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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

Uncertainty As National Monument Review Deadline Nears.

The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (8/8, DeMille) reports that "two weeks ahead of a Trump administration deadline to complete a review of 27 national monuments, including Utah's Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, the status remains uncertain for most of them." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has "already issued a preliminary recommendation to shrink the Bears Ears monument, and over the course of the past several weeks he has said that five others should remain monuments and go untouched." However, "the details behind what might happen at Bears Ears and the fate of the 21 other monuments remain a question mark."

Public-Lands Group Targets Zinke With \$1.4M Ad Buy Urging Monument Protection. [KXLH-TV](#) Helena, MT (8/8, Dennison) reports that "a public lands group has launched a \$1.4 million ad campaign in Montana, targeting U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, urging him to recommend no changes in two dozen national monuments." According to the article, "the sizable TV, radio and online ad campaign from Missoula-based Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, launched last week, is solely in Montana – home to the Interior secretary and former Montana congressman." The group's conservation director, John Gale, said, "We felt it was pretty important to put a bunch of resources specifically into this campaign, in order to try to influence a beneficial outcome for national monuments. It's our hope that this ad campaign ... yields having these wonderful wild places left alone, as they are."

Additional coverage was provided by [KPAX-TV](#) Missoula, MT (8/8, Dennison) and [KTVH-TV](#) Helena, MT (8/8, Dennison).

Businesses Plan Discussions On National Monuments. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (8/8) reports that "business owners from California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and Montana will host discussions in Great Falls and Helena on Wednesday on the Interior Department review of national monuments." The discussions to be "held in Helena and Great Falls will feature an overview of the Western outdoor economy and a panel discussion from regional business leaders." The purpose is "to highlight impacts western businesses say they would face if national monument protections are changed, said Business for Montana's Outdoors and the Colorado Outdoor Business Alliance, which are hosting the talks."

Mesquite Water Official Airs Concern Over Gold Butte Springs. The [AP](#) (8/8) reports that "a water official in the Nevada community of Mesquite says he expressed concerns to U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke about municipal springs now within the boundaries of Gold Butte National Monument." Virgin Valley Water District Kevin Brown said "he expressed the concern during a 10-minute meeting with Zinke on July 30."

San Bernardino Rep Asks Trump To Shrink San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, Citing Ski Resort And Mining. The [San Gabriel Valley \(CA\) Tribune](#) (8/8, Scauzillo) reports that Rep. Paul Cook is calling on the Trump Administration "to shrink the boundaries of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, causing anxiety among some of the monument's ardent supporters." Cook wants "to remove 4,873-acre portion jutting into the San Bernardino National Forest." In a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on June 8, Cook wrote, "The inclusion of 4,873 acres of non-wilderness Forest Service land was widely opposed by local residents due to its encroachment on local communities and economic activity."

Sage Grouse Conservation Changes Praised, Provoke Alarm.

The [AP](#) (8/8, Gruver, Brown) reports that the Trump Administration has "opened the door to industry-friendly changes to a sweeping plan imposed by his predecessor to protect a ground-dwelling bird across vast areas of the West." Representatives of the ranching and energy industries lauded "the policy shift as needed to give states flexibility." However, wildlife advocates

are concerned “that the proposed changes would undercut a hard-won struggle to protect the greater sage grouse.”

In an editorial, the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/9) notes that the “objections” from environmental groups “seem more focused on resource development than the actual fate of the sage grouse.” According to the paper, “that’s because the chicken-like bird is in fact a proxy through which green extremists hope to advance their quest to fence off vast swaths of the West’s public lands.” The editorial praises Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s announcement for “providing a modicum of regulatory relief while giving Nevada and other states a bit more flexibility to develop their own approaches to sage grouse management.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [USA Today](#) (8/8, Ap), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (8/8, GRUVER, BROWN), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (8/9, Gruver, Brown), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (8/8), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (8/8, Gruver, Brown), [Fox Business](#) (8/8, Gruver, Brown), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (8/8, Gruver, Brown), the [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (8/8, Gruver, Brown), the [Belleville \(IL\) News-Democrat](#) (8/8, Gruver, Brown), the [Scottsbluff \(NE\) Star-Herald](#) (8/8, Gruver, Brown), [KTAR-FM Glendale \(AZ\)](#) Glendale, AZ (8/8), and [KTVH-TV Helena \(MT\)](#) Helena, MT (8/8, Gruver, Brown).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Caller](#) (8/8, Pearce), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (8/8, Gruver, Brown), the [Portland \(OR\) Business Journal](#) (8/8, Danko), [CBS News](#) (8/9), [Fox Business](#) (8/8, Daly), [My Central Oregon](#) (8/8), [Yahoo! News](#) (8/8), [KHOU-TV Houston \(TX\)](#) Houston (8/8), and [KKOH-AM Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (8/8).

Scientist Claims Administration Punishing Him For Speaking Out About Climate Change.

Chip Reid of the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/8, story 5, 2:30, Mason) reported on an interview with US Interior Department scientist Joel Clement about “what happens to a government scientist who speaks up about” climate change. For the past seven years, Clement has been working in Alaskan villages that “are literally melting into the Arctic Ocean.” Clement addressed the issue last month at the UN, and six days later, “he was one of about 50 department employees who were assigned to new jobs.” Clement has filed a whistleblower complaint, saying, “I believe that the Trump Administration is retaliating against me for disclosing these risks to these Alaskan native villages.”

Additional coverage was provided by [CBS News](#) (8/8).

County Opposes Bringing Grizzlies Into North Cascades.

The [Skagit Valley \(WA\) Herald](#) (8/8, Stone) reports that the Board of Skagit County Commissioners “agreed Monday to recommend against reintroducing grizzly bears into the North Cascades, citing public safety concerns.” A letter, sent jointly by Chelan, Okanogan and Skagit counties to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, “reiterates concerns that bringing 200 bears into the 6-million-acre region would harm the safety and welfare of residents.” However, “many of the commenters at Monday’s crowded public meeting disagreed, saying their experience with nature doesn’t mesh with the way the bears have been portrayed by the county and the American Stewards of Liberty.”

Additional Coverage: Trump Administration Repeals Obama-Era Coal Royalty Reform.

Additional coverage that the Trump Administration is “repealing an Obama-era rule that forced energy companies to pay more royalties on fossil fuels” was provided by [Montana Public Radio](#) (8/8, Hegyi), the [Alaska Native News](#) (8/8), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (8/8, Richards), and [KAML-FM Gillette \(WY\)](#) Gillette, WY (8/8).

Additional Coverage: Officials Applaud Mine Proposal To Create Jobs In WV.

Additional coverage that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “last week applauded the initial construction of the Berwind Mine located on the border of West Virginia and Virginia” was provided by the [Williamson \(WV\) Daily News](#) (8/9).

Don’t Do It, Donald Trump.

In her column for the [Washington Times](#) (8/8, Simmons), Deborah Simmons opposes giving “the D.C. government control of RFK Stadium land and the D.C. Armory land,” as well as the adjacent park land. She argues that “federal park land shouldn’t simply be plopped into the hands of the D.C. government.” Simmons urges the Trump Administration to “not view the proposed land swaps and transfers through lenses that block the periphery.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Tribes Want Dakota Pipeline Shut, But Offer Fallback Plan.

