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



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DOI In The News

Interior Secretary Removes 1 California Monument From Review.

The [AP](#) (8/16) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "will not recommend that any changes be made to the Sand to Snow National Monument in Southern California." Zinke "says in a statement Wednesday the monument is no longer under the Interior Department review ordered by President Donald Trump in April." He "says the monument has some of the most diverse terrain in the West and is home to "incredible" geographic, biologic and archaeological history."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/16, Halper) reports that "as with such promises Zinke has made regarding select monuments in other states, there seemed to be little rationale to the timing of the announcement, or why Zinke has chosen to publicly comment on this particular property but none of the five other monuments in California, which include Berryessa Snow Mountain, Carrizo Plain, Giant Sequoia, Mojave Trails and San Gabriel Mountains." According to the Times, "whether any other California monuments are safe from Trump's vow to shrink the size of public lands is an open question."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [ABC News](#) (8/16), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (8/16), the [Daily Mail](#) (8/16), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/16), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (8/16), the [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Press), the [Washington Times](#) (8/16), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/16, Press), the [Olean \(NY\) Times Herald](#) (8/16), and the [Santa Cruz \(CA\) Sentinel](#) (8/16).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Caller](#) (8/16, Pearce), the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (8/16, Roth), the [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (8/16, Steinberg), the [Inland Valley \(CA\) Daily Bulletin](#) (8/16, Steinberg), [My News LA \(CA\)](#) (8/16, McAllister), the [Highland \(CA\) Community News](#) (8/16), and [KTLA-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (8/16).

The 10 National Monuments Trump Is Most Likely To Shrink.

[USA Today](#) (8/16, Roth) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "wrapping up his review of nearly two dozen national monuments targeted for downsizing or elimination by the Trump administration." By next week, Zinke is "supposed to send to President Trump recommendations on the future of those land monuments, which were created or expanded by presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton." The article posts a gallery of "the monuments Trump is most likely to downsize or eliminate, in alphabetical order, based on interviews with supporters and opponents of the monuments review."

Greens Launch 'Final Push' Against Monument Review. [Politico Morning Energy](#) (8/16, Adragna) reports that the League of Conservation Voters is "launching a final \$100,000 push" Wednesday "across multiple platforms against the Trump administration's review of nearly two dozen previously-designated national monuments." The campaign will "urge people to urge Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke against making changes to the designations and promote videos highlighting support of public lands." The group also "plans to use Facebook and Instagram to push Reps. Paul Gosar, Steve Pearce, Doug LaMalfa and Doug Lamborn to stop their support of the review."

350 Outdoor Recreation Leaders Urge Zinke To Protect Public Lands. The [Denver Post](#) (8/16, Blevins) reports that "in one of the strongest displays of solidarity in the outdoor industry, more than 350 American outdoor businesses large and small have sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke urging him to keep the country's national monuments unchanged and intact." The letter, "which was signed by executives from the largest and most influential outdoor recreation companies in the country, including REI, Burton, Columbia, Patagonia, The North Face and more than two dozen Colorado-based recreation companies," read, "These places and experiences can't be exported or commoditized. They are a national competitive advantage. We ask you to not

erode that potential but create certainty for our businesses and for the communities that often need it most."

Lawsuit Filed Over Kane, Garfield Commissions' Meetings With Zinke. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/16, Maffly) reports that "during his May swing through Utah to review national monuments, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke had private meetings with three county commissions whose counties host two of the most controversial monuments under scrutiny — Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante." On Tuesday, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance filed a lawsuit, "alleging Kane and Garfield commissions' May 10 meetings were illegal because they were not posted as required under Utah's Open and Public Meetings Act." The lawsuit stated, "The closed meetings flagrantly violated multiple provisions of the act and, if left unchecked, would shield defendants' activities on important public policy matters from the light of day."

What Veterans Have To Lose In Trump's National Monument Review. For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (8/16, Myrick, Contributor), Brett Myrick, who served in U.S. Navy SEAL Team 5, writes that as a former SEAL, he is "focused on two areas: keeping our communities safe and ensuring that veterans have access to nature." Myrick sees "a strong connection between veterans and protected public lands." Myrick urges Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "to recommend no changes at the end of this month." He concludes: "As veterans, we fought to protect America and all her glory. Our national monuments are a part of that. He should leave them all intact."

Sec. Zinke Would Do Well To Honor Roosevelt. In an op-ed for the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (8/17, Anker), Conrad Anker, a mountaineer and author, writes that President Theodore Roosevelt's "legacy is built on the Antiquities Act of 1906." Anker claims that "President Trump's directive to review the 26 most recent monuments is a direct assault on the public lands we all own." He urges Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, "to leave our wild and cultural monuments as they are."

Trump Won't Remove Civil War Statues.

The [Daily Caller](#) (8/16, Bastasch) reports that the Interior Department "won't be removing monuments to Confederate soldiers at national battlefields that are 'an important part of our country's history,' according to a spokesman." Spokesman Jeremy Barnum said, "The National Park Service is committed to safeguarding these memorials while simultaneously educating visitors holistically and objectively about the actions, motivations and causes of the soldiers and states they commemorate." The article notes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "told reporters in July that battlefield monuments were worth preserving for their historical value." During his visit to Antietam National Battlefield, Zinke said, "Don't rewrite history. Understand it for what it is and teach our kids the importance of looking at our magnificent history as a country and why we are what we are."

Eye In Sky To Spy On Wildfires Awaits Green Light From Feds.

[KLCC-FM](#) Eugene, OR (8/16, Banse) reports that at the beginning of June, the Interior Department "solicited bids for drones and operators to support wildfire fighting, search and rescue and other remote sensing missions." Interior acquisitions branch chief Joshua Carter in Boise "said the agency is evaluating multiple offers." Carter "projected a 'mid-September timeframe' for making a bid award."

Aamodt Meetings Spark Anger, Frustration.

The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (8/17, Stelnicki) reports that "discontent over the implementation of the Aamodt water-rights settlement took center stage at a pair of meetings Wednesday, with non-Pueblo residents of the Pojoaque Basin north of Santa Fe expressing their frustration, anxiety and even anger about matters that concern the next steps for water use in the valley." According to the article, "at a town hall in Pojoaque, impassioned valley residents told Alan Mikkelsen, the deputy commissioner of the federal Bureau of Reclamation, that they were unhappy to be excluded from recent closed-door meetings over roadway easement disputes held by Mikkelsen's agency, Santa Fe County and four pueblos." The article says that "more than once, Mikkelsen told the crowd that the private meetings had been organized to resolve the roadway concerns without going to court."

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (8/16, Last) reports that "Mikkelsen also said that if push came to shove, the federal government has a responsibility to side with the pueblos, and Indian tribes rarely lose in court."

Additional Coverage: Ohio To Receive More Than \$1.4 Million In Federal Funding For

Conservation Projects.

Additional coverage of the funds awarded through the State Wildlife Grants program was provided by the [Circleville \(OH\) Herald](#) (8/16), the [Huron \(SD\) Plainsman](#) (8/16), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (8/16), [WTTV-TV Indianapolis \(IN\)](#) Indianapolis (8/16), and [WDTV-TV Bridgeport \(WV\)](#) Bridgeport, WV (8/16).

Coal Makes A Comeback.

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16) writes that despite the Obama Administration's many efforts to reduce coal consumption and production through regulation, the Trump Administration has spurred coal production and exports through regulatory reform, such as repealing the steam rule, dismantling the power, ash, and methane rules, reopening coal leases, and rescinding the royalty revaluation. The Journal notes that the largest increase in coal exports is to countries with supposedly better climate records, and concludes that the last three quarters of data – while not necessarily indicative of a long-term trend – offer optimistic news to coal states.

Heavily Regulated Coal Mining Has High Standards.

In an op-ed for the [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (8/16, Deti), Travis Deti, executive director of the Wyoming Mining Association, supports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "to allow for the continued leasing of federal coal at fair market value." According to Deti. "the decision is not a step to open more lands to mining. Rather, it merely ended an ill-conceived moratorium that was never intended to exist for more than three years anyway."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

10th Circ. Won't Budge On Chaparral Lease After BIA Redo.

[Law360](#) (8/16, Powell) reports that "the Tenth Circuit stayed firm Tuesday in its conclusion that an appeal in a dispute over the Bureau of Indian Affairs' approval of an oil and gas lease and drilling permits between an Osage Nation council and Chaparral Energy LLC is moot."

Gov't Is Owner In Navajo Land Uranium Cleanup Suit: Judge.

[Law360](#) (8/16, Sieniuc) reports that "an Arizona federal judge on Tuesday ruled that the federal government qualifies under environmental cleanup law as an owner of more than a dozen old uranium sites on Navajo Nation land and could be liable for cleaning up the area." U.S. District Judge David G. Campbell "partially granted El Paso Natural Gas Company LLC's bid for a quick win against the United States and U.S. the Department of the Interior, as well as the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S. Department of Energy."

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM Looks To Approve Arch Coal's Request For Royalty Rate Reductions.

[Crested Butte News](#) (8/17, Todd) reports that the Bureau of Land Management "appears poised to approve Arch Coal's recent request for a renewed royalty rate reduction (RRR) on coal they've been digging from particularly troublesome areas of the West Elk Mine in Somerset." According to the article, "while the decision is not yet final, it appears likely to land in the coal mine's favor, as noted in a recent letter from the BLM to Colorado Governor Hickenlooper." Gunnison County Commissioners and High County Conservation Advocates have "written letters opposing the reduction."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Producers Bid \$121 Million For Gulf Of Mexico Blocks.

[Reuters](#) (8/16, Hampton) reports major oil producers pushed high bids during the Gulf of Mexico offshore auction to \$121 million, almost seven times greater than a year ago, as interest returned for deepwater exploration. Producers said that the Gulf of Mexico is more attractive, as operational cost cutting has helped projects become profitable at a lower break even. Shell claimed the largest number of blocks, with 19 high bids worth a combined \$25.1 million. Chevron

followed with 15 high bids for \$27.9 million, while Anadarko won 10 blocks for \$10.6 million and ExxonMobil took seven blocks for \$20.4 million. A second [Reuters](#) (8/17) report says producers bid on 90 tracts covering 508,096 acres, according to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The sale offered 76 million acres and a reduced royalty rate for shallow water leases. A total of 99 bids were submitted by 27 companies, worth a total \$137 million.

