

To: Jeff Krauss[jkrauss@blm.gov]
From: Michael Nedd
Sent: 2017-07-05T08:39:07-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, July 5, 2017
Received: 2017-07-05T08:39:19-04:00

Thx Jeff

Take care and have a wonderful day! :)

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A thought to consider "Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, for all the people you can, while you can!"

From: Krauss, Jeff [mailto:jkrauss@blm.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 5, 2017 7:02 AM
To: Michael Nedd <mike_nedd@blm.gov>
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, July 5, 2017

Mike,

The person who is responsible for the Bulletin news clips was out on Monday but should have you added today.

Jeff

From: **Bulletin Intelligence** <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Date: Wed, Jul 5, 2017 at 6:58 AM
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, July 5, 2017
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

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- DVIDS Hub: Seabees Build Relationships In Micronesia With A School Renovation.
 - Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): Seven Coral Reef Management Fellowships Available To Virgin Islanders.
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DOI In The News

Presidents Have Changed National Monuments 18 Times Before Bears Ears Controversy.

A [Washington Times](#) (7/4, Wolfgang) analysis says that while environmentalists and congressional Democrats are casting the Interior Department proposal to resize the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah as "a first-of-its-kind expansion of executive power," an "effort to break up and shrink a national monument has been done at least 18 times before, with presidents of both parties exercising power to significantly reduce the size of US landmarks established by their predecessors."

EDITORIAL: Donald Trump And The Antiquities Act. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (7/5) editorializes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will be "in Nevada later this month to tour two new national monuments, Gold Butte and Basin and Range." The paper says that's "a welcome departure from the previous

administration, which simply waved a magic wand from 2,400 miles away to restrict land use across wide swaths of the state." Arguing in "for repealing the Antiquities Act," the paper asserts that "major decisions about federal land designations should be in the hands of legislative branch, not the purview of an imperial president or the bureaucracy."

Maine's New Monument Offers Chance For Rustic Adventures. The AP (7/3, Whittle) reports that "Maine's new Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument is now welcoming guests for its first full summer as a monument." The article provides "a guide to what awaits at Katahdin Woods and Waters, and what the future might have in store."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by ABC News (7/3, Whittle), the Annapolis (MD) Capital Gazette (7/3, Whittle), Boston (MA) (7/3, Whittle), the Bristol (VA) Herald Courier (7/3, Whittle), the Red Bluff (CA) Daily News (7/3, Whittle), the Daily Mail (7/3), Philly (PA) (7/3, Whittle), the Washington (DC) Times (7/3, Whittle), and the Washington (DC) Post (7/3, Whittle).

Instead Of A Monument, How About A North Woods National Park. In an op-ed for the Bangor (ME) Daily News (7/4, Watkins), Tate Watkins, a research fellow at the Property and Environment Research Center, suggests that "a more creative framework could be used to protect Katahdin Woods and Waters without a full-fledged federal takeover and in a way that avoids more acrimony."

Watkins argues that if Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "thinks the area warrants national park status," then Zinke "should insist that it be done with a stipulation: St. Clair and his family's nonprofit agree to run it as a park franchise — and with no appropriations from taxpayer coffers." Watkins notes that "during his confirmation hearing, Zinke said he recognizes 'that there is distrust, anger, and even hatred against some federal management policies.'" Watkins concludes that if Zinke "wants an innovative, 'made-in-Maine' solution that could foster collaboration instead of ill will, a national park franchise for Katahdin Woods and Waters just might fit the bill."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the review of national monuments was provided by the Helena (MT) Independent Record (7/4, Busse), the Missoulian (MT) (7/4, Busse), the Billings (MT) Gazette (7/3, Byrne, Downey), the Montana Standard (7/3, Byrne, Downey), Courthouse News (7/3, Reese), the Tucson (AZ) Sentinel (7/4, Smith), the San Juan (UT) Record (7/4, Laws), the Cape Cod (MA) News (7/3), the Visalia (CA) Times-Delta (7/4, Merriman), KCBX-FM San Luis Obispo (CA) San Luis Obispo, CA (7/3, Zender), and KFOX-TV El Paso (TX) El Paso, TX (7/4, Purvis).

Interior Opens Public Review Of Offshore Drilling Plan.

The Hill (7/3, Henry) reports that the Interior Department on Monday "began accepting public comments on a new five-year offshore drilling plan, an early step toward rewriting the blueprint for drilling in federal waters." According to the article, "the 45-day comment period is the first step in the lengthy, years-long process of rewriting the program."

Additional coverage was provided by NPR (7/3, Phillips).

Trump's Risky Offshore Oil Strategy. In an op-ed for the New York Times (7/5, Graham, Reilly), Bob Graham and William K. Reilly, co-chairmen of the

National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling, write that they "investigated the causes of the disaster and examined the offshore drilling industry to identify ways to reduce the risks it poses to workers, the public and the environment." The Interior Department "adopted many of them after extensive input from industry, government and the public." However, "President Trump's April 28 executive order on offshore energy threatens to abolish these safety improvements," and Trump "took a further step last week to expand oil and gas extraction in the environmentally sensitive outer continental shelf." The commission members are "unanimous in their view that the actions proposed in the president's executive order are unwise." According to the authors, Trump's executive order "fails to account for the vulnerabilities of the ocean's frontier regions, a lack of adequate federal investment in safety measures for Arctic conditions, or the danger to coastal economies." They conclude that "it will put workers' lives as well as ecologically rich and economically important waters and coastlines at needless additional risk."

BLM Reopens Public Input On Rule-making.

The Missoulian (MT) (7/3, Chaney) reports that "after interrupting its 'Planning 2.0' process just as it was getting started, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management has announced a new round of public ideas to shape its decision-making system." Acting BLM Director Michael Nedd wrote in a press release on Monday, "Our goal is to identify inefficiencies and redundancies that should be eliminated from our land use planning and NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) processes, while ensuring that we fulfill our legal and resource stewardship responsibilities." He continued, "By doing this, we will be able to dedicate more time and resources to completing the important on-the-ground work on our public lands." Nedd specifically asked for ideas on "how we can make the BLM's planning procedures and environmental reviews timelier and less costly, as well as responsive to local needs." The 21-day comment period ends July 24.

The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (7/4) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "The decisions made in land use plans and environmental reviews are fundamental to how public lands and resources are used for the benefit of all Americans. The Trump Administration and the Department of the Interior are committed to working with state and local governments, communities, Indian tribes, and other stakeholders as true partners to determine the best ways to accomplish this, now and into the future."

Additional coverage was provided by the Deseret (UT) News (7/3, O'Donoghue).

The Voice Of Rural America.

