge our solidarity with France against terror." NBC News (7/14, Smith) reports Trump additionally tweeted, "Great conversations with President

@EmmanuelMacron and his representatives on trade, military and security."

While the AP (7/14, Hinnant, Salama) says "the unexpected bromance between the leaders of America and France was on full display for the world Friday at the annual Bastille Day military parade and celebration in Paris," NBC Nightly News (7/14, story 2, 0:25, Holt) stated that in "a moment that has a lot of people talking," Trump had a "long goodbye with French President Emmanuel Macron as he concluded his trip to Paris. Their farewell handshake today went on and on and on, lasting nearly 30 seconds. At one point, Mr. Trump even pulled in France's first lady without ever letting go of her husband's hand until finally it was time to leave for the flight back home."

In an analysis, the Washington Post (7/14, Stevenson) acknowledges Trump's relationship with Macron has been "dissected ad nauseam," but says their handshake serves as "a window into the relationship between Trump and one of his most powerful and popular European counterparts – a man who, at first, appeared to be a political adversary. The two still don't see eye-to-eye on every issue, but if this endless handshake is any indication, they've come a long way since May 25." When CNN's Situation Room (7/14, 6:39 p.m. EDT, 39:20, Acosta) asked about the "power handshake," former State Department spokesman John Kirby said Trump "prides himself on relationships and leading through relationships," and the handshake thus constituted "a way to demonstrably show" his relationship with Macron, and that the two leaders are "going to move forward." He added, "I think there is also a little bit of masculinity there, a little bit of trying to be the alpha male."

Macron Vows France Will Conduct "Fight Without Mercy" Against Terror. The AP (7/14, Ganley, Krivokapic) reports Macron on Friday "vowed to 'fight without mercy' inside and outside France to end extremist attacks like the one that killed 86 revelers on Bastille Day in the Riviera city of Nice one year ago." In addition, according to the AP, "in a deeply moving sequence of the day-long commemoration, the names of the victims, from toddlers to a 92-year-old, were read aloud and posted on a board to form the shape of a heart. The sequence, accompanied by a choir, with at least one member holding back tears, ended with a minute of silence."

Melania Trump Helps Advance French-American Relations. "Let no one say that Melania Trump, first lady of the United States, has not done her part to further French-American relations," the New York Times (7/14, Friedman) reports, as "on her Bastille Day visit to Paris with her husband, Mrs. Trump fully committed." The Times adds that "it was almost as if she had packed according to theme. Which was? The flags, French and American. In all three of her public appearances in Paris, Mrs. Trump wore a variation on red, white, and blue."

Collins Laments That Macron Is Not American President. In her New York Times (7/14, Collins) column, Gail Collins asks, "Why can't Emmanuel Macron be our president?" According to Collins, American observers of Trump's visit to Paris "must have wondered how we got the wrong guy. Macron seemed so smart, so charming. The fact that he didn't father any children would not normally be a big selling point, but right now we are yearning for a president with no offspring." However, Collins acknowledges "that Melania Trump did fine. The Parisian press praised her wardrobe. Unlike her husband, she didn't say anything weird. Nobody accused her of having sinister meetings with Russians. Give the woman some credit."

White House Warns Budget Deficit To Reach $702 Billion This Year.

The AP (7/14, Taylor) reports the Office of Management and Budget "said Friday that worsening tax revenues will cause the budget deficit to jump to $702 billion this year. That's a $99 billion spike from what was predicted less than two months ago." The AP adds the OMB "also says the deficit for the 2018 budget year that starts on Oct. 1 will increase by $149 billion to $589 billion. But lawmakers are already working on spending bills that promise to boost that number even higher by adding to Trump's Pentagon proposal and ignoring many of Trump's cuts to domestic programs." OMB Director Mulvaney said, "The rising near-term deficits underscore the critical need to restore fiscal discipline to the nation's finances. Our nation must make substantial changes to the policies and spending priorities of the previous administration if our citizens are to be safe and prosperous in the future."

WPost: Trump Budget Will Not Spur Economic Growth.

In an editorial, the Washington Post (7/16) calls President Trump's budget "monumentally unwise." Citing an analysis from the CBO, the Post says that despite the Administration's "grandiose assurances," the CBO said "there is no proposal in President Trump's budget that would supercharge economic growth — the president promised 3 percent per year — and balance the budget within a decade. Instead, they found a lot of question marks and missing details."