The [AP](#) (8/16) reports that companies bid on far fewer tracts than in March, but the sale was the first to offer every available tract in the Gulf since 1983. Of the 90 tracts, 42 are in at least 1,600 meters of water. [Platts](#) (8/16) reports that the sale demonstrated the majors' preferences for deepwater areas, as shallow water bidding only accounted for 10 blocks and offers received for these were mostly under \$200,000 each. Total had the high bid of the auction, offering \$12.1 million for a block in the deepwater lower Garden Banks area. Wood Mackenzie senior research analyst William Turner said, "The deepwater industry is emphasizing short-cycle, low-risk prospects [rather than] impact, wildcat drilling. ... Operators continue[d] to focus on areas near existing infrastructure with a majority of bids close to existing hubs or appraised developments."

[UPI](#) (8/16, Graeber) reports Randall Luthi, the head of the National Ocean Industries Association, said bidders may avoid the shallow water areas, despite the lessened royalty rate, because of the low price environment. Luthi said, "Given current economic conditions and regulatory environment, offshore operators may choose to focus their capital on acquiring leases for longer range deepwater projects."

[E&P Magazine](#) (8/16, Addison) reports director of BOEM's Gulf of Mexico region Mike Celata said, "It's a continued show of the strength of deep water. ... It's a continued investment in the gulf looking at the Lower Tertiary and Miocene trends." Assistant secretary for Lands and Minerals Management Katharine MacGregor said, "I characterize this as a very successful sale. We made \$121 million, and last August for Lease Sale 248 we made \$18 million. ... There is something to be said about having a gulf-wide sale that offers more acreage for competitive leasing."

Additional coverage was provided by [UPI](#) (8/16, Graeber), [UPI](#) (8/16, Graeber), [Offshore Magazine](#) (8/16), [Offshore Engineer](#) (8/16, Sustaita), and [WLTZ-TV Columbus \(GA\)](#) Columbus, GA (8/16, Hammond).

Lawmakers Push Interior To Expand Offshore Drilling.

[The Hill](#) (8/16, Henry) reports more than 100 lawmakers wrote a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke urging the Administration to allow oil and gas drilling in more areas off the coast of the US. The letter said, "Just as today's energy security is the result of production set in motion by decisions made years ago, the decisions on [Outer Continental Shelf] leasing and development facing the department today will lay the groundwork for our energy and national security for decades." However, another group of lawmakers asked the department to block drilling in the Arctic and Atlantic as part of its ongoing review.

Christie Tells Trump White House "NO" On Coastal Energy. The [AP](#) (8/16) reports New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie signaled his opposition to Trump's plan to explore for oil and natural gas off the state's coast. Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Martin sent a letter to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management saying the exploration program would hurt the wildlife and endanger the state's tourism industry.

Additional coverage was provided by [NJ Spotlight](#) (8/17, Johnson), [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (8/16, O'Neill), and the [Cape May County \(NJ\) Herald](#) (8/17).

NJ Enviro Regulator Blasts Atlantic Ocean Drilling Plan. [Law360](#) (8/16, O'Sullivan) reports that "New Jersey's environmental regulator voiced its opposition to the federal government's proposal for offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean waters off the state's coast, telling authorities on Wednesday that such industrialization could harm natural resources, coastal communities and the economy." In comments submitted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, "the Garden State agency blasted the BOEM's proposed National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program."

About 30 Georgia Businesses Join Anti-drilling Alliance. The [Savannah \(GA\) Morning News](#) (8/16, Landers) reports that around 30 Georgia businesses have joined the Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast to oppose drilling off the East Coast. The South Carolina-based organization has support from more than 41,000 businesses and 500,000 commercial fishing families.

Offshore Drilling Rally. The [Charleston \(SC\) Moultrie News](#) (8/16, Giroux) reports that more than 150 residents from South Carolina's Lowcountry rallied to protest offshore drilling when they discovered that the region lies on a fault line of the National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas

Leasing Program for 2019-2024. The protest was hosted by Stop Offshore Drilling in the Atlantic, which is dedicated to preventing offshore seismic testing and drilling.

Bureau Of Reclamation

Farmers & Environmentalists Join To Battle Planned Delta Tunnels Project.

[Courthouse News](#) (8/16, Cahill) reports that as the final approval of California WaterFix nears, “delta farmers, environmentalists and residents remain skeptical.” California Gov. Jerry Brown’s “appears to have the Trump administration’s support for the delta tunnels.” The project “still must be approved by the Bureau of Reclamation and the state’s water board.”

Groundwater District Gets Grant For Project.

The [Idaho Mountain Express](#) (8/16, Jensen) reports that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is “funding a \$53,000 grant to help keep more water available for junior water users in the Big Wood and Little Wood basins.” Together with “other funding sources, the project will cost \$124,825 total and will repair banks along a section of Silver Creek that have eroded.” The project will “also install devices on the Little Wood River that record instantaneous flow information 24 hours a day, which will help the water master improve water allocation.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Loss Of Sea Ice Leads Walruses To Early Appearance In Alaska.

The [AP](#) (8/16, Joling) reports that “hundreds of Pacific walruses came ashore to a barrier island on Alaska’s northwest coast, the earliest appearance of the animals in a phenomenon tied to climate warming and diminished Arctic Ocean sea ice.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “announced Wednesday that several hundred walruses were spotted during the first week of August near the village of Point Lay on the Chukchi Sea.” According to spokeswoman Andrea Medeiros, “last week, the number had grown to 2,000.” The FWS said that “it’s the earliest date for the arrival, known as a ‘haulout,’ to form.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [U.S. News & World Report](#) (8/16, Joling), the [Daily Mail](#) (8/16), [Fox News](#) (8/16, Joling), the [Miami Herald](#) (8/16, Joling), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/16, Joling), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (8/16, Joling), the [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Dan Joling |, Ap), the [Washington Times](#) (8/16, Joling), and [ABC News](#) (8/16, Joling).

Hunting Bears With Dogs Comes Under Attack By Wisconsin Wolf Advocates.

The [La Crosse \(WI\) Tribune](#) (8/16, Marcotty) reports that “a national watchdog group says Wisconsin bear hunters are harassing wolves with their dog packs — then claiming state compensation when their hounds are killed — and wants the federal government to launch a criminal investigation.” In a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an attorney for Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) said that the practice amounts to “a state-sanctioned financial subsidy for hunters engaged in the criminal harassment” of wolves. Adam Carlesco, staff counsel for PEER, noted that “Wisconsin is the only state that reimburses dog owners in addition to farmers and livestock owners for wolf depredation.”

Our View: Don’t Miss Today’s Meeting On Refuge Boating Regulations.

In an editorial, the [Havasu \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (8/17) urges the public to participate in a public forum hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “to go over new proposals establishing a series of no-wake and restricted zones through Havasu National Wildlife Refuge.” The paper says that “the future of the lake and the activities it supports are too important to let a bunch of bureaucrats decide what happens.” It concludes that “even though the new regulations seem acceptable, the feds need to know that we’re still paying attention.”

National Park Service

National Parks Service Ends Ban On Disposable Water Bottles.

The [AP](#) (8/16, Silber) reports that “the federal government announced Wednesday it will eliminate a policy that allowed national parks like the Grand Canyon to ban the sale of bottled

water in an effort to curb litter.” The National Parks Service “said in a statement it made the decision to ‘expand hydration options for recreationalists, hikers, and other visitors to national parks.’” International Bottled Water Association spokeswoman Jill Culora “praised the Park Service’s decision in a statement, calling the policy ‘seriously flawed’ and noted it still allowed other less healthy beverages that are packaged in heavier types of containers.” Officials said that “parks will still promote recycling of plastic water bottles, and many have worked with partners to provide free water in bottle-filling stations.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington Times](#) (8/16, Silber), the [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Clarice Silber |, Ap), the [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Clarice Silber |, Ap), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/16, Silber), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (8/16, Silber), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/16, Silber), and the [Arizona Republic](#) (8/16, Silber).

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (8/16, Alexander), the [Cleveland \(OH\) Plain Dealer](#) (8/16, Eaton), and the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (8/16).

Permit For Right-wing Crissy Field Rally To Get 2nd Look By Officials.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (8/17, Alexander) reports that the National Park Service on Wednesday “acknowledged widespread concern over plans to hold a right-wing rally at Crissy Field in San Francisco next week, and said it would make a decision soon on whether to let the event proceed on the park property.” The superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, “in her first public statement on the event, said the agency was bound to honor free speech rights of the organizers, regardless of their politics, but also would have to account for public safety.” GGNRA’s acting general superintendent, Cicely Muldoon, said, “We have heard and take very seriously the concerns expressed by the public and elected officials regarding the proposed Aug. 26 Patriot Prayer First Amendment event at Crissy Field. Our highest priority is to ensure public safety, while honoring our obligation to uphold one of our nation’s most cherished constitutional rights, the First Amendment right to free speech.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [East Bay \(CA\) Times](#) (8/16, Kelly).

New Smokies Science Program To Target Schools.

The [Waynesville \(NC\) Smoky Mountain News](#) (8/16) reports that “a new science education program will soon launch in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park thanks to a \$1 million Veverka Family Foundation donation to the National Parks Foundation.” Citizen Science 2.0 in National Parks will be “a three-year partnership between the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, the park, and local middle and high schools, providing citizen science engagement for students and delivering professional development for teachers.” According to the article, “the teacher education program will consist of a series of residential workshops at Tremont and consults at local schools, giving teachers practice with experiential learning and linking what they have learned with standards-based subject matter.” Smokies Superintendent Cassius Cash said, “These science-based opportunities cultivate lasting connections between the public and their parks by establishing a fascination and love of science. We are thrilled to work with the National Park Foundation and the Veverka Family Foundation to implement this citizen-science based education project.”

On A Mission: Preservation Work Underway At Tumacacori.

The [Green Valley \(AZ\) News](#) (8/16, Bottemiller) reports that “a five-year project involving backbreaking, eyeball-bending work is underway to conserve Tumacacori National Historical Park’s valuable heritage.” Frank Matero, “a visiting professor of architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, is overseeing a team of specialists on earthen architecture to conserve the original plasters and painted finishes inside San José de Tumacácori Mission Church south of Tubac.” According to the article, “while the goal is to protect the culturally significant structure from the elements, the hope is that in doing so come educational and collaborative opportunities for internships involving Americans, Mexicans and Park Service professionals.”