The Flathead (MT) Beacon (7/4, Scott) reports that "speaking before a cadre of Western governors in his hometown of Whitefish, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke described his approach to overseeing the nation's sprawling tracts of public land in terms of centuries, a visionary planning strategy he likened to Teddy Roosevelt's 'passion for protection into perpetuity.'" Zinke's "plan to build revenue and make up for a staggering shortfall stemming from the National Park Service's maintenance backlog includes privatizing campgrounds and removing roadblocks that hinder development, while restoring trust between government

agencies and the nation's Western citizens stands as a top priority." Zinke said, "It's time to look at what the Department of the Interior should be 100 years from now."

Struggling U.S. National Parks Flooded With Visitors. Environment News Service (7/3) reports that national parks are "experiencing some of the heaviest traffic of the year this Independence Day weekend, as millions of visitors stream into the country's 59 parks to explore the 52.2 million acres they cover." However, President Trump's budget request to Congress "would cut \$378 million from the National Park Service and eliminate some 1,200 park employees, without addressing the \$12.5 billion maintenance backlog." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "defends these cuts and plans to privatize the National Park campgrounds." But "conservation groups worry that his plan is to sell off public lands to the highest bidder, despite his declaration to Congress at his confirmation hearing that he is 'absolutely against transfer or sale of public land.'"

Additional coverage was provided by the Sharon (PA) Herald (7/4, Murakami), the Daily Caller (7/3, Pearce), and the Woodward (OK) News (7/3, Murakami).

Zinke And Indian Country: The First 4 Months.

Law360 (7/3, Westney) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has "recently built on his largely positive record with Native American tribes by touting tribal energy projects, but he has also defended the Trump administration's proposed budget cuts and called for the reduction of a national monument on sacred tribal land." Law360 takes a look "at Zinke's first four months at the Department of the Interior and the impact he's having on tribes."

The Hill's 12:30 Report.

The Hill (7/3, Martel) noted that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke tweeted a photo of himself in his running attire.

Additional Coverage: Man Who Jumped To Rescue In Pearl Harbor Helicopter Crash To Be.

Additional coverage that National Park Ranger Bryan Eisenberg, "who helped rescue a family from a helicopter crash last year at Pearl Harbor," will be awarded a Gold Medal of Valor in Washington, D.C. was provided by KGMB-TV Honolulu (7/4, Mumphrey).

Wild Spaces Define Who We Are As Americans.

In a piece for the High Country (CO) News (7/3, Vessels), Rob Vessels, program manager for the Sierra Club's Military Outdoors Program and an Army veteran, writes that "peace is at risk as President Donald Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke advance an agenda that puts drilling and development before places, people and wildlife." According to Vessels, "wilderness offers some of the most transformative and healing opportunities anyone can experience." Vessels sees the Arctic Refuge and other public lands as "a physical representation of the democracy I fought to protect." Vessels writes that "these unique spaces are the land we defend, and their protection ensures that all people can explore and enjoy the beauty of our shared lands." He calls on Secretary Zinke "to stand up

for our public lands, not just in word but in deed. We need to ensure that they remain places for healing and for hope.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Red Lake, Other Tribes Alarmed By Trump’s Proposed Cuts To BIA Programs.

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (7/3, Rao) reports that leaders of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians credit efforts part of the Tiwahe Initiative “for a 16-month stretch with no suicides among its youth, bucking a persistent crisis that has plagued Indian reservations across the country.” The initiative has “provided Red Lake and three other tribes, including Spirit Lake Nation in North Dakota, with more financial support to combat domestic violence, promote child welfare, reduce recidivism and create alternatives to incarceration.” However, the federal pilot program “faces elimination under President Donald Trump’s proposed cuts to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).”

9th Circ. Urged To Halt Off-Reservation Casino Plans.

Law360 (7/3, Sieniuc) reports that “a group of citizens has asked the Ninth Circuit to reverse a lower court victory for the federal government that greenlighted a tribe’s proposed casino hotel in Yuba County, California, saying the U.S. Department of the Interior has no concrete plans to mitigate the environmental impacts of the project.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Drone Pilot Could Face Charges For Flying Near Wildfire.

The AP (7/4) reports that “a drone flying illegally created a problem for crews fighting a wildfire south of Twin Falls, Idaho.” Bureau of Land Management Twin Falls District spokeswoman Kelsey Brizendine “says they had a drone intrusion on the fire, and it was a huge concern.” Brizendine “says that person could receive a citation for interfering with firefighting efforts.”

BLM Seeks Comments On Geothermal Land.

The Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (7/3) reports that the Bureau of Land Management’s Elko District is “seeking public review of an Environmental Assessment for parcels of public land nominated this year for a competitive geothermal lease sale.” According to the bureau, “these parcels have the potential for future geothermal exploration and development.” The Northern Nevada Business Weekly (7/3) reports that “the 15-day public review period concludes July 15.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

U.S. Senate Bill Includes Klamath Measures.

The Klamath Falls (OR) Herald And News (7/4, Dillemath) reports that “a U.S. Senate bill introduced Sunday in Washington, D.C. includes an amendment with a number of measures pushed by Klamath Water Users Association (KWUA) that are designed to assist Klamath Project irrigators.” The article notes that “key elements of an amendment to the bill include direction provided to the U.S. Department of the Interior to develop a plan and then make actions to reduce power costs for irrigators in the Klamath Project.” The amendment also “includes

eliminating contracts or permits for conveyance of non-Klamath Project groundwater, a designation of C-Flume Emergency and Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance (EEOM) that could save millions of dollars for project irrigators, and clear and permanent authorization for locally supported water bank activities.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Restoring The Great Dismal Swamp Comes After Centuries Of Draining It.

NPR (7/3, Mccammon) reports that the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge has been “dramatically altered over the past few centuries by human development, creating an environment more vulnerable to both floods and wildfires.” Now, “a federal project is trying to restore some of the swamp’s natural habitat and other characteristics through a \$3 million effort that aims to reverse some of that damage.” Refuge Manager Chris Lowie said, “The ultimate goal for us is to slow the drainage of the swamp. These ditches — 150 miles of ditches — have been dug throughout the swamp for the specific purpose of draining it.”

Barrasso Backs Bipartisan Bill To Solidify Gray Wolf Delisting, Promote Hunting And Fishing.

The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (7/4, Rosenfeld) reports that a bipartisan bill sponsored by Sen. John Barrasso “would solidify the delisting of gray wolves in the state and expand protections for sportsmen while also reauthorizing several environmental protection acts.” Barrasso said in a statement last week, “The HELP Wildlife Act promotes conservation based on sound science and provides needed protections for America’s sportsmen.” However, the Center for Biological Diversity “harshly criticized the legislation, suggesting that the Democratic senators had effectively traded symbolic support for the wildlife acts for damaging changes to environmental protections.”

Feds Post Plan For Endangered Cactus, But Recovery Still A Long Way Off.