NYTimes: Trump Unlikely To Return To Climate Change Commitments.

In an editorial, the New York Times (7/14) argues that there is "zero chance" that President Trump will return the US to previous climate change commitments, but goes on to speculate "what could conceivably change Mr. Trump's mind." While concrete effects of climate change may be effective, "A more promising scenario is that someday Mr. Trump will awaken to the fact that the leaders of the world...regard him with astonishment and dismay."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Save The Census." A New York Times (7/17, Board) editorial notes the Government Accountability Office placed "the 2020 census on its list of high-risk projects early this year, due to uncertainty about its budget and technology, and Americans' increasing distrust of government data collection." Meanwhile, President Trump has not yet named permanent replacements for John Thompson, who resigned as Census Bureau director in June, or Nancy Potok, who resigned as deputy director in January. The bureau also faces a budgetary raise of only about one-tenth of what it needs. Nonetheless, the Times argues, local governments' ability to plan depends on census results, which must be completed by summer 2020 for "congressional reapportionment and redistricting to take place." The Times concludes, "Any failure would be immediately apparent – and it would tar Republicans at the height of the 2020 primary campaign season."

"Smoking Marijuana While Black." In an editorial, the New York Times (7/17, Board) says New York City "has reduced the number of arrests for low-level marijuana possession," but "black and Latino New Yorkers are far more likely to be arrested for smoking in public than whites, who are just as likely to use marijuana." The Times argues that these arrests result in "virtually no public safety benefit and can cause lasting damage to people who often have had no other contact with the criminal justice system." Since the state of New York "missed an opportunity to fix this problem five years ago when a bill that would have made public display of marijuana an offense similar to a traffic violation – rather than a crime – died in the Legislature," the Times says it may be "up to the city's criminal justice system, particularly the district attorneys, to bring fairness and sanity to these cases."

"India's Turn Toward Intolerance." The New York Times (7/17, Board) editorializes that since Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "landslide victory" in 2014, "there has been an alarming rise in mob attacks against people accused of eating beef or abusing cows, an animal held sacred to Hindus," even though he pledged "to unleash his country's economic potential and build a bright future while he played down the Hindu nationalist roots of his Bharatiya Janata Party." The Times notes India's film censor board, in a move seemingly intended to protect both Modi and the BJP party from criticism, decided "that a documentary film about one of India's most famous sons, the Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen, cannot be screened unless the director cuts" specific words, such as "cow." The Times says the ruling "might seem like merely a farcical move by Hindu fanatics, if it were not so in line with much else that is happening in Mr. Modi's India, and if the implications for India's democracy weren't so chilling."

Washington Post.

"A Partisan Brawl In Maryland." In an editorial, the Washington Post (7/16) argues that Maryland state Democratic lawmakers' blocking of salaries for two of Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's recess appointments to fill Cabinet vacancies "may seem underhanded" but "also appears to be legal." The Post asserts that the salary obstruction of Depart of Planning Secretary appointee Wendi Peters and Department of Health Secretary appointee Dennis R. Schrader "is partly Mr. Hogan's own fault" because of the nominees' "unimpressively qualified" backgrounds. Gov. Hogan "insists he is standing by his appointments," but Maryland State Treasurer Nancy Kopp has stopped disbursing the two appointees salary payments on advice of Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh. The Post concludes, "Both sides may have a principle to stand on, but in this case Democrats may have the last word."

"A Promising Decline In Teen Smoking." The Washington Post (7/16) says in an editorial that a new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report showed that "the estimated number of middle and high school students who are tobacco users dropped from 4.7 million in 2015 to 3.9 million in 2016" and argues that this finding is an "encouraging signal" that interventions stopping teenage use of cigarettes and e-cigarettes "may be working." The Post says that "experts have attributed the drop to a range of federal, state and local policies designed to

dissuade young adults from using tobacco, such as increasing tobacco taxes and expanding antismoking ordinances to include e-cigarettes and other new products." The Post adds, however, that the report indicates several challenges that remain, such the disparate use of tobacco in low-income, rural, and LGBT communities, and the Post concludes that the FDA must adopt stricter standards on e-cigarettes and cigars.

