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From: Baptiste, Thomas
Sent: 2017-07-26T14:49:49-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, July 26, 2017
Received: 2017-07-26T14:50:34-04:00

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You should have received this e-mail at your inbox this morning. If you *do not receive* news clips via the daily Bulletin Intelligence, then please reply back to me.

Sincerely,

Thomas Baptiste
DOI Cell: 202/897-7015

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From: **Bulletin Intelligence** <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Date: Wed, Jul 26, 2017 at 6:58 AM
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, July 26, 2017
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

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DATE: WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

Today's Table Of Contents

DOI In The News

- New York Times: As Interior Secretary Swaggers Through Parks, His Staff Rolls Back Regulations.
- Columbus (OH) Dispatch: Packed House Expected For Trump In Youngstown.
- Bitterroot (MT) Star: New Deputy Assistant Secretary For Fish, Wildlife and Parks Visits Montana.
- Daily Caller: Gov't Scientist Claims He's A Victim Of Retaliation From Trump.
- Deseret (UT) News: Outdoor Retailer Brings Products, Politics For Last Utah Show.
- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Report: Utah's Coal Industry Fading While More Eco-friendly Outdoor Recreation Surges.
- Reuters: Battle Intensifies To Contain Montana Wildfire, Largest In U.S.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Federal Official Works To Promote 'Robust' Tribal Economies.
- Under Trump, Tribal Land Ownership Is Not A Priority.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Craig (CO) Daily Press: BLM: Coal Lease In Routt County Part Of 'Make America Safe Through Energy Independence'.

- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Red Spring Boardwalk At Red Rock Closed For Safety Reasons.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- W&T, Otto Set To Drill In US Gulf.
- Delaware Senators Oppose Atlantic Ocean Seismic Testing.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Delta Tunnels Project Reaches Key Milestone As Opponents May Sue.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- San Francisco Chronicle: Fish Killed In Nebraska After Water Diversion Stops.
- Minneapolis Star Tribune: Man Accused Of Smuggling King Cobras In Potato Chip Cans.
- Hilton Head Island (SC) Packet: Hilton Head Is Having A Closed Meeting With U.S. Fish And Wildlife To Discuss A Piping Plover Protection Area.
- Washington (NC) Daily News: Comments Show Good And Bad Of Red Wolf Plan.
- Grand Island (NE) Independent: Former Fish And Wildlife Service Employee Charged With Burglary, Theft From Office.
- Juneau (AK) Empire: Proposed Izembek Road Would Be Massive Expense For Budget-strapped State.
- Prescott (AZ) Daily Courier: Column: Mexican Gray Wolf Plan Doesn't Work For Rural Arizona.

National Park Service

- U.S. News & World Report: Wild Horse Dies After Eating Dog Food In Maryland.
- Associated Press: Zion Trail Closed By Mudslide To Be Repaired With \$1M Grant.
- KWTX-TV Waco (TX): NPS Designation Pays Off For Waco Mammoth Site.
- Tri-City Herald (WA): Richland National Park Visitor Center Dedicated.
- KLKN-TV Lincoln (NE): UNL Student Teams Up With National Park Service For Eclipse Plan.
- Associated Press: Lightning Sparks Wildfire In Dinosaur National Monument.
- Tap Into New Jersey: Thomas Edison National Historical Park Displays "The Origins Of Sound Recording" Exhibit.
- Rochester (NY) Democrat & Chronicle: Time To Give The Finger Lakes Region Its Due.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: Interior Provides \$409,885 To Guam.
- Virgin Islands Daily News: Trump Official Signals Willingness To Reconsider Independent Oversight For V.I. Education Funds.
- Loop Pacific: China Takes More Of A Lead With Climate Change Efforts In The Pacific.

Office Of Surface Mining

- DOI Mining Decision Can Be Challenged, 10th Circ. Says.

Top National News

- Wall Street Journal: Trump Says He's "Very Disappointed" In Sessions, Won't Say If He'll Fire Him.
- Youngstown (OH) Vindicator: Trump Rallies Supporters In Youngstown, Ohio.
- Associated Press: Kushner, Manafort Meet With Congressional Investigators.
- Reuters: Senate Rejects First GOP Healthcare Bill After Narrowly Approving Motion To

Proceed.

- Wall Street Journal: Trump Says He May Reappoint Yellen Or Name Cohn To Lead Fed.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "The Senate's Healthcare Travesty."
 - "Fixing Blame Won't Fix The Subways."
 - "Britain Sees Brexit's Threats More Clearly."
- Washington Post.
 - "This Is Not Okay."
 - "The Migrants Who Died In Misery Last Weekend Won't Be The Last."
 - "Change J.E.B. Stuart High School's Name."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "Trump's Sessions Abuse."
 - "Repealing The Arbitration Rule."
 - "A GOP Gallows Reprieve."

Big Picture

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Washington Schedule

- Today's Events In Washington.

Last Laughs

- Late Night Political Humor.

DOI In The News

As Interior Secretary Swaggers Through Parks, His Staff Rolls Back Regulations.

In an analysis, the [New York Times](#) (7/25, Davenport, Fandos) reports that as Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who professes his admiration of Teddy Roosevelt, visits public lands in the West to gather input on his department's review of recent national monument designations, "a crew of political appointees in Washington has begun rolling back the conservation efforts" put in place during the Obama Administration. The Times highlights that Interior staff filed a legal proposal on Tuesday "to rescind the nation's first safety regulation on hydraulic fracturing," "are exploring a proposal to loosen safety rules on underwater drilling equipment put in place after the 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico," "have rolled back an Obama-era order to block coal mining on public lands and delayed carrying out a regulation controlling emissions of methane...from oil and gas wells," and is conducting "a review of federal protections of the sage grouse." The Times adds that Zinke's cultivation of his "rugged image" is said to "getting old" to conservationists, while "the oil and gas lobby says it is delighted" with the policy moves.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Times](#) (7/25, Wolfgang).

Secretary Zinke Expected To Visit Las Cruces This Week. The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (7/25) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "expected to

travel to New Mexico this week as part of a review of two national monuments in the state." U.S. Sen. Tom Udall expects Zinke will "be coming to New Mexico this week to evaluate" the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument and Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. The article says that "the mayors of Las Cruces, Mesilla, Anthony, and Sunland Park as well as Doña Ana County Commission Chairwoman Isabella Solis announced Tuesday that they have scheduled a meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday to talk about the OMDP national monument."

The AP (7/26) reports that Zinke is "slated Thursday to take part in a public meeting at the Las Cruces Convention Center with the mayors of Las Cruces, Mesilla, Anthony and Sunland Park."

Additional coverage was provided by KRWG-FM Las Cruces, NM (7/25) and KRWG-FM Las Cruces, NM (7/25).

Our View: Monument Review Is Chance To Make Areas Better For Recreation.

The Havasupai (AZ) News-Herald (7/26) editorializes that "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's review of national monuments in the West offers an opportunity to rights some wrongs and, if done properly, to actually make those large parcels of federal land even better." The paper thinks there is an opportunity for "the business-oriented administration" to "figure out a model to convert the recreational demand at national parks to recreational use at national monuments."

Packed House Expected For Trump In Youngstown.

In coverage of President Trump's address in Youngstown, Ohio on Tuesday evening, the Columbus (OH) Dispatch (7/25, Ludlow) reported before the rally that "prior to his Youngstown remarks, Trump and First Lady Melania Trump are scheduled to attend a ceremony to honor about 150 area veterans and their families as part of 'American Heroes Week.'" Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, and Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin "also are to attend the event at AMVETS Post 44 in suburban Strothers."

New Deputy Assistant Secretary For Fish, Wildlife and Parks Visits Montana.

The Bitterroot (MT) Star (7/25) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "recently announced the appointment of two Deputy Assistant Secretaries to serve as leaders at the Department." According to the article, "Aurelia Skipwith will serve as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks and former House Natural Resources senior staffer Katharine MacGregor will serve as a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management." Skipwith recently visited the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge. She "said that she is visiting places across the country to get a feel for the land she will be managing and get a sense of the local needs and priorities."

Gov't Scientist Claims He's A Victim Of Retaliation From Trump.

The Daily Caller (7/25, Pearce) reports that an Interior Department official "appeared on National Public Radio and MSNBC's "Morning Joe" Monday,

accusing the Trump administration of demoting him because of his political beliefs." Joel Clement, the DOI's Office of Natural Resources Revenue senior advisor, "wrote an op-ed in The Washington Post last week claiming that his reassignment was retaliation for speaking 'truth to power.'"

Has Trump Sidelined, Restricted Government Scientists? Yes. Joe Davidson writes in the Washington Post (7/25) that the Trump Administration is hostile toward science, saying scientists are restricted from providing advice to government officials and from using terms such as "climate change." According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, the Administration is creating a "hostile environment for scientific staff" contributing to "a culture of fear" that is "undermining scientific research and communication." Davidson references the case of "outspoken Interior Department scientist" Joel Clement, who "said his forced reassignment was Trump administration retribution" for speaking out against climate change in Alaska Native communities.

Outdoor Retailer Brings Products, Politics For Last Utah Show.

The Deseret (UT) News (7/25, O'Donoghue) reports that "the political and emotional tug-of-war over the destiny of Utah's public lands is on center stage this week as Outdoor Retailer Summer Market begins its four-day run in Salt Lake City beginning Wednesday." The article notes that "this year's event features former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who will keynote an industry breakfast on Wednesday with remarks also offered by Montana Gov. Steve Bullock." Organizers are also planning "a Wednesday release of a state-by-state look at the economic impacts of outdoor recreation and will host a march from 4-6:30 p.m. Thursday from the Salt Palace Convention Center to the state Capitol."

Report: Utah's Coal Industry Fading While More Eco-friendly Outdoor Recreation Surges.

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (7/25, Maffly) reports that "nearly \$400 billion worth of high-quality coal lies under lands protected by the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, but the best thing for Utah would be to leave this black bounty where it is in favor of embracing cleaner energy sources and outdoor recreation, both of which abound in the Beehive State," according to a new report. The report from the group Alliance for a Better Utah "highlights the coal industry's ever-dimming future and rising prospects of eco-based tourism." Jonathan Ruga, an Alliance for a Better Utah board member, said, "Outdoor recreation provides 76 times as many jobs in Utah as coal 1220,000 versus 1,600 and 27 times as much in salary and wages \$3.6 billion versus \$132.8 million."

Battle Intensifies To Contain Montana Wildfire, Largest In U.S.

Reuters (7/25) reports that "more than 600 firefighters in Montana battled on Tuesday to halt the spread of the biggest wildfire in the United States after it torched buildings, seared grasslands and drove scores of people from their homes." The Lodgepole Complex fire was "20 percent contained after laying

waste to 250,000 acres (101,171 hectares) of timber, brush and range land near the Missouri River, according to the National Interagency Coordination Center." The blaze has "forced 50 people from their homes and destroyed 22 structures, it said."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Federal Official Works To Promote 'Robust' Tribal Economies.

The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (7/25, Dalrymple) reports that an Interior Department official "visited the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation Tuesday, outlining his goals for improving economic development of Indian Country." Gavin Clarkson, deputy assistant secretary of Indian Affairs for policy and economic development, "told attendees of the MHA Energy Symposium how he wants to change federal policies to empower tribes economically." Clarkson "said energy development is critical for tribal economic development and his goal is to remove hurdles, such as burdensome regulations, that slow down development on reservations."

Under Trump, Tribal Land Ownership Is Not A Priority.

In an analysis for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (7/25, Smith), Anna V. Smith writes that "during President Barack Obama's eight-year tenure, tribal sovereignty, the power by which tribes govern themselves, was a prime concern." However, Smith expects a shift under the Trump Administration, pointing to "proposed budget cuts to the Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs and the de-prioritization of major land initiatives." She notes that "within the first six months of President Donald Trump's administration, the Department of Interior has renewed its interest of energy development and tribal land privatization." Smith says "that differs starkly from Obama policies, which focused on both acquiring and consolidating land for tribal nations." She also notes that "one of the most ambitious efforts to that end, the Land Buy-Back Program, will not continue under Trump."

