

From: Bulletin Intelligence
To: Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com
Subject: U S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, September 26, 2017
Date: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 7:03:44 AM

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.

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



DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

Today's Table Of Contents

DOI In The News

- U.S. News & World Report: Zinke: One-Third Of Interior Employees Not Loyal To Trump.
- Washington Examiner: Industry Rolls Out Clean Energy Week.
- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Interior Boss Blasts Fired Utah BLM Law Enforcement Agent.
- WLWT-TV Cincinnati: The U.S. Department Of The Interior Promises It Really Does Feel Like Fall.
- Washington Examiner: Rambo Would Like This D.C. Office – Interior Secretary Zinke's.
- National Review: Federal Wildlife Regulations – Greater Sage Grouse Is Not Helped By Them.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Representatives Urging Action On Beloit Casino.
- BIA Takes Over Jail On Fort Belknap Reservation.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Feds Move Ahead With Oil And Gas Leases On Southern Utah Lands Rich In Ancient Puebloan Ruins.
- Deseret (UT) News: Groups Riled Over Proposed Oil And Gas Leases.
- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: County To BLM: Get Rid Of Obama's Fracking Regs.
- Wichita Falls (TX) Times Record News: County Approves Red River Land Dispute Settlement.
- Bend (OR) Bulletin: BLM Conceals Information About Home On BLM Land.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- U.S., Mexico On Verge Of New Colorado River Water Pact.
- Unique Fish Tunnel Closer To Reality At Lake Cle Elum.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Daily Caller: Enviros Fight Environmental Protections.
- Arizona Daily Star: Tucson Lawsuit Seeks To Protect Jaguars From Rosemont Mine.
- KWMU-FM St. Louis: Mississippi River Islands Added To Great Rivers National Wildlife Refuge.
- Flathead (MT) Beacon: Concerns Surface At Water Bottling Hearing.
- Texas Tribune: Report: Sand Miners Disturbing West Texas Lizard's Habitat.
- San Francisco Chronicle: Minnesota Wolf Population Appears To Rise 25 Percent.

National Park Service

- The Hill: Park Service Report: Obama Water Bottle Sales Ban Had 'Significant' Benefits.
- Rolling Stone: What Happens When A Superstorm Hits D.C.?
- KBZK-TV Butte (MT): Photographer Captures Last Photos Of Sperry Chalet Still Standing.
- Raleigh (NC) News & Observer: OBX Beachgoers Discover 2 Unexploded Ordnance Along NC Coastline Monday.
- Ventura County (CA) Star: The National Park Service Allows Boats To Land At Santa Barbara Island.
- Red Bank-Shrewsbury (NJ) Patch: Sandy Hook Lighthouse Closes For Restoration Work.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Reuters: North Korea Says Trump "Declared War," Warns It Could Shoot Down US Bombers.
- Associated Press: Trump Says Puerto Rico "In Deep Trouble" As Administration Officials Assess Hurricane Damage.

Office Of Surface Mining

- Judge Orders Agency To Inspect Mine.

US Geological Survey

- NBC News: Earthquake Early-Warning System Is Coming To The West Coast.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- ABC: Media Analyses: Graham-Cassidy Appears To Be Dead As Collins Announces Opposition.
- NBC: Supreme Court Cancels Travel Ban Oral Arguments, Seeking New Briefs From Both Sides.
- Associated Press: White House, GOP Plan To Slash Corporate Tax Rate.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "A Trump Travel Ban We've Seen Before."
 - "The Wreckage Of Anthony Weiner."
- Washington Post.
 - "Trump's New Travel Ban Still Has No Justification."
 - "The Kremlin Creeps Into Germany."
 - "Hogan Shoves Transportation To The Top Of The Regional Agenda."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "The Michigan Comeback Story."

- "Cuba's Sonic Attacks."
- "Japan's Snap Elections."

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

Zinke: One-Third Of Interior Employees Not Loyal To Trump.

The [AP](#) (9/25, Daly) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said Monday in a speech to the National Petroleum Council "that nearly one-third of employees at his department are not loyal to him and President Donald Trump, adding that he is working to change the department's regulatory culture to be more business friendly." To address this, Zinke "said he is pursuing a major reorganization that would push much of the agency's decision-making outside Washington and move several agencies, including the Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Land Management, to undetermined Western states." In addition to "moving employees, Zinke said he wants to speed up permits for oil drilling, logging and other energy development that now can take years."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/25, Siciliano) reports that Zinke "also said the Endangered Species Act has been 'abused' by environmental groups and bureaucrats alike, which has stalled development." Zinke said that "the designation of animal species granted protections under the law must be less arbitrary."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/25, Siciliano) reports that in his remarks, Zinke "referred to the oil drilling method known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, as proof of divine love, as well as humor." He said, "Fracking is proof that God's got a good sense of humor and he loves us." However, the article says that "the statement had no context and it was unclear what Zinke was trying to say exactly."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington Post](#) (9/25, Matthew Daly |, Ap), the [Washington Post](#) (9/25, Matthew Daly |, Ap), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (9/25, Daly), [ABC News](#) (9/25, Daly), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (9/25, Daly), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (9/24, Daly), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (9/25, Daly), the [Washington Times](#) (9/25, Daly), [WFMZ-TV Allentown \(PA\)](#) Allentown, PA (9/25, Daly), and [WRC-TV Washington](#) Washington (9/25, Daly).

Industry Rolls Out Clean Energy Week.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/25, Siciliano, Seigel) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Energy Secretary Rick Perry will address a gathering on Capitol Hill today to open up Clean Energy Week "on the administration and congressional side at an all-day event." The "steering committee" for the week includes: "American Wind Energy Association, Nuclear Energy Institute, American Gas Association, National Hydropower Association, Center for Liquefied Natural Gas, the Solar Energy Industries Association, and others."

Interior Boss Blasts Fired Utah BLM Law Enforcement Agent.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/25, Maffly) reports that Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt has "singled out the recent firing of a controversial Bureau of Land Management agent over Utah to illustrate a renewed commitment to hold accountable senior employees who misuse their official positions and to protect those who report such abuse." In a memo circulated Friday, Bernhardt "also mentioned another supervisory lawman recently fired in the wake of another OIG probe:" Edwin Correa, who "engaged in sexual harassment while serving as chief ranger at Canaveral National Seashore." Bernhardt wrote, "We will hold people accountable when we are informed that they have failed in their duties and obligations. Although the law in large part prevents dissemination of the details of actions taken, I am sharing these examples because you need to know that the Department has taken concrete disciplinary action in cases of serious misconduct, including those involving senior officials."

The U.S. Department Of The Interior Promises It Really Does Feel Like Fall.

[WLWT-TV](#) Cincinnati (9/25, Lucarelli) reports that on Sunday, the Interior Department “shared a few photos of Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska, which is currently bathed in beautiful gold, orange and red leaves.” According to the article, “the Facebook post shared some additional information about how quickly fall’s colors come and go, and even mentioned that snow is already taking over the landscape.”

Rambo Would Like This D.C. Office – Interior Secretary Zinke’s.

In his column for the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/25, Bedard), Paul Bedard writes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s office evokes the “Hollywood set” of a “Rambo” movie. The office contains “a scary grizzly bear and Montana bobcat picked” by Zinke “to show off the state he represented in Congress and some tools of his trade while a Navy SEAL for 23 years.” In a drawer, Zinke “keeps his SEAL knife collection showing that over two decades of design changes, the final knife he received was practically a copy of his first, proof of bureaucratic bungling.”

Federal Wildlife Regulations – Greater Sage Grouse Is Not Helped By Them.

In an op-ed for the [National Review](#) (9/26, Seasholes, Gaziano), Brian Seasholes of the Property and Environment Research Center and Todd Gaziano of the Pacific Legal Foundation write that “even with the best of intentions, federal, one-size-fits-all regulation that interferes with more-effective state and private wildlife conservation efforts can cause real harm.” They claim that “federal sage-grouse plans issued in 2015 both hurt the sage grouse and threaten thousands of productive jobs tied to almost 73 million acres of federal land in the West.” The authors assert that “killing those federal rules will help the grouse.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Representatives Urging Action On Beloit Casino.

The [Beloit \(WI\) Daily News](#) (9/25, Montgomery) reports that group of Wisconsin congressional representatives sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke urging action on the Ho-Chunk Nation Beloit casino plan. Sen. Tammy Baldwin and Reps. Mark Pocan, Ron Kind, and Gwen Moore wrote, “We write today to urge full, fair and prompt consideration of the Ho-Chunk Nation’s application to acquire land for gaming purposes in Beloit, Wisconsin. The Beloit community and the Ho-Chunk Nation have eagerly awaited progress for years at the federal level on the casino plan. This proposed gaming facility will provide significant economic benefits for the City of Beloit and Rock County, the State of Wisconsin and the Ho-Chunk Nation. The project will support additional business development and infrastructure improvements in the region. It will allow the tribe to expand educational, housing and health care services for its members.”

BIA Takes Over Jail On Fort Belknap Reservation.

The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (9/25, Larson) reports that “after 20 years, the Bureau of Indian Affairs last week reassumed control over the jail on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation at the request of tribal officials.” Fort Belknap Tribal President Mark Azure “said tribal officials decided last week to return control of the detention facility to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.” The cost of operating the facility was cited for the decision.