The [AP](#) (8/8, Nicholson) reports that tribes looking to shut down the Dakota Access oil pipeline “presented a fallback plan should the judge disagree.” The fallback plan “includes increased public reporting of pipeline issues such as repairs, and implementation of a spill response plan – including equipment staging – at the Lake Oahe reservoir on the Missouri River, from which the tribe draws its water.” The article mentions that the judge’s ruling is not expected until September.

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (8/8, Cama).

BIA And Oconaluftee Job Corps Strengthen Partnership.

The [Cherokee \(NC\) One Feather](#) (8/8) reports that “the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Oconaluftee Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center (JCCCC) signed an agreement to increase fire and non-fire training and work-based learning opportunities for students on Tuesday, Aug. 1.” The partnership “provides additional avenues for JCCCC students to gain employability skills and experience as they assist the U.S. Forest Service in sustaining our nation’s forests and grasslands and delivering needed benefits to the public.” JCCCC Director Jimmy Copeland said, “We are elated to formalize this partnership with BIA to not only support natural resource training and development, but to also create pipelines and platforms of Eastern Band of Cherokee youth to achieve career enhancement opportunities. This agreement signifies a relevant partnership with BIA focused on youth training to include supporting Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian needs on tribal lands which also may provide avenues for timber, fire and fuels support.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Commentary: Slaughtering Wild Horses Would Be Simplistic And Cruel.

In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/9, Hammer), Rob Hammer, the proprietor of Wild Horse Tourist, opposes an amendment to the Interior Department’s 2018 spending bill introduced by Rep. Chris Stewart “that would send thousands of America’s wild horses to slaughterhouses.” Hammer argues that the “proposal to simply slaughter these cherished symbols of our national heritage amounts to greed-driven cruelty and should be stripped from the Appropriations Bill before final Congressional approval.” Instead, Hammer supports “comprehensive approaches that generally include some combination of administering long-acting birth control, retiring grazing leases, increasing lease fees, reapportioning AUM allotments, protecting large predators, returning herd areas to their original acreage and repopulating zeroed areas.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

North Carolina Residents Can Let The Government Know How They Feel About Drilling In The Atlantic Ocean.

[McClatchy](#) (8/8, Murphy) reports that “about 175 people attended and 45 people spoke at a N.C. Department of Environmental Quality public event in Wilmington on Monday night” about Atlantic offshore drilling, according to Bridget Munger with the state’s DEQ. The DEQ will host a second hearing Wednesday in Morehead City and a final one Thursday in Manteo. DEQ is accepting public comments through Aug. 15.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Fed Probe Of Shark-dragging Suspect Closed Last Year.

The [Miami Herald](#) (8/8, Staletovich) reports that “federal wildlife agents who last year investigated a group of Gulf coast anglers linked to a brutal shark-dragging video were foiled by uncooperative witnesses and an inability to confirm when the illegal acts occurred.” The federal investigation, “which focused on possible violations to the Migratory Bird Act, ultimately ended without charges after investigators were unable to determine when the pictures were taken.” According to the article, “when asked Tuesday why the case was transferred or why agents didn’t

follow up with attorneys, U.S. Fish and Wildlife law enforcement officials declined to comment, saying the case is closed."

Pipeline Won't Impact Animals.

The [Niagara \(NY\) Gazette](#) (8/8) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has "issued a report expressing the agency's contentment that National Fuel's Northern Access Pipeline project will not adversely affect the animal population along the work zone." National Fuel is "currently challenging a DEC ruling issued in April that denied water quality certificates needed for the project which would have resulted in the construction of a 97-mile pipeline capable of carrying natural gas from Pennsylvania through Western New York." In a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, dated Aug. 7, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated, "No further coordination or consultation under the ESA is required with the service at this time."

Meeting On South River Projects From DuPont Deal Scheduled In Verona.

The [Staunton \(VA\) News Leader](#) (8/8, Cavallaro) reports that "a preliminary meeting on how to submit South River project proposals for funds from the DuPont settlement has been scheduled in Verona, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Tuesday." The meeting will be held "on Aug. 25 at 1 p.m. at the Augusta County Government Center in the south boardroom." The goal is "to review the restoration goals for the South River and go over the process for submitting project proposals."

Environmentalists Are Urging The USDA To Reject This Genetically Engineered Eucalyptus Tree.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/8, Harvey) reports that "a genetically engineered, freeze-tolerant eucalyptus tree is moving closer to receiving approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, amid concerns about the tree's possible negative effects on the environment." The USDA has "proposed lifting restrictions on commercial production of the trees, based on a draft environmental impact statement that concluded the trees pose few significant environmental risks." The USDA is "considering public comments and it still needs to confer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the tree's potential impact on wildlife."

A Smart Reprieve For Great Lakes Wolves.

In an editorial, the [Chicago Tribune](#) (8/8, Board) supports the August 1 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit keeping protections for gray wolves on the endangered list. The editorial believes "that most people in the Upper Midwest, as well as the rest of the country, think America would be a better place if wolves were able to expand their numbers and territory." Now, after the court's ruling, "the wolves will have that chance."

Our View: An Old Debate Rekindled.

In an editorial, the [Santa Maria \(CA\) Times](#) (8/8) says that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "seeks public comment on an environmental analysis of further local oil and gas operations." The federal agency is seeking input "to help formulate rules to guide the oil industry's development plans, while at the same time offering protection to two animal and one plant species named on the federal endangered species list." The paper says that "the feds' objective is noble — to protect plants and animals on the endangered species list — but past experience tell us there is no viable compromise when it comes to dealing with the Endangered Species Act, which was signed into law by former President Nixon in 1973, an era in which there seemed to be more of a consensus about the need to protect the planet and its living things." Although the Trump Administration "seems less interested in species' survival, and more focused on pumping new life into America's relatively sluggish economy," the paper hopes it will be possible "to find a middle ground, if both sides are willing to give some, or at least listen to what the other side is saying, which has not happened in the past."

The piece also appears at the [Lompoc \(CA\) Record](#) (8/8).

National Park Service

Free Entry To National Parks For Fourth Graders Kicks Off In September.

[KPTV-TV](#) Portland, OR (8/8) reports that "starting Sept. 1 each year, kids in the fourth grade have access to their own 'Every Kid in a Park' pass." The article notes that "with the pass, all

children under 16 and up to three adults can be admitted into a park for free.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (8/8, Chambers) and [KIRO-TV Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (8/8, Chambers).

Chickamauga And Chattanooga National Military Park Receives Centennial Challenge Funds From Friends Of Moccasin Bend.

The [Chattanooga \(TN\)](#) (8/8) reports that on July 22, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “announced that the National Park Service is teaming up with partners across the nation to distribute more than \$50 million in high priority maintenance and infrastructure projects at 42 parks in 29 states, including \$143,733 at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park to construct an orientation plaza and park trails at Moccasin Bend National Archeological District.” The money for Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park will be “matched with \$287,546 from the Friends of Moccasin Bend.”