"The CBO Finds Mr. Trump's Budget Lacking." In an editorial, the Washington Post (7/16) calls President Trump's budget "monumentally unwise." Citing an analysis from the CBO, the Post says that despite the Administration's "grandiose assurances," the CBO said "there is no proposal in President Trump's budget that would supercharge economic growth — the president promised 3 percent per year — and balance the budget within a decade. Instead, they found a lot of question marks and missing details."

Wall Street Journal.

"Prosecutors And Political Corruption." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (7/16) argues that the decision last week by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals to vacate the conviction of former New York Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver in the wake of the Supreme Court's landmark 2016 McDonnell v. United States case does not mean that the Supreme Court condones corrupts politicians. The Journal asserts that, though the Second Circuit tossed Silver's conviction despite concluding that the government had presented sufficient evidence to prove the corruption counts against Silver, it overturned the conviction not because it ignored evidence but because the jury instructions did not conform with McDonnell v. United States and were therefore in error. The Journal argues that former US attorney Preet Bharara, the prosecutor in the Silver case, overlooked a faulty jury instruction for the purpose of getting a high-profile conviction, and concludes that the lesson of this case is that prosecutors need to follow the law even when prosecuting corrupt politicians.

"The UN Bans Nuclear Weapons." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (7/16) argues that the United Nations' Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons signed this month by 122 non-nuclear UN member states disregards the realities of international security. In addition to the fact that the world's nine nuclear countries boycotted the vote, the Journal says that the treaty does nothing to halt nuclear proliferation in Iran and North Korea. The Journal argues that, although Iran signed the agreement, the treaty does not define peaceful purposes and thus presents opportunities for abuse, and that North Korea, who did not sign the agreement, will completely disregard the treaty's prohibition.

"The DC Circuit Vs. Deregulation." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (7/16) argues that the United Nations' Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons signed this month by 122 non-nuclear UN member states disregards the realities of international security. In addition to the fact that the world's nine nuclear countries boycotted the vote, the Journal says that the treaty does nothing to halt nuclear proliferation in Iran and North Korea. The Journal argues that, although Iran signed the agreement, the treaty does not define peaceful purposes and thus presents opportunities for abuse, and that North Korea, who did not sign the agreement, will completely disregard the treaty's prohibition.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:
GOP Push To Pass Healthcare Law Faces New Setback
From $2 Billion To Zero: A Fund Goes Bust In The Oil Patch
Two VIP Billionaires Teamed Up To Run Luxury Hotels. It's Been A Slog

New York Times:
A Top Republican Vows A Vote On Healthcare, But Uncertainty Reigns
After NFL Concussion Settlement, Feeding Frenzy Of Lawyers And Lenders
She's His Rock. His Parole Officer Won't Let Him See Her.
Qatar Opens Its Doors To All, To The Dismay Of Some
A Russian Developer Helps Out The Kremlin On Occasion. Was He A Conduit To Trump?
Roger Federer Wins Record-breaking Eighth Wimbledon Title

Washington Post:
Suburbia Is Left Scrambling As Firms Relocate To Big Cities
Nevada's Rocky Healthcare Future
UAE Tied To Hack Targeting Qatar
US Flood Insurance Program Struggling
Build A Chapel, And Perhaps They Won't Come

Financial Times:
Winnie The Pooh Barred By China's Online Censors
Chinese Purchases Of Ports Top $20bn In Past Year
Cuba Courted In Diplomatic Push On Venezuela Crisis
Hammond Seeks Brexit Transition As Cushion For Economy
Washington Times:
With John McCain Sidelined By Surgery, Senate Has No Timetable For Obamacare Repeal Vote
Russia Suspected Of Using Bermuda Shell Company To Exploit American Anti-Fracking Activists
If 'Dodgy Dossier' Accusation True, Trump Jr. Would Have No Reason To Meet With Russian Lawyer
Maduro Divides Venezuela's Neighbors In Effort To Save Regime, Socialist Movement
Efforts To Estimate Scope Of FISA Intrusion On Americans Halts Under Trump Administration
Republican Campaign Operatives Aim To Make Elizabeth Warren As Toxic As Nancy Pelosi