Bureau Of Land Management

Feds Move Ahead With Oil And Gas Leases On Southern Utah Lands Rich In Ancient Puebloan Ruins.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/25, Maffly) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is planning to continue with a proposed oil and gas lease of 43 parcels in the Ancestral Puebloan habitation area of southeastern Utah. Wilderness Society Senior Counsel said, “BLM is rushing to give Utah’s wild public lands to the oil and gas industry, over the objections of the American public who value these lands for recreation and our shared history.” The public can submit comments on the environmental assessment until Oct. 23.

Groups Riled Over Proposed Oil And Gas Leases.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/25, O’Donoghue) reports that “industry-nominated federal land for

potential oil and gas development in southeastern Utah is stoking a roar of criticism among environmental groups that say the acreage should be off-limits." The Bureau of Land Management is "proposing a March lease sale of minerals on 51,400 acres, including land near the San Juan River, Hovenweep National Monument and areas that include more than 1,000 documented archaeological resources." Michael Saul, with the Center for Biological Diversity, also "said the proposal risks natural and cultural treasures in the area near the newly created Bears Ears National Monument."

County To BLM: Get Rid Of Obama's Fracking Regs.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/26, Harmon) reports that on Monday, the Mesa County Commission voted to send a letter to the Bureau of Land Management urging it to drop its Obama-era rule regulating hydraulic fracturing on federal lands. The commission wrote that the rule "unnecessarily burdens industry with compliance costs and information requirements that are duplicative of regulatory programs of many states and some tribes" and that the state rules are "sufficient to deal with the development of oil and gas" on federal lands.

County Approves Red River Land Dispute Settlement.

The [Wichita Falls \(TX\) Times Record News](#) (9/25, Kowalick) reports that Wichita County Commissioners "approved a draft of a settlement Monday concerning the Red River land dispute." The commissioners "said the settlement had to be approved by all the parties involved and they were not sure when the agreement would be finalized."

BLM Conceals Information About Home On BLM Land.

The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (9/25) editorializes that the Bureau of Land Management in Prineville has "shown contempt for the public's right to know what's going on regarding a private home built on BLM land outside of Prineville." The paper accuses of the BLM of "redaction and refusal" as a way to "hide what it's doing." The paper asserts that "the public is entitled to know how well or how poorly public land is being managed to keep government accountable." However, it concludes that "the BLM has gone out of its way to block understanding of this home and the property on which it sits."

Bureau Of Reclamation

U.S., Mexico On Verge Of New Colorado River Water Pact.

[Bloomberg BNA](#) (9/25, Baltz) reports that "an agreement amending the longstanding treaty between the U.S. and Mexico on management of the Colorado River will continue the practice of water shortage sharing, but also fund new conservation and environmental programs, and aim to reduce the risk of ruinous drought." The two countries are "tentatively scheduled to execute the agreement—Minute 323, an amendment to a 1944 water treaty—on Sept. 26 in Mexico's Ciudad Juarez." Minute 323 will "govern water flows in the Colorado River and other water management issues by extending an existing binational agreement, Minute 319, which was set to expire at the end of 2017."

Unique Fish Tunnel Closer To Reality At Lake Cle Elum.

The [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (9/23, Regimbal) reports that "if all goes well over the next three years, thousands of fish will be able to leave Lake Cle Elum to head to the sea for the first time in eight decades." According to the article, "plans for the construction of a first-of-its kind tunnel allowing the fish to escape have made a huge step forward with the awarding of a \$15.2 million contract." Richard Visser, a project manager with the federal Bureau of Reclamation's Yakima field office, said, "If we're able to reintroduce those fish, we'll see recreational benefits and a lot of ecological benefits to the system as well."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Enviros Fight Environmental Protections.

The [Daily Caller](#) (9/24, Pearce) reports that "environmentalists are suing the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for suspending environmental regulations in order to construct a border wall along the U.S. boundary with Mexico, despite evidence of 'significant' environmental damage

caused by illegal immigration.” The Center for Biological Diversity Rep. Raúl Grijalva, “who sits on CBD’s advisory board, are calling the DHS waivers ‘unconstitutional’ acts that represent ‘dangerous disregard for our environment.’” A May CBD report on the border wall states: “Trump’s border wall will be a deathblow to already endangered animals on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. A wall will block movement of many wildlife species, precluding genetic exchange, population rescue and movement of species in response to climate change.”

Also reporting on the wall is the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (9/25, Kapoor).

Tucson Lawsuit Seeks To Protect Jaguars From Rosemont Mine.

The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (9/25, Prendergast) reports that “a Tucson environmental group sued two federal agencies Monday in an effort to protect the habitat of jaguars in Southern Arizona from the proposed Rosemont Mine.” The Center for Biological Diversity “asked a federal judge to rule the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service violated federal law in their analysis of the environmental impacts of the proposed copper mine in the Santa Rita Mountains.” The group claims the FWS “violated the Endangered Species Act and the Administrative Procedure Act by issuing new regulations defining damage to habitat and by revising the critical habitat designation for the jaguar, according to the lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Tucson.”

Also reporting are the [Tucson \(AZ\) Sentinel](#) (9/25, Ingram) and [Law360](#) (9/25, Rodriguez).

Mississippi River Islands Added To Great Rivers National Wildlife Refuge.

[KWMU-FM](#) St. Louis (9/25, Chen) reports that the Great Rivers National Wildlife Refuge is “acquiring two islands on the Mississippi River to protect wildlife and provide more areas for outdoor recreation.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has “given \$677,500 to the refuge in northeast Missouri, a portion of \$21.9 million the U.S. Department of the Interior dedicated to conserving public lands in 16 states.” According to the article, “a family near the river used to farm on the 702-acre property, called Slim and Haps Islands, but stopped as flooding increased along the Mississippi River.”

Concerns Surface At Water Bottling Hearing.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (9/25, Scott) reports that “a divisive plan to build a water bottling plant near the Flathead River has drawn intense scrutiny since an initial permitting application revealed the full scope of the proposal in January 2016, and emotions have run high ever since.” According to the article, “last week, dozens of neighbors continued their efforts to halt the proposed development in an administrative setting, during a hearing before the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, one of the state agencies charged with approving or denying plans by the Montana Artesian Water Company.” Over “the course of the three-day hearing in Kalispell, attorneys representing around 40 objectors laid out their case against the plant, arguing that the state erred when it issued a preliminary water rights permit after determining it would cause ‘no adverse impacts’ to other water rights owners in the area.”

Report: Sand Miners Disturbing West Texas Lizard’s Habitat.

The [Texas Tribune](#) (9/25, Najmabadi) reports that “sand mining operations in oil-rich West Texas have disturbed at least 292 acres of a threatened lizard’s habitat this year — and could impact up to 23,000 acres, according to an advocacy group’s analysis published Monday.” Defenders of Wildlife has “identified nine sand-mining operations that broke ground earlier this year and disturbed almost 300 acres” of the dunes sagebrush lizard’s habitat and “surrounding buffer areas between February and August.” The group also “used the nine sand mines’ lease information to predict that over 23,000 acres, or 9.5 percent, of the lizard’s habitat and buffer zones could eventually be disturbed or destroyed.”

Also reporting are and the [Texas Observer](#) (9/25, Sadasivam).

Minnesota Wolf Population Appears To Rise 25 Percent.

The [AP](#) (9/25, Karnowski) reports that “Minnesota’s gray wolf population appears to have grown by 25 percent thanks to more deer, the Department of Natural Resources said Monday.” The article notes that “Minnesota’s wolf population remains well above both the state’s minimum goal of at least 1,600 and the federal minimum goal range of 1,251 to 1,400.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has “long contended that wolves in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan are no longer threatened, so hunting and trapping can be allowed under state control.”

National Park Service

Park Service Report: Obama Water Bottle Sales Ban Had ‘Significant’ Benefits.

[The Hill](#) (9/25, Cama) reports that “an internal National Park Service (NPS) staff report concluded that an Obama administration effort to ban sales of bottled water at some parks had ‘significant environmental benefits.’” The report was “released publicly in response to a Freedom of Information Act request, more than a month after the NPS rescinded the policy, which had been opposed by the bottled water industry and some Republicans.” In the report prepared in May, park service “staff estimated that on an annual basis, at least 1.32 million disposable plastic water bottles, and up to 2.01 million, were not purchased due to the 2011 policy. That saved up to 111,743 pounds of plastic, 141 million tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent greenhouse gases and 3.4 billion British thermal units of energy, the NPS report estimated, based on the 23 Park Service units that submitted data.” The results demonstrate “the program has significant positive environmental benefits that encompass the entire life cycle” of disposable bottles, and that officials at the parks themselves support the program, the report said.

The [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (9/25) reports that Rep. Mike Quigley cited the report to call for the NPS to reinstate the water bottle ban. Quigley said, “The Trump Administration’s rationale for reversing the ban on water bottle sales in National Parks is nonsensical and nonexistent, especially given the fact they actively ignored the Park Service’s own findings on the issue. This newly released report makes it clear as day that the Trump Administration will continue to deny science, research, and facts in its efforts to prioritize big corporations at the expense of our wildlife and environment. We know that this is an issue where a simple and reasonable solution would have a profound impact as we work to preserve our pristine natural places. I will continue fighting for the end of water bottle sales in National Parks, and I hope this eye-opening report will push others in the same direction.”