Parkway Receives \$750K For Deferred Maintenance Projects.

The [Roanoke \(VA\) Times](#) (8/8, Berrier) reports that the Blue Ridge Parkway is receiving “about \$750,000 in federal money and matching private grants to complete maintenance work at several locations along the scenic road.” The funds come from the Centennial Challenge. The parkway will “get \$366,012 in federal money, plus an additional \$384,940 in matching grants from the National Park Service, the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation and the National Park Foundation.”

Cumberland Island To Get America The Beautiful Quarter In August 2018.

The [Florida Times-Union](#) (8/8, Dickson) reports that Cumberland Island National Seashore will be “recognized on a 25-cent piece next year in the U.S. Mint’s America the Beautiful Quarters Program.” The mint will issue “the coin Aug. 27, 2018, as the 44th overall in the initiative to honor 56 National Park Service sites in each state, Washington D.C., and five U.S. territories, the park service said in a written statement.” Gary Ingram, superintendent of Cumberland Island and Fort Frederica National Monument, said, “This coin recognizes Cumberland as the treasure it is, and commemorates the efforts of those who worked to preserve it for future generations.”

Acadia National Park To Create Road Checkpoints To Reduce Impaired Driving.

The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (8/8, Sarnacki) reports that “in an effort to crack down on drivers under the influence of alcohol, drugs and marijuana, Acadia National Park rangers plan to enhance traffic enforcement and establish safety checkpoints on park roads beginning on Aug. 10 and continuing through the fall,” according to a press release issued by the National Park Service. This shift in “park management is in cooperation with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration as part of a national traffic safety campaign to reduce impaired driving on roads.” Superintendent Kevin Schneider stated in the press release, “The National Park Service is working to ensure that visitors to Acadia National Park have a safe and enjoyable trip. We appreciate the patience and cooperation of those visitors who may encounter a safety checkpoint in the park.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

After Trump Warning Of “Fire And Fury,” North Korea Threatens Strike On Guam.

President Trump’s warning to North Korea, which was followed by Pyongyang threat to strike Guam, are garnering heavy media attention, including the lead reports on all three networks newscasts. [Reuters](#) (8/8, Oliphant, Blanchard) reports, warned North Korea it would be met with “fire and fury like the world has never seen.” Stephen Ganyard said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/8, story 2, 1:15, Muir) that “to hear this language out of a US president, it’s something we have never heard before, and it certainly puts the world on notice.” Media reports cast the developments as presenting Trump with his greatest challenge yet of his presidency, with analysts and commentators taking a decidedly dim view of his rhetoric. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/8, Hennigan, Cloud, Bierman), for example, reports that the President’s “dramatic threat of annihilation raised fresh fears of a confrontation with North Korea,” and “in many ways mirrors his North Korean counterpart’s,” the [New York Times](#) (8/8, Baker, Sang-Hun) refers to “chilling language that evoked the horror of a nuclear exchange,” and a [Washington Post](#) (8/8) editorial criticizes the President’s “unsettling threat,” which it calls “reckless and unnecessary. In its bombast, it resembled nothing so much as Kim Jong Un’s regular denunciations of the United States, frantic and hyperbolic.” Dealing with the threat posed by the North, the Post argues, “will

require patient pressure and skilled diplomacy, perhaps for years. Instead, Mr. Trump has strut into the arena with a jarring rhetorical grenade."

Anthony Mason opened the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/8, lead story, 2:45) reporting that "Trump drew a line today for North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Un and warned what would happen if he crosses it," and [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/8, lead story, 3:05, Holt) said opened its broadcast saying the crisis with North Korea reached "an unsettling new level" as Trump issued his "most provocative statement yet." Former deputy director of the CIA's counterterrorism center Phil Mudd said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/8) that Trump is "making one of the most fundamental mistakes in foreign policy. ... The hotter it gets in the kitchen, the cooler the cook has to be. And the President is getting hotter."

At any rate, "just hours" after Trump issued his warning, [Reuters](#) (8/8, Oliphant, Blanchard) reports, North Korea said it is considering plans for a missile strike on Guam. A Korean People's Army spokesman said in a statement carried by state-run KCNA news agency that Pyongyang is "carefully examining" a plan to strike Guam, and "would be put into practice at any moment once leader Kim Jong Un makes a decision."

Sean Hannity argued in his opening monologue on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (8/8) that "the world needs to take a stand tonight. We must confront this evil in our time before it's too late," but the [AP](#) (8/8, Klug, Pennington) reports that "despite regular North Korean threats against Guam...it is extremely unlikely that Pyongyang would risk the assured annihilation of its revered leadership with a pre-emptive attack on US citizens." Still, the "competing threats and Trump's use of North Korea-style rhetoric...raise the already high animosity and heighten worries that a miscalculation might spark conflict." Nevertheless, the [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (8/8) reports Guam residents "expressed concern Wednesday." The offices of Guam Homeland Security and Civil Defense issued a statement Wednesday saying they were working with military officials to "continue to monitor the recent events surrounding North Korean and their threatening actions." The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/8, Chaitin) reports the US representative from Guam, Madeleine Bordallo said "top figures in the Pentagon have 'recently' assured her that the US military will keep Guam safe."

[Politico](#) (8/8, Dove) reports that in a pre-taped interview released Tuesday, Alaska Gov. Bill Walker said he was "concerned" about a North Korean missile hitting his state, which he said is "in the trajectory zone from North Korea."

Peter Alexander said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/8, story 2, 2:15, Holt) that Trump is "locked in an escalating standoff with a rogue regime and its erratic dictator," and on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/8, lead story, 3:20, Muir), Martha Raddatz called the President's remarks "the most fiery, overtly military threat" he "has ever launched at North Korea." She added that North Korea is "without question, the greatest challenge President Trump now faces." [The Hill](#) (8/8, Fabian, Kheel) similarly says North Korea is "posing an increasingly serious problem" for Trump.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/8, Wagner) says Trump's warning "further raises the stakes for the US president and other world leaders, who face limited options in dealing with North Korea's aggression," and [Politico](#) (8/8, Bender, Klimas) says they "sparked new fears that the standoff...could devolve into a shooting war."

A [New York Times](#) (8/8, Davis) analysis says Trump's warning "was a remarkable escalation of military rhetoric with little precedent in the modern era, historians and analysts said." While Trump's "menacing remarks echoed the tone and cadence" of President Harry Truman – who, in a 1945 address announcing that the US had dropped a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima, urged the Japanese to surrender, warning that if they did not, "they may expect a rain of ruin from the air, the like of which has never been seen on this earth" – the Times says it is "not clear whether Mr. Trump intended the historical parallel." But the [AP](#) (8/8, Pennington, Lucey) says his remarks "appeared scripted, with Trump glancing at a paper in front of him."