Springfield Armory Museum Closed Friday For Paving.

The [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (8/16, Kinney) reports that the Springfield Armory National Historic Site will “close its museum Friday so contractors can complete paving work at the armory site.” The paving is “part of a \$1.2 million project to redo the landscape, the road and the drainage at the Springfield Armory National Historic Site.” The National Park Service is “restoring the landscape to what it looked like in the 1950s under Army control.”

Yosemite’s Half Dome Disappears Into A Plume Of Smoke From Wildfires.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (8/16, Graff) reports that smoke from two wildfires burning in Yosemite National Park has made the Half Dome not viewable. According to the article, "air quality in the park was especially poor on Monday and Tuesday with the amount of particulate matter in the air peaking between Monday and Tuesday afternoons and reaching unhealthy conditions." Yosemite spokesperson Jamie Richards said, "This morning it's not too bad. As the afternoon sets, we're in a low-lying valley at 4,000 feet, so it may change as the day progresses. If you're someone with asthma or respiratory issues, it might not be a good idea to go on a strenuous."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Trump: Kim Jong-Un Made "Wise Decision" In Backing Off Plan To Attack Guam.

[USA Today](#) (8/16, Onyanga-Omara) reports President Trump [tweeted](#) Wednesday that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un made a "wise and well reasoned decision," after backing off from a plan to fire four ballistic missiles at Guam. "The alternative would have been both catastrophic and unacceptable!" Trump tweeted. The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Perlez) says Trump offered "rare words of praise" for Kim, and [Reuters](#) (8/16, Brice) likewise said Trump "praised" the North Korean leader for making a "wise" decision, which "has eased escalating tension between the two countries."

The [New York Post](#) (8/16, Moore) also reports Trump's tweet about Kim's decision, which [Bloomberg News](#) (8/16, Olorunnipa) reports, "at least for now," has shifted "the focus...toward finding a diplomatic solution." At the UN on Wednesday, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for confidence-building measures to defuse tensions and a return to negotiations. "As tensions rise, so does the risk of misunderstanding, miscalculation or escalation," Guterres told reporters. "There are many possible avenues for this dialogue, from various bilateral formations to the six-party talks."

Bannon On North Korea: "There's No Military Solution Here, They Got Us." In a telephone interview with the [American Prospect](#) (8/16), Steve Bannon said regarding North Korea, "There's no military solution, forget it. Until somebody solves the part of the equation that shows me that 10 million people in Seoul don't die in the first 30 minutes from conventional weapons, I don't know what you're talking about, there's no military solution here, they got us." The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/16, Siegel) reports that the American Prospect's Robert Kuttner "writes that Bannon told him [President] Trump should consider a diplomatic deal in which China got North Korea to freeze its nuclear program, in exchange for the US removing troops from the Korean Peninsula."

Pence Urges Latin America To End Diplomatic Ties With North Korea. [Bloomberg News](#) (8/16, Pettypiece) reports Vice President Pence on Wednesday called on Chile, Brazil, Mexico, and Peru to "cut all economic and diplomatic relations" with North Korea as the US looks to broaden the coalition of countries pressuring leader Kim Jong-Un to abandon his nuclear program. After meeting in Santiago with Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, Pence said, "We strongly urge Chile today, and we urge Brazil, Mexico and Peru to break all diplomatic and commercial ties to North Korea. The era of strategic patience is over, with regard to North Korea. All options are on the table." Pence, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16, Radnofsky) reports, asked Bachelet to reclassify Chilean wine as export luxury goods under current US sanctions, which, he said "would prevent North Korea from obtaining these commodities and converting them into hard currency that support the regime."

According to the [AP](#) (8/16), Pence is "cutting short his trip to Latin America so he can join the President at a meeting about North Korea." The White House announced Wednesday that Pence would travel to Camp David with the President on Friday to meet with his national security team.

A [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Rucker) analysis says that during his week-long tour of Latin America, Pence has "cast himself to his hosts as a dutiful, even earnest messenger for President Trump. But in visits this week to Colombia, Argentina and Chile, Pence has acted more like Trump's translator." The Post writes that "again and again," Pence's statements have "sounded somewhat discordant from the ones his boss has been delivering back home," and "more than delivering Trump's messages, Pence is repackaging them with a decidedly sober and diplomatic spin."

Moon: US Promises To Seek Seoul's Approval Before Action On North Korea. [Reuters](#) (8/16, Kim, Kim) reports South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Thursday that President Trump has "promised to seek Seoul's approval before pursuing any option against nuclear-armed North

Korea." Trump's recent "aggressive comments" do "not appear to have been made with the intention to take military action, Moon said" at a news conference marking his first 100 days in office.

NYTimes Analysis: US War Games With South Korea May Be "A Bargaining Chip." The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Rich) reports that bi-annual joint US-South Korean military exercises are condemned "year after year" by the North "as a rehearsal for an invasion and demands that they be called off." Now, with President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un "recently trading threats of nuclear war, another round of the biannual drills is set to begin on Monday in South Korea." The Times notes that two years ago, the North proposed "a temporary moratorium on nuclear tests if Washington canceled" the exercises, and some analysts are suggesting that a "permutation of that offer may be the best way to defuse the crisis over North Korea's nuclear and missile programs."

China's Enforcement Of UN Sanctions Starts To Pinch. The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Perlez) reports that UN sanctions banning the import of North Korean seafood "started to bite on Wednesday, two days after China's Commerce Ministry announced it would enforce the new rules" passed earlier this month by the Security Council. By curtailing the trade, China is "obeying the intent of the latest sanctions resolution but harming its own businessmen." The Chinese traders were also "not given any warning about the sanctions enforcement," setting off protests.

Dunford Meets With Chinese Soldiers Near North Korean Border. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16, Lubold, Page) reports Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford on Wednesday said he discussed with his Chinese counterparts ways to coordinate with China's military should war break out with North Korea. Dunford also paid a rare visit to the Chinese military command that oversees the North Korean border, viewing live-fire drills and meeting with People's Liberation Army troops.

American Samoa GDP Turns Down In 2016.

[Marianas Variety](#) (8/16) reports that in estimates of gross domestic product or GDP for American Samoa for 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis said "that real GDP — GDP adjusted to remove price changes — decreased 2.5 percent in 2016 after increasing 1.2 percent in 2015." The drop in the American Samoa economy "reflected decreases in spending on construction and equipment; several investment projects in both the government sector and private sector had ended or entered their final stages during 2015." Also, "government spending decreased, reflecting a decline in investment spending by the territorial government." These estimates were "developed under the Statistical Improvement Program funded by the Office of Insular Affairs of the U.S. Department of the Interior," and "moving forward, an agreement between OIA and BEA will extend and improve the estimates of GDP for American Samoa."

Office Of Surface Mining

Panel Studying Possible Tie Between Health Problems, Appalachian Mining To Meet In Kentucky.

The [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (8/16, Estep) reports that "a panel studying the potential link between surface mining and health problems in Appalachia plans meetings in Kentucky to gather information." The committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine will "hold a town hall meeting in Hazard on Aug. 21 to gain 'insights and information' from people in the area, according to a news release." The U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement "commissioned the study, saying the research agency would examine a 'growing amount of academic research that relates to possible correlations between increased health risks as a result of living near surface coal mine operations.'"

US Geological Survey

USGS Begins Low-level Flight To Survey And Research Oklahoma Fault Lines.

The [Altus \(OK\) Times](#) (8/16, Goforth) reports that scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey and the Oklahoma Geological Survey "began a 6 to 10-week survey of southwest Oklahoma's fault lines on Monday at the Altus Quartz Mountain Regional Airport." USGS and OGS are "contracting with Glodak Airborne Surveys to conduct surveys in over 18 counties in southwestern and north-central Oklahoma to capture 3-D images of geology beneath Earth's surface for earthquakes

hazard and mineral resources." USGS scientist and project lead Dr. Anji Shah said, "Oklahoma has been experiencing increased seismicity since about 2009. Many of these earthquakes occur on faults that haven't been mapped. In order to better understand local seismic hazards, the USGS and OGS will use the new data to work toward improved fault maps."

Top National News

Media Analyses: Trump Faces Growing Political Isolation In Wake Of Charlottesville Comments.

Media outlets offered no respite to the President the day after his impromptu comments on the Charlottesville tragedy. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/16, lead story, 5:30, Muir) – as did the other two major network newscasts – showed him making the statements that sparked the outcry, "What I'm saying is this: You had a group on one side, and you had a group on the other, and they came at each other with clubs and it was vicious and horrible. I think there is blame on both sides." Pressed on whether he was defending neo-Nazis, the President said, "Excuse me. They didn't put themselves down as neo-Nazis. You had some very bad people in that group. You also had people that were very fine people on both sides." Media analyses were unremittingly hostile, both in terms of what Trump meant by his words and in their assessment of the implications for his presidency.

The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Peters, Martin, Healy), for example, refers to Trump's "embrace of the country's racially charged past," [Politico](#) (8/16, Dawsey) says he "offered what some perceived to be overtures to white supremacists," and the [Washington Post](#) (8/16) speaks in an editorial of a "stunning defense of white supremacist marchers." The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/16, story 4, 3:40, Mason), meanwhile, interviewed Bryan Stevenson of the Equal Justice Initiative, who said, "I think the President needs to step back. ... We cannot be ambivalent about the danger posed by Nazism and fascism."

Another [New York Times](#) (8/16, Landler) report accuses Trump of abdicating "what presidents from Roosevelt to Reagan have regarded as a cardinal duty of their job: to set a moral course for the nation." In that sense, to the Times "Trump's refusal Tuesday to pass an explicit moral judgment on the violence...seemed a genuine reflection of his beliefs," and was "similar to his refusal to condemn the tactics of autocrats like...Rodrigo Duterte...or...Vladimir V. Putin." John Kass, in his [Chicago Tribune](#) (8/16) column, charges that "the amoral man in the White House failed his morality test. And in doing so, he gave the left a powerful weapon."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (8/16, lead story, 3:20, Holt), meanwhile, reported "the shock" over Trump's comments triggered "a cascade of criticism that could further stall the President's agenda," and Wolf Blitzer said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/16) that Trump "may have derailed his presidency." Along similar lines, [USA Today](#) (8/16, Jackson) reports "some of...Trump's most ardent supporters are worried his impromptu comments on the racially motivated violence...will imperil the fate of his economic and policy agenda." The story cites two unnamed "prominent supporters who have worked with the Trump team" who "say they worry the self-inflicted Charlottesville controversy will only make it harder for the White House to get...anything...critical to his agenda out of Congress." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16, Nicholas, Hughes, Bender) runs a similar analysis under the headline "Trump's Remarks Rattle His Staff, Threaten Agenda."