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather-Flood; Weather Forecast; Trump-Lowest Approval Rating; Healthcare Reform Bill; Chicago Gun Violence; Honolulu-High Rise Fire; London Child-US Treatment; Wimbledon Tournament News; Side Jobs; Plane-Emergency Evacuation; Kayaking Accident; Gas Station-Price Cut; Garth Brooks Concert; Funeral Salute.
CBS: Trump-Lowest Approval Rating; Russia Meddling Investigation-Expert Opinion; Healthcare Reform Bill-Expert Opinion; Iran-US Captive; Severe Weather-Flood; Heat Wave-Wildfires; Car Accident Survivor; OJ Simpson Parole.
NBC: Severe Weather-Flood; Healthcare Reform Bill; Trump-Lowest Approval Rating; Boat Accident; UK-Tougher Acid Attack Punishment; Jimmy Carter-Health Condition; Oldest Track Athlete; Fields Medal Awardee Dies; Silicon Valley-Sexual Harassment; Child-Vocabulary Learning; Afghan Teens-International Robot Competition; Children's Hospital.

Network TV At A Glance:
Trump-Lowest Approval Rating – 7 minutes, 30 seconds
Weather – 5 minutes, 45 seconds
Healthcare Reform Bill – 4 minutes, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Severe Weather-Flood; WH-Made In America Week; Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump; Healthcare Reform Bill.
CBS: Severe Weather-Flood; Martin Landau Dies; Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump; Healthcare Reform Bill; Wall Street News.
FOX: Healthcare Reform Bill; Russia Meddling Investigation; Martin Landau Dies.
NPR: Philadelphia-Murdered Missing Men; Venezuela-Political Turmoil; Brexit Negotiation; Heat Wave-Wildfires.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:
PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in a Made in America product showcase.
VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President to participate in a Made in America product showcase; participates in a bilateral meeting with President Aleksandar Vucic of Serbia; delivers the keynote address at the Christians United for Israel Washington Summit.
US Senate: 3:00 PM Senate aims to end debate on deputy defense secretary nominee – Senate convenes and proceeds to executive session to resume consideration of the nomination of Patrick Shanahan to be Deputy Secretary of Defense, including a motion to invoke cloture on the nomination Location: Washington, DC http://www.senate.gov/

5:00 PM Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on State Department reauthorization – Hearing on 'A Review of the State Department Reauthorization Bill for FY 2018 and the State Department Reorganization Plans', with testimony from Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC http://foreign.senate.gov/

US House: 7:00 PM Markup hearing on 'FY2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill' Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC http://appropriations.house.gov/ https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP

7:30 PM House Committee on Veterans' Affairs legislative hearing – House Committee on Veterans' Affairs legislative hearing on 'H.R. 3218 – the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017' Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC http://veterans.house.gov/ https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs

Other: 9:00 AM Israeli PM Netanyahu speaks at Christians United for Israel Annual Washington Summit via satellite – Christians United for Israel Annual Washington Summit, with speakers including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (via satellite), President's Deputy Assistant Sebastian Gorka, Israeli Knesset Member Avi Dichter, National Center for Policy Analysis Chairman of the Board and Executive Director Col. (Ret.) Allen West, John Bolton, Daughters for Zion National Director Lynne Hammond, and Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations Executive Vice Chairman Malcolm Hoenlein Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place NW, Washington, DC www.cufi.org/site/PageServer?pagename=2017Summit_Register https://twitter.com/CUFI

10:00 AM 'The Russia Challenge in Europe' CSIS discussion and report roll out – 'The Russia Challenge in Europe: The INF Treaty and Implications for Army Modernization' Center for Strategic and International Studies Missile Defense Project and CSIS Defense-Industrial Initiatives Group discussion and report roll out of DIIG's new report, 'The Army Modernization Imperative: A New Big Five for the Twenty First Century'. Speakers include Republican Sen. Tom Cotton, former Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology Heidi Shyu, AUSA National Security Studies Director Col. (Ret.) Dan Roper, and House Armed Services Committee Professional Staff Member Douglas Bush Location: CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Ave, Washington, DC http://www.csis.org https://twitter.com/CSIS

10:00 AM Dem Rep. Frank Pallone speaks at CAP Action Fund on 'Ensuring Access to Prescription Drugs' – Democratic Rep. Frank Pallone speaks at Center for American Progress Action Fund on 'The Health Care Fight: Ensuring Access to Prescription Drugs', on the challenges of addressing the American public's concerns about rising drug costs and pharmaceutical policy reform, as well as the latest developments in Congress' efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act Location: Center for American Progress Action Fund, 1333 H St. NW, Washington, DC www.americanprogressaction.org https://twitter.com/CAPaction

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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