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/8, Sink, Syeed, Foroohar) says the statement came as Secretary of State Tillerson "continues visiting allies in Southeast Asia, rallying support for tougher measures against Pyongyang and holding out an olive branch to the reclusive regime as well." But Major Garrett said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/8, story 2, 2:15, Mason) that "the President's words contrasted sharply with...Tillerson's declaration just last week that the US was open to negotiations."

In a front-page story, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/8, A1, Sonne, Harris, Cheng) says Trump's comments reflect deep concern in the Administration about the progress North Korea has made in recent months on its nuclear-weapons program.

Also reporting on the President's remarks are the [New York Post](#) (8/8, Moore), [Washington Examiner](#) (8/8, Morrongiello), and [Townhall](#) (8/8, Pavlich). [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/8, lead story,

3:05, Holt) said "some lawmakers are slamming the President's comments: Dianne Feinstein calling them bombastic and recommending diplomacy. Republican John McCain said he can't think of any other President who would have used that kind of rhetoric." Major Garrett also reported their responses on the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/8, story 2, 2:15, Mason), and [The Hill](#) (8/8, Bowden) likewise says McCain "took exception" to Trump's remarks, and the [Washington Examiner](#) (8/8, Siegel) reports Feinstein said Trump's "bombastic" threats are not "helping" to defuse the situation. Rep. Eliot Engel also criticized Trump, charging that the President has drawn an "absurd red line."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/8, Mayfield) reports White House counselor Kellyanne Conway "jumped to the president's defense," saying, "I think the president's comments were very strong and obvious, and all of you covered them live."

Poll: Americans "Uneasy" About North Korea. [Politico](#) (8/8, Siu) reports that a CBS News poll out Tuesdays shows Americans are "uneasy" about a possible conflict with North Korea, while "many Democrats are also not confident" in Donald Trump's capacity to handle a nuclear crisis. Responses, however, "were largely split along party lines — 76 percent of Republican respondents said they are confident in Trump's ability to handle the North Korea nuclear situation, while only 10 percent of Democrats and 31 percent of independents said they are." Regardless of party alignment, "72 percent of the 1,111 people surveyed reported unease about a possible conflict, and only 26 percent" said they are "confident things will be resolved."

DIA Report: North Korea Has Miniaturized Nuclear Warhead. The [Washington Post](#) (8/8, Warrick, Nakashima, Fified) reports North Korea has successfully produced a miniaturized nuclear warhead that can fit inside its missiles, "crossing a key threshold on the path to becoming a full-fledged nuclear power," according to a new analysis completed last month by the Defense Intelligence Agency. It is not known, however, whether it has "successfully tested the smaller design, although North Korea officially last year claimed to have done so." The DIA's findings, the Post says, "are likely to deepen concerns about an evolving North Korean military threat that appears to be advancing far more rapidly than many experts had predicted." The DIA and ODNI "declined to comment."

Drawing from the Post's report, [USA Today](#) (8/8, Bacon) says the DIA "completed the confidential analysis in July, shortly after another intelligence assessment that sharply raises the official estimate for the total number" of nuclear weapons in the country's arsenal to 60. The DIA "did not immediately respond" to a request for comment on the report. [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/8, lead story, 3:05, Holt) called the development "a major line crossed," while the [Washington Times](#) (8/8, Miller) says the Post's report "was based on anonymous sources and has not been independently verified."

Rep. Darrell Issa said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (8/8) that if it is true that North Korea has miniaturized a nuclear warhead, "it represents the greatest crisis...undoubtedly since the Cuban missile crisis." A [Chicago Tribune](#) (8/8) editorial says that the "new information about the North's weaponry, and this week's bellicose exchange, should alarm China, Russia and other governments. We hope that leads to the talks that reverse these escalating tensions."

Trump Touts UN Sanctions; Tillerson Presses Asian Allies For Action. Earlier in the day, the [AP](#) (8/8) reports, Trump said the latest UN sanctions against North Korea are necessary to try to curb the reclusive nation's nuclear program. Trump [tweeted](#), "After many years of failure, countries are coming together to finally address the dangers posed by North Korea. We must be tough & decisive!" However, Ambassador Haley said during on [NBC's Today Show](#) that "she isn't sure whether the sanctions will work."

[Reuters](#) (8/8, Lefevre) reports Secretary of State Tillerson on Tuesday pressed Thai leaders for more action on North Korea during a visit to Bangkok. Tillerson's "top priority," Reuters says, "has been urging Southeast Asian countries to do more to cut funding streams for North Korea." Before meeting Tillerson, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said Thailand would "support a UN resolution on new sanctions on Pyongyang," but "made no mention of specific action." Thai Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai, the [AP](#) (8/8, Ng, Kaewjinda) reports, "indicated to reporters that he and Tillerson had discussed Washington's efforts to ensure that pressure was maintained on North Korea to drop its nuclear weapons program." He said Thailand, as a UN member, "adhered to its sanctions on Pyongyang, which resulted in a 94 percent decline in trade with North Korea from January to June this year compared to the same period last year."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/8, Watts, Otto) reports Acting Assistant Secretary of State Susan Thornton said Tillerson wanted to persuade Thailand's ruling military junta to take the lead in Southeast Asia on isolating North Korea. A US official said that North Korea would also be on the agenda for Tillerson's talks with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak during his next stop in

Kuala Lumpur. Experts say cooperation from Asian countries, especially in Southeast Asia, is essential to the success of new UN sanctions.

Trump Advocated Negotiations In 1999 Interview. The [New York Post](#) (8/8, Perez) reports President Trump once said that he would “negotiate like crazy” with North Korea — rather than go to war — should it develop a nuclear weapon that could fit on a missile. “First, I’d negotiate,” Trump said during a 1999 interview on NBC’s “Meet the Press.” He added, “I would negotiate like crazy and I’d make sure that we tried to get the best deal possible. If a man walks up to you in the street...and puts a gun to your head and says, ‘Give me your money,’ wouldn’t you rather know where he’s coming from before he had the gun in his hand?”

NYTimes Analysis: North Korean Advances Could Lead To Regional Arms Race. The [New York Times](#) (8/8, Soble, Choe) reports that North Korea’s rapidly advancing nuclear program “has prompted politicians in Japan and South Korea to push for the deployment of more powerful weapons, in what could lead to a regional arms race.” According to the Times, “some of the new capabilities under consideration in Tokyo and Seoul...are politically contentious,” and adopting them “would break with decades of precedent.”

Ignatius: North Korea Threat A “Hinge” Moment For US, China. [Washington Post](#) (8/8) columnist David Ignatius writes that the North Korean nuclear threat is a “hinge” moment for the US and China. If Washington and Beijing “manage to stay together in dealing with Pyongyang,” he says, the “door opens on a new era in which China will play a larger and more responsible role in global affairs, commensurate with its economic power. If the great powers can’t cooperate, the door will slam shut — possibly triggering a catastrophic military conflict on the Korean Peninsula.”

Interior Grants Funds To Micronesian Resource Center.