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM: Coal Lease In Routt County Part Of 'Make America Safe Through Energy Independence'.

The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (7/25) reports that Peabody Energy is seeking a new coal lease in Routt County that would allow it to access "640 acres and, potentially, 4.1 million tons of federally-owned coal." The Bureau of Land Management is "characterized their evaluation" of Peabody's lease request as "part of the Trump Administration's 'priority to make America safe through energy independence.'"

Red Spring Boardwalk At Red Rock Closed For Safety Reasons.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (7/25, Brean) reports that "a portion of the Red Spring boardwalk at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area has been closed indefinitely due to safety concerns." The Bureau of Land Management

"blocked access to the lower portion of the walkway at the Red Spring picnic area on July 19 because the wood was deteriorating and had become unsafe, said spokesman John Asselin." He said that "the closed portions of the boardwalk eventually will be replaced, but the BLM does not yet have a timeline for the work."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

W&T, Otto Set To Drill In US Gulf.

Upstream Online (7/25) reports that W&T Offshore and Otto Energy have "contracted a rig to drill at the South Timbalier (ST) 224 prospect in the Gulf of Mexico." According to Otto, "the initial exploration plan for the ST 224 gas prospect has been submitted and approved by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management."

Additional coverage was provided by Offshore Energy Today (7/25).

Delaware Senators Oppose Atlantic Ocean Seismic Testing.

The AP (7/25) reports the two US senators from Delaware, Tom Carper and Chris Coons, "are asking the Trump administration to reject applications from companies seeking to conduct seismic surveys in the Atlantic Ocean, a first step toward offshore drilling." The senators "said in a joint statement Tuesday that they and leaders in Delaware coastal communities oppose the surveys, which help map potential drilling sites for oil and natural gas." The AP adds "many other East Coast lawmakers and environmental groups also oppose such surveying, saying loud sounds from seismic air guns could hurt marine life."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Delta Tunnels Project Reaches Key Milestone As Opponents May Sue.

The Salem (OR) Capital Press (7/25, Hearden) reports that California has "reached a key milestone in its \$15.7 billion proposal to build tunnel bypasses around the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta as an environmental group is threatening to sue to stop it." California's Department of Water Resources on July 21 "certified that environmental reviews for the project, dubbed California WaterFix, meets all requirements under the state's Environmental Quality Act." However, Barbara Barrigan-Parilla, executive director of the organization Restore the Delta, "said the plan is 'deeply flawed' in that it would not create water supply reliability amid a period of increased and prolonged droughts but will saddle ratepayers with up to 75 years of debt."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Fish Killed In Nebraska After Water Diversion Stops.

The AP (7/25) reports that "officials say thousands of fish have died since a utility company was forced to stop diverting water from an eastern Nebraska river into its power canal." The fish were "killed after water flow from the Loup River to the Loup Public Power District's canal shut off July 15." Jeff Schuckman, a regional fisheries manager at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's

Norfolk office, "estimated the number of dead fish is in the 'tens of thousands.'"

Man Accused Of Smuggling King Cobras In Potato Chip Cans.

The AP (7/25, Balsamo) reports that "a man was arrested on federal smuggling charges Tuesday after customs officers intercepted a shipment with three live king cobras hidden inside potato chip canisters that were being mailed to his California home, U.S. prosecutors said." Rodrigo Franco was "scheduled to be arraigned Tuesday afternoon in Los Angeles on a charge of illegally importing merchandise." He "faces up to 20 years in prison."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Chattanooga (TN) Times Free Press (7/25), the Daily Mail (7/25, Balsamo), Newsday (NY) (7/25, Balsamo), Philly (PA) (7/25, Balsamo), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (7/25, Balsamo), the Washington (DC) Post (7/25, Michael Balsamo |, Ap), and WTVR-TV Richmond (VA) Richmond, VA (7/25).

Additional coverage was provided by CNN (7/25, Moshtagian, McKirdy), the Washington Post (7/25, Horton), the Sand Hills (NE) Express (7/25) and KMBC-TV Kansas City (MO) Kansas City, MO (7/25).

Hilton Head Is Having A Closed Meeting With U.S. Fish And Wildlife To Discuss A Piping Plover Protection Area.

The Hilton Head Island (SC) Packet (7/25, Kincaid) reports that "Port Royal Plantation residents should soon have an easier way to access the beach after a federally protected shorebird caused a half-mile stretch to be closed earlier this month." The article says that "after about 90 minutes of closed-door discussion Tuesday afternoon, representatives of the plantation, town of Hilton Head, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agreed to create an access point for residents and several other changes, according to Scott Liggett, director of public projects and facilities and chief engineer for the town." He said "the town was given the authority by the Fish and Wildlife Service to create an access point at beach marker 125 so that Port Royal Plantation residents can enter the beach through the Ocean Point South entrance."

Comments Show Good And Bad Of Red Wolf Plan.

The Washington (NC) Daily News (7/25, Hudson) reports that "a 60-day public comments period for the Red Wolf Recovery Program came to an end Monday." According to Lilibeth Serrano, public affairs specialist, "between written and verbal comments submitted, USFWS received a total of 12,265 comments." Serrano said, "As we develop a Draft Environmental Assessment and a proposed 10(j) rule, we will consider all comments received. We are still sorting through the nature of all the comments, so it is hard to describe in absolute terms. In general, I can say that we've seen a mix of criticism and support."

Former Fish And Wildlife Service Employee Charged With Burglary, Theft From Office.

The Grand Island (NE) Independent (7/25, Bahr) reports that "a former employee of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is being charged with burglarizing

the office, which is in the Crane Trust Nature and Visitor Center along Interstate 80." John Cochnar "used to work at the Fish and Wildlife Service's Ecological Services field office." Cochnar is "also accused of stealing money from the Crane Trust."

Proposed Izembek Road Would Be Massive Expense For Budget-strapped State.

In an op-ed for the [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (7/25, Epstein), Lois Epstein, the Arctic program director for The Wilderness Society, argues that the proposed road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge is "a huge new expense" that the state of Alaska can't afford. Epstein, "roughly one out of 10 state road construction dollars for one year would go to the wilderness segment of the Izembek road, trading off road safety and capacity upgrades throughout the rest of the state, with potentially significant, adverse safety impacts to the state's population." Epstein urges state legislators to "show fiscal leadership and choose not to include funds in the FY18 capital budget for the proposed Izembek road."

Column: Mexican Gray Wolf Plan Doesn't Work For Rural Arizona.

In an op-ed for the [Prescott \(AZ\) Daily Courier](#) (7/25, Flake), Sen. Jeff Flake claims that "the recovery process for the Mexican gray wolf has proved to be another example of the federal government's disregard for local concerns." Flake argues that the revised recovery plan that was released last month "does not reflect an honest attempt on behalf of the federal government to work with those most directly impacted by wolves on the landscape." Flake vows to "intend to make it clear the most recent draft has substantial flaws and that the agency must better take into account the voices of Arizona's ranchers and rural residents."

National Park Service

Wild Horse Dies After Eating Dog Food In Maryland.

The [AP](#) (7/25) reports that "officials say a wild horse had been found dead after eating dog food that someone improperly stored at Assateague Island National Seashore." The National Park Service "said in a statement that the body of the 7-year-old mare called Chama Wingapo was found dead in a campground on Thursday." According to the statement, "an investigation found the horse had ingested a 'large quantity' of dog food days earlier on July 17." A necropsy concluded "the dog food caused a blockage and resulted in a ruptured intestine, causing death."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [ABC News](#) (7/25), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/25), the [Daily Mail](#) (7/25), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (7/25), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/25), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/25, Press), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/25).

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (7/25, The (salisbury) and [Horse](#) (7/25, Raia).

Zion Trail Closed By Mudslide To Be Repaired With \$1M Grant.

The AP (7/25) reports that "a popular Zion National Park trail closed by a large mudslide several years ago will get be repaired with a \$1 million grant." The Eccles Foundation is "giving the grant to the National Park Foundation Tuesday to repair the Middle Emerald Pools Trail, which has been closed since December 2010 after severe rain storms caused a large mud slide." The Las Vegas Review-Journal (7/25, Brean) reports that "he donation also is expected to fund national park adventures for up to 20,000 Utah schoolchildren through such National Park Foundation programs as Concrete to Canyons and the Open OutDoors for Kids initiative."

NPS Designation Pays Off For Waco Mammoth Site.

KWTX-TV Waco, TX (7/25, Lopez) reports that the Waco Mammoth National Monument is "seeing some benefit from its National Park Service designation." According to Waco city spokesman Larry Holze, "during the first three months of 2017, a report from the finance department shows a bump in revenue from the site." The city was "expecting to make about \$195,000 during the first quarter," but "the report shows the city made \$325,000 during that time."

Richland National Park Visitor Center Dedicated.

The Tri-City Herald (WA) (7/25, Cary) reports that a dedication ceremony was held Tuesday for the Richland visitor center at the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. The center "that has served as a gateway for tours of Hanford's historic B Reactor since 2009 has had \$127,000 of improvements made by the Port of Benton." Kris Kirby, superintendent of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, said at the dedication, "This is probably the most developed tour operation of the three parks."

UNL Student Teams Up With National Park Service For Eclipse Plan.

KLKN-TV Lincoln, NE (7/25, Petersen) reports that "for the last several months, UNL student Austin Arens has created maps for the solar eclipse event on August 21st, planned at Homestead National Monument of America." The maps of site will be "used to show areas for parking, tents, bathrooms, and vendors." Park Superintendent Mark Engler said, "With the help from all those external groups like the University of Nebraska Lincoln, we're going to be putting on, hosting a number of special programs and activities that people are not only going to be able to enjoy on eclipse Monday."

Lightning Sparks Wildfire In Dinosaur National Monument.

The AP (7/25) reports that "a wildfire has sparked in Dinosaur National Monument after lightning struck a tree in windy and dry conditions." The blaze "had burned about half a square mile (1 square kilometer) as of Monday afternoon." According to Monument spokesman Dan Johnson, "crews closed the Canyon Overlook to use it as a base for fire operations, but no structures have been threatened and no campers have been evacuated."

Thomas Edison National Historical Park Displays "The Origins Of Sound

Recording” Exhibit.

Tap Into New Jersey (7/23) reports that “in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of French inventor Édouard-Léon Scott de Martinville’s birth, West Orange’s Thomas Edison National Historical Park (TENHP) hosted an international symposium entitled ‘The Origins of Sound Recording: Edouard-Léon Scott de Martinville Bicentennial Symposium.’” The National Park Service “recently announced the release of an online exhibit and videos that share the latest historical research into the beginnings of recorded sound technology.” According to the article “a physical version of the exhibit, which includes a full-scale replica 1859 Scott phonograph, is on display at TENHP this summer through Aug. 27.”

Time To Give The Finger Lakes Region Its Due.

In an editorial, the Rochester (NY) Democrat & Chronicle (7/25) supports “legislation that would authorize the National Parks Service to take step one toward designating the Finger Lakes region as a National Heritage Area.” The bill, introduced by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and sponsored in the House by Rep. Tom Reed, “would require the National parks Service to conduct a feasibility study in Monroe, Ontario, Wayne, Livingston, Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Onondaga, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, and Yates counties.” The paper argues that “the Finger Lakes region is a jewel worthy of national attention.”

In an editorial, the Auburn (NY) Citizen (7/26) urges both Democrats and Republicans to support the bill. The editorial argues that “at very least, it seems like a no-brainer to get this bill, which simply calls for a feasibility study, passed to see what the potential could be.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Interior Provides \$409,885 To Guam.

The Saipan (MNP) Tribune (7/25) reports that Acting Interior assistant secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula “made available \$409,885 to preserve natural and cultural resources and protect against invasive species in Guam.” Pula said, “We are especially pleased that Congress was able to provide some extra funding in [fiscal year] 2017 to mitigate and control the coconut rhinoceros beetle and little fire ant in Guam. All funding supports Gov. Eddie Calvo’s efforts in protecting Guam’s natural resources now and for the future.”

Trump Official Signals Willingness To Reconsider Independent Oversight For V.I. Education Funds.