The Kingman (AZ) Daily Miner (7/4, Fish) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “this week released a draft recovery plan for the Pima pineapple cactus that has been on the endangered species list since 1993.” However, “even as they welcomed the announcement, conservation advocates said there is ‘a lot of work still to be done’ to save the plant.” The draft recovery plan released Monday is “broken into three parts: a threat-based objective to reduce or mitigate habitat loss and degradation; a habitat-based objective to conserve, restore, and properly manage the quantity and quality of habitat; and a population-based objective to conserve, protect and restore existing and newly discovered Pima pineapple cacti.”

Oregon Silverspot Butterflies Get New Places To Grow.

The AP (7/3, Frankowicz) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “recently announced it will release hundreds” of Oregon silverspot butterfly caterpillars “at two new sites this summer and next: the Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge in southern Tillamook County and the Saddle Mountain area in central Clatsop County.” According to the article, “the small reddish-orange butterflies with their distinctive silver spots were once found on coastal grasslands from Northern

California to southern Washington, but development, changes to the forest and invasive weeds and grasses reduced the silverspots' preferred habitat." The FWS says that "the decline is linked primarily to a lack of early blue violets, normally the only plant on which the Oregon silverspot can successfully feed and develop as larva."

Free Nisqually Lecture Series Kicks Off Amid Fears Of Refuge Budget Cuts.

The Tacoma (WA) News Tribune (7/3, Sayler) reports that summer visitors to the Nisqually National Wildlife refuge for the last 30 years have been able to attend the annual Summer Lecture Series, "free weekly lectures by prominent guest speakers on a wide range of environmental topics." However, "this summer, the excitement about the well-loved lecture series is undercut by a sense of worry across the Department of the Interior, which faces an approximately 13 percent cut under President Donald Trump's proposed 2018 budget." The article says that "if the proposed budget is realized, the refuge would assess its priorities to determine which of its programs needed to be cut back."

Aerial Surveys Reveal 'Stable' Population Trend For Lesser Prairie Chicken.

The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (7/4, Carpenter) reports that "the latest aerial surveys point to stability in the breeding population of lesser prairie chickens at a time when numbers of the expressive birds concentrated in parts of five U.S. states expanded most notably in northwest Kansas' short-grass prairie region." The sixth year of annual assessments by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies "estimated the breeding population in Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Texas and New Mexico climbed to 33,200 birds this year." Roger Wolfe, the association's lesser prairie chicken program manager, said, "The survey results indicate a 32 percent increase in the number of birds over last year, but we don't read too much into short-term population fluctuations. The bottom line is that the population trend over the last six years indicates a stable population."

South Florida Men In Key West Jail After Taking Endangered Key Deer, Authorities Say.

The South Florida Sun Sentinel (7/3, Trischitta) reports that "two South Florida men are jailed in Key West and the three endangered Key deer they are accused of taking and injuring were released back to the wild, authorities said."

According to state investigators, "Tumani Anthony Younge, 23, with ties to Tamarac and Port St. Lucie, and Erik Yosmany Damas Acosta, 18, of Miami Gardens, were on their way to camp in the Florida Keys on Sunday and wanted to take pictures with the creatures, which were found tied, bleeding and distressed in the trunk and back seat of a Hyundai Sonata." The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (7/3) reports that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officers "came for backup and safely untied the animals."

Additional coverage was provided by WGHP-TV Greensboro, NC (7/3).

Additional Coverage: Environmentalists Say Grizzly Population Isn't Recovered, Sue For Re-Listing.

Additional coverage that several environmental groups have filed a lawsuit against the Fish and Wildlife Service over "the agency's decision to remove the grizzly bear from the Endangered Species List" was provide by the Daily Caller (7/3, Pearce), the Cody (WY) Enterprise (7/3, Freedman), and Wyoming Public Radio (7/3).

King Cove Road About Fish, Not Patients.

The Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (7/4, Raskin), David Raskin, the president of Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges, argues that the claim is that the proposed King Cove-Izembek road is "the only way to reach Cold Bay's all-weather airport for emergency medical evacuations, but a long paper trail reveals that the proposed Izembek road has always been to haul fish and cannery workers:" Raskin further argues that "this environmentally destructive road would waste our tax dollars and transfer \$10 million of state highway funds from a long-needed, approved project in your own city of Fairbanks." Raskin concludes that "the state of Alaska, politicians and others should abandon their misleading campaign for an ill-conceived, unnecessary and destructive road and, in doing so, ensure that our precious resources are utilized for wise investments that meet legitimate state needs, including the long-awaited Fairbanks road project."

Additional coverage of the road was provided by Alaska Public Radio Network (7/3, Ruskin).

Must Stop Brown's Twin-tunnels Water Boondoggle.

The East Bay (CA) Times (7/4) editorializes that that "two federal agencies' decision last week to green-light construction of Gov. Jerry Brown's Delta twin-tunnels plan is an unwelcome setback for opponents of the project." However, the paper says that "it's not the huge milestone that proponents claim" because the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service opinion "merely said that building the tunnels 'doesn't deepen any harm' to several endangered species." According to the paper, "in effect, they're saying that the impact of taking too much water out of the Delta in recent years has been so detrimental that building the tunnels won't make much difference." The paper asserts that "the tunnels must not be built at the expense of the health of the Delta."

National Park Service

Security Measures For The Capitol Fourth.

WTTG-TV Washington (7/4, Hemphil) reports that "to ensure the safety of revelers taking part in Capitol Fourth festivities, officials are taking additional security measures." National Park Service spokesperson Mike Litterest said, "We are continuing to monitor the situation and tweak our plans. There are no credible threats against this event, but the United States Park Police and their law enforcement partners continue to monitor throughout the day and beyond."

Additional coverage was provided by the Washington (DC) Post (7/4, Chason, Silverman, Hui).

US-Cuba Sea Mission Finds Healthy Reefs, Invasive Lionfish.

The AP (7/4, Rodriguez) reports that "a joint U.S.-Cuban expedition to explore

the island's coral reefs uncovered a surprisingly healthy ecosystem and large schools of mackerel with significant commercial value, scientists involved in the mission said Tuesday." Scientists said "the mission was made possible by the restoration of diplomatic relations between Havana and Washington two years ago under then-President Barack Obama and his Cuban counterpart, Raul Castro." The article notes that "it was a result of an agreement signed in 2015 between the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. National Park Service and Cuba's Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment."

Acadia Carriage Paths Are Getting Upgraded.

The AP (7/4) reports that the National Park Service "says it's completed the resurfacing of 13 miles of carriage roads in time for the Fourth of July holiday." According to officials, "the completed sections include carriage roads in the vicinity of Jordan Pond, Wildwood Stables and Bubble Pond." The NPS has "allotted \$400,000 for the work this summer."