The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (8/8, Raymundo) reports that “a set of Department of Interior grants worth more than \$280,000 have been directed to organizations and programs on Guam that work to provide resources and job training for regional migrants from the Freely Associated States.” Acting Interior Assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula “provided \$217,095 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guam to continue running the Micronesian Resource Center One Stop Shop, the U.S. Department of Interior announced this past weekend.” The federal agency will “also provide \$250,000 to Hawaii’s Partners in Development Foundation so it can continue mentorship of the We Are Oceania Halau Ola One Stop Center.”

Trump Visits FEMA For Briefing On Hurricane Preparations.

[The Hill](#) (8/4, Fabian) reports President Trump traveled to FEMA headquarters on Friday for a briefing on the government’s hurricane preparation efforts. Trump, who toured FEMA’s National Response Coordination Center, said “we’re very strong in respect to FEMA.” He added, “We’ve already taken care of many of the situations that really needed emergency funds. We do it quickly, we do it effectively, we have an amazing team.”

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (8/6) reports the Virgin Islands’ Kenneth Mapp “was among governors who participated” in a FEMA-related teleconference event on Friday. Mapp stated, “FEMA has done a lot to help the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico to prepare for a hurricane.”

Governor: Guam Not Falling Off Financial Cliff.

The [Guam Daily Post](#) (8/8, Roberto) reports that Gov. Eddie Calvo “said Guam can afford to borrow money, and isn’t in the same financial situation as financially distressed Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands.” Calvo told members of the Rotary Club of Tumon Bay, “We’re not falling off the cliff like places such as Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands or Illinois.” Calvo also “talked to Rotarians about the \$125 million proposed borrowing for Guam Memorial Hospital’s equipment and facilities upgrade.”

Top National News

Media Analyses: Trump Offers No Specifics On Tackling Opioid Addiction Crisis.

Coverage of President Trump’s Tuesday briefing on the opioid addiction crisis is limited and fairly critical, with most reports saying that the President neither fully embraced the recommendations of his own commission on the matter nor offered solutions of his own. [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/8, story 3, 2:05, Holt) reported that the President vowed “to win the battle against the deadly opioid epidemic in this country, though he stopped short of taking his commission’s recommendation to

declare a national emergency over it." The [AP](#) (8/8, Lucey) reports that the President held a briefing on the issue at his Bedminster golf course. He "did not announce any new policy, but vowed to work with health professionals and law enforcement on the crisis. He said federal drug prosecutions have dropped but promised he would 'be bringing them up rapidly.'"

The [New York Times](#) (8/8, Baker, Shear) reports that the President "promised again on Tuesday to tackle the growing epidemic of opioid abuse...after blaming his predecessor for not doing more to stem the surge of drug overdoses. But he offered no specific ideas for how he would do so." The [Washington Post](#) (8/8, Johnson, Wagner) reports that the President "said the 'best way to prevent drug addiction and overdose is to prevent people from abusing drugs in the first place.' ... More than 200 days into his presidency, activists say the president has done little to help."

[USA Today](#) (8/8, Korte) reports that HHS Secretary Price, who was on hand for the briefing along with Kellyanne Conway and Jared Kushner, said, "The President certainly believes we should treat it as an emergency, and it is an emergency. Look, when you have the capacity of Yankee Stadium or Dodger Stadium dying every single year in this nation, that's a crisis that had to be given incredible attention, and the president is giving it that attention." But Price said the powers granted by a "formal declaration of a public health emergency...are intended more for shorter-term, more localized public health crises." The [New York Post](#) (8/8, Brown) reports that Conway "stressed the fix would take time." Conway said, "We didn't get here overnight, so we can't deal with this overnight."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/8, Radnofsky, Campo-Flores) reports that a White House commission on the opioid crisis led by Gov. Chris Christie recommended last week that the President declare a national emergency. [CBS News](#) (8/8, Tillett) reports on its website that Christie did not attend the briefing.

White House correspondent Tamara Keith said on [NPR's All Things Considered](#) (8/8, Shapiro), "What's interesting here is that in his remarks – and these were sort of off-the-cuff remarks before the briefing – [the President] really put an emphasis on enforcement, on prosecutions. This is different from the tone that he struck during the campaign and earlier in his administration when he talked more about treatment and reducing stigma."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/8, Bierman, Levey) says the President met with Price to discuss the opioid crisis since he is "eager to convey a sense that he is working during his two-week stay at his golf club in New Jersey." [Bloomberg News](#) (8/8, Edney) headlines its report "Trump Calls Opioids 'No Good,' Urges People Not To Abuse Them." [Reuters](#) (8/8, Oliphant), [Politico](#) (8/8, Ehley), and [The Hill](#) (8/8, Rouben) also have reports.

First Lady Joins President For Meeting With Price. The [New York Daily News](#) (8/8, Scotti) reports, "The First Lady said she would make cyberbullying her pet cause – but it looks like she's already moved on to the opioid epidemic." She joined the President for his meeting with Price, and [tweeted](#), "Opioids are destroying our youth/people. Mtg w @Potus & @SecPriceMD today to give my support to #STOPDRUGADDICTION". The Daily News writes, "It's unclear why the First Lady has pivoted away from cyberbullying – though she had done nothing on that cause in public, private or even on social media since the inauguration in January."

Overdose Deaths Surged Last Year. The [Washington Post](#) (8/8, A1, Bernstein) reports on its front page that drug overdose deaths "rose sharply in the first nine months of 2016," according to the National Center for Health Statistics, confirming "the widely held belief that the opioid epidemic worsened last year despite stepped-up efforts by public health authorities." Overdose deaths "reached a record 19.9 per 100,000 population in the third quarter, a big increase over the 16.7 recorded for the same three months in 2015. Similarly, the first two quarters of last year showed death rates of 18.9 and 19.3, far greater than the corresponding periods for 2015."

New Hampshire Files Lawsuit Against Purdue Pharma Over OxyContin Marketing. The [AP](#) (8/8, Ramer) reports that New Hampshire has filed a lawsuit against Purdue Pharma, claiming the company "has continued its deceptive marketing of OxyContin" in the state. The lawsuit claims the company misrepresented the drug's effectiveness and the risk of addiction. [Reuters](#) (8/8, Raymond) reports the lawsuit claims that the company's marketing practices "opened the floodgates" to opioids being abused in the state.

White House Blasts NYTimes For Publishing Leaked Climate Change Report.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/8, story 6, 0:40, Muir) reported the New York Times has published a late draft [report](#) on climate science that was leaked by scientists out of "fear that the Administration will suppress its findings." The draft report, written by scientists from 13 US agencies, finds "that human activity is the primary driver of recent global temperature rise." The

report also “links extreme weather to climate change.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/8, story 4, 2:00, Holt) reported the draft “blames man-made greenhouse gases. ‘There are no alternative explanations,’ the scientists write, ‘and no natural cycles that can explain the changes in the climate.’”