The Virgin Islands Daily News (7/25, O’CONNOR) reports that the Virgin Islands’ education officials are “hopeful a \$3 million financial requirement by the federal government could soon be reduced.” At a press conference Monday at Government House in Charlotte Amalie, Gov. Kenneth Mapp said that “U.S. Education Department officials, including U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, have pledged to look into the situation.” According to the article, “federally

mandated third-party fiduciary responsibilities — independent accountants hired to oversee the department's expenditures — cost the V.I. Education Department about \$3 million per year," and "ending the oversight requirement has been a goal of the Mapp administration, as well as the previous administration of Gov. John deJongh."

China Takes More Of A Lead With Climate Change Efforts In The Pacific.

Loop Pacific (7/25) reports that "small island states are turning to other nations like China to garner more support for climate change efforts in the region." Joseph Veramu, a policy analyst and consultant for the Fiji government, "said its Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama is on a mission to get developed nations to reduce emissions and China seems committed to do more to support." Interestingly, "Pacific nations have grown closer not only to China, but also the European Union and India."

Office Of Surface Mining

DOI Mining Decision Can Be Challenged, 10th Circ. Says.

Law360 (7/25, Goldberg) reports that "the Tenth Circuit on Tuesday reversed a lower court's dismissal of a coal miner's challenge of an enforcement decision by a U.S. Department of the Interior administrative law judge, saying such decisions are final and subject to judicial review once the agency's appeals board declines to stay them."

Top National News

Trump Says He's "Very Disappointed" In Sessions, Won't Say If He'll Fire Him.

President Trump's continued public criticism of Attorney General Sessions receives heavy media coverage including more than 10 minutes of reporting on the network news broadcasts two of which led with the story as well extensive print coverage and cable commentary. The coverage is largely negative for Trump, casting him as trying to precipitate Sessions' resignation rather than firing him and highlighting criticism of his comments and tweets from conservative groups, former Justice Department officials, and Republican lawmakers as well as Democrats who believe Trump is trying to install a new attorney general who will put a stop to special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation.

In an interview with the Wall Street Journal (7/25, Bender), Trump expressed disappointment in Sessions, but would not say whether he plans to fire him. Trump told the Journal, "I'm very disappointed in Jeff Sessions." Asked how long he could continue criticizing his Attorney General without firing him Trump said, "I'm just looking at it. ... I'll just see. It's a very important thing." The Washington Times (7/25, Miller) reports that Trump said in a Rose Garden press conference Tuesday that "time will tell" what is in Sessions' future.

The Hill (7/25, Fabian) quotes Trump as saying during the press conference, "If he was going to recuse himself, he should have told me before

taking office. ... I think that's a bad thing not for the president, but for the presidency." Reuters (7/25) says that in comments which fed speculation that Sessions will not last long in his job, Trump said in the news conference, "I want the attorney general to be much tougher. ... I want the leaks from intelligence agencies, which are leaking like rarely have they ever leaked before, at a very important level. These are intelligence agencies we cannot have that happen."

Anthony Mason said in the lead story for the CBS Evening News (7/25, lead story, 3:45) that Trump gave Sessions "a very public, very humiliating thrashing" Tuesday. On NBC Nightly News (7/25, story 3, 2:55), anchor Lester Holt described Trump as "publicly belittling" Sessions, and Kristen Welker said that Trump "has been scathing, calling Sessions beleaguered and weak." Bloomberg News (7/25, Olorunnipa, Talev) says Trump has "unleashed a torrent of public criticism against" Sessions in "an apparent campaign to pressure Sessions to quit," and the Washington Post (7/25, Johnson, Branigin) says Trump's "onslaught raised questions about Sessions's tenure as attorney general."

On Tuesday morning, Trump tweeted, "Attorney General Jeff Sessions has taken a VERY weak position on Hillary Clinton crimes (where are E-mails & DNC server) & Intel leakers!" The Wall Street Journal (7/25, Stokols) says Trump's tweet seemed to be urging Sessions to launch a criminal investigation of Clinton. In another tweet Tuesday, Trump suggested that people in control at the FBI are Clinton sympathizers. Trump wrote, "Problem is that the acting head of the FBI & the person in charge of the Hillary investigation, Andrew McCabe, got \$700,000 from H for wife!" Newsweek (7/25, Kutner) reports that the FBI "has defended McCabe, saying he did not help his wife fundraise and did not begin overseeing the Clinton investigation until after his wife's campaign was over."

Reuters (7/25) reports that Trump "raised questions, without offering evidence, about Ukrainian support for his Democratic presidential rival, Hillary Clinton," writing in a tweet, "Ukrainian efforts to sabotage Trump campaign 'quietly working to boost Clinton.' So where is the investigation A.G." He "did not elaborate or offer evidence about any role Ukraine may have played in the 2016 election." Ukraine's Embassy in Washington "denied Kiev had tried to influence the US election," tweeting, "We stand by our words that the government of Ukraine didn't help any candidate in (the) election. Ukraine is proud of bipartisan support in the US."

Citing Trump's tweets, the Los Angeles Times (7/25) says Trump is "keeping up pressure" on Sessions, while The Hill (7/25, Balluck) says Trump's tweets "underlin[ed] the sense that he wants to be rid of his attorney general." The New York Times (7/25, Sullivan, Shear) says the tweets "were the latest in a string of attacks on Mr. Sessions," which Jake Tapper described on CNN's The Lead (7/25) as an "escalating campaign of public humiliation to push out" the Attorney General. CNN senior White House correspondent Jeff Zeleny said on CNN's The Lead (7/25) that Trump is "indeed shaming him, he's humiliating him, but he's not saying if he intends to fire him. There is a bit of mystery at the White House over how long this will go on."

In the lead story for ABC World News Tonight (7/25, lead story, 3:55,

Muir), Jonathan Karl described the President as “publicly seething” over Sessions’ decision to recuse himself and added that White House aides say Trump “exploded in anger” when Sessions announced his decision, and did so again “following the announcement of Special Counsel Robert Mueller.” Tucker Carlson said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (7/25) that the Russia investigation itself is “unfair to the presidency,” but “publicly attacking Jeff Sessions for all of that that is nuts.”

The [AP](#) (7/25, Lemire, Colvin) reports that White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci said in an interview with radio host Hugh Hewitt that Trump is “obviously frustrated” and that he and Sessions “need to work this thing out.” When Hewitt said it is clear that Trump wants Sessions gone, Scaramucci replied, “you’re probably right.” White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (7/25) that Trump is “certainly frustrated and disappointed in the Attorney General for recusing himself. ... That frustration certainly hasn’t gone away.”

Meanwhile, [Politico](#) (7/25, Nelson, McCaskill) says “conservatives and some White House advisers are cautioning Trump against seeking his ouster.” According to Politico, chief strategist Steve Bannon “has emphasized that firing Sessions is a risky move that would cast the White House in a negative light and potentially unleash a political disaster, according to a senior White House aide.” Politico adds that “conservative outside groups and leaders came to Sessions’ defense on Tuesday.” Major Garrett said in the lead story for [CBS Evening News](#) (7/25, lead story, 3:45) that “conservative groups rushed to Sessions’ defense...after learning he wanted to stay in the job. Their message to President Trump: You’re playing with fire, and continued roughing up of Sessions could promote a first genuine backlash from the President’s conservative activist base.”

[CNN’s Situation Room](#) (7/25) reported Trump’s “public flogging” of Sessions “isn’t sitting well” with some “Republican senators.” [McClatchy](#) (7/25, Clark) reports that Trump is learning “a bitter Washington lesson” that “you don’t pick a fight with one of the Senate’s guys,” and it “could cost him politically in a Senate where he badly needs Republican support for his lengthy agenda.” The [AP](#) (7/25, Lemire, Colvin) says Trump’s “ongoing criticism...drew a fiery response” from Sen. Lindsey Graham, who said, “Jeff Sessions is one of the most decent people I’ve ever met in my political life. ... President Trump’s tweet today suggesting Attorney General Sessions pursue prosecution of a former political rival is highly inappropriate.” Sens. Richard Shelby and Thom Tillis “also voiced support of their former colleague. But the White House only turned up the heat further.” [Reuters](#) (7/25) also reports on Graham’s comments.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/25, Wilber, Viswanatha, Reinhard) reports that former Justice Department officials also defended Sessions and expressed concern that if Trump were to fire him, it could result in the resignations of other top DOJ officials and trigger a constitutional crisis.

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/25) editorial is highly critical, likening Trump’s suggestion that Sessions prosecute Clinton to something one would see from the Erdogan government in Turkey or the Duterte government in the Philippines. A

Washington Post (7/25) editorial similarly says that "there is a serious point to be made about the difference between the United States of America and a state ruled by personal whim." The US "has been the envy of the world because certain norms have been accepted." The Post argues that the stakes are higher than "the careers of a particular attorney general or special counsel." When Trump "attacks that process and seeks revenge on his opponents," he "betrays bedrock American values. It's crucial that other political leaders say so."

In what it sees as a sign of "the potential political danger ahead," USA Today (7/25, Przybyla) says "the diversity of conservatives rallying behind Sessions is significant," ranging from "the alt-right Breitbart News and conservative talk host Rush Limbaugh to family values and anti-immigration groups." CNN White House correspondent Sara Murray said on CNN's Situation Room (7/25) that "some Administration officials are making the case to President Trump to keep Sessions on board and they're pointing to that outpouring of support that Sessions is getting from Republican senators, but even they acknowledge this rift may be too far gone for these men to mend fences." In the lead story for ABC World News Tonight (7/25, lead story, 3:55, Muir), Karl cited "people close to the President" who believed "he was on the verge of firing Sessions. One person who intervened was close Trump friend and adviser, Newt Gingrich." While "the firing didn't happen...Gingrich afterwards cautioned the story is not over."

However, the defense of Sessions from Republicans was not universal. The Washington Times (7/25, Persons) reports that reacting to the idea that Sessions might be dismissed, House Speaker Ryan said during his weekly press briefing that Trump "gets to decide what his personnel is." Ryan added, "He's the executive branch, we're the legislative branch, he determines who gets hired and fired in the executive branch, that's his prerogative." Politico (7/25, Wright, Kim, Cheney) reports that some Republicans "sought to both praise Sessions while also rationalizing Trump's tweets attacking him." Sen. John Kennedy said, "I think Jeff Sessions is a good man. ... But he works for the president of the United States." Rep. Dave Brat "said Trump's broadsides against Sessions were a reflection of the president's frustration with Democratic opponents and perceived media bias," and Rep. Trent Franks "called Sessions a 'noble public servant and a valued human being,'" and "said he believes the president thinks so too, despite the criticism."

Meanwhile, in another story, Politico (7/25, Wright, Kim, Cheney) says Democrats "suggested an ulterior motive...saying the president could be laying the groundwork to install a new attorney general who would rein in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe." For example, Senate Minority Leader Schumer said, "Many Americans must be wondering if the president is trying to pry open the office of attorney general to appoint someone during the August recess who will fire Special Counsel Mueller and shut down the Russia investigation." Reuters (7/25) quotes Schumer as saying, "Democrats will never go along with the recess appointment if that situation arises. ... We have some tools in our toolbox to stymie such action. We're ready to use every single one of them."

Sen. Joe Manchin said on MSNBC's Morning Joe (7/25), "I just would say that the next person, if Jeff's not going to be there, the next person's going to have a much more strenuous time coming through confirmation process because we want to make sure people in the Justice Department put the rule of law above any one human being or any one party."

Sen. Mazie Hirono said on CNN's The Lead (7/25), "I think it's outrageous that the President is now going after the senator who was the first out of the chute to endorse him and who the President called the smartest person in Washington, DC and now because I think he's very afraid of where the Russian investigation is heading that he's going after Jeff Sessions."

Sen. Chris Coons said on CNN's Situation Room (7/25), "I'll remind you that the reason [Trump is] disappointed" is that Sessions "appropriately recused himself from an ongoing investigation into the potential collusion between the Russians and the Trump campaign." Coons said his concern is that Trump's true intention is to get Sessions to resign "so he can appoint someone to attorney general who will be willing to take decisive action against Bob Mueller."