What Happens When A Superstorm Hits D.C.?

[Rolling Stone](#) (9/21, Nobel) reports that Washington, D.C.’s “defense” against hurricanes “begins with a little-known levee system,” called the Potomac Park Levee System, which is operated by the National Park Service. One of the NPS’ responsibilities is deploying a “removable flood wall.” However, the workers of the agency’s Division of Facility Management have “practiced setting up the barrier on just three occasions, though never at night, in the rain, or in the face of an actual hurricane or flood.” Disaster experts say “the list of things that could go wrong is long.”

Photographer Captures Last Photos Of Sperry Chalet Still Standing.

[KBZK-TV](#) Butte, MT (9/25, Miller) reports that a Flathead Valley photographer “may have taken the last pictures of the Sperry Chalet standing.” Landscape photographer Brett Bouda has “been capturing Glacier National Park since 2004, but this year he says the rich amount of blooming Beargrass is what captured him.” Bouda “spent hours shooting the rustic lodge from every angle enshrouded in Beargrass – not knowing that just weeks later the historical treasure would burn in the Sprague Fire.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KRTV-TV Great Falls \(MT\)](#) Great Falls, MT (9/25, Miller).

OBX Beachgoers Discover 2 Unexploded Ordnance Along NC Coastline Monday.

The [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (9/25, Petiford) reports that “two possible mines were discovered in separate areas along the North Carolina coast on Monday.” One was discovered on Whale Head Beach in Corolla, and “a second washed up on a beach near Cape Hatteras National Seashore.” According to the article, “explosive ordnance disposal units are investigating both devices.” Also reporting is [WXII-TV Winston-Salem \(NC\)](#) Winston-Salem, NC (9/25).

The National Park Service Allows Boats To Land At Santa Barbara Island.

The [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (9/25, Carlson) reports that “a small remote island that is part of the Channel Islands National Park has reopened to the public.” However, “its dock, damaged in last winter’s storms, will stay closed.” The National Park Service will “allow public access to those landing at a rocky ledge adjacent to the dock.”

Sandy Hook Lighthouse Closes For Restoration Work.

The [Red Bank-Shrewsbury \(NJ\) Patch](#) (9/25, Wall) reports that “the historic Sandy Hook Lighthouse, the oldest lighthouse in the nation, is closing to tours for repairs and restoration work, the National Park Service announced.” The NPS “announced the closure on the Sandy Hook

Gateway National Park website late last week." According to the NPS, "the closure began Monday and is expected to last until May 2018."

Office Of Insular Affairs

North Korea Says Trump "Declared War," Warns It Could Shoot Down US Bombers.

All three networks Monday night reported on remarks by North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho that President Trump's tweet that Kim Jong-un "won't be around much longer" constituted "a declaration of war" against his country – a claim the Administration quickly rejected.

[Reuters](#) (9/25, Nichols, Kim) reports speaking to reporters at New York, Ri said, "The whole world should clearly remember it was the US who first declared war on our country. Since the United States declared war on our country, we will have every right to make countermeasures, including the right to shoot down United States strategic bombers even when they are not inside the airspace border of our country."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/25, story 6, 1:20, Muir), Martha Raddatz said North Korea is "calling the escalating public threats from President Trump a 'declaration of war.'" While US bombers are "pushing...the farthest north they've been in nearly two decades, North Korea [is] now threatening to shoot those bombers down." Richard Engel said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/25, story 5, 2:20, Guthrie), "On the same day North Korea said the US has declared war, it released a computer simulation showing how it would destroy American aircraft and set a carrier ablaze. Its propaganda, but experts say there is now a real risk of an exchange of fire with nuclear-armed North Korea or worse."

David Martin said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/25, story 3, 2:25, Mason) that North Korea "has intercepted American aircraft before. In 2003, this North Korean MIG surprised a US reconnaissance plane conducting a patrol off the coast. But its planes are a decade older now and its air force has been allowed to languish while Kim Jong-un pours all his country's resources into ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons."

The [AP](#) (9/25, Lederer) notes that Ri's remarks do not mark "the first time North Korea has spoken about a declaration of war between the two countries." In July 2016, Pyongyang said US sanctions imposed on Kim were "a declaration of war."

The [New York Times](#) (9/25, Gladstone, Sanger) reports that "within hours, the Trump administration pushed back on Mr. Ri's assertions," with White House press secretary Sarah Sanders telling reporters: "We have not declared war on North Korea." [Reuters](#) (9/25) reports Sanders called the notion "absurd."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/25, Demick) reports that the White House "quickly scoffed at the comments," and National Security Adviser McMaster said it would be "a suicide mission" if North Korea decided to attack the US. The [Washington Times](#) (9/25, Muñoz) reports McMaster "laid bare the dire situation the Trump administration has now found itself in regarding the threat posed by North Korea," saying, "What we hope to do is avoid war, but we cannot completely discount that possibility." [Bloomberg News](#) (9/25, Talev) reports he also said the North "must accept inspections of its nuclear facilities and declare it's willing to give up its atomic weapons before the US will negotiate with its government."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/25, Morello) reports that the State Department also "rejected Ri's characterization that the two countries are in a state of open war." Spokeswoman Katina Adams said, "The United States has not 'declared war' on North Korea. We continue to seek a peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. No nation has the right to fire on other nations' aircraft or ships in international airspace or waters."

[USA Today](#) (9/25, Onyanga-Omara, Bacon) reports Pentagon spokesman Col. Robert Manning "quickly responded" that "If North Korea does not stop their provocative actions, you know, we will make sure that we provide options to the president to deal with North Korea." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/25, Fassihi) quotes Manning as saying, "We are prepared to defend ourselves and our allies from an attack and are prepared to use the full range of capabilities at our disposal against the threat from North Korea."

The [AP](#) (9/25, Pennington) reports that while the Administration "said Monday it's not seeking to overthrow North Korea's government," the "fiery rhetoric carrying over from a week of threatening exchanges at the UN General Assembly only further fueled fears the adversaries might stumble back into open military conflict."

Yonhap: North Korea Moving Airplanes, Boosting Defenses. [Reuters](#) (9/25, Kim) reports North Korea "has been moving airplanes and boosting defenses on its east coast after the United

States dispatched B-1B bombers to the Korean peninsula over the weekend, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported on Tuesday, citing the country's spy agency." South Korea's National Intelligence Service "was unable to confirm the report."

Trump Says Puerto Rico "In Deep Trouble" As Administration Officials Assess Hurricane Damage.

President Trump wrote in a [tweet](#) Monday evening, "Texas & Florida are doing great but Puerto Rico, which was already suffering from broken infrastructure & massive debt, is in deep trouble." In a subsequent [pair of tweets](#), Trump wrote, "It's old electrical grid, which was in terrible shape, was devastated. Much of the Island was destroyed, with billions of dollars....owed to Wall Street and the banks which, sadly, must be dealt with. Food, water and medical are top priorities – and doing well. #FEMA." The tweets came as the Administration is seeking to "blunt criticism that its response to Hurricane Maria has fallen short of its efforts in Texas and Florida after the recent hurricanes there," the [AP](#) (9/26, Biesecker, Taylor) reports.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/25, Achenbach, Lamothe, Horton) reports in a front-page story that the Administration "is under pressure to speed up recovery efforts." While the Administration said Monday "that its response has been robust," officials "leading the response and recovery admit they're facing serious logistical challenges, starting with damage to the ports and airports." A separate story in the [Washington Post](#) (9/25, Wagner) says Trump is "facing mounting questions about his commitment to Puerto Rico's recovery."

Also Monday, FEMA Director Long and Homeland Security Adviser Bossert traveled to the island "to assess the widespread damage caused by Hurricane Maria," [The Hill](#) (9/25, Fabian) reports. The trip is part of what White House press secretary Sarah Sanders called an "'unprecedented movement' planned by the administration to respond to the hurricane, which left much of the island without electricity and water." It comes as Gov. Ricardo Rosselló and others "say federal aid has not come fast enough." David Begnaud said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/25, story 4, Mason) that Rosselló "says he has pleaded for more money from FEMA. So far \$1 billion has been earmarked for recovery, but it's not apparent here yet."

The [New York Times](#) (9/25, Robles, Alvarez, Fandos) reports that Rosselló "said the island was on the brink of a 'humanitarian crisis' and it was up to Congress to prevent a deepening disaster." Rosselló "did not mince words about the potential impact on the mainland, where Puerto Ricans are expected to arrive in droves to escape the post-Maria hardships they will face on the island, including a shortage of already hard-to-find jobs."

Eva Pilgrim said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/25, story 4, 2:25, Muir) that "many days removed from Hurricane Maria making landfall...there are still several neighborhoods that are flooded." Gabe Gutierrez said in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/25, lead story, 2:55, Holt) that while "the massive cleanup effort is under way," there is "still a desperate need to communicate. No power and no end in sight." In a separate story, [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/25, story 2, 2:25, Holt) reported on Air National Guard operation being run out of Savannah International Airport in Georgia to provide humanitarian aid to the island.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/25, Friedman) reports that the catastrophe modeling firm AIR Worldwide said Monday that Maria caused \$40 billion to \$80 billion in insured losses, 85 percent of which is in Puerto Rico. The [Miami Herald](#) (9/25, Daugherty) reports that while a FEMA spokesperson said the agency "has just over \$5 billion in uncommitted disaster relief money as of Monday morning," those funds "won't last long," and Congress "will likely need to pass additional funding bills to manage long-term recovery efforts in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico before the end of the year." The Herald cites "a Republican staffer with knowledge of the appropriations process," who said that "federal funding for hurricane relief will be 'fine until mid-October' and that Congress will likely vote on an additional funding bill in the next three weeks."