Sara Murray said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (8/16) that Trump "has no regrets about what he had to say," and "in fact...has been defiant. We are told he views this essentially as the liberal media and these East Coast liberal elites having a panic attack, hyperventilating over his comments." However, Trump is "increasingly isolated as the backlash to these remarks a day ago builds." The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Shear, Thrush, Haberman) also reports Trump "found himself increasingly isolated in a racial crisis of his own making on Wednesday, abandoned by the nation's top business executives, contradicted by military leaders and shunned by Republicans." [The Hill](#) (8/16, Easley) likewise says "Trump's political isolation mounted on Wednesday, with...GOP lawmakers ducking for cover."

The [New York Post](#) (8/16, Fredericks), meanwhile, reports Trump "stunned his top aides at his combative news conference" and ignored "their advice." The Post cites a quote from an unnamed "senior White House official" who told [NBC News](#) that the President "went rogue." [Politico](#) (8/16, Cook, Dawsey) says Trump's "decision to double down on his argument that 'both sides' were to blame...was driven in part by his own anger – and his disdain for being told what to do." Politico quotes "one adviser to the White House" as saying, "In some ways, Trump would rather have people calling him racist than say he backed down the minute he was wrong. ... This

may turn into the biggest mess of his presidency because he is stubborn and doesn't realize how bad this is getting." Meanwhile, "an adviser" says Trump "thinks he's right. He still thinks he's right."

The political devastation ensuing from the current controversy, says [McClatchy](#) (8/16, Glueck), could spread to the entire Republican party: "If...Trump's campaign stomped all over the Republican Party's 2012 plans to build a more diverse movement, his refusal now to squarely blame white supremacists and neo-Nazis for violence has destroyed those efforts entirely." McClatchy adds that "interviews with a dozen Republican operatives and activists around the country revealed genuine frustration – and for some, disgust – over Trump's repeated suggestions that there is an equivalence between the neo-Nazis, Ku Klux Klan members and white supremacists...and those who turned out to protest them."

Steve Hayes of The Weekly Standard said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/16) that the White House strategy Wednesday was "to stop digging. They didn't have the President out to continue to talk about this in a way that undoes what he tried to do on Monday and in that sense I think they have made some progress today. But you listen to Mike Pence say that the President was clear and unambiguous about his condemnation here and you look at the White House talking point...that talked about the President as a force for calm and unity. That's not only misleading and wrong, it's delusional."

Trump's "defense of far-right protesters" in Charlottesville drew criticism from two of his predecessors, the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/16, lead story, 2:30, Brennan) reported in its lead story. Without mentioning Trump by name, former Presidents George and George W. Bush issued a statement saying, "America must always reject racial bigotry, antisemitism, and hatred in all forms." CBS (Brennan) added that Trump "also drew sharp rebukes from" other GOP officials. Ohio Gov. John Kasich: "He has got to fix this, and Republicans have to speak out." Sen. Lindsey Graham said in a statement, "Mr. President, your words are dividing Americans, not healing them." The [Washington Times](#) (8/16, Dinan) also reports on the statement from the Bushes.

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (8/16, Spangler) reports that Rep. Dave Trott "had some advice" for Trump, saying in a [tweet](#) Wednesday, "I think America needs more unity and less divisiveness...meaning @realDonaldTrump should focus more on golf & have less press conferences."

The [AP](#) (8/16, Peoples, Beaumont) says that while "the nation's most powerful Republicans responded" to Trump's comments, "few mentioned the president." Senate Majority Leader McConnell "condemned 'hate and bigotry,'" and House Speaker Ryan "charged that 'White supremacy is repulsive,'" but neither "criticized the president's insistence that there were 'very fine people on both sides'" of the violent clash. Their "nuanced statements" are a reflection of the GOP's establishment's "delicate dance." While "few top Republican officeholders defended" the President, they "are unwilling to declare all-out war against Trump and risk alienating his loyalists."

[USA Today](#) (8/16, Przybyla) describes McConnell as "livid" over Trump's remarks, but adds that the "difficulty he felt responding to the leader of his party" underscores "the quandary facing many Republicans in the aftermath of Trump's comments." Republicans, USA Today adds, "are searching for ways to distance themselves from the president without personally taking on a president who remains popular in many GOP-dominated states."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/16, Mascaro) reports, however, that while a number of Republican lawmakers have criticized the President over his remarks on the Charlottesville violence, "the GOP-led Congress isn't expected to respond with much more than impassioned statements and social media posts." The Times adds that Trump "remains popular in many states and congressional districts that elected Republicans to the majority in Congress," and "lawmakers remain reluctant to put themselves crosswise with the voters many will need in next year's midterm election. Moreover, Republicans in Congress have hitched Trump's popularity – which stems in part from his disruptive and racially tinged tone – to their legislative agenda."

John Harwood said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (8/16), "This is an extraordinarily difficult moment for Republican leaders because it's embarrassing to them. ... This was a President revealing what he really thought and the problem has come because people see what he really thought and they don't like it. ... Republican leaders therefore are feeling the need to distance themselves." Jim Acosta said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/16), "It is not clear GOP are leaders are going to do much about" Trump's comments, but added that "one Republican source told CNN, 'I think the President's ability to effectively govern is dwindling by the hour.'"

In an op-ed for [Politico Magazine](#) (8/16), Matt Latimer, a former speechwriter for President George W. Bush, argues that while the media "has been biased" and "have gone after Trump with

a determination and fury that Barack Obama never faced," the media "didn't force the president to say – or rather not say – what he did on Saturday" or "to (yet again) fault 'both sides' on Tuesday afternoon, or suggest that those hanging around with armed Nazis...were just peaceful, lawful demonstrators speaking their minds." Latimer adds that it is "time to put the country ahead of the party. And for politicians in Washington, D.C., to prove they still have the ability to see the difference."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Degrandpre) reports that the "most senior leaders" of the US military "have publicly – and bluntly – repudiated the racist violence" in Charlottesville, "declaring the nation's armed forces as being unequivocally against hatred." The military's four service chiefs "issued firm, forceful statements that stand apart from remarks made by President Trump." The "flurry of activity prompted some observers to question whether the Pentagon aimed to create distance between the service chiefs and the commander in chief."

The [AP](#) (8/16, Burns) reports that Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson wrote in a [tweet](#) Saturday evening that the events in Charlottesville were "unacceptable and mustn't be tolerated," and issued a statement calling them "shameful." In a [tweet](#) Tuesday, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller wrote, "No place for racial hatred or extremism in @USMC. Our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment frame the way Marines live and act." On Wednesday, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley [tweeted](#), "The Army doesn't tolerate racism, extremism, or hatred in our ranks. It's against our Values and everything we've stood for since 1775." Also, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein wrote in a [tweet](#), "I stand with my fellow service chiefs in saying we're always stronger together – it's who we are as Airmen."

[Politico](#) (8/16, Klimas) says the military chiefs' statements were "in stark contrast" to Trump's remarks, while the [Washington Examiner](#) (8/16, McIntyre) says they "have to be especially careful not to cross a line into domestic politics" as it is "actually illegal under military law for a commissioned officer to say anything that could be construed as direct criticism of the commander in chief."

WPost A1: Since 1970s, Trump "Has Regularly Fanned The Flames Of Racial Controversies." On the front page of the [Washington Post](#) (8/16, A1), Marc Fisher writes, "From his first public controversy in the 1970s, when the federal government sued Trump and his father over discriminatory rental practices in their New York real estate empire, to the opening salvo in his 2016 presidential campaign, when he said that Mexicans entering the United States were criminals and 'rapists,' Trump has regularly fanned the flames of racial controversies." Fisher writes that some say Trump's "eagerness to speak up for at least some of the people who took part in the alt-right demonstrations in Charlottesville must be viewed as a reflection of his attitude on race."

Media Analyses: Trump's Base Siding With Him. While officials from both parties are blasting Trump over his comments, the [AP](#) (8/16, Sedensky) reports, "many men and women who helped put him in office remain unmoved by the latest uproar." They "wash their hands of neo-Nazis and wag their fingers at leftists. They denounce a press corps they see as biased and controversies they view as manufactured. But in the frenzied blame game over the deadly violence at a rally of white supremacists...Trump's loyal base is happy to absolve the president himself."

Along similar lines, the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/16, story 5, 2:20, Mason) interviewed several Trump voters, who said they remained on his side in this controversy, "These Republican women," CBS reported, "say if a President deserves blame for making racial tensions worse, it's Obama, not Trump, for the identity politics they say Democrats have practiced for the last eight years." [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/16, story 3, 2:00, Alexander) reported on reaction to Trump's words across the nation, and featured some Trump defenders while noting the "outrage blaring from newspaper headlines. In New York, 'Sympathy for the Devils.' In Chicago, 'Fake President.'"

Mollie Hemingway of The Federalist said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/16) that it is "so frustrating to people that we cannot acknowledge just the reality that of course, everyone, most everyone, should, of course, condemn white nationalism and other racists and it's also true that we do have a really serious problem in this country with leftist violence and even the inability of Republican leaders to admit that reality which is just factually true. That's actually just what happened even in this last weekend where you had violence on one side – you had the murderous violence of the racist and also violence on the other side it makes it very difficult to have a fruitful conversation."

In his opening monologue on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (8/16), Sean Hannity said, "What seemed to set the media off yesterday is that the President said there was violence on both sides. Whether we like it or not – this is an important point – the First Amendment does protect even hate speech. That is why even the ACLU defended these white supremacists and their right to say

what they want to say. Whether or not we like it or not, you are not allowed in America, under the rule of law to get into fist fights, to punch people, engage in fighting because you don't like what they say. Despite those facts, the media is living in an alternative universe. Why? Because all they want to do is destroy the President."