Appearing on CNN's Situation Room (7/25), Rep. Adam Schiff, ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said Trump "wants to fire...Sessions, but he would rather not have to do it, so he's trying to force him to resign. And he wants to do that so that he can bring in a new attorney general that will limit the scope of what" special counsel Mueller can investigate. Schiff added, "We cannot allow that to happen."

Rep. Joaquin Castro said on MSNBC's Morning Joe (7/25), "I was somebody who said that Jeff Sessions should not have gotten the job. I've said previously he should resign. So I'm in a very weird position. ... On the one hand, I don't want to allow Donald Trump to dictate the terms of the Russia investigation because him forcing out Jeff Sessions to me seems like a prelude to essentially do away with Bob Mueller and the country cannot allow him to do that. On the other hand, I also think that Jeff Sessions has a lot of conflicts of interest and for that reason, he shouldn't be in that job." Castro added, "In the next few days, I think we will probably see Jeff Sessions gone."

Rep. Eric Swalwell said on MSNBC's Morning Joe (7/25), "I believe that Jeff Sessions has to go for different reasons than Donald Trump. He wasn't forthcoming with the Senate and the American people about his Russian ties, and he was a part of the James Comey firing. For those reasons, I don't think he can remain the top law enforcement officer. Donald Trump, his reasons are he's not loyal and that he won't attack and go after and prosecute Donald Trump's political opponents."

Allies Say Sessions Does Not Intend To Resign. Reuters (7/25, Ainsley) reports that while Sessions' allies say Trump is trying to pressure the Attorney General to quit, rather than fire him, he does not intend to resign. Reuters cites "two people close to Sessions" who say he "has been deeply offended by the public berating from his boss, but his resolve to stay is strong." The Washington Post (7/25, Barrett, Rucker, Horwitz) says Sessions' chief of staff Jody Hunt recently told White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus that Sessions "had no intention of stepping down." The Post cites "people familiar with the

conversation" who said that Hunt "made it clear to Priebus that Sessions 'plans to move forward with his agenda in the department and he has no plans for resigning.'" These people also said that Priebus "did not say Trump planned to fire Sessions if he did not leave."

Charles Hurt of the Washington Times said on Fox News' Special Report (7/25), "What is the endgame here? If he is trying to humiliate Sessions into quitting, he's going to be left with [Deputy Attorney General] Rod Rosenstein, and do you think that the Senate...is going to give him a new attorney general? I don't think that they are. I don't really understand what the endgame here is except to just humiliate Jeff Sessions." Kathleen Parker writes in her Washington Post (7/25) column that while Trump expects loyalty from others, he "offers little" in return. In early 2016, Sessions "bet the farm on this reality-show celebrity," but now that he has "recused himself from involvement in the FBI's Trump-Russia investigation and, therefore, from defending the president, as Trump sees it Sessions is no longer useful."

Rosenstein Cites Trump Inaugural Address In Speech To NAACP. Politico (7/25, Gerstein) reports that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein "demonstrated his loyalty to Trump" Tuesday, using an address to the NAACP's annual convention "to pay homage to Trump by citing one of his most polarizing speeches: the inaugural address where he railed against 'carnage' in the streets of America." Rosenstein said, "In President Trump's inaugural address, he said that Americans want great schools for their children, safe neighborhoods for their families and good jobs for themselves. These are just and reasonable demands." Rosenstein did not mention "Trump's extraordinary public taunting of Sessions," but "did draw attention to Sessions' anti-crime efforts." Politico describes the reaction to Rosenstein's speech as "tepid" and "chilly."

Cruz Denies He Is Under Consideration To Replace Sessions. The Washington Times (7/25, Boyer) reports that Sen. Ted Cruz denied reports that Trump is considering him to replace Sessions, calling them "false" and saying that "he considers Mr. Sessions a friend and a 'strong conservative.'" Cruz said, "I was proud to vote to confirm Jeff and to vigorously defend his confirmation, and I'm deeply gratified that we have a principled conservative like a Jeff Sessions serving as attorney general. ... My focus is and will remain on fighting every day to defend 28 million Texans in the US Senate."

Trump Rallies Supporters In Youngstown, Ohio.

President Trump on Tuesday evening held a campaign-style rally in Youngstown, Ohio, where he touted the Senate's vote earlier in the day to open debate on the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act, hailed his Administration's efforts to combat the immigration policies of so-called "sanctuary cities," vowed to continue focusing heavily on job creation, railed against the media, and generally revved up an audience of supporters.

The Youngstown (OH) Vindicator (7/26, Skolnick) reports that Trump "was in full campaign mode speaking to a full house at the Covelli Centre," and the audience "of close to 7,000 not including a few who were turned away at Tuesday's presidential rally loved it." Trump "spoke of campaign promises he

says he will keep, including building a wall along the Mexican border, repealing then replacing Obamacare, and bringing back jobs that are long gone, including those at steel mills that closed in the 1970s." And Trump "was quick to blame the media for not highlighting his accomplishments, criticizing the 'fake news filter' and saying he had Tuesday's rally so he could 'speak directly to the American people.'"

Reporting from Youngstown, the Toledo (OH) Blade (7/25, Troy) says that Trump, during the "campaign-style rally with enthusiastic supporters," reiterated "promises to bring back jobs and put America's economic interests first as he vowed in his political campaign here last year. The Covelli Centre's capacity of about 7,000 people was filled as the hall thundered with cheers for Mr. Trump's assertions, including boasts of having pulled the US out of the Pacific trade and Paris climate change agreements negotiated by his predecessor."

On its website, WFMJ-TV Youngstown, OH (7/25, Manion) quoted Trump as telling the crowd, "Finally, I am back in the heartland, away from the swamp of Washington DC." WFMJ-TV added that in reaction to Trump's assertion that he was in Youngstown "to stop the 'fake news media' and talk straight to the voters," the crowd responded "with chants of 'CNN sucks.'"

Said Trump, "This has been a difficult week for the media, because I force them to travel around the country and cover tens of thousands of proud Americans who want to defend our country, our culture, our values." The Washington Free Beacon (7/25, Cawthorne) also briefly reported on the crowd's chant of "CNN sucks."

The Cleveland Plain Dealer (7/25, Richardson) reports that during the rally, Trump "issued a warning to senators who might oppose the Senate plan to overhaul the" ACA, telling the crowd, "Any senator who votes against repeal and replace is telling America that they are fine with the Obamacare nightmare." The Plain Dealer adds, "You couldn't tell by the crowd that Trump's approval rating isn't great, hovering in the mid-30s to low-40s. Trump has courted controversy after controversy since taking over in January, but the throng of supporters decked out in his signature red 'Make America Great Again' trucker caps were unfazed at the Youngstown rally."

On its website, WKBN-TV Youngstown, OH (7/25) reported that Trump promised "that under his presidency, the state of Ohio would thrive," vowing "that he would bring jobs back to the area, telling Valley residents, 'Don't sell your house.' 'I'll tell ya what, I rode through your beautiful roads coming up from the [Youngstown Warren Regional] Airport and I was looking at some those big, once-incredible job-producing factories,' Trump said," adding, "And my wife Melania said, 'What happened?' I said, 'Those jobs have left Ohio.' They're all coming back. They're all coming back."

The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (7/25, Ludlow) reports that Trump "faces a challenge to bring industry back to the Youngstown-Warren area," where "there are 1,300 fewer manufacturing jobs than a year ago, federal figures show. And, about 1,000 GM workers recently were laid off at plants than make the Chevrolet Cruze." Even so, "the crowd of Trump enthusiasts found hope in his words. 'Industry is so stagnant in the Valley. My kids had to move to Cleveland,' said Anna Pera, 65, of Canfield. 'But, it's time to make America great, it really is. I

believe in what he wants to do for America.'"

The Washington Times (7/25, Miller) reports that at the rally, Trump "rekindled the energy from his campaign," pledging "that he would continue to defy the 'fake news' and keep fulfilling the promises he made to the American people. 'Tonight we are going to set aside the cynics and the critics because we know exactly why they are so bitter. Because day after day,' he said, 'we are keeping our promises to the people and we are putting finally, finally, finally finally we are putting America first.'"

On its website, Fox News (7/25, Pappas) reported that while Trump "celebrated the Senate's procedural vote earlier in the day on repealing ObamaCare," he "avoided discussing his frustration with Attorney General Jeff Sessions." Fox News added that Trump "delivered a freewheeling speech, reminiscent of those given during the 2016 campaign, on a variety of topics. 'I'm here this evening to cut through the fake-news filter and speak straight to the American people,' he said."

The AP (7/25, Salama) reports Trump "arrived in Ohio for a victory lap on Tuesday night with the very voters who helped put him in office. 'We're now one step closer to liberating our citizens from this Obamacare nightmare and delivering great health care for the American people,' Trump" said. The AP says that the visit "to Youngstown, a staunchly working-class, union-heavy enclave that has long helped anchor Democrats in Ohio, served as a welcome distraction from Washington for a president who loves to relive his once-unlikely Election Day win."

Similarly, CNN (7/25, Merica) reported on its website, "For Trump, returning to the campaign trail for his sixth campaign rally as president marked a reprieve from the conflict in Washington." In his speech, the President "confronted criticism of his unprecedented style, saying his unconventional approach is necessary to change the country for the better." Said Trump, "Sometimes they say he doesn't act presidential. And I say, 'hey look, great schools, smart guy, it's so easy to act presidential but that's not going to get it done. In fact, I said, it is much easier to act presidential than what we are doing here tonight, believe me."

The New York Times (7/25, Baker) reports that Trump "was in his element and bathing in the adulation of the crowd" at Tuesday's rally, as audience members "shouted and cheered and whistled and jumped up on chairs to see him. Finally, the president even invited one of them to take the microphone for a minute. 'Every one of these people love you, sir,' said the man, wearing a T-shirt that said 'TRUMP WON Deal With It.'" The Times adds, "For a president who has not gotten a lot of love lately inside" Washington, "hitting the road in recent days has been a political booster shot. Three out of the last four days, the famously homebody president with the low approval ratings has escaped the Washington free-fire zone to seek more appreciative audiences."

In an analysis for Roll Call (7/25), John Bennett says, "As he delivered parts of his" speech, "it well could have been July 2016 with then-Republican nominee Trump at the podium. The world is more unsafe than ever. The United States has been run for too long by 'stupid' politicians. People who wish to

Americans harm are pouring over the southern border. Other countries are taking advantage of US workers and consumers. And there is only one person capable of change all of that: Donald J. Trump."

On its website, [CNN](#) (7/25, Kopan) reported that in his speech, Trump "railed against sanctuary cities," drawing "out a long and graphic description of violent gang members torturing and killing young women. 'These are the animals that we've been protecting for so long,' Trump said. 'Well, they're not being protected any longer folks. And that is why my administration is launching a nationwide crackdown on sanctuary cities.'"

[Politico](#) (7/25, Karni) reported that returning to the "longtime Democratic stronghold" of Youngstown, Trump sounded "almost unchanged from the candidate who campaigned [t]here last year, as he confidently doubled down on promises he has yet to keep." However, "what was ostensibly the biggest good news of Trump's day the Senate vote to move ahead on repealing Obamacare appeared in his speech only as an afterthought," as the President "appeared more animated when he spoke about cracking down on undocumented immigration, sanctuary cities, and 'radical Islamic terrorism' than when he touched on the legislative victory that puts him one step closer to fulfilling a campaign promise."

[The Hill](#) (7/25, Beavers) reported that Trump "mocked a protester demonstrating at" yesterday's event, "telling the crowd that 'he's going back home to mommy.' 'Boy, he's a young one. He's going back home to mommy. Oh is he in trouble. He's in trouble,' Trump said, appearing unfazed by the disruption. 'And I'll bet his mommy voted for us, right?' he added."

Writing for the [Washington Examiner](#) (7/25), Tom Rogan says that Trump "was in his favorite place" during yesterday's event: "At the center of an adoring crowd of fans, delivering punches to his many enemies seen and unseen. ... The crowd loved it." Rogan adds, "Whatever one thinks of Trump, he knows how to please his supporters. When we in the media consider Trump's very real political difficulties, we sometimes ignore the strength of his base in consolidating their chosen leader."