Lawmakers Criticize Administration Response. Sen. Chris Murphy said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/25), "The Administration's response to the crisis in Puerto Rico has been wholly insufficient and inadequate. ... This is a country right now that is in massive humanitarian crisis and the President instead of focusing on saving lives in Puerto Rico has been tweeting about NFL football players. I want a president who is going to be in the business of saving lives. Right now that means spending as much time as necessary to try to rescue Puerto Ricans from this nightmare that they are living through. And right now we clearly have an administration that is very much distracted."

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) was asked on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/25, 5:17 p.m. EST, Blitzer) about the Administration response to Hurricane Maria. Jeffries said, "The only question is whether the Trump White House and the federal government should get a F for disaster or an F

for failure. It has been woefully inadequate. It's not clear to me and to many others throughout this nation whether the President and the White House realize that the individuals who are suffering down in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands are American citizens."

Pelosi: Trump Should Deploy Military To Puerto Rico. House Minority Leader Pelosi on Monday called on the President to deploy the military to aid with the humanitarian crisis, the [AP](#) (9/25, Taylor) reports. Pelosi "says Pentagon resources are needed for search-and-rescue operations, maintaining order, and help with transportation." She "said that the people of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands 'deserve to know that their government will be there for them, without question or hesitation.'"

Most Of Puerto Rico Remains Without Power. The [AP](#) (9/25, Koenig, Choe) reports that most of the island "has been without lights or air conditioning for five nights and is looking at many, many more." [The Hill](#) (9/25, Beavers) says some "3.4 million residents in the American territory are living without electricity after the storm knocked out the power on Wednesday, with officials warning that it could be months before the lights flicker back on."

San Juan Airport Struggles The [Washington Post](#) (9/25, Lazo) says hundreds of people remained stranded Monday at Luis Muñoz Marín International, which is "struggling to return to normal" after Maria. On Monday, "only 20 commercial flights were scheduled...in San Juan, twice as many as there were Sunday." Speaking during an afternoon news conference, Long said that "significant damage to the air traffic control system is complicating resources getting in." Long also "said the hurricane also left significant damage to much of the infrastructure, from communications to the fuel systems."

The [Miami Herald](#) (9/25, Garvin) quotes an FAA spokesman as saying, "We are bringing in additional equipment on a daily basis, and our people are working like crazy. ... But we still have a radar system down, and we need more ability to communicate. Everything is being hampered by the lack of power – we're working with electricity supplied by emergency generators, not regular commercial power lines." The Herald adds that even with infrastructure improvements, "commercial airliners would still be operating on a much-reduced schedule," as FEMA "has reserved the vast majority of the airport's greatly curtailed service for military and civilian relief flights."

Rosselló Says Many Living Near Crumbling Dam Have Evacuated. [Reuters](#) (9/25, Graham, Repsaut) reports that Rosselló said Monday that many people living near the crumbling Guajataca Dam have evacuated. Cracks were seen in the dam on Friday, and Rosselló "said he was working on the assumption that the 120-foot (35-meter) dam would collapse."

East Coast Of US Under Tropical Storm Warnings. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/25, story 5, 0:50, Muir) reported that as Maria moves north, "tropical storm warnings are up along parts of the East Coast of the US tonight" and there are "mandatory evacuations for parts of North Carolina." Chief meteorologist Ginger Zee added that "the rip currents and the high surf could be possible from Florida to Massachusetts." [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/25, story 3, 0:25, Holt) reported that while the storm is "not a threat to make landfall in the US, tropical storm force winds are expected on the outer banks of North Carolina."

Office Of Surface Mining

Judge Orders Agency To Inspect Mine.

The [Coalfield \(VA\) Progress](#) (9/26, Lester) reports that "a federal judge has ruled that the federal Department of the Interior improperly denied a citizens' request for inspection of a local strip mine." James Jones, "judge for Virginia's Western District federal court, ruled last Wednesday that the Interior Department's denial of an inspection of selenium levels at Red River Coal Co.'s Greater Wise No. 1 mine was arbitrary and capricious."

US Geological Survey

Earthquake Early-Warning System Is Coming To The West Coast.

[NBC News](#) (9/25, Lant) reports that "early-warning systems for earthquakes like the one that saved lives recently in Mexico City are highly effective, but the USGS ShakeAlert program is in jeopardy thanks to disputes over funding." According to the article, "the ShakeAlert system and everyone relying on it are at risk, as the USGS has been targeted for funding reductions by the current administration." the article says that "the proposed \$137.8 million reduction would have

ended the program.” But “for now, the USGS budget was set at \$1 billion for 2018 by Congress, a cut of only \$46 million, which will keep ShakeAlert alive for at least another year.”

Additional Reading.

- *The Big One At San Andreas Fault: A Huge Earthquake Will Hit California—It’s Just A Matter Of When.* [Newsweek](#) (9/25, Lowe).
- *Audio: More Wildfires Mean More Dirt Flowing Into Your Drinking Water Supply.* [Southern California Public Radio](#) (9/25, Guerin).
- *Bird Nesting Boxes Installed At Myers Park.* [Racine \(WI\) Journal Times](#) (9/25, Burke).
- *Carp, Clams And Crested Floating-hearts: Louisiana On Alert For Invasive Species.* [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (9/25, Sneath).
- *Civic Tech Strengthens Cities On National Day Of Civic Hacking.* [Huffington Post](#) (9/25, Ardalan, Contributor).
- *Puerto Rico’s Hilly Terrain Worsened Hurricane Maria’s Damage.* [LiveScience](#) (9/25, Thompson).
- *Sea Otter Researchers Hoping To See Positive Population Trends Continue.* [KSBW-TV](#) Monterey, CA (9/25, Conrad).
- *Magnitude 6.0 Earthquake Strikes Off Papua New Guinea: USGS.* [Reuters](#) (9/25).

Top National News

Media Analyses: Graham-Cassidy Appears To Be Dead As Collins Announces Opposition.

Various sources say that the revised legislation from Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act is essentially dead after Sen. Susan Collins became the third Republican senator to announce her opposition. Collins’ announcement late Monday eclipsed coverage of a raucous Senate hearing on the bill earlier in the day, during which many protesters were forcibly removed. For his part, President Trump was expressing pessimism Monday even before Collins’ announcement.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/25, story 3, 2:50, Muir) reported, “Republicans could only afford to lose one more vote, and tonight, it appears they’ve lost it.” ABC’s Mary Bruce: “With protests mounting tonight, the Republican healthcare bill appears doomed to fail.” Collins “says she is a no, making her the third senator to come out against the bill. ... The dramatic move comes after opposition to the Republican healthcare bill came roaring through the halls of Capitol Hill, [with] anger and frustration boiling over” as “protester after protester [was] hauled off and arrested, many in wheelchairs.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/25, story 4, 2:25, Guthrie) similarly reported that Collins made her announcement “hours after protests erupted inside the Capitol, [with] some demonstrators in wheelchairs dragged from the hearing.”

The [AP](#) (9/25, Fram) reports, “The last-gasp Republican drive to tear down” the ACA “essentially died Monday” as Collins “joined a small but decisive cluster of GOP senators in opposing the push.” Collins “said the legislation is ‘deeply flawed,’ despite several changes its sponsors have made in an effort to round up support.” The [New York Times](#) (9/25, A1, Kaplan) reports under the headline “Health Bill Appears Dead As Pivotal G.O.P. Senator Declares Opposition” that in addition to Collins, Sens. John McCain and Rand Paul had also come out in opposition, and Sen. Ted Cruz “said on Sunday that he had not yet been won over.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/25, A1, Sullivan, Cunningham, Phillip) reports that the “latest Republican effort to unwind [the ACA] collapsed” due to Collins’ opposition. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/25, Armour, Peterson) also reports that Graham-Cassidy appeared to be dead.

[USA Today](#) (9/25, Collins) reports that Collins’ announcement “came just after the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office released a limited analysis estimating ‘the number of people with comprehensive health insurance that covers high-cost medical events would be reduced by millions’ under the legislation over the next decade.” Collins said in a statement, “The CBO’s analysis on the earlier version of the bill, incomplete though it is due to time constraints, confirms that this bill will have a substantially negative impact on the number of people covered by insurance.”

[Politico](#) (9/25, Everett) reports, “Republicans in the Senate and White House are now resigned to defeat in their final bid to repeal Obamacare this week. ... Trump seemed far more pessimistic on Monday morning than he had been last week, telling the ‘Rick & Bubba’ radio show that he expected crippling opposition, calling it ‘disgusting’ that party leaders can’t pass a bill to repeal and replace the 2010 health law.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/25, Mascaro, Levey) reports

that "even before Collins' announcement," Trump "sounded increasingly doubtful about the bill's chances," saying on the Rick and Bubba Show, broadcast on several Alabama stations, "We're going to lose two or three votes, and that's the end of that."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/25, story 5, Mason) reported, "In our new CBS News poll, only 29 percent of Americans approve of President Trump's handling of healthcare," and CBS' Nancy Cordes reported that Trump "vented about his party's healthcare woes on an Alabama radio show." Trump: "It's disgusting. ... They pander and they grandstand. You look at McCain, what McCain has done, is a tremendous slap in the face of the Republican Party." Cordes: "But a new CBS News poll finds most Americans share McCain's view: Only 20 percent approve of Graham-Cassidy."

