

To: Melissa Kuckro[melissa_kuckro@nps.gov]
Cc: G Hackett[Elaine_hackett@nps.gov]; Christine Powell[chris_powell@nps.gov]
From: Earnest, Gifford
Sent: 2017-12-07T10:46:16-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, December 7, 2017
Received: 2017-12-07T10:47:29-05:00

Melissa,

I've reached out to the program manager for additional information.

I didn't see anything flagged by CR, and I'm guessing that the program didn't do notifications. If that's the case, I'll work with the program on making notifications today (looks like a total of 16 projects were selected) and ensuring that any announcements of funding are flagged prior to their release in the future.

Best,
Kyle

G. Kyle Earnest
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National Park Service
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On Thu, Dec 7, 2017 at 8:31 AM, Melissa Kuckro <melissa_kuckro@nps.gov> wrote:

The clips mention 2 Underground Railroad Network to Freedom grants. Were a group of them announced ? Did we do Congressional notification?

Melissa Kuckro
Acting Assistant Director
NPS Legislative and Congressional Affairs
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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Date: December 7, 2017 at 6:01:55 AM EST
To: <Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com>
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, December 7, 2017

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

DATE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2017 6:00 AM EST

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Office Of Insular Affairs

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- Platts: Murkowski Touts Senate Energy Bill As Springboard For Trump's Infrastructure Plan.
- Associated Press: Trump's Travel Ban Faces More Court Challenges.
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- Associated Press: ADP: US Businesses Added 190,000 Jobs In November.
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DOI In The News

Lawsuits Address Whether Presidents Can Modify Monuments.

The [AP](#) (12/6, McCombs, Price) reports that "a flurry of lawsuits" President Trump's move to shrink the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments "could finally bring an answer to the much-debated question of whether presidents have the legal authority to undo or change monuments created by past presidents." Already, four lawsuits have been filed, "and more are expected – especially if Trump follows Zinke's recommendations to shrink two other monuments – Gold Butte in Nevada and Cascade Siskiyou in Oregon." But "legal experts disagree on whether the 1906 Antiquities Act – allowing presidents to create a monument – also lets them reduce one."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (12/6, Grandoni).

Patagonia Sues To Prevent Trump Administration From Shrinking Bears Ears Monument. The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/6, Correll) reports that "outdoor recreation company Patagonia sued Wednesday to block President Trump from shrinking Bears Ears National Monument in Utah." Patagonia called Trump's decision to reduce the size of the Bears Ears monument an "extreme overreach in authority." The [Huffington Post](#) (12/6, Madani) reports that Patagonia President and CEO Rose Marcario said in a statement, "The Administration's unlawful actions betray our shared responsibility to protect iconic places for future generations and represent the largest elimination of protected land in American history. We've fought to protect these places since we were founded and now we'll continue that fight in the courts."

Patagonia, Interior Department Trade Twitter Barbs Over 'Special Interests'. [CNN](#) (12/6, Green) reports the Interior Department and outdoor retailer Patagonia "continued their public spat over US national monuments Tuesday on Twitter, trading barbs over each others' ties to 'special interests.'" In a tweet, Patagonia referred to "a back-and-forth over" Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "travel on behalf of the agency: 'It's odd that @SecretaryZinke has no problem with special interests when they're paying for his private jets. We have been fighting for these lands for decades, so that hunters, fisherman, hikers and everyone else can use them and help us protect them.'" Following Patagonia's tweet, "the official Interior spokesperson account piped in, calling aspects of Patagonia's statement 'fake news.'" Another tweet a few minutes later said, "Not a jet. Not paid by spec interest. Same prop that prev secs used. selected by

career officials.”

Patagonia CEO On Trump Shrinking Monuments: ‘This Is Not About Politics’. In its “Blog Briefing Room” blog, The Hill (12/6, Delk) reports that Patagonia CEO Rose Marcario “denied the company having any political motivations in its website’s statement condemning President Trump’s ‘illegal’ move to shrink two national monuments in Utah.” In an op-ed for TIME (12/6, Marcario), Marcario wrote, “This is not about politics; it’s about protecting the places we love and keeping the great promise of this country for our children and grandchildren. We won’t let President Trump tear down our heritage and sell it to the highest bidder.” Marcario also “defended the company’s claim that Trump’s move was illegal, citing the Antiquities Act of 1906 that allows presidents to designate national monuments but noted it does ‘not give the President the power to undo a prior president’s monument designations.’”