YSU Political Scientist Explains Why Youngstown Gave Trump "Hero's Welcome." Salena Zito writing for the [New York Post](#) (7/25, Zito) says that Trump "received a hero's welcome in" Youngstown, which "is a good representation of the towns that feel left behind in America for the past few decades. Trump has punctuated that in the three previous visits he has done in Mahoning County since announcing his" White House run. Youngstown State University political scientist Paul Sracic told Zito, "Coming here is not just about Youngstown. This is a small city, but Youngstown symbolizes sort of that blue-collar working-class community that has seen better days. When Trump comes here he's not only talking to voters here. He's talking to similarly situated voters across the country." Sracic added, "The Youngstown community has been falling apart because there aren't enough jobs here to keep the kids here; in Trump, they finally got somebody who seems to get the fact that this is a problem."

In an online article for [TIME](#) (7/25, Elliott), Philip Elliott writes about speaking with Trump supporters in Youngstown, such as "70-year-old former

salesman" Bruce Logan, who "had been a registered independent who usually voted for Democratic candidates. Then, along came Trump," and Logan "registered last year as a Republican so that he could support Trump in his primary, and then worked to help him" defeat "Hillary Clinton last year. 'He shoots straight from the gut. He's not your typical politician,' Logan" said "as he spent hours waiting in line to hear from the President directly at a rally. 'He is exactly what this country needs right now.' Adds his wife, 68-year-old, Carol: 'He's the first politician with rocks.' They are hardly alone here in this corner of northeast Ohio, a one-time Democratic stronghold that also once was a hub of the American steel industry."

WPost Analysis: Trump's "Simplistic View Of" Youngstown "Is Stuck In Time."

Under the headline "Steel Valley's Youngstown Is Much More Complicated Than Trump Portrays," the Washington Post (7/25, Johnson) reports that Trump on Tuesday "escaped the roiling turmoil of Washington," traveling to Youngstown "to rally with his supporters in [the] former steel town." The Post says that Trump's "simplistic view of" Youngstown, "located in what was once known as 'Steel Valley,' is stuck in time. Youngstown suffered closures of steel mills in the 1970s and '80s that laid off thousands, tanked the local economy and led to a mass exodus of residents. But the region has evolved significantly since then, and few say they expect Trump to revive the steel industry here as he has promised. Instead, those living in Youngstown and its suburbs are worried about health care, the schools their children and grandchildren attend, the opioid crisis that now kills more Ohioans than car crashes, the care of military veterans, and the region's overall economy."

Politico Analysis: Trump Faces Challenge In Retaining Support Of Ohio

Democrats. Under the headline "Trump Tests The Loyalty Of The Ohio Democrats He Won," Politico (7/25, Karni) reported ahead of Trump's Tuesday address, "Down-and-out Youngstown, Ohio, last year became emblematic of the power of...Trump's campaign. With his populist message targeting white working-class voters, he outperformed every GOP nominee since Richard Nixon won the Democratic stronghold of Mahoning County. Today, the blue-collar town represents one of the looming challenges of Trump's presidency, six months in: how to keep the support he won as a populist candidate, when he flipped disgruntled Democrats and independents to his side of the ledger, while in many cases governing like a plutocrat who has so far failed to deliver on many of his campaign promises."

AP Analysis: As President, Trump Has Largely Traveled To States He Won. The AP (7/25, Bykowicz, Lemire) reported on a "review" it conducted of President Trump's travels since being inaugurated, saying, "Of his 33 domestic trips out of Washington, he's set foot in non-Trump voting states only seven times other than to stay at his own golf property in Bedminster, New Jersey. The AP's count does not include the president's frequent day trips to his nearby Virginia golf course. He also has not journeyed too far, traveling west of the Mississippi River only once and so far dodging the Mountain and Pacific time zones."

Kushner, Manafort Meet With Congressional Investigators.

President Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner, and his former campaign chairman Paul Manafort were on Capitol Hill Tuesday to meet with congressional investigators looking into Russian interference in the 2016 election.

The [AP](#) (7/25, Jalonick, Day) reports that Kushner spent about three hours in a closed-door meeting with member of the House Intelligence Committee. [Bloomberg News](#) (7/25, House, Pettypiece) reports that lawmakers described Kushner as "cooperative and forthcoming" during the meeting. According to ranking committee Democrat Adam Schiff, it was "a very productive session an opportunity to ask about a range of issues the committee was concerned about," and Kushner "was receptive to returning to the committee for more questioning, he said." However, Schiff said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/25) that "we can't accept any representation on its face," because "we have seen, unfortunately, with other members of the Trump family and organization that they will say one thing and then the truth will prove to be something quite different."

[Politico](#) (7/25, Cheney) quotes Rep. Mike Conaway, who is leading the panel's investigation, as saying, "His answers were forthcoming and complete. He satisfied all my questions." According to Rep. Peter King, "a staunch Trump defender," Democrats "struggled to extract new information out of Kushner despite insinuating in what he described as repetitive lines of questioning that he wasn't revealing everything." King said, "Obviously, they were trying to prove a point, which they couldn't prove. ... The whole tone of the questions was that there was more there and they couldn't find it." The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/25, story 4, 0:25, Mason) briefly mentioned Kushner's meeting with the panel.

The [AP](#) (7/25, Jalonick, Day) reports that Manafort "met with bipartisan staff of the Senate intelligence committee," in a discussion that was "confined to his recollection of a June 2016 meeting with a Russian lawyer at Trump Tower, according to two people familiar with the interview." One of the people said Manafort "also turned over his contemporaneous notes documenting the meeting," and the other "said Manafort has agreed to additional interviews with the Senate intelligence committee staff on other topics." The [Washington Post](#) (7/25, Helderman, Demirjian) says Manafort's notes "could provide a key contemporaneous account of a meeting that has emerged as a focus of investigations into Russia's interference in the 2016 campaign by both Congress and Special Counsel Robert Mueller."

Senate Panel Rescinds Subpoena For Manafort. The [New York Times](#) (7/25, Sullivan, Goldman, Haberman) reports that Manafort's meeting with the House committee came as the Senate Judiciary Committee, which is conducting its own investigation, "announced that it issued a subpoena for Mr. Manafort to appear at a hearing on Wednesday." However, the panel "later rescinded the subpoena and canceled his appearance." Manafort's lawyers are "working out how and when he will be interviewed by the committee." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/25, Tau) says Manafort and investigators came to an agreement that will allow Manafort to avoid testifying publicly about Russian interference in the 2016 election. A [Reuters](#) (7/25) story posted Tuesday evening cites "a source familiar

with the issue" who said Manafort "is going to 'continue discussions' with Senate investigators."

In a story posted before the subpoena was rescinded, the Washington Times (7/25, Dinan) reported that Chairman Charles Grassley and ranking Democrat Dianne Feinstein "said they were fed up with delays and restrictions Mr. Manafort was trying to impose on their investigation, so they will compel him to appear." A Reuters (7/25, Zengerle, Becker) story posted before the subpoena was rescinded said the subpoena "was a sign lawmakers are willing to push hard as they probe Russia's role and potential collusion by the Republican's campaign."

USA Today (7/25, Johnson, Kelly) reports that Donald Trump Jr., "who had been expected to meet with investigators, was also no longer scheduled to appear." Feinstein told Fox News that both Manafort and Trump Jr. "would appear before the committee 'hopefully in September.'" Feinstein said, "The staffs are negotiating and it just got too close and members need to prepare and they need to get documents to be able to prepare, so that's what we've set upon now."

Fusion GPS Founder To Meet Privately With Senate Judiciary Committee. The Hill (7/25, Greenwood) reports that Grassley and Feinstein said Tuesday that Glenn Simpson, co-founder of Fusion GPS, "the firm tied to the controversial opposition research dossier" on Trump "has agreed to speak to the Senate Judiciary Committee behind closed doors," in return for the panel dropping the subpoena issued last week after he "declined the committee's request to appear before lawmakers in a public hearing."

Justice Department IG To Discuss His 2016 Election Probe Before Senate Panel. Politico (7/25, Gerstein) reports that the Justice Department's Office of Inspector General has been investigating "several issues key to the Russia saga since before President Donald Trump's inauguration." Inspector General Michael Horowitz, who "has offered few public indications of the status of his probe," is "likely to make his first public statements at a hearing in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee about the status of his inquiry and whether he'll acquiesce to any of the many requests from Republicans and Democrats to expand his review to include the firing of former FBI director James Comey or other developments."

Republicans Reject Measure To Force Treasury To Turn Over Trump-Russia Documents. Bloomberg News (7/25, Dexheimer) reports that Republicans on the House Financial Services Committee "rejected an attempt by Democrats to force the Treasury Department to turn over any documents it has that show financial ties between President Donald Trump and Russia." Rep. Maxine Waters' measure, which "would have compelled the Treasury to provide any records detailing connections that Trump, his family and his closest advisers have with Russian banks and Deutsche Bank AG," was "dealt...a major setback on Tuesday," as Republicans voted "to report it unfavorably to the full House." Reuters (7/25, Schroeder) says committee Chairman Jeb Hensarling "said the panel would not be spending any time exploring Trump's financial network," and cited "open investigations by congressional committees and a special counsel

into conclusions by US intelligence agencies that Russia interfered in the 2016 election campaign to help New York businessman Trump win."

Putin Spokesman: Kremlin Did Not Order Kushner-Gorkov Meeting. The AP (7/25) reports that Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitri Peskov, said Tuesday the Kremlin did not order the meeting between Kushner and Vneshekonombank head Sergei Gorkov, which Kushner included in his statement to Congress on Monday. Kushner "said he had been asked to meet with Gorkov by Sergei Kislyak, then the Russian ambassador." Peskov told reporters, "These contacts do not require any authorization from the Kremlin and they were not carried out on behalf of the Kremlin."

Benczkowski Defends His Work For Alfa Bank. The Wall Street Journal (7/25, Wilber, Viswanatha) reports that Brian Benczkowski, Trump's nominee to run the Justice Department's criminal division, defended his work for the Russian bank Alfa Bank during testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee and said he would recuse himself for two years from overseeing any investigations involving the bank. The Washington Post (7/25, Zapotosky) reports that Benczkowski "defended working for the institution, saying it was in line with the work he had done throughout his career in the private sector."

Applebaum: Rise Of Trump And Rise Of Putin Are Connected. In her Washington Post (7/25) column, Anne Applebaum cites Donald Trump Jr.'s claim in 2008 that "Russians make up a pretty disproportionate cross-section of a lot of our assets," as evidence that "Russian money...enriched Trump and his family. ... In that sense the rise of Trump and the rise of Putin are connected." To Applebaum, this explains the President Trump's "affinity for the Russian president" and why Mueller's "investigation has reportedly decided to look closely at past Trump family real estate transactions."

Jenkins: Comey Accidentally Helped Trump Win Election. Holman Jenkins Jr. writes in his Wall Street Journal (7/25) column that while former FBI Director Comey intended his interventions into the 2016 election to aid Hillary Clinton, they inadvertently resulted in a Trump victory.

Senate Rejects First GOP Healthcare Bill After Narrowly Approving Motion To Proceed.

Coverage of the Senate's vote to proceed to debate on measures to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act focuses on how close the vote was, with only the return of Sen. John McCain and a tie-breaking vote from Vice President Pence making it possible. Most of the coverage of the vote is centered on McCain's dramatic return, as well as his speech criticizing the process and warning that he does not support the legislation itself as it stands. The early coverage of the close vote is superseded by the first vote on new legislation itself, which failed by a wide margin.

Reuters (7/25, Oliphant) reports, "In a first vote of the many likely to come this week, the plan to repeal and replace Obamacare that Senate Republicans have been working on for months failed" on a vote of 43-57. It would have needed 60 votes to advance. The Los Angeles Times (7/25, Mascaro, Bennett) reports that Republicans "quickly shot down what was once their leading

proposal for repealing and replacing" the ACA. Roll Call (7/25, Williams) reports that the measure included an amendment from Sen. Ted Cruz "that would have allowed insurers to offer plans that are noncompliant with the current requirements in the health care law, so long as they offer a compliant option," as well as an amendment from Sen. Rob Portman "that would have, among other things, poured an additional \$100 billion into a state stability fund."