Marist Poll: 52 Percent Say Trump Response To Charlottesville Was "Insufficient." [Politico](#)

(8/16, Conway) reports that a new Marist poll found that most Americans think Trump's response to the violence in Charlottesville "was not strong enough." According to the poll, 52 percent "said Trump's response to the violence was insufficient, while 27 percent said his reaction was strong enough and 21 percent were unsure." The poll was conducted Monday and Tuesday, which means "some respondents were surveyed before Trump made further remarks about the event at a freewheeling news conference in New York on Tuesday afternoon."

WPost Says Kelly "Deeply Frustrated And Dismayed," ABC Remarks On Apparent "Wince" As Trump Spoke. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/16, lead story, 5:30, Muir) reported last night that "many" are "studying...Chief of Staff...Kelly's face, appearing to wince as...Trump" made his remarks Tuesday. ABC further asked, "Was the White House blindsided on this?" The [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Parker, Costa) says the latest "uproar – which has consumed not only the White House but the Republican Party – left Kelly deeply frustrated and dismayed just over two weeks into his job, said people familiar with his thinking."

Pence: "I Stand With The President." The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/16, lead story, 2:30, Brennan) said "the President's comments...drew sharp rebukes from fellow Republicans," but Vice President Pence was shown saying, "And I stand with the President, and I stand by those words. ... The strength of the United States of America is always strongest as the President has said so eloquently, when we are united around our shared values. And so it will always be." [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/16, lead story, 3:20, Holt) reported that Trump's "surrogates" remained "largely silent" yesterday – with the exception of Pence. To the [AP](#) (8/16, Colvin), however, Pence "skirted questions about...Trump's comments voicing sympathy for Charlottesville protesters, but said he stands with the president nonetheless."

Cohn "Visibly Dismayed," "Disgusted"; White House Staff "Wrestling With How To Respond."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/16, lead story, 2:30, Brennan) reported that "top aide Gary Cohn was visibly dismayed...by the President's comments, but he has no plans to resign." [Politico](#) (8/16, Dawsey), meanwhile, reports that "White House aides are wrestling with how to respond to...Trump's defiant news conference," though "no aides had yet threatened to resign." Cohn "was particularly displeased, according to people familiar with the matter."

The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Shear) focuses on "Jewish members of...Trump's administration," who "remained largely silent Wednesday after Mr. Trump came to the defense of nationalist and right-wing protesters...who had chanted anti-Semitic slogans and demeaned the president's Jewish son-in-law." Cohn "was described by several people close to him as 'disgusted' and 'deeply upset' by the president's remarks."

Rep. Marc Veasey said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/16), "What I think is that White House staff, they need to speak up. I mean, you have African Americans that work for him – Omarosa. You have, including his son-in-law, Jewish Americans that work for him. And I do think that their silence really speaks volumes. And by not saying anything at all, they absolutely are enabling him. And to me, they need to really step up and the reason I say that...is because...Trump right now, he is on a path that is going to make his presidency and his legacy perhaps the worst on race relations since Reconstruction ended."

Bannon Dismisses "Fringe Element," Welcomes Democratic Focus On "Identity Politics."

Robert Kuttner of the [American Prospect](#) (8/16) writes that during a telephone conversation that Steve Bannon initiated, Bannon "dismissed the far right as irrelevant and sidestepped his own role in cultivating it." Bannon said, "Ethno-nationalism – it's losers. It's a fringe element. I think the media plays it up too much, and we gotta help crush it, you know, uh, help crush it more." Bannon added, "The Democrats, the longer they talk about identity politics, I got 'em. I want them to talk about racism every day. If the left is focused on race and identity, and we go with economic nationalism, we can crush the Democrats."

[USA Today](#) (8/16, Cummings) reports that in the interview, Bannon "seemed thrilled that Trump's opponents are talking so much about race." In a piece consisting primarily of large excerpts from the American Prospect piece, [Breitbart](#) (8/16, Pollak) writes that Bannon said he "welcomed the Democrats' obsession with the Charlottesville incident, and identity politics in general." The [New York Post](#) (8/16, Perez) has a report headlined "Bannon Calls White Nationalists 'A Collection Of Clowns.'"

Jonathan Swan of [Axios](#) (8/17) writes, "Bannon's White House colleagues can't believe what

they're reading tonight – and here's the twist: neither can Bannon." Bannon "has told associates he never intended to do an 'interview' with an editor at the American Prospect, a left-wing publication," but that he simply called Kuttner to discuss a recent piece on China. Bannon "never thought that the journalist might take his (very newsworthy) comments and turn them into a story."

The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Shear, Thrush, Haberman) reports that "one aide who felt energized by the president's actions was...Bannon," whose "future in the White House remains uncertain" and "has been encouraging Mr. Trump to remain defiant." The Times adds that "two White House officials who have been trying to moderate the president's position suggested that Mr. Bannon was using the crisis as a way to get back in the good graces of the president."

Trump Ends Advisory Councils As CEOs Quit Them; Breitbart Sees "Blow" To Cohn's Influence.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/16, lead story, 5:30, Muir) reported that Trump's comments Tuesday "did not sit well with many CEOs on the President's business advisory councils." After a number of "CEOs called the White House to inform the President of their decision and he quickly put out this [tweet](#): 'Rather than putting pressure on the business people of the manufacturing council & strategy & policy forum, I am ending both. Thank you all!'" The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/16, lead story, 2:30, Brennan) noted that "by the time the President tweeted he was disbanding his business advisory councils, almost a dozen members, including the heads of GE, Campbell Soup, and 3M, had resigned." On [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/16, lead story, 3:20, Holt), Kristen Welker said the President faced "a full scale rebellion by the very CEOs he once called colleagues," in what amounted to "a punch in the gut to Mr. Trump, a billionaire former CEO."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/16, Lien) notes that the two councils Trump dissolved are "the White House's economic advisory council and manufacturing council – panels that consisted of business leaders from firms such as BlackRock, JPMorgan Chase, IBM and PepsiCo." To [Politico](#) (8/16, Diamond), "the president who promised business leaders would 'thrive' under his administration cut ties Wednesday with three dozen of America's top CEOs."

The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Gelles, Thomas, Kelly) reports "the quick sequence began late Wednesday morning when Stephen A. Schwarzman, the chief executive of the Blackstone Group and one of Mr. Trump's closest confidants in the business community, organized a conference call for members of the president's Strategic and Policy Forum." The Times adds that "after a discussion among a dozen prominent C.E.O.s, the decision was made to abandon the group altogether, said people with knowledge of details of the call." [U.S. News & World Report](#) (8/16, Soergel), [Reuters](#) (8/16, Shepardson, Erman), [Bloomberg News](#) (8/16, Tracer, Townsend), the [Washington Times](#) (8/16, Boyer), [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16, Glazer, Krouse), and [USA Today](#) (8/16, Yu), among other news outlets, run similar stories this morning.

[Breitbart](#) (8/16, Boyle), meanwhile, reported "the move is a significant blow to the influence of Cohn in the White House," as "his level of control in the White House is dwindling by the minute." To Breitbart, "the organizational structure that empowered American CEOs – and not small business leaders – was always fraught with potential peril if and when something like this came up," but "Cohn and Trump son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner pushed the president forward in advising the course of action that included the creation of these institutions full of corporatists and globalists."

Andrew Ross Sorkin said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (8/16), "The President has said he is disbanding these groups, but let there be no doubt, both of these groups decided to disband en masse themselves. A resignation of dozens at this point, deciding that it wasn't because of embarrassment about their own roles, but in part, outrage and fury over President Trump's comments over the past several days."

Yahoo News and Finance anchor Bianna Golodryga said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/16), "The President can say that he disbanded them, but these CEOs were breaking up with him way beforehand, especially over the last 48 hours. You know, these councils are traditionally prestigious and they're not really risky. ... I think regardless of what a lot of CEOs personally felt about this President, they thought he would be offering more business-friendly priorities and policies like deregulation, tax reform, what have you. They did not think they would have to be answering questions from reporters as to whether or not they support Nazis and white supremacists."

VA Chief Defends Trump, Says It's A "Dishonor" To Have Neo-Nazis "Go Unchallenged." The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/16, lead story, 2:30, Brennan) reported VA Secretary Shulkin "said he's...staying" in his post, "but it is a 'dishonor' to all veterans to let Nazis 'go unchallenged.'" [The Hill](#) (8/16, Greenwood) notes that "in a short press briefing in Bedminster, N.J., Shulkin denounced white supremacists and hate groups that fed the violence," saying "their ideology and

behavior is an 'affront to American ideals.'" The [Washington Times](#) (8/16, Boyer) notes Shulkin also said Trump "has done a good job of speaking for himself," and that "he's denounced bigotry, hatred, violence, Nazis, white supremacists. ... I think he has been very clear that this was not acceptable to him, that he has denounced them."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Lamothe) reports that "Shulkin, who served in the Obama administration and was kept on under Trump, said that the president can speak for himself," but also "offered his own thoughts," saying, "I do feel like as an American and as a member of the Cabinet, that I can speak for my own personal opinions on this, and I am outraged by the behavior that I have seen with the Nazis and the white supremacists. I am outraged on the use of violence – to be able to put one's ideals, and force them upon others."

WPost Offers Advice To Top Trump Officials. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/16) ponders whether Kelly, Secretary of State Tillerson, Defense Secretary Mattis "or national security adviser H.R. McMaster" should resign. To the Post, "each of these men must consider, every day, whether they are maximizing whatever leverage they have for the good of the country, and whether their accomplishments justify whatever 'normalizing' benefit their presence conveys on their chief executive. As long as they can answer yes, we think they should be thanked, not condemned."

NBC News Features "White Nationalist" Praising Trump. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/16, story 5, 2:15), Lester Holt said that after Trump's remarks on Charlottesville, "white supremacists have come out of the shadows to cheer his message, viewing it as a validation of their own racist beliefs, including some...in California." NBC's Jacob Soboroff said that "white nationalist William Johnson," who lives in Los Angeles, "was elated with...Trump's press conference." After Trump was shown saying, "I think there's blame on both sides," Johnson said, "That's an honest man saying what he believes in his heart." Asked if he thinks "Trump saying things like that will ultimately bring America closer to your goal of a white ethno-state," Johnson replied, "We have a festering racial problem. ... I think the only solution is separation, but there may be another solution, and Donald Trump is going to...help us overcome the racial divide. I think that he will encourage fair-minded, deep-thinking people to realize that separation is the only way we can achieve racial goals."