Additional Coverage. Also reporting are AP (12/6, McCOMBS), NBC News (12/6, Rainey), PBS NewsHour (12/6, Grabenstein), The New Yorker (12/6, Nijhuis), and the Santa Fe (NM) Reporter (12/6, Paskus).

Alaskan Oil Lease Sale Brings Few Bids Despite Vast Territory Offered.

Reuters (12/6, Rosen) reports the Trump Administration’s oil and gas lease sale in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska only received seven bids. The bids covered about 80,000 acres, less than 1 percent of the 10.3 million acres offered in the sale. ConocoPhillips Alaska submitted all seven bids, worth \$1.16 million, in partnership with Anadarko. Ted Murphy, associate director of the BLM’s Alaska office, said, “Lease sale interest is unpredictable. ... We don’t know what industry, ultimately, will be interested in getting from year to year.” The AP (12/6, Joling) reports Kristen Miller, conservation director of the Alaska Wilderness League, said the sale shows that any drilling in the Arctic Refuge will not bring in the expected revenue. The bids on Wednesday brought in \$14.99 an acre, leading Miller to say, “At that price, leasing the entirety of the Arctic Refuge coastal plain’s 1.5 million acres would raise slightly more than \$11 million in revenue for the federal government, a far cry from the billion dollar lie that Trump and Republicans are feeding the American public.”

Additional coverage was provided by UPI (12/6, Graeber) and the Alaska Public Radio Network (12/6, Harball).

Conservation Group Takes After Zinke Over Park Fees; Praises Tester.

KRTV-TV Great Falls, MT (12/6, Dennison) reports that the political arm of the Natural Resources Defense Fund, has launched a “five-figure” ad campaign in Montana opposing the Trump Administration proposal to hike “entrance fees to national parks – and praising Democratic U.S. Sen. Jon Tester for his stand on the issue.” Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift said “Wednesday that the increase is ‘still more affordable than taking a

family of four to see a 3-D movie,' and that the majority of the increased funds will pay for park maintenance." Swift "also noted that NRDC has filed several 'expensive and frivolous lawsuits' against the Interior Department, wasting 'valuable taxpayer funds.'" The campaign by NRDC Action Fund is "the latest of several efforts by conservation groups either taking" after Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, "or boosting Tester, who is up for re-election in 2018."

Additional coverage was provided by KTVQ-TV Billings, MT (12/6, Dennison) and KPAX-TV Missoula, MT (12/6, Dennison).

Four Major Wildfires Ravage California.

ABC World News Tonight (12/6, lead story, 3:35, Muir) reported that "at least four major fires" burned out of control in California, with "flames creeping towards the homes perched on the hills of LA." 200 structures, including a hospital, homes, and apartment buildings, have been destroyed so far. At least seven firefighters have been injured at the Creek Fire. Gale-force winds were predicted for Wednesday night, which could only exacerbate the situation. The CBS Evening News (12/6, story 3, 2:15, Glor) reported that "for much of the day, a stretch of the 405, a major highway, was closed."

NBC Nightly News (12/6, lead story, 2:50, Holt) reported that a fifth major wildfire broke out in Los Angeles near Brentwood early in the morning. Winds "could reach 70 miles per hour tomorrow," while about "15,000 homes are in the path of fire." On the ground, hundreds of firefighters "scrambled door to door, saving dozens of homes." The dry, summer-like conditions have made efforts to fight the fires far more difficult. ABC World News Tonight (12/6, story 2, 0:50, Muir) reported that Los Angeles could face 30 to 40-mile-per-hour wind gusts tomorrow, with 70 to 80-mile-per-hour gusts possible in the mountains.