June Climbing Up Despite Voluntary Ban At Devils Tower.

The AP (7/3) reports that "the number of people who climb an unusual rock formation in northeast Wyoming during June is on the rise despite the concerns of American Indian tribes who hold the place sacred." The number of people reached 373 in June 2016. According to monument superintendent Tim Reid said, "a steady increase in June climbing over the past five years isn't tied to the growing number of people visiting Devils Tower." Reid said, "It's safe to say that largely, the bulk of June climbing is done by relatively local or regional climbers who for whatever reasons find it personally acceptable to climb in June."

Bear Encounters Double At Yosemite Over 2016.

The Sacramento (CA) Bee (7/3, Sweeney) reports that "encounters with bears rose 100 percent at Yosemite National Park in early June compared to the same period in 2016, and a trail has been closed to overnight camping as a result." Yosemite National Park rangers have "recorded 16 incidents involving bears so far in 2017, compared to 38 in all of 2016." But park rangers "note in the official Yosemite Bear Facts blog that 2016 was a record low year for bear encounters." Also, "incidents involving bears in the park are down 96 percent from a record high in 1998."

Restored Flag Returns To Gettysburg 154 Years After Battle.

The AP (7/3, Bock) reports that "the battle flag carried by Company M of the 62nd Infantry Regiment of the Pennsylvania Volunteers during the Civil War" was "returned Sunday to the Gettysburg battlefield where it was carried into the chaos of the Wheatfield 154 years ago." At a dedication ceremony, Sam Dunkle, Commander of American Legion Post 516, told the crowd, "We have completed the mission, the flag is yours." The article says that "it was the second ceremony of the day, with the first taking place Sunday morning on the Gettysburg battlefield, at the Wheatfield, where the flag was carried by the men from Company M before its return to Hollidaysburg for the 4 p.m. rededication ceremony."

Paddle Share Expands To St. Paul: Kayaking The Mississippi Is Getting

Really Easy.

The St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (7/4, Orrick) reports that Paddle Share, "a National Park Service-led kayak-rental operation that opened last summer in Minneapolis, will expand into St. Paul in late July or early August." Susan Overson, project manager for Paddle Share for the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, said, "We're trying to connect people to the river, even without a car."

Caverns' Bat Flight Program Attracts 1,000 Visitors.

The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (7/5, Booth) reports that "the bat flight program at Carlsbad Caverns National Park attracts about 1,000 people during its peak summer season." Park spokeswoman Valerie Gohlke said, "People want to see the bats, and lots of visitors come here because of the bats."

Additional Coverage: Lawsuit Dropped After Grand Canyon Allows Creationist To Collect Rocks.

Additional coverage that a geologist has dropped his lawsuit that the Grand Canyon denied him a permit to collect rocks because of his religious beliefs was provided by WMAR-TV Baltimore (7/3, Weston, Stephenson), The Atlantic (7/4, Zhang), Forbes (7/3, Nace), and Laboratory Equipment (7/3, Augenstein).

Independence Hall Is Not Falling Down, But It Needs Our Support.

In an op-ed for Philly (PA) (7/4, Steinke, Smith), Paul Steinke, executive director of the Preservation Alliance, and John F. Smith III, board chair of the Global Philadelphia Association, writes that Independence National Historical Park has "accumulated a \$49 million backlog of deferred maintenance items spanning the park's 55 acres on some 20 city blocks." The "good news" is that , the National Park Service Legacy Act of 2017 was "introduced in the House and Senate." According to the authors, "these companion bills would create a dedicated fund that would direct needed resources toward the maintenance backlog at our national parks over the next 30 years, including INHP."

Office Of Insular Affairs

US Officials Lift Suspension On Compact Public Infrastructure Grant Funding.

The Hawaii Free Press (7/4) reports that "delegations representing the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the United States of America (U.S.) reached an agreement that enables \$150 million of public infrastructure assistance to be used for projects across the four FSM states of Chuuk, Pohnpei, Yap, and Kosrae, as provided for under U.S. Public Law 108-188 or the Compact of Free Association, as amended." Interior Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula said, "It is fair to say that both the FSM and the U.S. delegates are eager to see the FSM move forward and utilize this funding. As Compact grant funding was intended to provide a very real and tangible benefit for the people of the Federated States of Micronesia, we don't want to see any further delay."

Additional coverage was provided by Marianas Variety (7/3).

Tuvaluans And I-Kiribati Promised A Home In Fiji.

Radio New Zealand (7/2) reports that "Fiji's prime minister Frank Bainimarama

says people who leave Tuvalu and Kiribati because of climate change will be allowed to settle permanently in Fiji." In a speech at climate action talks in Suva, Bainimarama "said he expected the United States to do the same for Marshall Islanders because of their historical ties." Bainimarama "said the i-Kiribati and Tuvaluans 'will not be refugees' and he promised that Fijians would take them into their homes and hearts." He added, "And we ask other countries to offer the same hospitality to anyone who is displaced by climate change. Because ultimately, we are one world, one people."

Marshall Islands, FSM, Seek Answers After Citizens Shot By US Police.

Radio New Zealand (7/1, Johnson) reports that "ambassadors from the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands are seeking information about their citizens who were shot by police officers in the United States in recent weeks." The FSM's ambassador in Washington, Akillino Susaia, has "asked the US State Department for help in accessing information on the shooting deaths of two Micronesians in Tulsa, Oklahoma in early June, while Marshall Islands Ambassador Gerald Zackios is seeking information from the family of Marshall Islander Isaiah Obet, who was shot and killed by police in Auburn, Washington on 17 June." According to the article, "to follow up the 2 June shooting deaths of Micronesians Naway Willy, 18, and Rabson Robert, 36, Mr Susaia sent a diplomatic note to the State Department last week requesting the federal government's aid to obtain information from local law enforcement about the incidents."

Maternity Tourism Rates Consistent For Korean Visitors.

The Guam Daily Post (7/1, Cruz) reports that Guam's public hospital "delivers a steady number of non-resident newborns, recently collected data reveals." According to the article, "a majority of the babies are born to South Korean visitors." The article notes that "last fiscal year, Guam Memorial Hospital delivered 116 babies to non-U.S. mothers, 77 of whom were from South Korea," and "so far in fiscal 2017, the number of infants born to non-U.S. mothers is 77, of whom 54 were born to travelers from Korea." James Gillan, director of the Department of Public Health and Social Services, said, "I think typically what you'll find is that mothers coming from Korea give birth here and obtain a Social Security number and a passport for their child — and then return to Korea. They're thinking that 20 or 30 years later, their child can return to the U.S. and go to school, or what have you."

Seabees Build Relationships In Micronesia With A School Renovation.