In a follow-up segment on [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/16, story 6, 1:10, Holt), Holt asked Tom Brokaw, "who covered the civil rights movement of the 1960s," to share "what lessons can we learn from that experience." Brokaw said, "I thought the most dramatic example that still resonates with me was in the 1960s when Dr. Martin Luther King launched the nonviolent movement. And it was a strong moral cause that advanced his cause and alerted the country to the kinds of absolutely unacceptable things that we should not be tolerating anymore."

CBS News Highlights Scalise Tweet Decrying "White Supremacy And All Forms Of Hatred." The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/16, story 6, 0:25, Mason) reported, "Following President Trump's news conference yesterday, Louisiana Congressman Steve Scalise tweeted, 'We must defeat white supremacy and all forms of hatred.' The House Republican whip was critically wounded in June when a gunman opened fire on GOP lawmakers practicing for a congressional baseball game." The report doesn't mention that the alleged shooter was a progressive supporter of Sen. Bernie Sanders.

NYTimes Analysis: Trump Lawyer's Email "Echoed Secessionist Civil War Propaganda." The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Schmidt, Apuzzo) reports that "Trump's personal lawyer on Wednesday forwarded an email to conservative journalists, government officials and friends that echoed secessionist Civil War propaganda and declared that the group Black Lives Matter 'has been totally infiltrated by terrorist groups.'" The Times adds that "the email forwarded by John Dowd, who is leading the president's legal team, painted the Confederate general Robert E. Lee in glowing terms and equated the South's rebellion to that of the American Revolution against England."

Politico Transcript Erroneously Had Trump Calling White Supremacists, Alt-Right "Us." [BuzzFeed](#) (8/15, Koerner) reports that Politico's [transcript](#) of President Trump's Tuesday press conference said he referred to white supremacists and the alt-right "as 'us' – but a review of the audio doesn't back that up." The Federal News Service transcript quotes Trump as saying, "OK, what about the alt-left that came charging them? Excuse me. What about the alt-left that came charging at the – as you say, the alt-right? Do they have any semblance of guilt?" The White House's official transcript quotes Trump as saying, "Okay, what about the alt-left that came charging at – excuse me, what about the alt-left that came charging at the, as you say, the alt-right? Do they have any semblance of guilt?" Politico's version, however, reads, "Okay, what about the alt-left that came charging at us – excuse me – what about the alt-left that came

charging at the, as you say, the alt right? Do they have any semblance of guilt?" [Townhall](#) (8/16, Vespa) also reports on the Politico transcript, citing the BuzzFeed report.

AP Offers "Some Facts About The Antifa Movement." The [AP](#) (8/16, Baumann, Rankin) runs a piece offering "some facts about the antifa movement and those who protested the [Charlottesville] rally." The AP says, "According to websites and Facebook posts, people who affiliate with the term take a militant approach against fascism and white nationalism that doesn't necessarily shy away from violence." Regarding the Charlottesville rally, the AP says, "Both sides did engage in violence Saturday. ... In the mass of hundreds of people, it was not always possible to see who was instigating the fights."

Writing for the [Daily Caller](#) (8/16), Peter Hasson said that members of antifa "aren't interested in protecting America's system of government, according to their own statements – they're interested in destroying it." For example, Hasson quoted "a female leader for Refuse Fascism" as saying not long after Trump was inaugurated, "We need to make this country ungovernable. We need to do what the German people should have done when Hitler was elected."

Breitbart: Harvard/MIT Study Concludes Site Is Not "Alt-Right." [Breitbart](#) (8/16, Lee) reports under the headline "Harvard/MIT Study: 'Breitbart Is NOT Alt-Right'" that a New York Times Magazine piece on the website features a comment from Harvard's Yochai Benkler, who studied Breitbart content along with colleagues from both Harvard and MIT. He said, "Breitbart is not talking about these issues in the same way you would find on the extreme right. They don't use the same language you find on sites like VDARE and The Daily Stormer. ... Breitbart is not the alt-right."

AP Will Not Use Term "Alt-Right." The [Taegan Goddard's Political Wire](#) (8/16, Goddard) cites new guidance from the AP which says that "we have taken the position that the term 'alt-right' should be avoided because it is meant as a euphemism to disguise racist aims. So use it only when quoting someone or when describing what the movement says about itself."

UN Secretary General Offers "Veiled But Unmistakable Rebuke" Of Trump. In what the [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Gearan) calls "a veiled but unmistakable rebuke to President Trump," UN Secretary General António Guterres said Wednesday that "the world must reject intolerance and speak up against 'irrationality.'" Asked about Trump's response to the violence in Charlottesville, Guterres "said he does not comment on individual leaders," but "his criticism of Trump was nonetheless plain." Guterres said, "Racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism or Islamophobia are . . . poisoning our societies. ... And it is absolutely essential for us all to stand up against them everywhere and every time." While Guterres "did not mention Trump by name in answering direct questions about the U.S. president," he "made clear he sees dangers from the brand of nationalism and populism that fueled Trump's election as well as political changes elsewhere."

Trump Faces "Backlash" From World Leaders. In a separate story, the [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Wang) reports on a "wave of backlash from world leaders" over Trump's comments. British Prime Minister Theresa May "didn't call Trump out by name," but "said in a statement Wednesday there was 'no equivalence' between the two sides." The European Commission "mentioned neither Trump nor Charlottesville," but said in a [tweet](#) Wednesday morning, "We reject and condemn all forms and manifestations of racism and xenophobia." In "more explicit" criticism, Germany Justice Minister Heiko Maas said, "It is unbearable how Trump is now glossing over the violence of the right-wing hordes from Charlottesville. ... No one should trivialize anti-Semitism and racism by neo-Nazis." Also, Martin Schulz, leader of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, said, "Nazis must be confronted decisively. ... What Trump is doing is highly incendiary. Those who downplay violence and hate betray the values of the West!"

Milbank Decries "Fox & Friends" For Defending Trump. In his [Washington Post](#) (8/16) column, Dana Milbank says that amid the fallout over his remarks on Charlottesville, Trump "was in need of a friend. And that's what 'Fox & Friends' is for." Milbank says that he watched "all three hours of 'Fox & Friends'" on Wednesday, and that the hosts sought to defend the President. Milbank adds, "It was obscene and unthinkable that" Trump "let white supremacists know it's okay to hold and act on their hateful views. In defending Trump, Fox is further encouraging these racists to crawl out from under their rocks and preach in the open."

WPost's Sullivan: Media Shouldn't "Be Falsely Evenhanded" In Covering Trump. In her [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Sullivan) column, Margaret Sullivan writes, "During the 2016 presidential campaign, the national news media's misguided sense of fairness helped equate the serious flaws of Hillary Clinton with the disqualifying evils of Donald Trump." Sullivan says, "Elected with the help of false equivalency, Trump is now creating some of his own" with his remarks on Charlottesville. Sullivan says, "With the issue of false equivalency front and center once again, a

profound question arises for journalists: What does true fairness look like in covering this president?" After highlighting some harsh coverage of Trump, Sullivan adds, "In dealing with the false-equivalency president they helped to get elected, the news media may have learned something. The best way to be fair is not to be falsely evenhanded, giving equal weight to unequal sides. It's to push for the truth, and tell it both accurately and powerfully."

Three House Democrats Seek Formal Censure Of Trump.

[McClatchy](#) (8/16, Clark) reports, "House Democrats are introducing a formal resolution" to censure President Trump "for saying that 'both sides' are to blame" for the violence in Charlottesville. So far, "just three Democrats have signed on" to the measure – Reps. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), and Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ) – and it "is unlikely to see traction in the GOP-led House." [The Hill](#) (8/16, Marcos) reports that the measure "specifically condemns Trump for employing chief strategist Stephen Bannon and national security aide Sebastian Gorka in the White House for their 'ties to white supremacist movements.'"

The [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Debonis) reports that the move "reflects a growing frustration among Democratic lawmakers and activists with the seemingly never-ending cycle of Trump controversies." The [Washington Times](#) (8/16, Dinan) reports, "Censure of a president is rare. The Senate lists just one occasion, in 1834, when Andrew Jackson drew the ire of lawmakers." The [New York Daily News](#) (8/16, Blain) also reports.

[USA Today](#) (8/16) editorializes that Republicans "should join together with Democrats to censure Trump. Censure is not impeachment. Whether that's appropriate will likely depend on the outcome" of the Russia investigation. But censure "would constitute a forceful way of rebuking the White House and condemning the vile views of a bigoted fringe, even as those people's right to free speech and peaceful protest is protected under the First Amendment."



The [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (8/16) editorializes, "It's time for Republicans to make a forceful and permanent break from the accidental president. ... General boorishness, bad-mouthing war heroes, mocking the handicapped: Republicans calculated that these were tolerable. Now they have a new calculation that should not be one at all: Will they stand with a man who stands with neo-Nazis and white supremacists?" The Observer says that Republicans should "show voters they do not share Trump's views on exclusion by joining Democrats in a proposed censure."

[Washington Post](#) (8/16) conservative blogger Jennifer Rubin writes that "every Republican must sign a censure" of Trump: "They lifted this president to office and now they must disown him. ... Any Republican not willing to sign on should be voted out. Period." [The Hill](#) (8/16) columnist Brent Budowsky also backs censure "for conduct unfit for the American presidency and in violation of the principles of our country."

Ellison: Trump "Has Some Level Of Sympathy" For "Neo-Nazis And Klan Members." The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/16, Langille) reports, "Democratic National Committee Vice Chairman Rep. Keith Ellison says he sees President Trump's reluctance to denounce white supremacy as evidence he has sympathy for them." Ellison told the Washington Post, "I have to come to a conclusion, based on all of the behavior I've seen out of Donald Trump, that the reason he is reluctant to denounce white supremacy and neo-Nazis and Klan members is because he has some level of sympathy for them."

Perez: RNC Chair Has "Responsibility" To Hold White Supremacists Accountable. [USA Today](#) (8/16, Przybyla) reports that DNC Chairman Tom Perez, in a Wednesday letter to his Republican National Committee counterpart Ronna Romney McDaniel, wrote, "There is no denying that these white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and the Ku Klux Klan have made their home in this president's Republican Party. As chairwoman, you bear a responsibility not just to reject hateful ideology generally, but to hold accountable the individuals in your party who have allowed that ideology to flourish."