The AP (12/7, Balsamo, Melley) reports that "about 200,000 people were under evacuation orders." There have only been a few reported injuries, and no deaths. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Director Ken Pimlott said that the department "issued a purple forecast, the most severe, for the first time ever." Production of at least two television shows, HBO's "Westworld" and CBS' "S.W.A.T.," "was suspended because of the danger to cast and crew from two nearby fires."

USA Today (12/6) reports that there were five separate fires: "the Thomas fire, which started in Ventura County northwest of downtown Los Angeles;" "the Creek fire, north of downtown Los Angeles;" "the Rye fire...near Santa Clarita;" "the Little Mountain fire in San Bernardino;" and the Skirball fire, which began "near the Skirball Cultural Center in west Los Angeles."

The Washington Post (12/6, Wilson, Berman, Rosenberg) reports that "the Thomas Fire burned across 90,000 acres on Wednesday, spreading through an area larger than the city of Detroit." The Skirball Fire forced the evacuation of 1,200 homes. Officials in Ventura County

"said they expected the fire to grow to the north and west over the next two days, as well as what one Cal Fire official, Tim Chavez, said was a 'large probability of spot fires that will spread easily and spread rapidly.'"

The New York Times (12/6, Medina, Pérez-Peña) reports that "smoke from the fires ringing the region could be spotted from the Santa Monica Pier, the streets of downtown and the beaches of Santa Catalina Island." Additionally, "the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles was closed to the public for a second day on Wednesday because of the wildfires."

The Los Angeles Times (12/6, Etehad, Nelson, Kohli) reports one fire destroyed several homes in the exclusive Los Angeles neighborhood of Bel-Air.

Fires Cause Air Quality To Deteriorate. NBC Nightly News (12/6, story 2, 1:20, Dahlgren) reported that the fires have caused a thick haze to envelop Southern California, with "smoke so dense, you can see it from space." In several counties, air quality warnings have been issued. Residents have been warned to stay indoors, and over 200 schools have closed. The CBS Evening News (12/6, story 4, 0:55, Glor) reported that Ventura County officials have warned residents that "there will be a severe impact on air quality and visibility."

Vietnam Wall Brings Healing.

The Nevada Appeal (12/6, Ranson) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was among the speakers on Veterans Day at the Vietnam Wall. Zinke "said the wall is a tribute to remembering Vietnam veterans." He said, "We should never run away from the history of our country. We should learn. When I served in the seal teams for 23 years, 1985, most of my instructors were SEALs that had served in Vietnam. They cut their teeth in the jungles and the rivers. I learned a lot from those fine warriors. I have learned a lot from you, those that have fought. I've learned commitment, dedication, sacrifice."

Heller Bill Protects Special Federal Lands Without Using Taxpayer Funds.

The Ripon Advance (12/6) reports that Sen. Dean Heller on Monday "introduced bipartisan legislation to enable protecting and preserving iconic Western federal lands with special conservation importance without using taxpayer funds." The bill "reauthorizes the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA), which expired in 2011." Heller said, "This bipartisan program provides a fiscally responsible way to protect and manage important public lands in Nevada and throughout the West. Not only will it spur economic growth and development, it will also keep conservation at the forefront of the region's needs."

Area Of Protected Land Larger Than California At Risk From Drilling.

The MintPress News (12/6, Carter) reports that "an area of protected land larger than California could be at risk from fossil fuel development, as the

Trump administration looks to ramp up drilling on federal lands – according to a new investigation by Unearthed.” The analysis “mapped the overlap between every protected park in the US and potentially major reserves of oil, gas and coal.” The report “shows how much protected land – and which iconic landscapes – could be affected by the Trump administration’s goal of opening up more land for energy development than ever before.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Grazing Resumes On Land Burned In Oregon, Idaho Wildfires.

The [AP](#) (12/6) reports that “ranchers in Idaho and Oregon have begun grazing their cattle again on some of the thousands of acres burned in wildfires in 2015.” The Bureau of Land Management has “allowed grazing to resume on 48 of the 84 pastures on affected allotments in southwest Idaho and southeast Oregon.” According to Peter Torma, Soda Fire project manager for the BLM, “a decision on whether to resume grazing on the remaining 36 pastures is expected to come later this month.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Soon, Solid Footings.