Sen. Chris Murphy said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/25), "Of course Susan Collins is voting no on this legislation. Any rational human being would vote against this monstrosity. It's got a 20 percent approval rating in the American public because it essentially is the equivalent of healthcare arson." Ryan Grim of The Intercept [tweeted](#), "Collins says that while she's the third public no there were many other Republicans against or leaving strongly against."

[Roll Call](#) (9/25, Lesniewski) reports that Collins "delivered the likely final blow to the GOP's latest effort to repeal and replace" the ACA. [Reuters](#) (9/25, Cornwell, Cowan) reports that the "last ditch Republican effort...appeared doomed." [Bloomberg News](#) (9/25, Tracer, Litvan, Edney), the [Washington Times](#) (9/25, Howell), the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/25, King), and the [Huffington Post](#) (9/25, Cohn) also report on Collins' decision.

Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (9/25) column, "Now this sorry process is heading to a sorry end. Obamacare repeal failed in the Senate. Then 'skinny repeal' failed. And now, 'last-ditch' Cassidy-Graham is foundering." Catherine Rampell writes in her [Washington Post](#) (9/25) column, "Trump may be a toddler, we keep telling ourselves, but at least some (comparative) grown-ups on Capitol Hill are thinking things through." Milbank calls Cassidy-Graham a "flaming turd," adding, "What's been threatening the health-care coverage of tens of millions of Americans isn't Trump. It's the entire Republican Party."

Trump Faults McCain For Bill's Demise. The [Washington Post](#) (9/25, Wagner) reports that Trump "focused his ire Monday night" on McCain, "distributing a video that showed the Arizona Republican on board with the mission in the past." Trump [tweeted](#), "A few of the many clips of John McCain talking about Repealing & Replacing O'Care. My oh my has he changed-complete turn from years of talk!" [Politico](#) (9/25, McCaskill) reports that Trump had earlier told the Rick & Bubba radio show, "That's the only reason we don't have it, because of John McCain." However, [The Hill](#) (9/25) reports that during a CNN debate on the bill, "Graham said McCain has earned the right to 'do whatever the damn hell he wants to.'"

Graham And Cassidy Debate Sanders And Klobuchar. Graham said during the [CNN](#) debate, "I want to provide high-quality healthcare for every American, including my family and yours, but we've got to find way to make it so without bankrupting the country. ... I'm here tonight because Obamacare is failing." Cassidy said during the [CNN](#) debate, "It's a decision about you versus the federal government. We side with you."

Sen. Bernie Sanders, opposing the bill, said during the [CNN](#) debate, "Every major health organization in this country, whether it is the American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association, the American Cancer Society, the Alzheimer's Society, every single major medical organization in this country thinks that their proposal is a disaster." Sen. Amy Klobuchar, also in opposition, said on [CNN](#), "I believe politics is about making people's lives better, but this bill, it doesn't do that."

The [New York Times](#) (9/25, Pear) reports that Graham has defended his healthcare legislation by comparing the block-grant model to the 1996 welfare overhaul, saying "we block granted money for welfare reform, and it worked like a charm." However, the Times says, after the welfare law passed, the number of welfare recipients dropped more than 50 percent in five years and states adjusted to less and less federal money over time. The Times concludes, "An equivalent drop in the number of people with health insurance or insurance subsidies would probably not be viewed as a great success."

USA Today Argues Against Sanders' Medicare For All Proposal. In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (9/25, Board) writes, "The Senate might vote this week on the Graham-Cassidy plan, the Republicans' latest cruel and cynical repeal-and-replace effort to deny tens of millions of Americans...their health insurance. ... Might we suggest that saving the ACA (also known as Obamacare), and pursuing bipartisan fixes, should be a much higher priority at this moment than pursuing political pipe dreams about Medicare for all?" While "there is something to be said for the single-payer approach employed in Sanders' plan...whatever good that would come from the

new pricing power in Sanders' proposal would be offset by the soak-the-rich, make-health-care-free philosophy that underpins it."

Sanders writes in response in [USA Today](#) (9/25, Sanders), "My Medicare for All Act of 2017, with 16 co-sponsors, improves and expands Medicare and, over a four-year transition period, provides health care to every man, woman and child in our country. In doing that, the US will finally join the ranks of every other major country on Earth in recognizing that health care is a right, not a privilege."

Supreme Court Cancels Travel Ban Oral Arguments, Seeking New Briefs From Both Sides.

On the [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/25, story 7, 1:15, Guthrie), Hallie Jackson briefly reported that President Trump's "original travel ban, long in legal limbo, is catching a break from the Supreme Court. The justices, set to hear arguments in two weeks, are instead postponing that, a sign the court thinks the legal battle over the old ban is moot because of the new version just unveiled." The [AP](#) (9/25, Sherman) reports that the court "canceled the scheduled Oct. 10 argument in the case and asked both sides to explain whether the matter has been overtaken by events, or in legal parlance, is moot."

[USA Today](#) (9/25, Wolf) reports, "In the wake of Trump's unveiling of Travel Ban 3.0 Sunday is that the current Supreme Court case has been altered, perhaps fatally. What's left is for the justices to get new briefs from both sides by Oct. 5 before deciding its ultimate fate." The [New York Times](#) (9/25, Liptak) reports, "By canceling the arguments for now, the court signaled that it may never decide the case."

[Reuters](#) (9/25, Chung, Rosenberg), [Bloomberg News](#) (9/25, Stohr), and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/25, Meckler, Kendall) also report on the court's order, while other sources consider the revised list of eight countries. Philip Bump of the [Washington Post](#) (9/25) writes that Chad, North Korea, and Venezuela, just added to the list, have not "seen much terrorism recently," even though "Trump has regularly asserted that the prohibitions were necessary to protect Americans from terrorist attacks." Non-listed nations including Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Turkey have a higher rate of terrorism.

[Reuters](#) (9/25, Ellsworth) reports that Venezuela accused Trump "of conducting 'political terrorism.'" [Bloomberg News](#) (9/25, Rosati, Rodrigues) reports that Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza told the UN General Assembly that the US is "the world's 'major human rights violator'" and said that Trump "acted 'as if he were the world's emperor.'" The [New York Times](#) (9/25) reports that the addition of Chad to the list "took the Chadian government by surprise and bewildered analysts of Central Africa," while the [Washington Post](#) (9/25, Rauhala) reports experts said the inclusion of North Korea "is mostly symbolic and will have little to no effect on Kim Jong Un's regime," since very few North Koreans travel to the US.

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/25) calls it "A Trump Travel Ban We've Seen Before," writing, "The central question to ask about President Trump's latest travel ban, which he issued on Sunday, is: Will it make Americans safer? The answer, as best as anyone can tell based on publicly available information, is no." The Times adds, "When the president has freely spouted his own longstanding animus toward adherents of the world's major religions, his actions...must be evaluated against that backdrop."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/25) says in an editorial that Trump's latest order "may be the result of a more considered process than were the first two versions. But the end product is still lacking in sense. Travel to the United States from North Korea is practically nonexistent – so why ban it? Likewise, the order indicates that Venezuelan officials will be barred as a punitive measure given their failure to cooperate – but what does this have to do with national security, the ban's ostensible purpose?" The Post concludes, "We have little reason to presume the addition of Venezuela and North Korea to be anything more than a fig leaf to disguise a would-be 'Muslim ban.'"

White House, GOP Plan To Slash Corporate Tax Rate.

The [AP](#) (9/25, Gordon, Thomas) reports that congressional Republicans and the White House are finalizing a tax plan that would slash the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to "around 20 percent" and cut the income tax rate "for the wealthiest Americans" from 39.6 percent to 35 percent, according to people familiar with the plan. The plan, set to be unveiled Wednesday, "also is expected to eliminate or reduce some tax breaks and deductions."

Bloomberg News: Trump Plan Reduces Taxes For The Rich, Hits "Democratic-Leaning States."

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/25, Kapur) reported that President Trump and GOP "leaders inched closer to releasing their tax framework this week, as details leaked to lobbyists suggested it would

dramatically cut taxes for corporations and the wealthy," offer some "middle-class tax relief and punish some households in Democratic-leaning states like New York and New Jersey. The White House said Trump will travel to Indiana Wednesday for a late-afternoon speech that will focus on the tax-overhaul effort." Bloomberg News added that Trump on Monday morning "[tweeted](#) that he has 'important meetings taking place today. Big tax cuts & reform.'" Bloomberg News added that details of the plan that are "circulating among Washington lobbyists breaks from the president's recent rhetoric against tax cuts for the rich," setting "the stage for a battle with Democrats."