The [AP](#) (8/8, Biesecker, Borenstein) describes the report as “directly contradicting” the President, who has “expressed public doubts that the warming is being primarily driven by man-made carbon pollution and will have serious consequences for Americans.” The [Washington Times](#) (8/8, Wolfgang) says “environmental resistance inside the Trump administration hit new heights” as the scientists “push[ed] the study out into the bloodstream before their superiors had the chance to alter or approve it.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/8, Siegel) reports that while the White House on Tuesday “attacked the New York Times” for [publishing](#) the report. White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement, “It’s very disappointing, yet entirely predictable to learn the New York Times would write off a draft report without first verifying its contents with the White House or any of the federal agencies directly involved with climate and environmental policy. ... As others have pointed out – and the New York Times should have noticed – drafts of this report have been published and made widely available online months ago during the public comment period. The White House will withhold comment on any draft report before its scheduled release date.”

The [New York Times](#) (8/8, Shear, Plumer) says the report will force Trump “to choose between accepting the conclusions of his administration’s scientists and the demands of his conservative supporters, who remain deeply unconvinced that humans are the cause of the planet’s warming.” [Politico](#) (8/8, Holden) cites “several sources involved in producing” the report who “say they have seen no indication that the White House might suppress the scientific research that offers the clearest indication yet that human activity is altering the planet’s temperature.” These sources “said they don’t expect the Trump administration to stall a scheduled late-November deadline or try to make revisions.”

A [Washington Post](#) (8/8) editorial says the Administration “must decide whether to approve or suppress” the report. While “scientists have signed off on its findings,” Trump and EPA Administrator Pruitt “have indicated they simply do not believe the experts.” Noting that “the latest research suggests it is neither unrealistic nor pointless to aim for the low end of the range of possible climate outcomes, even over 2 degrees, to at least limit the damage to the planet’s habitability,” the Post argues that this approach “requires leaders to admit there is a problem.”

Scientist Claims Administration Punishing Him For Speaking Out About Climate Change. Chip Reid of the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/8, story 5, 2:30, Mason) reported on an interview with US Interior Department scientist Joel Clement about “what happens to a government scientist who speaks up about” climate change. For the past seven years, Clement has been working in Alaskan villages that “are literally melting into the Arctic Ocean.” Clement addressed the issue last month at the UN, and six days later, “he was one of about 50 department employees who were assigned to new jobs.” Clement has filed a whistleblower complaint, saying, “I believe that the Trump Administration is retaliating against me for disclosing these risks to these Alaskan native villages.”

Court Rejects Trump Administration Defense Of Obama-Era Climate Rule. [Bloomberg News](#) (8/8, Natter) reports that the US Court of Appeals in Washington on Tuesday rejected the Trump Administration’s “attempt to defend one aspect of Barack Obama’s climate agenda failed,” ruling in a 2-1 decision that the EPA “overstepped its authority in prohibiting the use of certain refrigerants that are potent greenhouse gases.” Judge Brett Kavanaugh wrote that the EPA’s 2015 regulation “relied on a statute that regulated use of ozone-depleting substances, but the refrigerants – called hydrofluorocarbons – don’t damage the ozone layer.”

Professor Warns Of Dogs, Cats’ Contribution To Global Warming. The [Washington Times](#) (8/8, Richardson) reports that UCLA professor Gregory S. Okin, “who recommended replacing dogs and cats with more climate-friendly pets in the name of global warming,” is receiving “a lukewarm reception even from some environmentalists who also happen to love dogs.” Okin “found that meat-eating dogs and cats create the equivalent of 64 million tons of carbon dioxide per year based on the energy consumption required to produce their food, or the same impact as driving 13.6 million cars.”

US Job Openings Reached Record Level In June.

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/8, Chandra) reports that according to the Labor Department’s “JOLTS report,” a “June surge in US job openings to a record indicates demand for workers remained

strong at the end of the second quarter.” Bloomberg says the increase in openings highlights “the need for workers in an economy that’s continuing to expand.” Meanwhile, “the pool of qualified Americans is shrinking and making some positions tougher to fill, one reason economists expect the monthly pace of hiring will eventually cool.” [Breitbart](#) (8/8, Rodriguez) says the increase in open positions “can be attributed to an expanding economy as competition for open positions is decreasing, making some positions harder to fill because there are less qualified applicants vying for the same position.”

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/8) editorial says the report is additional evidence of a tightening labor market, which usually means wages will increase. However, the Journal adds that the tighter labor market could be a harbinger of slower economic growth. Meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/8, Hannon) reports that leading indicators released Tuesday by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development show that the US is poised for steady economic growth. The leading US indicator remained at 99.7 for the third consecutive month, suggesting a steady growth outlook.

WSJournal Analysis: Gig-Economy Firms Having Trouble Attracting, Keeping Workers. A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/8, Gee) analysis reports on the impact the job market is having on gig-economy companies like Uber, saying such firms are having difficulty attracting and retaining workers and have begun offering better perks and benefits in an effort to enlist and keep workers..

Walker “Willing To Share” Credit For Wisconsin’s Economy With Trump. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker was asked on [CNBC’s Closing Bell](#) (8/8) how much of his state’s economic recovery is due to his policies versus “DC and what’s happening in Congress.” Walker said, “A lot of it started obviously before any of the changes. Certainly we appreciate the changes that the President’s Administration has made in terms of regulations. The last six months the Cabinet has been outstanding, but we started this years ago.” Asked if the White House is taking credit, Walker said, “Ronald Reagan once said it’s amazing what you can get done if you don’t care who gets credit for it. We are willing to share it.”

WPost A1: Let Down By Trump, Struggling Florida City Seeks To Boost Its Economy. In a front-page story headlined “The Help Trump Promised Hasn’t Come. So This ‘Dying City’ Is Determined To Save Itself,” the [Washington Post](#) (8/8, A1, Samuels) reports on the plight of Palatka, Florida, “a city of 10,400 swaddled by potato farms and a paper mill that employs a small fraction of the workers it once did” and “is desperate for an economy to call its own.” The Post says the city’s leaders are hoping to draw tourists and businesses by touting the environmental attractions of the nearby St. Johns River. The Post adds, “Abandoned by retailers that have moved out of their city, and disappointed that President Trump hasn’t yet delivered on his promise to restore economic opportunity to small communities,” Palatka residents “say they don’t have much choice.”

Cole, Walker Voice Opposition To “Clean” Debt Ceiling Increase.

[Reuters](#) (8/8) reports that Rep. Tom Cole, who sits on the House Appropriations and Budget Committees, told [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (8/8) Tuesday that the House is “unlikely to raise the country’s debt ceiling without conditions to rein in spending.” The Trump Administration has asked Congress to pass a “clean” debt ceiling bill with no other provisions. Asked if the House would do so, Cole said, “probably not clean,” and added, “Most Republicans want to do something to lower the trajectory of the debt.”

House Republican Study Committee Chairman Rep. Mark Walker also argued against a clean debt ceiling increase, “saying it would be a betrayal of piled-up promises to voters to finally get a handle on the federal budget,” the [Washington Times](#) (8/8, Dinan) reports. In an [op-ed](#) in the Washington Examiner, Walker “said the GOP must flex its muscle from controlling both chambers of Congress and the White House and insist that any debt hike be coupled with some new controls to convince voters the problem is being taken seriously,” and he “warned GOP leaders against turning to Democrats to pass a debt increase by loading it up ‘with even more increased spending.’”