Memorial Held For Woman Killed In Charlottesville Protest.

A memorial service was held Wednesday for Heather Heyer, who was killed when a driver plowed his car into a group of demonstrators in Charlottesville last weekend. The [CBS Evening News](#)  (8/16, story 2, 1:50, Mason) says Heyer was "killed in an act of domestic terrorism." CBS (Begnaud) added that it was "largely peaceful" as "about 1,500 people filed into the Paramount Theater" for the service. While supporters outside "offered protection against any white supremacist who might show up and try to cause trouble...there ended up being no trouble." [ABC World News Tonight](#)  (8/16, story 2, 2:55, Pilgrim) reported that Heather's mother Susan Bro

offered “defiance,” telling those gathered, “They tried to kill my child to shut her up. Well, guess what? You just magnified her.” She also issued “a call to action,” saying, “Say to yourself, what can I do to make a difference? And that’s how you’re going to make my child’s death worthwhile. I’d rather have my child, but by golly, if I have to give her up, we’re going to make it count.” The [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Silverman, Hernández, Hendrix) says Bro’s comments sparked “a cheering ovation” from the crowd that included Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe and Sen. Tim Kaine.

The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Spencer, Dickerson) reports that Heyer was remembered “for a quality that friends and family described as her most frustrating, and most admired – a passion for fighting injustice that was so relentless, it often spilled into her work and personal life.” Friends and family members “described her convictions as so intense that they prompted tearful outbursts at work, collapsed relationships and argumentative dinners at home, from which her father would occasionally escape to his car to play video games and avoid being lectured.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/16) says Heyer’s “principles and resolve were incontrovertible proof of her integrity – far more proof than a morally compromised president could possibly confer by his words.” Heyer, the Post adds, “is in that tradition of ordinary Americans of all races and creeds who perceived injustice clearly and, in standing up to it, lost their lives.”

911 Transcripts Show Accused Driver “Terrorizing” His Mother. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/16, story 3, 1:35, Muir) reported that authorities have released records of 911 calls showing the accused driver of the car that killed Heyer, James Alex Fields’, “alleged treatment of his own mother.” ABC (Thomas) added that the transcripts portray Fields, who is accused of driving his car into a crowd of demonstrators in Charlottesville, killing one person and injuring 19 others, “terrorizing his wheelchair-bound mother three times from 2010 to 2011.”

USA Today Analysis: Trump Comments May Have Prejudiced Case Against Fields. [USA Today](#) (8/16, Johnson) reports that Trump “may have unwittingly prejudiced the legal case” against James Alex Fields, who is accused of slamming a car in to a group of demonstrators last weekend in Charlottesville, by calling him “a murderer” during his “rollicking press conference” on Tuesday. Trump, USA Today adds, “likely made it harder to seat an impartial jury, legal analysts said, and offered his defense lawyers an opportunity to argue the case should be moved out of Charlottesville.”

Charlottesville Synagogue Felt “Under Siege” During Demonstrations. [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/16, story 4, 2:05, Holt) reported that rabbis say a Charlottesville synagogue “was under siege” Saturday with “dozens of people inside...afraid to leave while outside, armed men and marching neo-Nazis invoked painful echoes of the past.” Alan Zimmerman, President of Charlottesville’s Beth Israel congregation: “It was indescribable. I never, for a minute, ever thought in my life that I would see that on the streets of America. This is our sanctuary. ... If I’d taken a camera and filmed that in black and white, it would look to people like newsreels from 1933 in Germany. Even now just unbelievable.” NBC (Gutierrez) added, “Zimmerman told us he saw parades of Nazis walking by, some heckling the temple.”

WSJournal Analysis: Charlottesville Shows White Nationalist Movement Is Unifying. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16, Frosch, McWhirter, Kesling) cites the white nationalist rally in Charlottesville as evidence that the movement is unifying, aided by an online rebranding that has enabled groups to work together, new young leadership that has helped heal longstanding divisions, and President Trump’s comments on immigrants, Muslims and the media bias, which have energized the groups.

Silicon Valley Steps Up Efforts Against White Supremacy. The [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Jan, Dwoskin) reports in a front-page story that Silicon Valley has “significantly escalated its war on white supremacy,” curtailing “the ability of hate groups to raise money online, removing them from Internet search engines, and preventing some sites from registering at all.” In a reversal of their “hands-off approach about content supported by their services,” tech companies including Google, GoDaddy, and PayPal are “making it much more difficult for ‘alt-right’ organizations to reach mass audiences.” But the moves are “heightening concerns over how tech companies are becoming the arbiters of free speech in America,” and “right-wing technologists are building parallel digital services that cater to their own movement” in response.

Colleges Prepare For Fall Protests. The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Goldstein) reports that college administrators and law enforcement officials across the country “are bracing for a wild fall of protests as their campuses become battlegrounds for society’s violent fringes.” The Times cites examples of such preparations and notes that due to the First Amendment, “colleges and universities that rely on public funding have few legal options in preventing offensive lectures from taking place, especially if a student group is affiliated with the event” and even “the violence in Charlottesville is not likely to help universities make a case in court.”

SPLC Identifies 1,500 Confederate Monuments In US. The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/16, story 3, 2:10, Mason) reported that while the Southern Poverty Law Center “found some 1,500 Confederate memorials across the country, including 718 statues and monuments, and 10 US military bases named after Confederate officers,” the list “has gotten a little smaller” as cities and states have moved to take them down. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16, Calvert, Kamp) reports that the city of Baltimore removed several Confederate monuments in an unannounced pre-dawn operation Wednesday.

A [New York Times](#) (8/16) editorial praises the push to remove Confederate monuments, saying the “racist rage in Virginia and President Trump’s shamefully sympathetic response have prompted local and state politicians to encourage community peace by weighing the future of Confederate monuments civilly and unapologetically, even if the president has not.” Chicago Pastor Calls For Removal Of Washington Statue, Renaming Of Park. The [Washington Times](#) (8/16, Ernst) reports that in the wake of Trump’s question to reporters “about the possibility of tearing down historical monuments,” Bishop James E. Dukes of Chicago’s Liberation Christian Center has called on Mayor Rahm Emanuel “to rename Washington Park and remove a statue of the first U.S. president over his ties to slavery.” Dukes [wrote](#) on Facebook, “It’s time. Please read my letter to Mayor Rahm Emanuel and The Chicago Park District. ... I’m calling on them to change the names of Washington and Jackson Park. Slave owners do not deserve the honor of our children playing in parks named after them. There is no way a Native American Community would allow a General Custer Park or a Jewish Community allow a Gestapo Park in their community.”

Capitol Has More Statues Of Confederates Than Black People. The [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Ingraham) reports that in the US Capitol’s National Statuary Hall Collection “there are three times as many statues of Confederate soldiers and politicians as there are statues of black people in the entire Capitol complex, according to records maintained by the Architect of the Capitol.”

Cuomo Asks Army Secretary To Change Names Of Streets Named After Southern Generals. The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Nir, Otterman) reports that Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D-NY) on Wednesday “asked the acting secretary of the Army to change the names of two streets at the Fort Hamilton Army base in Brooklyn that are named after Southern generals.” The Times says Fort Hamilton “has streets named after [Gen. Robert E.] Lee and Gen. Thomas Jonathan ‘Stonewall’ Jackson, both of whom served there decades before the Civil War.” In a letter to acting Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, Cuomo “singled out President Trump for his remarks this week in which he blamed both the white nationalists and counterprotesters for the violence in Charlottesville,” Virginia, writing, “Renaming these streets will send a clear message that in New York, we stand against intolerance and racism, whether it be insidious and hidden or obvious and intentional.” Cuomo, who faces reelection next year, is considered a potential 2020 presidential candidate. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16, Alfaro) also reports on the story.

White House Says Government Will Make August ACA Payments To Insurers.

A White House official said Wednesday that the government will make this month’s payments to insurers under the ACA, the [AP](#) (8/16, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports. While President Trump “has repeatedly threatened to end the payments,” a White House spokesman who “insist[ed] on anonymity to discuss the decision ahead of the official announcement,” said “the August payment will be made.”

WSJournal: CBO Shows Insurance Market Won’t Collapse If ACA Subsidies End. Citing this week’s report from the CBO, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16) argues in an editorial that congressional Republicans should not move quickly to make a deal with Democrats that would preserve the ACA’s subsidies for insurers. The Journal says the insurance market will not collapse if the subsidies end and the CBO provided no evidence that allowing the subsidies to continue will stop the law’s move toward higher costs and fewer choices.

Brady Would Accept Tax Code Overhaul That Raises Deficit To Jump-Start Economy.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/16, Sherfinski) reports that House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady “said Wednesday that he’s willing to stomach a tax code overhaul that deepens the federal deficit in order to jump-start the economy.” Speaking at the Reagan Ranch Center in California, Brady said that this “could mean expanding on existing deductions for charitable giving and ‘unprecedented’ capital expensing for businesses.” Brady “said eventually the package must reach balance, but in the near term he’s looking for ‘the greatest growth for the greatest number of years.’”

Report: Reducing Regulations Could Spur Economic Growth.

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (8/16, Meyer) reports that a new Competitive Enterprise Institute [report](#) found that reducing government regulatory authority “could boost economic growth and increase job creation.” The “Shrinking Government Bureaucracy” report provides “detailed steps” for the Administration and Congress to address regulations – particularly, cuts to the EPA, partial privatization of Commerce Department activities, greater controls over the FDIC, the transfer of Consumer Financial Protection Bureau authority to the Federal Trade Commission, a reduction of SEC authority, and the elimination of the National Labor Relations Board.

Pruitt Criticizes “False Narrative” On “Leaked” NYTimes Climate Report.