WSJournal A1 Analysis: Washington Newcomer Mnuchin Takes On The Tax Code. In a front-page analysis, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/25, A1, Rubin, Davidson) reports that Treasury Secretary Mnuchin for months has sought to working with Congress and the White House to craft a tax reform plan – a task Mnuchin takes on as someone with less political experience than any other recent treasury secretary. The Journal highlights Mnuchin's role during the tax negotiations as a number cruncher and White House liaison as he has worked to help create a plan that answers the Republican Party's promise of a simpler tax code with lower rates.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"A Trump Travel Ban We've Seen Before." The [New York Times](#) (9/25) says in an editorial, "The central question to ask about President Trump's latest travel ban, which he issued on Sunday, is: Will it make Americans safer? The answer, as best as anyone can tell based on publicly available information, is no." The Times adds, "When the president has freely spouted his own longstanding animus toward adherents of the world's major religions, his actions...must be evaluated against that backdrop."

"The Wreckage Of Anthony Weiner." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/25) savages ex-Rep. Anthony Weiner, saying, "His narcissism was profound and undisguised," and he "proved to be a pathetic jerk. But few jerks do as much damage as he did in his recklessness." Citing then-FBI Director James Comey's probe of Hillary Clinton's emails, the Times says Weiner "may even be responsible for Donald Trump being president."

Washington Post.

"Trump's New Travel Ban Still Has No Justification." The [Washington Post](#) (9/25) says in an editorial that President Trump's latest order "may be the result of a more considered process than were the first two versions. But the end product is still lacking in sense. Travel to the United States from North Korea is practically nonexistent – so why ban it? Likewise, the order indicates that Venezuelan officials will be barred as a punitive measure given their failure to cooperate – but what does this have to do with national security, the ban's ostensible purpose?" The Post concludes, "We have little reason to presume the addition of Venezuela and North Korea to be anything more than a fig leaf to disguise a would-be 'Muslim ban.'"

"The Kremlin Creeps Into Germany." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/25) says that while Russia did not blatantly interfere in Germany's national election, "it did its best to support the" far-right Alternative for Germany, or AfD, party. As a result, Chancellor Angela Merkel will be forced "to negotiate with two smaller parties to form a governing coalition, effectively narrowing her political options," a "weakened position" that the Post says "reflects a fragmenting political environment in Europe, providing an opening for the AfD and other illiberal parties." Meanwhile, Vladimir Putin "has wasted no time exploiting this," but still President Trump has not led "a discussion in the West about how to combat Russian interference in Western democracies." The Post ward that now is the time "to raise the alarm now that gravediggers are coming for democracy, before they begin to sink their shovels into the earth."

"Hogan Shoves Transportation To The Top Of The Regional Agenda." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/25) writes that Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's decision to push "big-ticket" suburban transportation proposals to the top of the regional agenda is a "good starting point" to addressing problems in the region's transportation system, which, without help, "will remain stuck in its current state of alarming inadequacy."

Wall Street Journal.

"The Michigan Comeback Story." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/25) in an editorial on tax reform holds up Michigan as an example of how tax reform can boost the economy. It praises Gov. Rick

Snyder for having adopted pro-growth tax reforms leading to Michigan having the strongest economic growth in the Great Lakes region. It argues that while some blamed Michigan's previously sluggish economy on competition from China and free-trade agreements, tax and regulatory policy played a bigger role.

"Cuba's Sonic Attacks." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/25, Board) in an editorial suggests the US should expel an equal number of Cubans from the Cuban embassy in Washington to the personnel at the US embassy in Havana, explaining that the diplomats could return to the US as soon as Cuba explains the harms done to the US personnel in Havana. The State Department has identified the harms as "mild traumatic brain injury and permanent hearing loss," as well as "loss of balance, severe headaches, cognitive disruption and brain swelling." It has suggested that sonic causes are behind the harms. The Journal says the US must respond in a way likely to be effective.

"Japan's Snap Elections." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/25) editorial likens Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's call for snap elections to British Prime Minister Theresa May's failed attempt in June, and says the outcome of May's effort to consolidate power shows how that strategy can backfire. For Abe, the Journal says, the move signals not the premier's strength, but rather his weakness, and Japanese voters have no clear reason to support him.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Sen. Collins Opposes Health Bill, Dealing Blow To ACA Repeal](#)
[SEC Chairman Says Agency Didn't Do Enough To Size Up 2016 Hack](#)
[Steven Mnuchin, A Washington Newcomer, Tilts At Its Hardest Target: The Tax Code](#)
[Target To Boost Minimum Wages In Battle For Workers](#)

New York Times:

[Health Bill Appears Dead As Pivotal GOP Senator Declares Opposition](#)
[North Korea Says It Has the Right To Shoot Down US Warplanes](#)
[At Least 6 White House Advisers Used Private Email Accounts](#)
[Syrian War Drags On, But Assad's Future Looks As Secure As Ever](#)
[Was It A One-Day Revolt In The NFL, Or Something More?](#)
[Anthony Weiner Gets 21 Months In Prison For Sexting With Teenager](#)
[In Battered Puerto Rico, Governor Warns Of A Humanitarian Crisis](#)

Washington Post:

[Trump's Instinct To Provoke May Now Be Tripping Him Up](#)
[N. Korea Suggests Downing US Jets](#)
[Russians Exploited Social Wedges](#)
[Merkel's Shaky Election Sends Tremors Through EU](#)
[White House Feels The Heat Over Maria Response](#)
[GOP Faces Another Health-Care Defeat](#)

Financial Times:

[Merkel Admits She Has "Polarised" Germany As Grip On Power Weakens](#)
[Shinzo Abe Calls Snap Japan General Election](#)
[Lyft Looks Toward London As Uber Reels From Ban](#)

Washington Times:

[North Korean Hackers Suspected Of Using Bitcoin To Undermine U.S. Sanctions](#)
[Collins' Rejection Dooms Latest Republican Attempt To Repeal Obamacare](#)
[Democrat-Appointed Judges Uphold Texas Law Against Sanctuary Cities](#)
[White House Says Respect For Nation, Not Racism, Motivated Trump To Criticize Athlete Protesters](#)
[Determined Kurds Elated To Hold Independence Vote, But International Community Wary](#)
[Smithsonian Gives Clarence Thomas A Spot In Year-Old African American History Museum](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: White House-NFL Anthem Protests; NFL Protests-Pro Sports Response; Congress-

Healthcare Reform; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Hurricane Tracking; North Korea Threats; Tennessee-Church Shooting; New Mexico-Deadly Police Crash; Airlines Flight-Smoke In Cabin; Aspirin-Heart Disease; Marines-First Female Infantry Officer.

CBS: White House-NFL Protests; NFL Protests-Reaction; North Korea Threats; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Congress-Healthcare Reform; Equifax-Identify Theft Victims; Tennessee-Church Shooting; Anthony Weiner-Prison Sentence; Civil Rights-Little Rock School Desegregation Anniversary.

NBC: Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Puerto Rico-Relief Operation; Hurricane Tracking; Congress-Healthcare Reform; North Korea Threats; White House-NFL Protests; Supreme Court-Travel Ban; Kushner-Private Email Use; Anthony Weiner-Prison Sentence; Tennessee-Church Shooting; Mexico-Earthquake.

Network TV At A Glance:

NFL Anthem Protests – 15 minutes, 52 seconds

Hurricane-Puerto Rico – 9 minutes, 39 seconds

Congress-Healthcare Reform – 7 minutes, 31 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Congress-Healthcare Reform; North Korea Threats; NFL Anthem Protests; Wall Street Stocks; United Nations-Drone Incident.

CBS: Congress-Healthcare Reform; North Korea Threats; Israel-West Bank Attack; North Carolina-Hurricane Maria; Anthony Weiner-Prison Sentence; NFL Anthem Protests.

FOX: Congress-Healthcare Reform; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Congress-SEC Hack; NFL Anthem Protests; North Korea Threats; Texas-Sanctuary City Laws; Supreme Court-Travel Ban.

NPR: Hurricane-Puerto Rico; NFL Anthem Protests; Ivanka Trump-Private Email Use; Congress-Healthcare Reform Plan; Fishing Magnate-Prison Sentence; Newspaper Merger.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets Spanish PM Rajoy at the White House – President Donald Trump welcomes Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy to the White House, with agenda including a press conference.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public events scheduled.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Senate Energy Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Bruce Walker to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, and Steven Winberg to be Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy. Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>
10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on 'Special Counsels and the Separation of Powers' – Hearing on 'Special Counsels and the Separation of Powers' * Hearing includes discussion of legislation which would allow judicial review if a special counsel is removed, and is held amid concerns that President Donald Trump may fire Special Counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating 'any links and/or coordination between the Russian Govt and individuals associated with the campaign of President Trump.' Location: Senate Swamp, Washington, DC <http://casey.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on 'Special Counsels and the Separation of Powers' – Hearing on 'Special Counsels and the Separation of Powers' * Hearing includes discussion of legislation which would allow judicial review if a special counsel is removed, and is held amid concerns that President Donald Trump may fire Special Counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating 'any links and/or coordination between the Russian Govt and individuals associated with the campaign of President Trump.' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 226, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'Oversight of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission', with testimony from SEC Chairman Jay Clayton. Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 538, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Armed Services Committee considers reappointment of Joint Chiefs Chairman Dunford – Nominations hearing considers Gen. Joseph Dunford for reappointment to the grade of general and reappointment to be Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman. Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:30 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee Business Meeting, hearing on 'managing

security assistance to support foreign policy' – Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Business Meeting * Immediately followed by hearing on 'Managing Security Assistance to Support Foreign Policy', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Tina Kaidanow; Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities Thomas Harvey III; and Defense Security Cooperation Agency Director Lt. Gen. Charles Hooper. Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