The [Star of Grand Coulee \(WA\)](#) (12/6) published a photo of concrete being poured Thursday “for the foundation of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s new fire station above SR-155 across from Pole Park.” According to the caption, “the \$13.6 million project is scheduled to be completed next summer.”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Gulf Rig Worker Killed In Apparent Equipment Accident.

The [AP](#) (12/6) reports that a worker was killed on Transocean Ltd.’s drillship located in the Gulf of Mexico. The incident appeared to be related to an equipment accident on the drillship. In a Wednesday news release, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said the incident took place Sunday. The “worker was employed by Spencer Ogden Ltd. as a floorhand and was engaged in pipe-handling operations.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Rigzone](#) (12/6), [Maritime Executive](#) (12/6), [Offshore Engineer](#) (12/6, Leon), [WVUE-TV New Orleans New Orleans](#) (12/6), and [WVLA-TV Baton Rouge \(LA\)](#) Baton Rouge, LA (12/6, Vaughn).

Fish And Wildlife Service

US To Review End Of Protections For Yellowstone Grizzlies.

The [AP](#) (12/6, Brown) reports that federal officials “said Wednesday they’ll review the recent lifting of protections for Yellowstone-area grizzly bears in light of a court ruling that retained protections for gray wolves in the Great Lakes.” According to the article, “in its response to the appeals

court ruling, the Fish and Wildlife Service said it's now seeking public comment on the potential implications for Yellowstone bears." The FWS "plans to release its conclusions by March 31."

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (12/6), [MLive \(MI\)](#) (12/6, Raven), the [WyoFile](#) (12/6, Thuermer), and [KTVH-TV](#) Helena, MT (12/6, Jochim).

House Panel Considers Extending Endangered Fish Recovery Programs.

[Courthouse News](#) (12/6, Buchman) reports that "the House Natural Resources Committee considered legislation Wednesday that will extend endangered fish recovery programs in the Upper Colorado and San Juan rivers and direct the Interior Department to conduct an in-depth review of the success of the program to date." Rep. John Curtis' bill, the Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Extension Act of 2017, "would do two things: first, it would allow for the continued annual collection of fees from water and power users to continue funding the collaborative restoration efforts involving state and federal agencies, tribes and other stakeholders." Second, the legislation "directs the Interior Department to assess how well the programs are working and how they can be improved."

Georgia Initiative Brings Business To The Table To Save A Rare Animal.

On its website, [WABE-FM](#) Atlanta (12/6, Samuel) discusses the Georgia Gopher Tortoise Initiative, a partnership between state wildlife officials and businesses working to protect the tortoise and its habitat. The goal is to prevent the tortoise from being included on the federal endangered species list, which "can be bad for business, since protected species can mean red tape and additional costs." The article highlights the Gopher Tortoise habitat maintained by Georgia Power adjacent to Plant Hatch. Georgia Power wildlife biologist Jim Ozier said, "We're glad to have them here. ... Gopher tortoises do very well right next door." According to the article, Ozier "says in addition to planning around the tortoises, to make sure they're not affected by transmission line maintenance, Georgia Power plans to bring fire back to the woods next to the power lines, in the form of controlled burns, to restore the longleaf pine savannah that would have grown here naturally."

Panther Deaths Down For First Time In Years.

The [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (12/6, Gillis) reports that "although the Florida panther population is growing, the number of overall documented deaths may be down this year for the first time in years." According to the article, "twenty-eight big cats have died this year, with 23 of those being road kills and the others with cause of death listed as intraspecific aggression (panthers killing panthers) and unknown." The article notes

"that's down from last year's record of 42 overall deaths and 34 vehicle kills, although there are still three weeks left in the year."

National Park Service

National Park Service Awards \$18,000 Grant To Aid Restoration Of Topeka's Historic Constitution Hall.