The Hill (7/25, Carney) reports that the bill "was widely expected to fail." Bloomberg News (7/25, Litvan, Dennis) reports that the Senate is now expected to vote Wednesday "on an amendment similar to an Obamacare repeal bill passed in 2015 by the Senate" but vetoed by President Obama. That proposal "is also expected to fail, and it will be followed by a number of other proposals."

Politico (7/25, Diamond) reports that Senate Majority Leader McConnell may instead push "a 'skinny repeal' plan that would leave major parts [of the ACA] intact while knocking out its mandates, but also allow the Senate to move a repeal bill to conference with the House if they can't agree on a more comprehensive measure." However, the New York Times (7/25, Sanger-Katz) writes, "many independent analysts have concluded that, without a mandate, health insurance would become more expensive and cover fewer people." And while GOP leaders "have assailed the health law's large tax increases" and "complained about Obamacare's burdensome insurance regulations," this option would repeal just one tax and leave the regulations in place.

Politico (7/25, Shepard) reports that a new Politico/Morning Consult poll finds that "just 36 percent of voters support repealing Obamacare without a replacement," while 50 percent are opposed.

Motion To Proceed Passes, With Pence Breaking Tie. Much of the earlier coverage of the passage of the motion to proceed focused on the return of McCain to the Senate. In the lead story on NBC Nightly News (7/25, lead story, 2:50), Lester Holt called it "an emotional and remarkable moment" when McCain's return "brought Republicans and Democrats to their feet in a thundering ovation." McCain "cast his critical vote, and then deliver[ed] a stunning rebuke on the state of politics in America and what's been lost in the process." McCain: "Stop listening to the bombastic loud mouths on the radio, television, and Internet. To hell with them. We're getting nothing done, my friends. We're getting nothing done." Though he voted for the motion to proceed, McCain said, "I will not vote for this bill as it is today. It's a shell of a bill right now. We all know that."

On ABC World News Tonight (7/25, story 2, 3:00, Muir), Mary Bruce reported, "Less than a week after being diagnosed with brain cancer, McCain swoop[ed] in to cast a critical vote on healthcare. ... McCain cast his vote, and then he spoke his mind. For 15 minutes, he railed against the dysfunction in Washington." The CBS Evening News (7/25, story 2, 2:40, Mason) reported that "it took a tie-breaking vote from the Vice President and the return of John McCain" to approve the motion to proceed. The New York Times (7/25, Steinhauer) headlines a report "McCain Returns To Washington To Cast A Vote To Help The President Who Derided Him." The Washington Post (7/25, Viebeck) reports that McCain "received a hero's welcome on Capitol Hill."

The New York Times (7/25, A1, Pear, Kaplan) reports that "the victory could be fleeting: Senate Republicans still have no agreement on a repeal bill." USA Today (7/25, Collins) reports, "The Senate launched into an uncertain legislative adventure" as McConnell "cajoled enough of his Republican colleagues to begin consideration of legislation to repeal Obamacare despite having no idea what the final bill will look like." McCain "voted in favor of debating the bill but then gave a speech excoriating the process the Senate is using to craft the legislation and suggesting it was likely to fail anyway."

The Washington Post (7/25, A1, Sullivan, Eilperin, O'Keefe, Snell) reports that the Senate "embarked on a freewheeling process to rewrite" the ACA, but "schisms" within the GOP "threatened to leave the party far short in the coming days of its ambitious goal to undo major parts" of the law. Still, the Wall Street Journal (7/25, A1, Armour) calls the vote a victory for McConnell, who had delayed any vote three times due to GOP divisions. On CNBC's Closing Bell (7/25), John Harwood called the vote "very impressive and a surprise, especially since Mitch McConnell had seemed to indicate that the process had reached a dead end just a few days ago."

The Washington Times (7/25, Howell) reports, "As the Senate clerk called the voting roll, Democrats sat in their chairs refusing to vote and glared at Republicans," and "protesters in the gallery shouted, 'Kill the bill! Don't kill us!' Their cries could still be heard once they were shooed into the hallway."

USA Today (7/25) editorializes, "McConnell bypassed the normal process of Congress, the committee system," and "has come up with two partial repeals of the ACA and one total repeal. All have elicited significant opposition, largely because they would result in 23 million to 32 million fewer people having health insurance. Now McConnell has cajoled all but two Republican senators to begin debate on a mystery bill that not only has not gone through committee, it does not even exist."

The New York Times (7/25) similarly editorializes that McConnell "browbeat and cajoled 50 members of his caucus to vote to begin a debate on health care without even telling the country which of several competing bills he wanted to pass." The proposals "vary in severity, but all of them would leave millions more people without health insurance and make medical care unaffordable for many low-income and middle-class families. It is clear that Mr. McConnell does not much care which of these proposals the Senate passes; for whatever reason pride, White House pressure, sheer cussedness he just wants to get a bill out of the Senate."

In his Washington Post (7/25) column, George Will writes, "Congress's continuing self-degradation is writ large in a process that brought us to Tuesday, when most Republican senators knew only this: They would vote to begin consideration of a bill that they might have to pass in order to find out what is in it." However, the Wall Street Journal (7/25) says in an editorial that the vote was a vindication for McConnell, but warns that the GOP caucus will need to retain discipline as votes proceed on a wide array of Democratic amendments meant to create divisions.

Trump Calls Vote "A Big Step," Thanks McCain For Returning. The Washington

Times (7/25, Miller) reports that the President "applauded...the Senate vote to open debate." Speaking at a joint news conference with Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri in the Rose Garden, Trump said, "This was a big step." Politico (7/25, Nussbaum) reports that Trump "acknowledged a difficult path remains to actually passing legislation." He said, "This is the tough vote to get. Now we're all going to sit together and we're going to try and come up with something that's really spectacular."

The Hill (7/25, Bowden) reports that Trump also thanked McCain for returning to Washington, tweeting, "@SenJohnMcCain-Thank you for coming to D.C. for such a vital vote. Congrats to all Rep. We can now deliver grt healthcare to all Americans!" The AP (7/25, Salama) reports that later in Youngstown, Ohio, Trump said "the nation was one step closer to liberation from the 'Obamacare nightmare.'"

DSCC Blasts Flake, Heller Over Healthcare Votes. The Hill (7/25, Savransky) reported that the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee on Tuesday took aim at Sens. Jeff Flake and Dean Heller for voting in favor of the motion to proceed. DSCC spokesman David Bergstein said in that Heller "has shown the people of Nevada they can't 'trust him to stand up for their care,'" referring to the GOP lawmaker "as a 'deciding vote.'" Bergstein also said Flake "voted to 'give big insurance companies and the wealthiest few another tax break.'" The Los Angeles Times (7/25, Montero) reports that a Heller tweet "about why he chose to 'vote to move forward and give us the chance to address the unworkable aspects of Obamacare' generated more than 5,300 replies within three hours of posting it," the "vast majority" of them expressing "anger, or eagerness to donate to his opponent."

Scott: "Obamacare Is Failing." Sen. Tim Scott writes in USA Today (7/25), "The unavoidable fact right now is that the ACA is failing. ... Our plans will reform Medicaid, ensure that it is serving those it was created to help (people with disabilities, children and those most in need) and sustain it for future generations." Scott writes, "Obamacare is failing, and our plan provides a better path forward."

McCarthy: House Will Return From Recess If Needed. The Washington Times (7/25, Dinan) reports that the House is still planning to begin its five-week summer recess after this week, "but GOP leaders said they'll bring the chamber back to vote should the Senate approve an Obamacare repeal." House Majority Leader McCarthy said, "We will call the House back in to finish the job."

Boehner Says ACA Will Not Be Repealed. However, USA Today (7/25, Shesgreen) reports that in a private speech in Las Vegas, ex-House Speaker John Boehner said, "They're not going to repeal and replace Obamacare. It's been around too long, and the American people have gotten accustomed to it." The Washington Post (7/25, Costa) also covers Boehner's remarks.

Collins Recorded Criticizing Trump Budget And "Unattractive" Farenthold. The AP (7/25, Kerr) reports, "Sen. Susan Collins got caught Tuesday at the end of a hearing with a microphone that was still hot and captured her ripping President Donald Trump and making fun of a fellow lawmaker who had been critical of her on health care." Collins criticized Trump's proposed 2018 budget as "incredibly

irresponsible,” and made “unflattering remarks” about Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-TX) “a day after he blamed ‘some female senators from the Northeast’ for blocking health care legislation.” She told Sen. Jack Reed, “I don’t mean to be unkind but he’s so unattractive it’s unbelievable.” The [New York Times](#) (7/25, Rogers) reports that Collins “also said she was taken aback when she realized” that Farenthold referenced the duel between Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton in his criticism. [Bloomberg News](#) (7/25, Blum) and an online [Washington Post](#) (7/25, Bump) report also cover the conversation.

Trump Says He May Reappoint Yellen Or Name Cohn To Lead Fed.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/25, Davidson) reports that in a Tuesday interview, President Trump said that he may renominate Fed Chair Janet Yellen for another term, but that he is also considering National Economic Council Director Cohn and “two or three” other candidates. Trump said of Yellen, “I like her; I like her demeanor. I think she’s done a good job. I’d like to see rates stay low. She’s historically been a low-interest-rate person.” The Journal points out that Trump was very critical of Yellen during his presidential campaign. [Bloomberg News](#) (7/25, Torres) says that other possible candidates include Glenn Hubbard of Columbia University’s business school, Fed Governor Jerome Powell, and ex-Fed Governor Kevin Warsh.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“The Senate’s Healthcare Travesty.” The [New York Times](#) (7/25) editorializes that Senate Majority Leader McConnell “browbeat and cajoled 50 members of his caucus to vote to begin a debate on health care without even telling the country which of several competing bills he wanted to pass.” The proposals “vary in severity, but all of them would leave millions more people without health insurance and make medical care unaffordable for many low-income and middle-class families. It is clear that Mr. McConnell does not much care which of these proposals the Senate passes; for whatever reason — pride, White House pressure, sheer cussedness — he just wants to get a bill out of the Senate.”

“Fixing Blame Won’t Fix The Subways.” The [New York Times](#) (7/25) argues in an editorial that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio “need to knock off the finger-pointing” and cooperate to address “the crisis afflicting the city’s subways.”

“Britain Sees Brexit’s Threats More Clearly.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (7/26) says “since the British voted to leave the European Union,” thus far “the only results are increasingly gloomy prognoses for Britain.” As negotiations continue, the Times says, “visions of a painless divorce and new opportunities for a ‘global Britain’ will most likely wither further, but the infighting will not,” because demands “to halt Brexit will grow.” The Times concedes “another referendum is not popular, and the result would be uncertain”; however, “there is nothing undemocratic about reviewing the pros and cons of Brexit as the trade-offs become clearer. A move this fateful should not be declared off-limits to a continuing national debate.”

Washington Post.

"This Is Not Okay." Citing President Trump's public attacks on Attorney General Sessions, a [Washington Post](#) (7/25) editorial says that "there is a serious point to be made about the difference between the United States of America and a state ruled by personal whim." The US "has been the envy of the world because certain norms have been accepted." The Post argues that the stakes are higher than "the careers of a particular attorney general or special counsel." When Trump "attacks that process and seeks revenge on his opponents," he "betrays bedrock American values. It's crucial that other political leaders say so."

"The Migrants Who Died In Misery Last Weekend Won't Be The Last." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/25) argues that the human smuggling incident in San Antonio that resulted in 10 immigrants dead and more than a dozen still hospitalized will not be the last such case, asserting that the demand for low-wage labor will continue to attract workers willing to take great risks to enter the country. The Post adds that although the Administration has reduced illegal border crossings, it has fostered an "inhospitable political environment" for illegal immigrants. The editorial concludes, "Without an overhaul of the nation's dysfunctional immigration laws, don't expect illegal immigration or human trafficking or further terrible tragedies to end anytime soon."

"Change J.E.B. Stuart High School's Name." A [Washington Post](#) editorial.

Wall Street Journal.