Tax Overhaul Debate Focused On Who Bears Greatest Burden From Corporate Taxes.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/8, Rubin) reports that a debate over whether the burden of corporate taxes falls more on workers or investors is underscoring tax overhaul efforts. If investors bear the greater burden, high-income households would benefit most from corporate tax cuts, but if workers carry the greater load, cutting corporate taxes could be a way of increasing middle-class incomes through higher wages and job opportunities.

Deloitte Survey: Only 5.3 Percent Anticipate 15 Percent Corporate Tax Rate. [Reuters](#) (8/8)

reports that a Deloitte Tax survey released Tuesday shows that “only a small number of U.S. tax, finance and business professionals expect President Donald Trump’s 15-percent corporate tax rate to become reality as part of tax reform.” Just under half of the 3,100 people surveyed “viewed a lower corporate rate as being the main economic driver of tax reform, but nearly 40 percent predicted the rate would end up at 25 percent, due to the political and budgetary challenges facing tax reform.” Thirty-one percent “expected a corporate tax rate of 20 percent,” and “5.3 percent believed Trump’s 15 percent rate would become law.” Moreover, “about 74 percent of those surveyed were doubtful or not at all confident that a comprehensive tax reform bill would be enacted in 2017.”

Study: Trump’s Regulation Reductions Have Saved Businesses Billions.

A new study from the conservative group American Action Forum, says President Trump’s efforts to cut regulations “has saved businesses nearly \$4 billion per year compared with President Barack Obama’s pace of imposing regulations,” the [Washington Times](#) (8/8, Boyer) reports. According to the study, “final rule costs during Mr. Trump’s first six months in office will cost US businesses about \$378 million per year, compared with \$4.2 billion for the same period” during the Obama Administration. The study found that compared to the Obama Administration, Trump “has imposed 5 percent of the lifetime costs on businesses, 9 percent of the annual costs and 12.5 percent of the employee hours required for paperwork.”

EPA Report: Environmental Regulations Do Not Stifle Economic Growth.

[USA Today](#) (8/8, King) reports that a new report from the EPA “undercut[s]” the Trump Administration argument that environmental regulations “are stifling US economic growth.” According to the report, “since Congress passed the Clean Air Act in 1970, the economy has more than tripled and the number of vehicle miles traveled every year has nearly doubled — all while the nation’s population and annual energy consumption has surged.” Meanwhile, “the levels of six key air pollutants...have declined dramatically,” and the “number of unhealthy air quality days annually in 35 of America’s largest cities has fallen significantly while the visibility at national parks across the country once shrouded in haze has improved substantially.” Environmentalists cite the report “as evidence that efforts by President Donald Trump and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to roll back a slew of Obama-era rules designed to protect air, water and public health are grounded in flawed logic and should stop.”

Government Spending On Transportation, Infrastructure “In Decline.”

The [New York Times](#) (8/8, Appelbaum) reports that government spending on transportation and infrastructure is “in decline,” equaling 1.4 percent of US economic output in the second quarter of this year, “the lowest level on record, according to Census Bureau data.” The article notes that President Trump has encouraged a large infrastructure plan, both as part of his campaign and during his first year in office. Moreover, “the deterioration of the nation’s infrastructure has raised widespread concerns about safety, quality of life and the impact on economic growth,” and “politicians in both parties have declared the issue a priority.” In the meantime, however, “in 34 states, spending on government construction projects was lower last year than in 2007, adjusting for inflation,” and “public construction spending in June was 9.5 percent lower than during the same month last year.” The Times summarizes the state of Republican and Democratic efforts on the issue.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Needed: Proposals To Fix New York’s Crumbling Subways.” The [New York Times](#) (8/9, Board) says in an editorial that New York “Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Mayor Bill de Blasio and Albany lawmakers are at last talking about how to pay for vital improvements to the city’s crumbling subways.” State and city officials discussed “various half-measures” at a meeting Monday, including “de Blasio’s millionaire’s tax,” which state lawmakers will likely resist. Nonetheless, the Times says, “The mayor has made an opening bid, flawed as it is,” and now Cuomo, state Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan, “and others need to step up.”

“Frustration Over A War And Its Crimes.” A [New York Times](#) (8/9, Board) editorial acknowledges the frustration expressed by Carla del Ponte, who quit “the United Nations panel investigating atrocities in Syria in disgust.” Yet, the Times says, “the Security Council’s inaction

has not been for lack of trying,” but rather “because Russia, often joined by China, has obstinately propped up President Bashar al-Assad of Syria, using its veto eight times in the Council so far to block measures against him.” While “deeply frustrating for victims of atrocities and for investigators,” the Times argues, “international organizations and international justice are inherently dependent on the political will of those involved, and the Syrian conflict is an infernal tangle of political goals, ideologies and actors.” Ultimately, the Times concludes, only a diplomatic solution can end “the carnage” and hold responsible parties, including Assad, accountable.

Washington Post.

“This Is How Bad Things Could Get If Trump Denies The Reality Of Climate Change.” A [Washington Post](#) (8/8) editorial says the Administration “must decide whether to approve or suppress a major federal climate change report.” While “scientists have signed off on its findings,” Trump and EPA Administrator Pruitt “have indicated they simply do not believe the experts.” Noting that “the latest research suggests it is neither unrealistic nor pointless to aim for the low end of the range of possible climate outcomes, even over 2 degrees, to at least limit the damage to the planet’s habitability,” the Post argues that this approach “requires leaders to admit there is a problem.”

“Trump’s ‘Fire And Fury’ Threat Is A Rhetorical Grenade.” A [Washington Post](#) (8/8) editorial says President Trump’s “unsettling threat” to North Korea was “reckless and unnecessary. In its bombast, it resembled nothing so much as Kim Jong Un’s regular denunciations of the United States, frantic and hyperbolic.” Dealing with the threat posed by the North, the Post argues, “will require patient pressure and skilled diplomacy, perhaps for years. Instead, Mr. Trump has strut into the arena with a jarring rhetorical grenade.”

“Maryland Is Mired In A Medical Marijuana Morass.” The [Washington Post](#) (8/8), in an editorial, says that Maryland has been “so sluggish” in developing its “medical marijuana program” that it appears to be being “conducted under the influence.” The Post adds that in addition to “the listless pace” at which the state has been working, there have been “signs of self-dealing and shady connections” giving it all “a scent of mismanagement and corruption.” It cites recent reporting in the Post in alleging that “some bidders for potentially lucrative cannabis licenses” were connected to “the evaluators who were hired to assess their applications.” In one case, an evaluator’s husband applied for a license. The Post concludes by hoping that Gov. Larry Hogan’s (R) move “to clean house at the state Cannabis Commission,” by naming 10 new members will resolve the matter.

Wall Street Journal.

“Google’s Diversity Problems.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/8) writes that Google’s dismissal of James Damore raises questions about the environment of ideological conformity in the corporate world. The Journal argues that Google CEO Sundar Pichai’s statement regarding the firing sounds like legal cover and incorrectly views Damore’s obligations as an employee as if he were in a union, and the Journal concludes that the dismissal underscores what many critics fear is a monolithic progressive political culture that censors free speech in corporate America.