DVIDS Hub (6/29, Trafton) reports that "in February, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 began renovation of the facility that was condemned in 2016 because of a collapsing roof." The article says that "upon completion, the renovation will allow 210 students to return to a more conducive learning environment while reducing overcrowding in another school on the island."

Seven Coral Reef Management Fellowships Available To Virgin Islanders.

The Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR) (7/1) reports that "Virgin Islanders are eligible to apply for fellowships with Nova Southeastern University's National Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program. The program aims to build excellent

next generation leaders with the capacity to effectively manage local coral reef ecosystems." The program is "a partnership between Nova Southeastern University (NSU), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation Program, the Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs and the U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee."

OPA's Hernandez Completes Executive Program.

The Pacific (GUM) Daily News (7/4) reports that Executive Leadership Development Program "graduation ceremonies were held on June 9, 2017 at the

East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii." The article notes that "since the

program's inception in 2008, 103 participants from across the Pacific have completed the ELDP." The ELDP is funded by the Office of Insular Affairs and administered by the Graduate School USA's Pacific Islands Training Initiative.

Top National News

White House: Trump To Hold Bilateral Meeting With Putin Friday.

Media reports, including stories on all three network newscasts, cast the President's meeting Friday with Russia's Vladimir Putin as one fraught with political pressure due to the ongoing election-meddling investigation. Reuters (7/4, Rampton) reports that "as Trump heads to his first face-to-face meeting as president with Putin...he is under pressure at home to take a tough line with the Kremlin" amid allegations stemming from last year's US elections. Likewise, the Washington Post (7/4, Phillip, Morello) reports that the President will find himself

"severely constrained and facing few good options that would leave him politically unscathed." If Trump attempts to loosen sanctions against Russia, Congress "could defy him by pursuing even stronger penalties. And if he offers platitudes for Putin without addressing Russia's election meddling, it will renew questions about whether Trump accepts the findings of his own intelligence officials that Russia intended to disrupt the democratic process on his behalf."

NBC Nightly News (7/4, story 2, 2:25, Alexander) reported their first meeting is "being billed as an official event, instead of an informal meeting, sending a signal the White House wants warmer relations despite revelations Russia meddled in the 2016 US election." Along similar lines, the Los Angeles Times (7/4, Bennett) notes White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters said in a statement that the encounter will be a "normal bilateral meeting," which "implies," for example, "a longer and more formal meeting than the brief conversation with German Chancellor Angela Merkel that Trump also has on his schedule." The Wall Street Journal (7/4, Nicholas, Hodge) too says the "bilateral" meeting will be more formal than impromptu encounters that sometimes take place at world summits, and RT (7/4) notes that Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov "specified" the meeting "will not merely be a brief contact on the sidelines."

ABC World News Tonight's (7/4, story 3, 2:30, Llamas) Gloria Riviera, however, said last night, "For more than a year, Trump has sung Putin's praises.

... But with just days to go, the White House is downplaying the meeting, calling it a 'normal' bilateral discussion and saying little else. In contrast, Russia is billing it as a 'full-fledged,' 'seated' meeting."

ABC News (7/4, Faulders) reported on its website that the meeting will be "the most crucial diplomatic test" of Trump's presidency, and it "couldn't come at a more politically or diplomatically sensitive moment for both leaders." The CBS Evening News (7/4, story 4, 0:20, Quijano) said the two leaders will discuss North Korea and Syria, but there "is no indication that Russian meddling in the 2016 US election will be discussed." Saying the meeting "will be brimming with global intrigue," meanwhile, the AP (7/4, Lederman, Lee) reports that Trump, "who prefers to have neatly packaged achievements to pair with high-profile meetings, may be looking for some concessions from Russia to show he's delivering progress and helping restore a productive relationship."

Newsmax (7/4, Fitzgerald) reports former Ambassador John Bolton "said he'd be happy if they just use the meeting to 'take each others' measure.'" Bolton told Fox News on Tuesday, "I think the most important from the US perspective is for Trump and Putin just to have a conversation where they exchange views across the whole ranges of differences that we have with Russia."

Washington Post (7/4) columnist David Ignatius writes that what Trump and Putin "should discuss...is whether" a "recent agreement on the separation line is a model for wider US-Russian cooperation in Syria. This broader effort would seek to defeat the Islamic State; stabilize a battered, fragmented Syria; and, eventually, discuss a political future." But Ignatius warns that Russian-American cooperation on Syria "would legitimize a Russian regime that invaded Ukraine and meddled in US and European elections, in addition to its intervention in Syria." He argues that "there's only one positive argument: Working with Russia may be the only way to reduce the level of violence in Syria and to create a foundation for a calmer, more decentralized nation that can eventually recover from its tragic war."

The Washington Times (7/4, Boyer) reports that on his trip this week, the President will also visit Poland, where he will deliver "a major foreign policy speech in Warsaw's Krasinski Square." The Times says Trump's decision to visit Poland "gives him opportunities to promote US business and to poke a symbolic finger in the eyes of Russia and Germany, traditional European powers and historic tormentors of Warsaw on its eastern and western flanks." He is also expected to "praise...Poland's status as a rising power in Europe" and "applaud Poland's strong support of NATO." Kristin Fisher reported on Fox News' Special Report (7/4) that in Poland, Trump "will find an audience that's open to his brand of politics." However, Fisher said the Polish government will want Trump "to take a very hard line" when he meets Putin on Friday.

Democratic Lawmakers Concerned About Trump-Putin Meeting. Breitbart (7/4, Key) reports Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY) said Tuesday on CNN when asked about Trump's meeting with Putin that he had "real concerns" about Trump's "lack of seriousness." Said Meeks, "I think President Trump needs to confront him about Russia's involvement in our democratic process. ... There's got to be a

confrontation. ... He cannot kowtow to him."

Rep. Adam Smith was asked on CNN's Situation Room (7/4) about reports that Trump has asked his staff to give him "options that he can have at his disposal when he goes into this meeting, and part of that is possible concessions." Smith said that would send a "very bad" message, because "Putin takes advantage of weakness, and it's very ironic that for someone with as much bluster as Donald Trump throws around every day. Certainly...I wish he treated Vladimir Putin more like he treats CNN."

Rep. Gerald Connolly said on CNN's The Lead (7/4), "This long-range bromance puzzles all of us. I think it's highly irresponsible for the President of the United States, who takes an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States, to not defend the electoral process of the United States that allows that Constitution to continue with lead hacker who did interfere with our election and attempted to influence its outcome. Of course, Trump was the beneficiary.

Maybe that's why."

Former Federal Prosecutor Joins Mueller's Team. The Washington Times (7/4, Noble) reports former federal prosecutor Andrew Weissmann, who convicted members of the Genovese crime family and later headed the Justice Department's Enron task force, has joined "the all-star team that former FBI Director Robert Mueller has put together as the special counsel." Ten of the 12 lawyers on Mueller's team have been revealed, and "analysts say the team is full of legal stars...who have the skills and experience to handle the investigation fairly — wherever it leads."