"Trump's Sessions Abuse." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/25) editorial is highly critical of President Trump's attacks on Attorney General Sessions, likening Trump's suggestion that Sessions prosecute Clinton to something one would see from the Erdogan government in Turkey or the Duterte government in the Philippines.

"Repealing The Arbitration Rule." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/25) applauds the House vote Tuesday to repeal a rule by Consumer Financial Protection Bureau chief Richard Cordray to ban mandatory arbitration. The Journal argues that according to the CFPB's own study, consumers who prevail in arbitration recovered \$5,389 on average, while those joining class action lawsuits received an average of \$32, with attorneys making an average of \$1 million. The Journal urges the Senate to join the House in repealing the ban.

"A GOP Gallows Reprieve." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/25) says in an editorial that the Senate vote to proceed to debate on measures to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act was a vindication for Majority Leader McConnell, but warns that the GOP caucus will need to retain discipline as votes proceed on a wide array of Democratic amendments meant to create divisions.

Big Picture**Headlines From Today's Front Pages.****Wall Street Journal:**

[Health Debate Rolls On After First Option Fails](#)

[Trump Eyes Tax-Code Overhaul, With Emphasis On Middle-Class Break](#)
[Caterpillar Boosts Outlook, Signaling Cautious Optimism](#)
[New Challenge To US Power: Chinese Exceptionalism](#)

New York Times:

[Senate Votes Down Broad Obamacare Repeal](#)
[In Trump's World, "Very Weak" Sessions Twists In Wind](#)
[McCain Returns To Cast Vote To Help The President Who Derided Him](#)
[Trump Finds Reason For The US To Remain In Afghanistan: Minerals](#)
[At A Moment Of Success, USC Is Rocked By Scandal](#)
[\\$800 Million Subway Rescue Plan Adds Cars And Subtracts Seats](#)

Washington Post:

[Scouts Speech Brings Backlash](#)
[In Return To Senate, McCain Urges Bipartisanship](#)
[N. Korea On Fast Track To Nuclear Missile](#)
[Deported Va. Teen Killed In Tex. Was Trying To Get Back To US In Truck](#)
[Senate Begins Debate On Health Bill](#)
[Standoff Between Trump And Sessions Escalates](#)

Financial Times:

[Greece Raises €3bn In First Bond Sale For Three Years](#)
[Trump Steps Up Attacks On Attorney-General](#)
["Wake-Up Call" For Male Health As Sperm Counts Drop](#)

Washington Times:

[Court Calls DC Gun Law Unconstitutional](#)
[CTE Disease In Brain Tied To Football Injuries](#)
[IRS Finally Agrees To Act On Last Case For Tea Party](#)
[Senate Republicans Win Vots To Begin Debate On Health Care](#)
[Unschooling, Hungry Children Will Carry Plight Into Future](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Trump-Sessions; McCain Returns-Healthcare Bill; Russia Sanctions Bill; Summer Camp-Kid Dies; NYC Train Collision Investigation; US-Iran Navy Close Call; Houston-Drunk Pedestrian; Implanted Employee ID; Sea World-Last Killer Whale Dies; Minneapolis-Police Violence Investigation; Missouri Traffic Accident; Inflight Crew Feud; Football-Head Trauma; Barbara Sinatra Dies; Rescued Puppy.

CBS: Trump-Sessions; McCain Returns-Healthcare Bill; Russia Sanctions Bill; Russia Meddling Investigation-Kushner; Texas-Immigrants Trailer Deaths; US-Iran Navy Close Call; Coast Guard-Budget; Brain Games; Implanted Employee ID; Andy Warhol Art Recovered; Barbara Sinatra Dies; Wrestling-Political Satire.

NBC: McCain Returns-Healthcare Bill; Healthcare Reform Plan; Trump-Sessions; Russia Sanctions Bill; US-Iran Navy Close Call; Football-Head Trauma; Arizona-Flood Deaths; Sea World-Last Killer Whale Dies; Ford Explorer-Carbon Monoxide

Leak; Barbara Sinatra Dies; New Girl Scout Badges; Money-Life Satisfaction; Colorado-Rock Climbers.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump-Sessions 10 minutes, 35 seconds
 McCain Returns-Healthcare Bill 9 minutes, 35 seconds
 US-Iran Navy Close Call 2 minutes, 15 seconds
 Russia Sanctions Bill 1 minute, 10 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Healthcare Reform Plan; McCain Returns-Healthcare Bill; Trump-Sessions; Russia Meddling Investigation-Kushner.

CBS: McCain Returns-Healthcare Bill; Healthcare Reform Plan; Trump-Sessions; Texas-Immigrants Trailer Deaths; Volkswagen Emission Cheating; Barbara Sinatra Dies; Wall Street News.

FOX: Healthcare Reform Plan; Russia Sanctions Bill; Ohio-Capital Punishment.

NPR: Healthcare Reform Plan; Trump-Boy Scouts Jamboree; McCain Returns-Healthcare Bill; Russia Sanctions Bill; Texas-Bathroom Law.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Delivers remarks to the American Legion Boys Nation and the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation; participates in a jobs announcement.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers remarks to White House interns; joins the President to participate in a jobs announcement.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Aging Committee hearing on curing Type I Diabetes Hearing on 'Progress Toward a Cure for Type I Diabetes: Research and the Artificial Pancreas', with testimony from actor Paul Sparks; NIH National Institute of Diabetes and Kidney Diseases Director Griffin Rodgers; 10-year old Type 1 diabetes sufferer Charlie Albair; 17-year old Type 1 diabetes sufferer Lorynn Watt; and JDRF 2017 Children's Congress Chair Mom Angie Platt, and member (and her son) Jonathan a 14-year old Type 1 diabetes sufferer Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 106, Washington, DC <http://aging.senate.gov/>

9:45 AM Senate Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing Public Lands, Forests and Mining Subcommittee legislative hearing, with testimony from bipartisan Sens. Orrin Hatch and Jon Tester; National Forest System Associate Deputy Chief Glenn Casamassa; and Bureau of Land Management Acting Deputy Director of Operations John Ruhs Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on 'attempts to influence U.S. elections', though with no testimony from President Trump's son Hearing on 'Oversight of the Foreign Agents Registration Act and Attempts to Influence U.S. Elections: Lessons Learned from Current and Prior Administrations', with testimony from Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the National Security

Division Adam Hickey; FBI Counterintelligence Division Assistant Director Bill Priestap; Department of Justice Inspector General Michael Horowitz; and Hermitage Capital Management (UK) CEO William Browder * Former Donald J. Trump for President campaign manager Paul Manafort and Fusion GPS' Glenn Simpson have been subpoenaed to testify, although Simpson's lawyer has said he is on vacation and would invoke the Fifth Amendment if forced to appear * President Donald Trump's son Donald Trump, Jr. was previously scheduled to testify, but is instead due to hold a private meeting with the Committee * Follows a meeting involving Trump, Jr., Manafort, White House Senior Advisor (and President Trump's son-in-law) Jared Kushner, and Russian attorney Natalia Veselnitskaya in June 2016 Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 226, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee nominations hearing Nominations hearing considers Ronald Batory to be Federal Railroad Administration Administrator; Mark Buzby to be Maritime Administration Administrator; Peter Davidson to be Department of Commerce General Counsel; and Karen Dunn Kelley to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:00 AM Treasury Secretary Mnuchin testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY'18 budget Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee hearing on 'Review of the FY2018 Budget Request for the U.S. Department of the Treasury', with testimony from Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin; Internal Revenue Service Commissioner John Koskinen; and Department of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration J. Russell George Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 138, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing on South Sudan, nominations hearing Africa and Global Health Policy Subcommittee hearing on 'South Sudan's Conflict and Famine', with testimony from Heritage Foundation Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy Senior Policy Analyst for Africa and the Middle East Joshua Meserve; and U.S. Institute of Peace consultant Payton Knopf, and visiting expert Aly Verjee * Immediately followed by nominations hearing considering Michael Arthur Raynor to be U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia; Maria Brewer to be U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone; and John Desrocher to be U.S. Ambassador to Algeria Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Business Meeting Business Meeting, with agenda including legislation including 'S. 1584, to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to reauthorize the Judicial Conference of the United States to redact sensitive information contained in financial disclosure reports of judicial officers and employees, and for other purposes', 'S. 288, Regulatory Predictability for Business Growth Act of 2017', 'S. 1199, Border Enforcement Security Task Force Reauthorization Act of 2017', 'S. 938, Procurement Fraud Prevention Act', 'S. 1208, Strengthening the Department of Homeland Security Secure Mail Initiative Act', 'H.R. 1293, to

amend title 5, United States Code, to require that the Office of Personnel Management submit an annual report to Congress relating to the use of official time by Federal employees', 'H.R. 1679, FEMA Accountability, Modernization and Transparency Act of 2017', 'H.R. 195, Federal Register Printing Savings Act of 2017', and 'H.R. 194, Federal Agency Mail Management Act of 2017' Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:00 AM Business Meeting, to consider 'S.1514, the Hunting Heritage and Environmental Legacy Preservation for Wildlife Act' Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

11:00 AM Capitol Hill rally for 'greater investments in affordable housing' Rally on Capitol Hill to raise awareness about 'the lack of affordable housing' and call on Congress to 'fully invest in affordable housing solutions that help low income families', hosted by the National Low Income Housing Coalition and the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding as part of the 'Our Homes, Our Voices' National Week of Action. Speakers include Democrats Sen. Chris Van Hollen and Reps. Charlie Crist, Adriano Espaillat, Sheila Jackson Lee, Barbara Lee, David Price, Mark Takano, and Maxine Waters, Miriam's Kitchen Homeless Rights Advocate Waldon Adams, CSH federally assisted housing resident Emily Marinuik, National Alliance to End Homelessness President and CEO Nan Roman, and National Coalition for the Homeless Rights Advocate Steve Thomas Location: Upper Senate Park, 200 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC www.nlihc.org <https://twitter.com/NLIHC>

12:00 PM Business Meeting, to consider committee print of 'S.1598 Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://veterans.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/VACChair>

2:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on Central and Eastern Europe Helsinki Commission briefing on 'Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe: Renewing the Promise of Democratic Transitions', examining the current state of democracy in Central and Eastern Europe, analyzing efforts to address the region's challenges, and discussing the declaration adopted 1 Jun by civil society representatives, members of business communities, and others which seeks to reinvigorate the region's democratic trajectory, support democratic and economic reform, and strengthen the transatlantic partnership. Speakers include Center for International Private Enterprise Managing Director Andrew Wilson, Institute for Economic and Social Reforms (Slovakia) Director Peter Golias, Transparency International (Hungary) Chair Andras Loke, Civil Development Forum (Poland) Vice-President Marek Tatala, International Republican Institute Regional Director for Europe Jan Surotchak, and German Marshall Fund Senior Resident Fellow Jonathan Katz Location: The U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-215, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

2:30 PM Senate Indian Affairs Committee oversight hearing on GAO reports on trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Natives Oversight hearing on 'The GAO Reports on Human Trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Natives in the United States', with testimony from Government Accountability Office Director of Homeland Security and Justice Issues Gretta Goodwin;

Department of Justice Office of Tribal Justice Director Tracy Toulou; Bureau of Indian Affairs Acting Deputy Director for Justice Services Jason Thompson; and Covenant House Alaska Executive Director Alison Kear Location: Rm 628, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov>
<https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

2:30 PM Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee hearing on federal infrastructure permitting Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations hearing on 'Cutting Through the Red Tape: Oversight of Federal Infrastructure Permitting and the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council', with testimony from American Municipal Power CEO Marc Gerken; U.S. Chamber of Commerce Senior Vice President for the Environment, Technology & Regulatory Affairs William Kovacs; Natural Resources Defense Council Legislative Director Scott Slesinger; Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council Acting Executive Director Janet Pfleeger; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Associate General Counsel for Energy Projects Jacqueline Holmes; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Assistant for Water Resources Policy Robyn Colosimo; and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Assistant Director of Ecological Services Gary Frazer Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

4:30 PM Republican Sen. James Lankford meets National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Deputy Director-nominee Susan Gordon Location: Washington, DC <http://www.lankford.senate.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SenatorLankford>