“McMaster And The Commander.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/8) decries the alt-right media for its attacks on National Security Adviser McMaster, who, it notes, is a policy opponent of White House aide Steve Bannon. The Journal attributes much of the dysfunction inside the White House to Bannon.

“Would You Like A Job?” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/8) editorial says the Labor Department’s JOLTS report’s finding of 461,000 additional openings in June is additional evidence of a tightening labor market, which usually means wages will increase. However, the Journal adds that the tighter labor market could be a harbinger of slower economic growth.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[North Korea Threat Comes After Trump Vows ‘Fire And Fury’](#)

[Disney Unveils New Streaming Services](#)

[Memo Sparks Firestorm At Google](#)

[Bill Ford Thinks His Company Lacks Vision—And That He Can Fix It](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Threatens 'Fire And Fury' Against North Korea If It Endangers US](#)
[As Investigations Intensify, Israel Imagines Life After Netanyahu](#)
[As Maduro's Venezuela Rips Apart, So Does His Military](#)
[The Culture Wars Have Come To Silicon Valley](#)
[At Walmart Academy, Training Better Managers. But With A Better Future?](#)
[Glen Campbell, Whose Hit Songs Bridged Country And Pop, Dies At 81](#)

Washington Post:

[US: North Korea Has Missile-ready Nuclear Weapon](#)
[In Switch, Justice Dept. Backs Ohio Voter Purge](#)
[97-Year-Old's Slaying A Sign Of Baltimore's Deep Distress](#)
[Feeling Snubbed But Pushing Forward](#)
[Data Shows An Unabated Opioid Crisis](#)

Financial Times:

[Kenyatta Takes Lead As Results Emerge In Kenya Election](#)
[US Blue-Chips' Double-Digit Earnings Set To Continue](#)
[Japan Upgrades North Korea Threat Level](#)
[Google Engineer Sacked Over Controversial Gender Memo](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Threatens To Rain 'Fire And Fury Like The World Has Never Seen' On North Korea](#)
[Federal Scientists Leak Sweeping Climate Change Draft In Clash With Trump Administration](#)
[Illegal Immigration Statistics Show Trump's Resolve To Keep Campaign Promise](#)
[Straying Too Far? Professor Says Dogs And Cats Harm Climate, Advises Hamsters Instead](#)
[Refugee Integration Makes Slow Progress, But German Political Divisions Stand Firm](#)
['Polar Row' Exploration Team Smashes World Records In Icy North](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: North Korea Threats; North Korea Threats-Expert Comment; Missouri-Officer Shot; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Federal Climate Change Report; Car Heat-Child Death; Glen Campbell Dies; California-Threatening Police; Boston-Innocent Prisoner Freed; London-Jogger Pushes Woman; Cancer Rate-Young People; Lottery Drawing; Young Climber.

CBS: North Korea Threats; WH-North Korea threats; Severe Weather; Europe-Heat Wave; Federal Climate Change Report; Sleep Disorder-Traffic Accidents; Ford Explorer-Carbon Monoxide Leaks; Google Controversial Memo; David Letterman Comeback; Glen Campbell Dies.

NBC: North Korea Threats; WH-North Korea Threats; Opioid Epidemic; Federal Climate Change Report; Severe Weather; Philippines-ISIS Front; Cancer Rate-Young People; Barbara Cook Dies; San Francisco-Street Sold; First Day Of School Picture; Glen Campbell Dies.

Network TV At A Glance:

North Korea Threats – 14 minutes, 55 seconds
Federal Climate Change Report – 5 minutes, 10 seconds
Weather – 4 minutes, 20 seconds
Cancer Rate-Young People – 2 minutes, 25 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: North Korea Threats; Russia Meddling Investigation; Missouri-Officer Shot; Glen Campbell Dies.

CBS: North Korea Threats; Glen Campbell Dies; Barbara Cook Dies; Google Controversial Memo; China-Sichuan Earthquake; Wall Street News.

FOX: Missouri-Officer Shot; North Korea Threats; Wall Street News.

NPR: North Korea Threats; China-Sichuan Earthquake; Kenya-Presidential Election.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — No public events scheduled.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public events scheduled.

US Senate: On recess until 5 September.

US House: On recess until 5 September.

Other: 12:00 PM Democratic Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton continues her Senior Legislative Tour – Democratic Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton continues her Senior Legislative Tour, to discuss 'how the proposed Republican bill to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act would harm seniors' Location: Bernice Elizabeth Fontenau Senior Wellness Center, 3531 Georgia Ave, Washington, DC www.norton.house.gov <https://twitter.com/EleanorNorton>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Fire and fury and, listen. We're sorry we made fun of you. Go back to golfing before you kill all of us."

Jimmy Kimmel: "US intelligence, by the way, assessed that North Korea has successfully produced a miniaturized nuclear warhead that could potentially reach California, Oregon, and Washington – three states that didn't vote for guess-who, by the way."

Stephen Colbert: "You know Kim Jong-Un's crazy, right? He's a loose cannon like Mel Gibson in 'Lethal Weapon.' Also, that one time he got pulled over."

James Corden: "This morning, Donald Trump re-tweeted a Fox News story about the North Korean military. And get this, the story contained leaked, highly classified information. This is unbelievable. Not only is this the first time a sitting President has declassified information through Twitter, it's the first time Donald Trump has ever tweeted something that was true."

James Corden: "If we really want Donald Trump to stop leaking classified information, then we should stop calling it 'classified information' and start calling it 'tax returns.'"

James Corden: "What is it with Trump? Nuclear missiles, the FBI director, the cast of 'the Apprentice,' this guy's always got to be firing something."

James Corden: "The agencies told Trump that rising tides could invade our coastal cities. He said, 'That's fine as long as the tides speak English and aren't from any Muslim countries.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "I read that the West Wing is currently undergoing \$3.4 million in renovations. It sounds like a lot, but you got to remember, they're child-proofing the whole house."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump this afternoon addressed the North Korean missile program and said if they continue to threaten the United States, quote, 'they will be met with a fire and fury like the world has never seen.' Yeah, that ought to cool things down. God forbid Trump's ever put in charge of a hostage situation. 'Kill a hostage, you don't have the balls.'"

Conan O'Brien: "Today, President Trump warned that if North Korea does not stop escalating its nuclear program, they'll be met with 'fire and fury like the world has never seen.' Then Melania said, 'Don't worry, he says that to me every night and nothing ever happens.'"

Conan O'Brien: "This week, President Trump plans to travel to New York. He's going to go to New York. Plans to eat some pizza, then deport the Statue of Liberty."

Conan O'Brien: "There's a new online quiz that tells you if you would be allowed to enter the US under President Trump's immigration policies. Consists of a single question: Are you a swimsuit model?"

Conan O'Brien: "McDonald's plans to nearly double its restaurants in China. In other words, China is getting rid of its one-child policy and its one-chin policy."

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