The AP (7/4, Tucker) reports that "it's not clear how much the probe by...Mueller will center on the criminal underbelly of Moscow, but he's already picked some lawyers with experience fighting organized crime." The AP says that as the team "looks for any financial entanglements of Trump associates and relationships with Russian officials, its focus could land again on the intertwining of Russia's criminal operatives and its intelligence services."

Clinton Attorney: Firing Mueller Would Be Difficult. David E. Kendall, an attorney who represents former President Bill Clinton and former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, writes in the Washington Post (7/4) that if President Trump "decides he wants to get rid" of Mueller, "Justice Department regulations will make it difficult, legally as well as politically, to abruptly short-circuit the pending investigation." Kendall argues, "It boils down to this: When you're the target or subject of an investigation, even if you're the president of the United States, you don't get to call the balls and strikes as to whether there has been criminal conduct or the investigation is necessary."

Media Analyses: North Korean ICBM Launch Poses Test To Trump.

North Korea's latest missile test is generating significant media coverage, including over 16 minutes of network airtime. In its lead story, ABC World News Tonight (7/4, lead story, 3:00, Llamas) called the test North Korea's "most dangerous yet," and NBC Nightly News (7/4, lead story, 2:30, Alexander) likewise warned of "an escalating showdown with North Korea" after it crossed "a dangerous threshold for the first time." Reuters (7/4, Kim, Kim) reports North Korea said Wednesday it had conducted a test of a newly developed

intercontinental ballistic missile "that can carry a large and heavy nuclear warhead, triggering a call by Washington for global action to hold Pyongyang accountable for its pursuit of nuclear weapons." A Pentagon spokeswoman confirmed that Tuesday's launch was in fact an ICBM. The Washington Post (7/4, Warrick) warns North Korea's "apparent accomplishment puts it well ahead of schedule in its years-long quest to develop a true ICBM."

The AP (7/4, Lucey, Lederman) reports as the US confirmed the latest launch was indeed an ICBM, Secretary of State Tillerson called it a "new escalation of the threat" to the US. In a statement, Tillerson said, "Global action is required to stop a global threat. Any country that hosts North Korean guest workers, provides any economic or military benefits, or fails to fully implement UN Security Council resolutions is aiding and abetting a dangerous regime." The AP notes Tillerson's statement "notably did not mention China." USA Today (7/4, Bacon) also reports Tillerson "vowed to bring additional international pressure on the regime," as does the Washington Examiner (7/4, Tritten).

Media reports universally say the latest launch poses a test to the Administration. The Washington Post (7/4, Gearan, Rauhala), for example, says Tuesday's launch "marks a direct challenge to President Trump" just before he "will see key Asian leaders and Russian President Vladimir Putin later this week." While North Korea was "already expected to be a main subject" during meetings on the sidelines of the G20 summit, the test "adds urgency."

In its lead story, the CBS Evening News (7/4, lead story, 2:50, Quijano) also called the launch Trump's "greatest foreign policy test to date," and the Wall Street Journal (7/4, Cheng, Gale) too says the launch escalates tensions and presents Trump with his biggest foreign-policy challenge yet. A front-page story in the Los Angeles Times (7/4, A1, Stiles, Kaiman) says the development "means an already intractable problem posed by Pyongyang's advancing nuclear and missile programs just became more difficult for the United States and its regional allies."

A USA Today (7/4, Hughes) analysis says Tuesday's launch "ratchets up the pressure on President Trump and other world leaders to resolve a growing nuclear crisis with no easy solution." Coming just days ahead of the G20, the "timing is almost certainly not coincidental," and USA Today notes that North Korea "uses such occasions to call attention to its provocative acts and its test elevates the urgency with which Trump and US allies may feel compelled to respond."

In an analysis, the New York Times (7/4, Sanger) says Kim Jong-un's "repeated tests show that a more definitive demonstration that he can reach the American mainland cannot be far away, even if it may be a few years before he can fit a nuclear warhead onto his increasingly powerful missiles." For Trump and his national security team, the Times says "Tuesday's technical milestone simply underscores tomorrow's strategic dilemma."

NBC Nightly News's (7/4, lead story, 2:30, Alexander) Hans Nichols reported "Pentagon officials say that a functioning ICBM is only one-half of the nuclear threat. The other is a miniaturized nuclear warhead that can survivor re-entry. But they have long said that by the time North Korea has achieved both,

it may be too late." On ABC World News Tonight (7/4, story 2, 1:20, Llamas), military analyst Stephen Ganyard said Kim Jong-un "is on a deliberate course to develop a nuclear weapon that can hit the continental United States, and today's launch shows that the plan remains on track."

NBC Nightly News (7/4, story 2, 2:25, Alexander) said "the White House is weighing options, including more sanctions," and the CBS Evening News (7/4, lead story, 2:50, Quijano) reported that the Pentagon "has prepared options which involve military shows of force, such as long-range nuclear bomber flights over the Korean Peninsula and test firings of US missiles based in South Korea." In what the AP (7/4, Lucey, Lederman) calls "a show of force directly responding to North Korea's provocation," US and South Korean soldiers fired "deep strike" precision missiles into South Korean territorial waters on Tuesday, US military officials in Seoul said. USA Today (7/5, Hughes) likewise reports Tuesday's launch by North Korea "drew a swift reaction from the US Army and South Korean military, which in turn launched at least two surface-to-surface missiles as a demonstration of their attack capability." The Washington Post (7/4, Lamothe) says it was "unclear how Pyongyang might react to the exercise."

ABC World News Tonight (7/4, lead story, 3:00, Llamas) reported that with "the pressure mounting...the Trump Administration is requesting an emergency meeting" at the UN Security Council on Wednesday "to address the North Korean threat." The AP (7/4) reports the US Mission said Ambassador Haley requested the meeting on Tuesday afternoon.

The CBS Evening News (7/4, story 2, 1:45, Quijano) reported China "urged restraint...but in an apparent reference to the United States, said all relevant sides should bring things back to the track of peaceful settlement via dialogue."

Fox News' Special Report (7/4) reports Tillerson said the White House is "continuing to assess the situation in close coordination with our allies and partners," but CNN's Situation Room (7/4) reported Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday announced after talks in Moscow that "they will work together to freeze the North Korean program, but demand[ed] the stop to US-South Korean military exercises and an end to the THAAD defense deployment to South Korea, both non-starters for the US."

Former State Department spokesman John Kirby said on CNN's Situation Room (7/4) that he doesn't think the joint statement from Russia and China "means anything in effect. I think this is a chance for Russia and China sitting down together to find a way to sort of tweak everybody." Charles Krauthammer said on Fox News' Special Report (7/4), "China and Russia together want to see an end to the US-South Korean alliance. They want to use the issue as a kind of exchange in order to do that."