The [Daily Caller](#) (8/16, White) reports EPA chief Scott Pruitt has criticized a recent National Climate Assessment (NCA) report “leaked to The New York Times” for, in the Caller’s words, allegedly “stoking...fears that President Donald Trump might dismiss findings that supposedly show man-made global warming is already affecting the environment.” Pruitt said, “The report doesn’t impact the process. It doesn’t impact the responsibilities that we are taking already with respect to CO2. And so I think some of those are simply legend and false narrative that people try to put on the marketplace.” The Times reportedly quoted “scientists who feared ‘the Trump administration could change or suppress the report’” and “suggested skeptics were ‘equally worried that the draft report, as well as the larger NCA, will be publicly released,’” despite reports that “several of the scientists who worked on the report wrote on Twitter that the NCA has been public since January.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Exporting Chaos To Venezuela.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (8/17) writes, “Having scared a lot of people last week with his bombast over North Korea, causing jitters about nuclear war, he threatened on Friday to use force to quell chaos in Venezuela. That threat poured fuel on the worsening conflict between President Nicolás Maduro and his opponents. It also unsettled people across Latin America.” The Times warns that the “precipitous decline of Venezuela is not just a tragedy for its people, but a threat to regional stability,” and Trump should “continue to toughen sanctions, but any lasting solution will be achieved only in concert with regional leaders.”

“After Racist Rage, Statues Fall Quietly.” A [New York Times](#) (8/16) editorial praises the push to remove Confederate monuments, saying the “racist rage in Virginia and President Trump’s shamefully sympathetic response have prompted local and state politicians to encourage community peace by weighing the future of Confederate monuments civilly and unapologetically, even if the president has not.”

Washington Post.

“Should The President’s Advisers Stay Or Resign?” The [Washington Post](#) (8/16) speaks in an editorial of President Trump’s “stunning defense of white supremacist marchers.”

“The US Cannot Abandon Afghanistan Now.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/16) writes that President Trump’s concerns about continuing the United States’ lengthy involvement in Afghanistan are “entirely understandable,” but adds that the President should “listen to the generals” that advise deploying an additional 3,000 to 5,000 troops to the country to help block the Taliban’s momentum. The Post argues that US withdrawal “would accelerate” the Taliban’s gains and potentially again provide a “sanctuary” for extremists. The Post concludes that the President should choose a strategy “with a clear, limited goal: shore up the Afghan government, help it gain greater legitimacy and strengthen its security forces.”

“Remember Heather Heyer.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/16) praises Heather Heyer, who was killed when a driver plowed his car into a group of demonstrators in Charlottesville, saying her “principles and resolve were incontrovertible proof of her integrity – far more proof than a morally compromised president could possibly confer by his words.” Heyer, the Post adds, “is in that tradition of ordinary Americans of all races and creeds who perceived injustice clearly and, in standing up to it, lost their lives.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Coal Makes A Comeback.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16) writes that despite the Obama Administration’s many efforts to reduce coal consumption and production through regulation, the Trump Administration has spurred coal production and exports through regulatory

reform, such as repealing the steam rule, dismantling the power, ash, and methane rules, reopening coal leases, and rescinding the royalty revaluation. The Journal notes that the largest increase in coal exports is to countries with supposedly better climate records, and concludes that the last three quarters of data – while not necessarily indicative of a long-term trend – offer optimistic news to coal states.

“Blame-Sharing On ObamaCare.” Citing this week’s report from the CBO, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16) argues in an editorial that congressional Republicans should not move quickly to make a deal with Democrats that would preserve the ACA’s subsidies for insurers. The Journal says the insurance market will not collapse if the subsidies end and the CBO provided no evidence that allowing the subsidies to continue will stop the law’s move toward higher costs and fewer choices.

“Britain’s Brexit Flights Of Fancy.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16) editorial welcomes Britain’s release of some specifics about its plans for the nation’s relationship with the EU after its departure. But the Journal says that as the two sides reveal their negotiating positions, it is becoming clear that an easy trade solution is unlikely.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Fed Officials Split Over Timing Of Next Rate Increase](#)
[Trump’s Business Councils Disband After CEOs Defect](#)
[The New Right-Wing Extremism: Unified, Tech-Savvy And Emboldened](#)
[Apple Readies \\$1 Billion War Chest For Hollywood Programming](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Comments On Race Open Breach With CEOs, Military And GOP](#)
[After Trump Hedges His Condemnation Of Hate, CEOs Organize A Mass Defection](#)
[Trump’s Embrace Of Racially Charged Past Puts Republicans In Crisis](#)
[Charlottesville Violence Spurs New Resistance To Confederate Symbols](#)
[In Ukraine, A Malware Expert Who Could Blow The Whistle On Russian Hacking](#)
[In China, An Action Hero Beats Box Office Records \(And Arrogant Westerners\)](#)
[De Blasio Would Sooner Tax The Rich Than Befriend Them](#)

Washington Post:

[President’s Past Threaded With Racial Ambiguity](#)
[Silicon Valley Aims To Limit Online Reach Of Hate Groups](#)
[Two Of Trump’s Industry Groups Are Disbanded](#)
[Cities Dread Becoming The Next Charlottesville](#)
[Pressure Grows To Recover China’s Stolen Children](#)
[DC’s Arts School Reopens, \\$100 Million Over Budget](#)

Financial Times:

[Trump’s Business Councils Disbanded After Run Of Resignations](#)
[Fed’s Fischer Attacks Moves To Unwind Regulations](#)
[Hedge Funds Start To Face Up To Extreme Gender Imbalance](#)
[NAFTA Exit Will Be “Destructive” For US, Warns Cargill Boss](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Disbands Two Economic Advisory Councils After Mass Resignations Of Business Leaders](#)
[Heroin, Fentanyl Contribute To Sharp Rise In Teen Overdose Deaths](#)
[Sessions Praises Miami-Dade Progress, Challenges Crime-Ridden Chicago To End “Sanctuary” Policy](#)
[Mourners Remember Heather Heyer As Martyr In Fight Against Bigotry](#)
[Gentrification Pushes Out “Affordable Housing” And Longtime Residents In Nation’s Capital](#)
[Congo Tensions Rise As Kabila Government Postpones Presidential Vote](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: WH-White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism Clash-Car Mowing Victim; White Nationalism Clash-Car Mowing Suspect; Hurricane Gert Tracking; JetBlue-Flight Sickness; Hawaii-

Army Chopper Crash; London-Jewelry Shop Heist; Special Counsel-Investigator Leaves; Robocall-Class Action Lawsuit; Missouri-Tanker Crash; Cancer-Blood Test; Next 007 Movie Series; White Water Rescue.

CBS: WH-White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism Clash-Car Mowing Victim; White Nationalism-Confederate Monuments; White Nationalism Clash-Expert Comment; White Nationalism Clash-Republican Voters; White Nationalism Clash-Steve Scalise Comment; Alzheimer-Music Therapy; Elvis Presley-40th Anniversary; Hawaii-Army Chopper Crash; Sierra Leone-Mudslide; WWII Veteran-White Nationalism Clash.

NBC: WH-White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism Clash-Car Mowing Victim; White Nationalism Clash-Responses; White Nationalism Clash-Charlottesville Locals; White Nationalism-California; White Nationalism Clash-Expert Comment; Hawaii-Army Chopper Crash; JetBlue-Flight Sickness; Tom Cruise-Filming Injury; Kansas-Truck Traffic Accident; Freshman Move-in Day Tweet; Elvis Presley-40th Anniversary.

Network TV At A Glance:

White Nationalism Clash – 24 minutes, 45 seconds

WH-White Nationalism Clash – 11 minutes, 20 seconds

JetBlue-Flight Sickness – 3 minutes, 10 seconds

Hawaii-Army Chopper Crash – 55 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: White Nationalism Clash-Car Mowing Victim; WH-White Nationalism Clash; Sessions-Sanctuary Cities; Opioid Epidemic.

CBS: White Nationalism Clash-Car Mowing Victim; WH-White Nationalism Clash; Military-White Nationalism Clash; Hawaii-Army Chopper Crash; North Korea Threats; Elvis Presley-40th Anniversary; Wall Street News.

FOX: White Nationalism Clash-Victims; WH-White Nationalism Clash; Bannon-Far Right Comment.

NPR: White Nationalism Clash-Victims; WH-White Nationalism Clash; Hospice Comparison Service.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Will have lunch with the Governor of Florida; will meet with the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Concludes trip to Central and South America, on behalf of President Donald Trump. *Vice President Pence is returning to the US slightly earlier than previously scheduled to attend a national security meeting with President Donald Trump.

US Senate: On recess until 5 September.

US House: On recess until 5 September.

Other: No notable event scheduled.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Here we are enjoying a little bit of calm after a storm named Hurricane Donald ravaged much of the country yesterday. The effects are still being felt and talked about."

Stephen Colbert: "Yesterday afternoon, when he was supposed to be talking about highway infrastructure, Donald Trump drove America's moral leadership right through the guardrails by saying some of the people bearing torches with the Nazis were just good Joes."

James Corden: "Let's start off with some good news: Donald Trump did not have a press conference today."

James Corden: "Today, Donald Trump completely disbanded his manufacturing council after

eight members quit in 48 hours. The way these CEOs are leaving Trump, you'd think they were married to him."

James Corden: "Forget creating new manufacturing jobs in this country. Trump can't even manufacture manufacturing councils."

James Corden: "The CEO of the company 3M also resigned, and when Donald Trump asked why, they said that 3M doesn't want to be associated with three ks."

James Corden: "Here's a photo of workers taking down the Robert E. Lee statue last night, and the horse is like, 'What did I do? Take him. Leave me. I love it here.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Yesterday, President Trump made a big press conference on the subject of infrastructure. And all he had to do was just stop right there."

Jimmy Fallon: "[President Trump] can't even get vacation right. Imagine coming back to the office: 'Hey, how was your two-week break?' 'It was good, I defended Nazis. What'd you do?'"

Seth Meyers: "The studio behind The Hunger Games movies announced that it will be opening a theme park in South Korea dedicated to the films. They're calling it North Korea."

Conan O'Brien: "As you probably all heard, North Korea has backed off its threat to launch a nuclear missile at Guam. That's good news. Be happy about that! So now, now the title of crazy tyrant most likely to destroy America returns to defending champion, Donald Trump!"

Conan O'Brien: "Today, President Trump dissolved his advisory council because a bunch of CEO's dropped out. Trump said they didn't take their jobs seriously. Trump then went back to golfing and re-tweeting memes while sitting on the toilet."

Conan O'Brien: "Last night, the city of Baltimore removed four statues of Confederate heroes. Or, as Fox News reported it, Baltimore liberals force pigeons from their homes."

Conan O'Brien: "Check this out. Today, all McDonald's in Canada are offering 67-cent burgers. Isn't that cool? As if Americans need yet another reason to move to Canada."

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