US House: 10:00 AM Hearing on 'Office of National Drug Control Policy: Reauthorization in the 115th Congress' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing concludes Markup hearing concludes on legislation including 'H.R. 825, Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act', 'H.R. 873, Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act', 'H.R. 1418, To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Alexander Creek, Alaska, is and shall be recognized as an eligible Native village under that Act, and for other purposes', 'H.R. 1491, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Land Affirmation Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2083, Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act', 'H.R. 2199, Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2316, Cooperative Management of Mineral Rights Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2371, Western Area Power Administration Transparency Act', 'H.R. 2582, Confirming State Land Grants for Education Act', 'H.R. 2611, Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site Boundary Modification Act', 'H.R. 3279, Helium Extraction Act of 2017', and 'H.R. 3281, Reclamation Title Transfer and Non-Federal Infrastructure Incentivization Act' * Began yesterday Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM Congressional Black Caucus Twitter town hall on 'Trumpcare' Congressional Black Caucus Twitter town hall on 'Trumpcare' and 'how it will negatively impact all Americans', with CBC Chairman Cedric Richmond, Assistant

House Minority Leader James Clyburn, and fellow Democratic Reps. Bobby Scott, Gwen Moore, Marcia Fudge, Joyce Beatty, and Robin Kelly taking over the Caucus' Twitter account and responding to questions and comments from tweeters via Twitter's video-reply technology Location: TBD

<https://cbc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/OfficialCBC> #CBCOnHealthcare

10:00 AM Hearing on 'Renegotiating NAFTA: Opportunities for Agriculture' Location: Rm 1300, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://agriculture.house.gov/>

10:00 AM Markup hearing on 'H.R. 391, Asylum Reform and Border Protection Act' and 'H.Res. 446, Resolution of Inquiry' Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/>

<https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Energy subcommittee hearing on the nation's wholesale electricity markets Energy Subcommittee hearing on 'Powering America: A Review of the Operation and Effectiveness of the Nation's Wholesale Electricity Markets', with testimony from Southwest Power Pool President and CEO Nick Brown; California Independent System Operator Corporation Vice President for Market and Infrastructure Development Dr Keith Casey; Midcontinent Independent System Operator Executive Vice President for Operations Richard Doying; PJM Interconnection Vice President for Federal Government Policy Craig Glazer; New York Independent System Operator President and CEO Bradley Jones; Electric Reliability Council of Texas Senior Vice President and COO Cheryl Mele; and ISO New England President and CEO Gordon van Welie Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC

<http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Education and the Workforce subcommittee hearing on 'earn-and-learn opportunities' Higher Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee hearing on 'Expanding Options for Employers and Workers Through Earn-and-Learn Opportunities', with testimony from Cianbro Vice President Mike Bennett; Kentucky Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education State Chair Stacey Johnson Hughes, and student Robert Peglow; and Newport News Shipbuilding Vice President of Manufacturing and Material Distribution Rob Hogan Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'U.S. Cyber Diplomacy', with testimony from U.S. Coordinator for Cyber Issues Christopher Painter Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

10:00 AM House Science, Space, and Technology subcommittee hearing on STEM and computer science education Research and Technology Subcommittee hearing on 'STEM and Computer Science Education: Preparing the 21st Century Workforce', with testimony from STEM Education Coalition Executive Director James Brown; Code.org Chief Academic Officer Pat Yongpradit; University of California-Berkeley Executive Vice Chancellor Dr A. Paul Alivisatos; and Micron Technology Foundation Executive Director Dee Mooney Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:15 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on special needs plans Health Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining the Extension of Special Needs Plans', with testimony from National MLTSS Health Plan Association President Larry Atkins; former Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Federal Coordinated Health Care Office Director Melanie Bella; and SCAN Health Plan CEO Chris Wing Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

11:00 AM House Small Business Committee hearing on cybersecurity insurance Hearing on 'Protecting Small Businesses from Cyber Attacks: the Cybersecurity Insurance Option', with testimony from SureFire Innovations President Robert Luft; Zurich Insurance North America Senior Vice President and Head of Specialty Products Errors & Omissions Erica Davis (on behalf of American Insurance Association); Munich Re U.S. Vice President and Cyber Risk Practice Leader Eric Cernak (on behalf of Reinsurance Association America); and Risk Advisory Services Security and Privacy Consulting Principal Daimon Geopfert Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

11:00 AM House Administration Committee hearing on the Library of Congress Hearing on 'Oversight of the Library of Congress' Strategic Plan', with testimony from Librarian of Congress Dr Carla Hayden Location: Rm 1310, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://cha.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAdmnGOP>

11:00 AM Capitol Hill rally for 'greater investments in affordable housing' Rally on Capitol Hill to raise awareness about 'the lack of affordable housing' and call on Congress to 'fully invest in affordable housing solutions that help low income families', hosted by the National Low Income Housing Coalition and the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding as part of the 'Our Homes, Our Voices' National Week of Action. Speakers include Democrats Sen. Chris Van Hollen and Reps. Charlie Crist, Adriano Espaillat, Sheila Jackson Lee, Barbara Lee, David Price, Mark Takano, and Maxine Waters, Miriam's Kitchen Homeless Rights Advocate Waldon Adams, CSH federally assisted housing resident Emily Marinuik, National Alliance to End Homelessness President and CEO Nan Roman, and National Coalition for the Homeless Rights Advocate Steve Thomas Location: Upper Senate Park, 200 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC www.nlihc.org <https://twitter.com/NLIHC>

11:30 AM House Homeland Security markup Markup: H.R. 2626, H.R. 2805, H.R. 3202, H.R. 3284, H.R. 3328, H.R. 3359, and H. Res. 447. <https://homeland.house.gov/markup/markup-h-r-2626-h-r-2805-h-r-3202-h-r-3284-h-r-3328-h-r-3359-h-res-447/> Location: HVC-210 Capitol Hill homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

12:00 PM House expected to begin debate on 'Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018' House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include beginning consideration of 'H.R. 3219

Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018', plus consideration of legislation possibly including 'H.R. 3210 SECRET Act of 2017', 'H.R. 1927

African American Civil Rights Network Act of 2017', as amended, and 'H.Res. 317 Calling for the unconditional release of United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens being held for political purposes by the Government of Iran', as amended, 'H.R. 2370 Escambia County Land Conveyance Act' under suspension of the rules * Administration has said it supports passage of 'H.R. 3219', and that President Donald Trump would likely sign it if it reached his desk Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on the U.S.-Qatar relationship Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee hearing on 'Assessing the U.S.-Qatar Relationship', with testimony from Foundation for Defense of Democracies Senior Vice President Dr Jonathan Schanzer; The Washington Institute for Near East Policy Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence Director Dr Matthew Levitt; and Center for a New American Security Middle East Security Program Director Ilan Goldenberg Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

Other: 8:00 AM NAACP Annual Convention continues National Association for the Advancement of Colored People 108th Annual Convention, final day Location: The Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD Baltimore <http://www.naACP.org> <https://twitter.com/NAACP>

8:30 AM GOP Sen. Bob Corker discusses Russia, Iran, and foreign policy at Washington Post event The Washington Post hosts Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Chairman Bob Corker for an interview with columnist David Ignatius, discussing the Committee's efforts to expand sanctions against Russia and Iran, the status of the Iranian nuclear deal, President Donald Trump's proposed State Department budget, and the U.S. response to 'other foreign policy flare ups around the globe' Location: The Washington Post Live Center, 1301 K St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.washingtonpost.com/> <https://twitter.com/washingtonpost>

9:00 AM GOP Sen. Dan Sullivan speaks on the North Korean ballistic missile threat at Heritage Foundation Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan speaks at Heritage Foundation on 'What a North Korean Ballistic Missile Threat Means for the U.S. Missile Defense System', followed by discussion with Center for Strategic and International Studies International Security Program Senior Fellow Thomas Karako, RAND Senior Political Scientist Austin Long, and Heritage Foundation Northeast Asia Senior Research Fellow Bruce Klingner Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

7:15 PM Young Americans for Liberty National Convention Young Americans for Liberty National Convention, with today's speakers including Republican Sen. Rand Paul Location: Sheraton Reston Hotel, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA www.yaliberty.org <https://twitter.com/YALiberty>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: "You know how the Republicans have been trying to repeal and

replace Obamacare? Well, since Trump's been in office, they've tried three times, and they've failed. But they finally figured out why they failed. They failed because people knew what was in their bill."

Stephen Colbert: "The bill was a total mystery. It's like 'Westworld.' No one knows exactly what's going on, but it's probably going to be a bad thing for women."

Stephen Colbert: "If none of the senators know what they voted for, it's potentially both good and bad at the same time. It's a black box we can't see inside. It's 'Schrodinger's Healthcare.' But the cat is probably dead, because it doesn't have health insurance."

Stephen Colbert: "It's no surprise [President Donald Trump] went to the Boy Scouts. With all his scandal, he's good at putting out fires."

James Corden: "This afternoon, Republicans in the Senate narrowly won a vote on Obamacare. And when I heard this news, I was bummed. And then I found out it was simply a vote to begin debating the future of Obamacare, which raises the question, what the heck have they been doing this whole time?"

James Corden: "The vote was 50-50, so Vice President Mike Pence was the deciding vote after the tie, which is weird because, usually, when Trump needs to fix a tie, he goes with scotch tape."

James Corden: "All I know is whoever ends up replacing Jeff Sessions is going to have some pretty tiny shoes to fill."

Trevor Noah: "But first, we begin the show with the Boy Scouts, the young men who learn about civic responsibility and tying knots, unlike the Girl Scouts who drift America with their cookie ponzi scheme."

Trevor Noah: "Yesterday at the National Jamboree in West Virginia, the Boy Scouts got a speech from America's most powerful adolescent, President Trump."

Trevor Noah: "The effort to repeal and replace Obamacare appeared to be deadlier than Trump's prospects on Tinder."

Trevor Noah: "I don't know who's more original, Hollywood or Senate Republicans. So many sequels. Healthcare Bill 1, 2, Healthcare Bill In Space, Healthcare Bill Versus Predator, the one where the Predator lost because of preexisting conditions."

Trevor Noah: "So the new GOP plan is to reinvent the national healthcare system by Thursday? I admire their optimism. We haven't been able to do this in seven years, let's try it in three days."

Trevor Noah: "If you're really confused by what's happening, you're probably a Republican senator who has to vote on third."

Trevor Noah: "Mitch McConnell was so hell-bent on getting this passed, he forced a man just diagnosed with brain cancer to come to Washington to vote. McCain was probably like, 'What the hell, Mitch, don't you know I could be dying?' McConnell is like, 'If we cared about people dying, we wouldn't be doing this bill. Now shut up and vote'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Today, Senate Republicans voted to move forward in the process to repeal and replace Obamacare even though they don't know exactly what they're going to be voting on. That's like going into the hospital and telling the surgeon, 'Surprise me.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "The heads of the healthcare voting centers are saying that they had no clue what they've been voting on. Then America said, 'Hey, just like us during the election.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "This morning, two senators were caught on a hot mic calling President Trump crazy, and when the news came out, literally every member of the Senate was like, 'Wait, was it me?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Last night, President Trump gave a big speech at the Boy Scouts of America National Scout Jamboree. And this is cool, his healthcare bill won the award for scariest campfire story."

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that this week, Democrats announced their new slogan, 'A

Better Deal, Better Jobs, Better Wages, Better Future.' And Republicans announced their new slogan, 'Shorter Slogan.'"

Seth Meyers: "White House Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci reportedly told his staff today, quote, 'You're either going to stop leaking, or you're going to get fired.' Replied the leaker, 'You can't fire me, I'm the President.'"

Seth Meyers: "The Girl Scouts have announced that they will offer 23 new badges focused on science, technology, engineering, and math, while the Boy Scouts have announced they're just going to lay low for a while."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump spoke yesterday at the Boy Scouts jamboree and bragged about his election victory over Hillary Clinton. And every Scout in attendance earned the merit badge for eye rolling."

Seth Meyers: "According to the Washington Post, President Trump is considering Ted Cruz as a replacement for Attorney General Jeff Sessions. And if you thought Jeff Sessions was bad, you were right."

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