Former Ambassador Bill Richardson said on the CBS Evening News (7/4, story 3, 2:35, Quijano) that "the President should be very careful. The first thing you should do is not tweet out his foreign policy. I think so far he's been restrained, but, at the same time, going it alone...that's not going to work. ... I think eventually we have to make a deal, but we need China, and China's not stepping up."

Politico (7/4, Karni) reports lawmakers on both sides of the aisle on

Tuesday called on the President to "increase pressure on North Korea and China." Politico says Trump's tweets Tuesday "didn't cut it for lawmakers of both parties...who on Tuesday demanded a more fulsome reaction from the White House." Sen. Edward Markey said, "Instead of vague Twitter bluster, President Trump should answer North Korea's dangerous test with a coherent strategy."

Rep. Gerald Connolly said on CNN's The Lead (7/4), "I think Donald Trump's modus operandi of threats and tweets is backfiring. If you're Kim Jong-un and North Korea, you're going to accelerate your nuclear program because this guy is threatening you, and there's no stepping down to impeding that capability. Whatever the intentions of the Trump Administration, the results are counterproductive."

Rep. Tom Suozzi said on CNN's Situation Room (7/4) that "we've seen more and more tests every single week. The President has always told us that his philosophy is that he doesn't want to share his strategy and he's going to be tough. We need to know what the strategy is as to how we're going to deal with this, not only as the United States but in the community of nations."

Meanwhile, South Korean President Moon Jae-in, the New York Post (7/4, Moore) reports, called a national security council meeting and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe "said he would ask China and Russia to intervene to curb North Korea's weapons program."

Townhall (7/4, Barkoukis) reports that "if the US decides the threat posed by North Korea is too great, the nation has options," noting that "for the first time since the 1990s," two US aircraft carrier strike groups are positioned off the Korean Peninsula.

WSJournal Urges Regime Change; NYTimes Calls For Talks. A Wall Street Journal (7/4) editorial says only a strategy aimed at toppling the Kim regime has a chance of eliminating a threat posed by North Korea. On its editorial page, the New York Times (7/4) says Trump "hasn't grasped...that a solution will eventually require direct dialogue with the North." The Times notes that "some of America's most experienced nuclear experts, like George Shultz, former secretary of state; William Perry, former defense secretary; and Siegfried Hecker, former director of Los Alamos National Laboratory, recently wrote to Mr. Trump urging him to begin talks as the 'only realistic option' to prevent North Korea's potential use of nuclear weapons." The Times argues that "there is no indication that Mr. Trump has a better strategy."

Appeals Court Rules EPA Cannot Delay Enforcement Of Rule On Oil And Gas Emissions.

The Washington Post (7/3, Eilperin, Mufson) reports a three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in a 2-1 decision, ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency's "two-year suspension of new emission standards on oil and gas wells," is "tantamount to amending or revoking a rule." The court ruled that the EPA may "reconsider" the rule developed under the Obama Administration, but may not delay the rule for two years while it does so. EPA spokeswoman Amy Graham said that the agency is "reviewing the opinion." The New York Times (7/3, Friedman) calls the ruling "another legal blow to the Trump administration" and "the first major legal

setback for" EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. The court found that the delay was "unreasonable," "arbitrary" and "capricious" and that changing the rule would require "a new rule-making process."

The AP (7/3, Biesecker) reports the court "ordered the EPA to move forward" with the rule as is. The Washington Times (7/3, Wolfgang) reports the decision "dealt a blow to President Trump." The Washington Examiner (7/3, Siciliano) reports it "slammed the brakes" on the Administration's "attempt to kill the Environmental Protection Agency's methane regulations on oil and gas frackers instituted under former President Barack Obama." Pruitt had argued the Obama Administration did not allow for adequate industry comment on the, but the court "disagreed."

Editorial Wrap-Up New York Times.

"Turkey's 250-Mile Protest." In an editorial, the New York Times (7/4) says Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan "has used emergency powers to purge and arrest tens of thousands of leftists, liberals, Kurds and others," and now "thousands of protesters...are trudging through the heat on blistered feet from Ankara to Istanbul on a March for Justice" that is "expected to reach Istanbul on Sunday." Erdogan has so far "not tried to block the marchers, but he has accused the main opposition party, the Republican People's Party, better known as the C.H.P. and the prime organizer of the march, of abusing the concept of justice and serving as the mouthpiece of traitors." The Times adds that while the marchers "expect that many thousands more will join them for the entry into Istanbul," it is "not likely to stop Mr. Erdogan." However, "it is certain to unite ever more Turks in the fight to save their democracy."

"Who Can Reform The Chicago Police?" The New York Times (7/4) writes in an editorial that the more than two-year Chicago police scandal "that has dogged Mayor Rahm Emanuel...heated up last week when three veteran officers were indicted on charges that they lied about the circumstances in which a white officer fatally shot a black teenager named Laquan McDonald on a South Side street in the fall of 2014." The Times says the case "lends considerable weight to a new lawsuit filed by civil rights groups arguing that Chicago is incapable of bringing constitutional policing to the city unless the process is overseen by the federal courts." The Times says "whole phalanx of officials disagrees" with Emanuel's renunciation of support for federal court oversight since President Trump took office in favor of a "less stringent" arrangement featuring an independent monitor.

"The Way Forward On North Korea." The New York Times (7/4) says President Trump "hasn't grasped...that a solution will eventually require direct dialogue with" North Korea. The Times notes that "some of America's most experienced nuclear experts, like George Shultz, former secretary of state; William Perry, former defense secretary; and Siegfried Hecker, former director of Los Alamos National Laboratory, recently wrote to Mr. Trump urging him to begin talks as the 'only realistic option' to prevent North Korea's potential use of nuclear weapons." The Times argues that "there is no indication that Mr. Trump has a better strategy."

Washington Post.

"If Trump Takes A Protectionist Approach On Steel, It Could Backfire."

The Washington Post (7/4) argues in an editorial that with the results of a review ordered by President Trump of "how steel imports affect American national security" due "any day now," US trading partners "are right to fret about where it might lead," but "Americans should be nervous, too." To the Post, "a unilateral American invocation of the president's rarely used power to create national security exceptions to normal trade law" is "probably not" the "right way to deal with this situation." It is "intellectually dishonest" to assert that "steel imports pose a threat to US national security" and it "could be internationally destabilizing" as "other countries will be tempted to follow suit, potentially setting off spiraling global protectionism."