11:30 AM Senate Democrats call for Republicans to reject 'Graham-Cassidy bill' – Democratic Sens. Bob Casey, Ron Wyden, Debbie Stabenow, Cory Booker, Chris Van Hollen, Tammy Duckworth, and Maggie Hassan call on Republicans to reverse course and reject the 'Graham-Cassidy bill' – Senate Republicans' latest measure to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, spearheaded by Republican Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy – via press conference with disability advocates and those affected. Location: Senate Swamp, Washington, DC <http://casey.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenBobCasey>

2:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on cyber diplomacy – Helsinki Commission briefing on 'Building Cyber Confidence Between Adversaries: Can the OSCE Help Establish Rules of the Road?', with experts – Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Cyber Policy Initiative Co-Director Tim Maurer, National Defense University Center for Strategic Research Senior Research Fellow Alex Crowther, and Council on Foreign Relations Senior Fellow (and former National Security Council director for cybersecurity policy) Robert Knake – describing the state-based cyber threats that OSCE discussions seek to address, evaluating the development of these confidence-building measures, and assessing the present value and future potential of these diplomatic discussions. Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 385, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters. Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:30 PM Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing on 'FTC stakeholder perspectives' – Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security Subcommittee hearing on 'FTC Stakeholder Perspectives: Reform Proposals to Improve Fairness, Innovation, and Consumer Welfare', with testimony from Kelley Drye partner William MacLeod; Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati partner Lydia Parnes; Consumers Union Vice President for Policy and Modernization Jessica Rich; and TechFreedom President Berin Szoka. Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

US House: 10:00 AM Democratic Reps. Pocan and Bonamici release results of 'critical conversations' with education stakeholders – Democratic Reps. Mark Pocan and Suzanne Bonamici and NAACP and American Federation of Teachers leaders join the #WeChoose Campaign to release results of 'critical conversations' – held in dozens of cities nationwide to 'give those most directly affected (students, parents, teachers, and community members) a voice in education policy' – via news conference. #WeChoose organizers also preview their ongoing assessments of school curriculums nationally. Speakers include Reps. Pocan and Bonamici, NAACP Interim President and CEO Derrick Johnson, AFT President Randi Weingarten, Advancement Project Staff Attorney Sabrina Khan, Camden Students Union student Isaiah Rivera, and Journey for Justice Alliance National Director Jitu Brown. Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC www.jrjalliance.com/wechoose http://twitter.com/J4J_USA #WECHOOSE

10:00 AM House Government Reform Committee hearing on Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking recommendations – Hearing on 'Recommendations of the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking', with testimony from Commission Chair Dr Katharine Abraham, Co-Chair Dr Ron Haskins, and Commissioners Robert Shea and Dr Latanya Sweeney * Commission released its final report – 'The Promise of Evidence-Based Policymaking' – earlier this month, focused on how to increase the availability and use of data in order to build evidence about govt programs while protecting privacy and confidentiality * Rescheduled from 12 Sep. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2157, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM VA Secretary Shulkin testifies to House subcommittee legislative hearing – Health Subcommittee legislative hearing, on legislation including 'a draft bill to make certain improvements in VA's Health Professionals Educational Assistance Program', with testimony from Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin; bipartisan Reps. Debbie Dingell, Beto O'Rourke, Derek Kilmer, Steve King, Lloyd Smucker, Mike Coffman, Steve Stivers, Ron DeSantis, and John Rutherford; a The American Legion representative; a Vietnam Veterans of America representative; and an AMVETS representative + written testimony from Blinded Veterans of America; Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; Disabled American Veterans; Paralyzed Veterans of America; and Justice For Vets. Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334,

Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee legislative hearing on ‘H.R. 200, To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide flexibility for fishery managers and stability for fishermen, and for other purposes’, ‘H.R. 2023, Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 3588, RED SNAPPER Act’, and a discussion draft of ‘H.R. XXXX, To amend and reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and for other purposes’, with testimony from New Bedford, MA, Mayor Jonathan Mitchell; Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Center for Marine Fisheries Director Chris Macaluso; Reel Surprise Charter Fishing co-owner Susan Boggs; Maine Coast Fisherman’s Association Executive Director Ben Martens; Southeastern Fisheries Association’s Mike Merrifield; and Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Commissioner Chris Blankenship * Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross was invited to testify, but is traveling. Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Energy subcommittee hearing on ‘Powering America: Technology’s Role in Empowering Consumers’ – Energy Subcommittee hearing on ‘Powering America: Technology’s Role in Empowering Consumers’, with testimony from Stem Chief Commercial Officer Karen Butterfield; Advanced Energy Economy Vice President for Federal Policy Arvin Ganesan; Holy Cross Energy President and CEO Dr Bryan Hannegan; ComEd Senior Vice President for Customer Operations Val Jensen; LO3 Energy Director of Regulated Markets Monica Lamb; and Direct Energy Senior Vice President for North America Distributed Energy and Power Todd Sandford. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on the State Department redesign – Hearing on ‘The Department of State Redesign’, with testimony from Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan * President Donald Trump’s ‘Executive Order on a Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch’ was issued in March and called for the entire branch to propose plans to reorganize governmental functions and eliminate unnecessary agencies, components of agencies, and agency programs. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

10:00 AM House Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on water stakeholders’ perspectives – Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee hearing on ‘Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Water Stakeholders’ Perspectives’, with testimony from Hallandale Beach, FL, Mayor Joy Cooper (on behalf of U.S. Conference of Mayors); McWane Senior Vice President and General Counsel James Proctor II; Las Virgenes Municipal Water District General Manager David Pedersen (on behalf of Association of California Water Agencies, and California Association of Sanitation Agencies); Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago Executive Director David St. Pierre (on behalf of National Association of Clean Water Agencies); El Paso Water Utilities Government Affairs Manager Hector Gonzalez (on behalf of Association of Regional Water Organizations); Aqua America President and CEO Christopher Franklin (on behalf of National Association of Water Companies); and Natural Resources Defense Council Senior Attorney Lawrence Levine. Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>.

10:00 AM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on DHS efforts to improve aviation security – Transportation and Protective Security Subcommittee hearing on ‘Raising the Standard: DHS’s Efforts to Improve Aviation Security Around the Globe’, with testimony from Transportation Security Administration Office of Global Strategies Director of Global Compliance Craig Lynes; Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operations Executive Assistant Commissioner Todd Owen; and Government Accountability Office Director of Homeland Security and Justice Jennifer Grover. Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:15 AM House Administration Committee latest hearing on the Government Publishing Office – Hearing on ‘Transforming GPO for the 21st Century and Beyond: Part 3 – Federal Depository Library Program’, with testimony from Government Publishing Office Acting Superintendent of Documents Laurie Hall; HathiTrust Digital Library Executive Director Mike Furlough; University of Maryland Government Documents & Criminology Librarian Celina McDonald; Stanford Law School Library Director Beth Williams; and Mississippi State Librarian Stephen Parks. Location: Rm 1310, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://cha.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAdmnGOP>

11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

12:00 PM House debates Increasing Opportunity and Success for Children and Parents through Evidence-Based Home Visiting Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including ‘H.R. 2824 – Increasing Opportunity and Success for Children and Parents through Evidence-Based Home Visiting Act’ Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

Sep. 26 12:30 PM GOP Reps. Mark Walker and Kevin Brady ‘call on Republicans to keep our promises to the American people’ – Republican Study Committee Chairman Rep. Mark Walker, Steering Committee members, and other members, plus House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady, ‘call on Republicans to keep our promises to the American people’, via press conference. Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC rsc-walker.house.gov <https://twitter.com/RepublicanStudy>

2:00 PM House Oversight subcommittee hearing on nuclear waste management and storage – Interior, Energy, and Environment Subcommittee hearing on ‘Examining America’s Nuclear Waste Management and Storage’, with testimony from Maryland Public Service Commission Commissioner Anthony O’Donnell; Aiken County, SC, Councilmember Chuck Smith (on behalf of Energy Communities Alliance); UC-San Diego School of Global Policy & Strategy Professor David Victor; and Heritage Foundation Institute for Economic Freedom Policy Analyst Katie Tubb. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee legislative hearing on ‘H.R. 3535, Ruffey Rancheria Restoration Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 3650, Lumbee Recognition Act’, and ‘H.R. 3744, Tribal Recognition Act of 2017’, with testimony from Republican Rep. Robert Pittenger; Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs John Tahsuda; Ruffey Rancheria of California Chairman Tahj Gomes; and Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina Chairman Harvey Godwin. Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

2:00 PM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on modernization of DHS financial systems – Oversight and Management Efficiency Subcommittee hearing on ‘DHS Financial Systems: Will Modernization Ever Be Achieved’, with testimony from Deputy Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Management Chip Fulghum; Department of the Interior Business Center Director Michele Singer; General Services Administration Office of Government-wide Policy Unified Shared Services Management Executive Director Elizabeth Angerman; and Government Accountability Office Director of Financial Management and Assurance Asif Khan. Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

Other: 7:30 AM Washington Ideas Forum commences – Washington Ideas Forum, hosted by The Atlantic in partnership with the Aspen Institute, commences. ‘Leaders from politics and govt to business and culture’ convene to ‘tackle the issues confronting the country and the world, including politics and policy, economics and trade, race and justice, education, global affairs, technology, and beyond’. Speakers today include Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin, VotoLatino President Maria Teresa Kumar, Millennial Week Founder Natalie Moss, Vital Voices Global Partnership President and CEO Alyse Nelson, Running Start Founder Susannah Wellford, LinkedIn Head of U.S. Public Policy Nicole Isaac, and Pace University President Marvin Krislov