"The Supreme Court's Modest Decision On A Controversial Church-State Question." The Washington Post (7/4) editorializes that the Supreme Court's decision last week that Mississippi couldn't deny state funds to a church-run preschool for playground updates purely because it was religiously affiliated could have wide-reaching implications, for instance on the issue of school choice. Some would say the "broad language...suggests a wide new legal avenue has opened for religious groups to demand a share of taxpayer money." However, the Post insists that "the court sent no such clear signal," so "the threat to the separation of church and state will remain relatively contained so long as the justices live up to some limits embedded in their reasoning." The Post encourages courts in future cases to follow the line of reasoning that "the government cannot deny churches public funding merely because they are churches, but the government may deny them funding if they would use it for religious endeavors."

"The Washington Football Team's Legal Victory Isn't A Win Worth Celebrating."

The Washington Post (7/4) editorializes that while Washington Redskins NFL team owner Daniel Snyder has won the right to retain patent protection for the team's name, he "would do well to reflect on what exactly it is that he has 'won,'" because the name "is still as hurtful and offensive as ever, and the controversy it stirs will likely only intensify, not go away." The Post says the Supreme Court "was right to affirm the bedrock principle of the First Amendment" in a June 19 ruling that precipitated Snyder's win. However, Snyder's having the right to use a "racial slur" as a team name doesn't mean he should use it. As such the legal victory isn't worth celebrating.

Wall Street Journal.

"Blue State Budget Breakdowns." The Wall Street Journal (7/4) argues that the budget impasse-induced government shutdowns over the weekend in Connecticut, Illinois, and New Jersey reflect heightened political dysfunction in blue states. Under progressive governance, the government eventually runs out of other people's money. In Illinois, the Journal says Democratic lawmakers likely will override GOP Gov. Bruce Rauner's veto of a budget plan that raises taxes but ultimately fails to address a deficit, unpaid bills, and a \$130 billion unfunded pension liability. Meanwhile, Connecticut already has raised income taxes and property taxes, but pension liabilities still have risen as revenue and

economic growth have dropped and wealthy residents have fled to other states. Finally, the Journal warns that the deal New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie brokered with a Democrat-controlled legislature portends further tax hikes for the wealthy and property owners in the future.

“The North Korean Missile Crisis.” A Wall Street Journal (7/4) editorial says only a strategy aimed at toppling the Kim Jong-un regime has a chance of eliminating a threat posed by North Korea.

“The Tory Policy Retreat.” A Wall Street Journal (7/4) editorial says British Prime Minister Theresa May successfully obstructed the opposition Labour Party’s call to end the one percent annual public-pay cap last week, but she will not as easily resist pressure to lift the cap from her Conservative party and cabinet members. The Journal says if May gives in to this demand, she will go against not only voters’ wishes because it will cost \$8.18 billion annually to be financed by either tax raises or more borrowing but also her party’s reputation as one of economic growth.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

North Korea Missile Launch Threatens US Strategy In Asia
JP Morgan Returns To Dealmaking With Approach For Worldpay
Ill-Funded Police Pensions Put Cities In A Bind
Disney’s Channels: Children Are Tuning Out

New York Times:

What Can Trump Do About North Korea? His Options Are Few And Risky
After Backing Trump, Christians Who Fled Iraq Fall Into His Dragnet
Senate Republicans Lay Low On The Fourth, Or Face Single-Minded Pressure
After Years Of Growth, Automakers Are Cutting US Jobs
What \$1.2 Billion Buys In Miami: For Baseball, A Major Distraction
Bronx-Lebanon, Site Of Shooting, Is More Than A Hospital To Neighbors
New Jersey Beaches Reopen, But Christie Catches More Heat

Washington Post:

N. Korea Launch Challenges Trump
Political Backlash Looms Ahead Of Putin Meeting
Dam May Muddy Plan To Clean Up Chesapeake
Amid Parades, Healthcare Queries
‘Out Of Our Comfort Zone’

Financial Times:

China And Russia Strike \$11bn Funding Deal
US Urges Global Action After North Korea Missile Launch
Qatar Open To Talks With Rivals As Deadline Passes
JPMorgan And Vantiv Make Moves On Worldpay

Washington Times:

North Korea’s Surprise Launch Of ICBM Has Power To Reach Alaska, Upset East

Asia Power Balance

Presidents Have Reduced National Monuments 18 Times Before Bears Ears Controversy

Immigration Agency Won't Commit To Giving Noncitizen Data To Voter Fraud Commission

Mueller's All-Star Legal Team In Russia Probe Signals Direction Of Investigation
Fantasy Meets Reality As FTC Puts DraftKings, FanDuel Sports Merger On Ice
Evangelical Christians, Catholics Increasingly Rely On Federal Courts To Protect Religious Liberties

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: North Korea ICBM Test; North Korea ICBM Test-Expert Opinion; Trump-Putin Meeting; Raqqa Assault; Voter Fraud Investigation; Fireworks Danger; Weather Forecast; Fourth Of July-Security; New Jersey-Budget Settled; Michigan Airport Attack-Officer Recovered; Fourth Of July-Shopping; Philadelphia Highway Accident; San Francisco Airport Accident Video; Friendly Police; Fourth Of July Celebration.

CBS: North Korea ICBM Test; North Korea ICBM Test-China; North Korea ICBM Test-Expert Opinion; Trump-Putin Meeting; New Jersey-Budget Settled; Google-Air Pollution Research; Deported Undocumented Parents; Grizzly Bear Product Testing; Tour De France; Fireworks Danger; New York-Eating Contest; Founding Fathers-Descendants.

NBC: North Korea ICBM Test; North Korea ICBM Test-WH; Fourth Of July-Security; New Jersey-Budget Settled; Missouri-Home Explosion; Drone Dangers; British Baby-US Treatment; Cruise-Sexual Assaults; Zika Virus Warning; New York-Eating Contest; Veteran-Warrior Games.

Network TV At A Glance:

North Korea ICBM Test	16 minutes, 25 seconds
Fourth Of July-Security	3 minutes, 20 seconds
Trump-Putin Meeting	2 minutes, 50 seconds
New Jersey-Budget Settled	1 minute, 10 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: North Korea ICBM Test; Trump-Putin Meeting; WH-Fourth Of July Celebration.

CBS: North Korea ICBM Test; Fourth Of July Celebration; Heat Wave-Wildfires; Microsoft-Layoffs.

FOX: North Korea ICBM Test; Fourth Of July Celebration.

NPR: North Korea ICBM Test; Montana Wildfire; WH-Fourth Of July Celebration; Trump-G20 Visit.

Washington Schedule
Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Arrives in Warsaw, Poland.
VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a phone call with President Ashraf

Ghani of Afghanistan; participates in a phone call with EU High Representative and Vice President Federica Mogherini.

US Senate: On recess until 10 July.

US House: On recess until 10 July.

Other: No notable public event scheduled.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

All late-night talk shows were in re-runs or did not run.

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