8:00 AM POLITICO Live discussion on the doctor-patient-govt relationship – ‘The Doctor-Patient (and Government) Relationship’ POLITICO Live discussion, on how doctors, patients, caregivers, and advocates can navigate complex decision-making, and addressing what policy changes can help make sure that doctors and their patients can decide the best course and get access to innovative and cost-effective therapies. Speakers include Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy, Democrats Sen. Jeanne Shaheen and Rep. Ami Bera, National Quality Forum President and CEO Shantanu Agrawai, National Patient Advocate Foundation CEO Alan Balch, American Medical Association President David Barbe, Advance Care Planning Decisions co-founder and Executive Director Aretha Davis, and Georgetown University School of Medicine Evidence Based Medicine Co-director Yalda Jabbarpour. Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.politico.com [#POLITICOHealth](https://twitter.com/POLITICOEvents)

8:15 AM Dem Rep. Ted Deutch hosts Washington Summit for South Florida business and community leaders – Democratic Rep. Ted Deutch hosts Washington Summit for South Florida business and community leaders, to cover issues including boating safety regulations, customs and border protection, immigration policy, tax reform, Pell Grants, Port Everglades improvement projects, climate change resiliency plans, and other local and national topics. Day one speakers include FBI Deputy Assistant Director James Burrell. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th

Street NW, Washington, DC teddeutch.house.gov <https://twitter.com/repteddeutch>

8:30 AM Brookings co-hosts conference on 'The Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and Alternative Payment Models' – 'The Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and Alternative Payment Models' Urban Institute, USC-Brookings Schaeffer Initiative for Health Policy, and Actuarial Research Corporation conference on 'the evolution and state of the PFS, and the movement to new payment models'. Speakers include Commonwealth Fund Policy and Research Senior Vice President Eric Schneider, Federation of American Hospitals President and CEO Chip Kahn, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Health Policy and Advocacy Vice President Barbara Levy, and Medicare Payment Advisory Committee Executive Director Mark Miller. Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> [#BrookingsInst](https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst) [#MedicarePayments](https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst)

9:00 AM National Academies committee workshop on the health and performance of DHS law enforcement – National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine ad hoc committee organizes 'Strategies, Interventions and Policies for Health Promotion, High Risk Behavior Prevention and Increased Performance of the DHS Law Enforcement Workforce: A Workshop', exploring the impact of operational stressors on the health and performance of the Department of Homeland Security law enforcement workforce and opportunities for the DHS Office of Health Affairs Workforce Health and Medical Support Division, Office of Chief of Human Capital Officer, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and other component agencies and operational units to identify and incorporate best practices, strategies, interventions, and policies from other similarly-situated organizations. Location: House of Sweden, 2900 K St NW, Washington, DC www.nas.edu/ [#NASciences](https://twitter.com/NASciences) [#RealWorldEvidence](https://twitter.com/NASciences)

11:15 AM Mexico Embassy Vigil for Earthquake victims and the disappeared student teachers – The American Federation of Teachers and other social justice groups will hold a vigil at the Mexican Embassy in Washington, D.C. to show support for the victims of the recent massive earthquakes and to mark the third anniversary of the still-unresolved "disappearance" of 43 Mexican student-teachers. Contact: Janet Bass, 202-879-4554, jbass@aft.org, www.aft.org Location: Embassy of Mexico, 1911 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.

12:00 PM AG Sessions delivers remarks on free speech on college campuses – Attorney General Jeff Sessions delivers remarks at the Georgetown Center for the Constitution at Georgetown Law on free speech on college campuses, then participates in a conversation with Center Director Randy Barnett * Comes just days after President Donald Trump said NFL team owners should fire any players who kneel or otherwise protest during the national anthem, despite critics pointing out that the First Amendment gives them the freedom of speech to do so. Location: Georgetown University Law Center, 600 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC www.justice.gov <https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

1:00 PM Bipartisan Reps. Marcy Kaptur and Walter Jones speak Our Revolution 'Glass-Steagall' webinar – Our Revolution discuss 'the pressing need for Glass-Steagall reinstatement' and to add more sponsors to 'The Modern Say Glass-Steagall Act' and 'The Prudent Banking Act of 2017', via national webinar with introductory remarks from Democratic Rep. Marcy Kaptur and Republican Rep. Walter Jones, and panel discussion with Marcus Stanley (Americans for Financial Reform), Heather Corzo (AFL-CIO), and financial author Nomi Prins. Location: TBD www.ourrevolution.com <https://twitter.com/ourrevolution>

3:00 PM The Atlantic 'Future of Work Forum' with Dem Sen. Joe Manchin – The Atlantic 'Future of Work Forum', held to 'debate the biggest factors driving the transformation of work' and 'discuss what it means to continue to lean toward automation, what's needed to thrive in the new work economy, and which industries and careers will come out on top in the decades to come'. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin, former Carrier employee Kipp Glenn, Square co-founder and Director Jim McKelvey, LinkedIn Head of U.S. Public Policy Nicole Isaac, Snagajob COO Jocelyn Mangan, Pipeline Fellowship founder and CEO Natalia Oberti Noguera, National League of Cities Senior Executive Director Brooks Rainwater, and WeWork Global Head of Public Affairs Jennifer Skyler. Location: WeWork Wonder Bread Factory, Washington, DC <http://www.theatlantic.com/> <https://twitter.com/TheAtlantic>

7:00 PM 'Press vs. Politicians' Spelling Bee at the National Press Club – National Press Club 'Press vs. Politicians' Spelling Bee, with participants including Republican Rep. Virginia Foxx and Democratic Reps. Don Beyer, Scott Peters, Suzanne Bonamici, Ted Deutch, and Jamie Raskin (Politicians Team), and Art Swift (Gallup), Alexandra Petri (The Washington Post), Molly Ball (The Atlantic), Ben Jacobs (The Guardian) and Seung Min Kim (POLITICO) representing the press. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC www.press.org/spelling-bee <https://twitter.com/PressClubDC>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "The truth is John McCain probably saved the Republican party by doing this. Because if you think Graham/Cassidy is unpopular now, wait until people have to live with it, or not live with it. Then who gets blamed? The Republican party. This is one of the rare moments when we actually needed Congress to do nothing. Which is what they're really good at, by the way."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Thank you, Senator Collins. Maine needs affordable health care more than almost any other state. The sewers up there are filled with child-eating clowns."

Stephen Colbert: "For the last year, some players have been kneeling during the national anthem to protest institutional racism. It started with then-49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick. It was a controversial protest. After all, the singing of the national anthem is a sacred time when red-blooded Americans stand up, and run to the bathroom because that's when the line is shortest."

Stephen Colbert: "And today, Donald Trump was still tweeting. 'The issue of kneeling has nothing to do with race.' Wrong. Kneeling during the national anthem has everything to do with race. Just like your presidency."

Stephen Colbert: "Those players are protesting racial injustice. They're not protesting the American flag. Saying that kneeling is a protest against the flag is like saying Gandhi's hunger strikes were a protest against midday snacks."

Stephen Colbert: "It's official. Donald Trump is now going to get fewer visits from basketball players than Kim Jong-Un."

Jimmy Fallon: "Well, we had a bunch of big football matchups yesterday. You had the Eagles against the Giants, you had the Patriots against the Texans, and you had the President against everyone."

Jimmy Fallon: "Yesterday, Trump tweeted that players standing with locked arms for the national anthem is okay. Incidentally, people standing with locked arms is also the plan for his border wall. Red rover, red rover, don't let anyone come over."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump yesterday called for a boycott of the NFL as players refused to stand for the national anthem. Dude, you're going after the NFL? That's the most conservative league in sports. The owners – their owners donated millions to your campaign. That'd be like trying to fire your attorney general, even though he's the most conservative guy in the world, who was your first supporter in the Senate – and oh, my God, you did that too."

James Corden: "The American territory of Puerto Rico is in dire need of humanitarian aid. Tensions with North Korea have never been higher. So of course, President Trump spent this weekend tackling the biggest issue of all: football players."

James Corden: "Trump feels that the taking a knee during the national anthem shows disrespect to the American flag. Trump thinks people should treat the flag with more respect, you know, like on his official website where you can spend \$8 on a Trump American flag beer cozy. "

James Corden: "Trump also criticized the league for making efforts to prevent concussions, saying they are ruining the game. Right. I don't think Trump realizes how dangerous the symptoms of these concussions are – headache, emotional instability, impulsive behavior. Basically, they turn you into Donald Trump."

James Corden: "Trump's withdrawn his invitation to the Golden State Warriors, making this the first time in history Donald Trump has ever shown a dislike for anything golden."

Trevor Noah: "Jared Kushner admitted he was using a private email account to communicate

with other White House officials. Ahhh! Private email? Kushner says what he did is nothing like what Hillary Clinton did and he'll explain the whole thing in his new book 'What Took Place.'"

Trevor Noah: "And also, who is Donald Trump to say that football is too soft? Really? You play golf, a sport where the biggest danger is when you aren't even playing."

Copyright 2017 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.