The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (12/6, Hrenchir) reports the National Park Service recently awarded \$18,000 "to help restore the front doors and windows of Topeka's Constitution Hall, which was the site of events in the 1850s that helped shape this nation's history." Diane Miller, national program manager for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, noted that "the effort to restore the front doors and front windows at Constitution Hall, 427-429 S. Kansas Ave., was among only 16 projects chosen to receive funding from 41 applications nationwide." In a letter to Grant Glenn, president of the not-for-profit Friends of the Free State Capitol, Inc., Miller wrote, "We found your project to be very exciting and feel that it will advance the goals of preserving the history of the Underground Railroad and informing the public. We commend your creativity in developing the proposal and your dedication to this important part of our heritage."

Town Clock Church Gets Network To Freedom Grant.

The Jefferson (IN) News & Tribune (12/6) reports that the National Park Service awarded a Network to Freedom grant of \$15,940 to the Friends of the Town Clock Church. The application sought funds for "tuck-pointing the historic Town Clock Church at Second Baptist Church in New Albany." The article notes that "the federal grant requires a dollar for dollar match" and "the Friends of the Town Clock Church will need to raise \$15,940 to match the grant."

In Oklahoma, The National Park Service Estimates There Are \$19.9 Million In Deferred Maintenance.

The Oklahoma Gazette (12/6, Eastes) reports that "according to National Park Service, Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site and Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum welcomed 1.6 million visitors, who spent an estimated \$27 million in OKC and across the state." However, the article notes that Chickasaw National Recreation Area "requires \$19.7 million in repairs" and Washita Battlefield National Historic Site "lists \$196,027 in needed repairs."

North Dakota: Refinery Near National Park Could Win Permit.

The AP (12/6, Nicholson) reports that a proposed oil refinery that would be near the "Theodore Roosevelt National Park has met federal and state air pollution rules" and will now undergo a public comment period prior to obtaining a permit. Meridian Energy Group has met or exceeded the air

quality permit requirements for the proposed Davis Refinery that is expected to be worth more than \$800 million. The Davis Refinery must also obtain a water permit from North Dakota.

Katherine Landing's Commercial Services To Be Updated.

The [Kingman \(AZ\) Daily Miner](#) (12/6) reports that the National Park Service has "awarded a 15-year contract to Urban Park Concessionaires to operate commercial services at Katherine Landing on Lake Mohave." Lizette Richardson, Lake Mead National Recreation Area superintendent, said, "The National Park Service has invested millions to enhance the services at this popular destination. With our new private partner, we anticipate there will be even further redevelopment of the area." Beginning in the spring, Urban Park Concessionaires will "provide a variety of commercial services at Katherine Landing, including a full-service marina with moorage, boat rentals, food and beverage, retail, fuel, campground and other related services."

NPS Set To Rehabilitate Kalahaku Overlook Area.

The [Maui \(HI\) News](#) (12/6) reports that the National Park Service is proposing a plan to rehabilitate the Kalahaku Overlook at Haleakala National Park. The NPS will host a public meeting on Thursday to discuss the proposal.

Sea Level Rise Could Drown More Than 2,500 Louisiana Historic Sites.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (12/6, Sneath) reports that "more than 19,600 historically significant sites along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts could be lost to sea level rise, according to a new peer-reviewed study published in PLUS ONE." The study examined "records of archaeological sites and the National Register of Historic Places from nine states and overlays that information with projected sea level rise over the next century." The study said, "Tens of thousands of historic and prehistoric archaeological sites, and thousands of properties currently designated eligible for inclusion on the (National Register of Historic Places), which include archaeological sites, standing structures, and other cultural property types, will be submerged and hence lost or damaged, as well as underwater resources that will be effected by changes in ocean acidification, currents, and shipping patterns."

Armory Gets Listed On National Register Of Historic Places.

The [Worthington \(MN\) Daily Globe](#) (12/6, Buntjer) reports that the former National Guard Armory in Worthington has been listed on National Register of Historic Places

Office Of Insular Affairs

Sen. Murkowski Moves To Retake Federal Control Over Bikini Trust

Fund.

Hawaii Public Radio (12/6, Conan) reports that last month, the Interior Department “announced it was time for the people of Bikini to make decisions, not policy makers in Washington DC, and transferred control over the Bikini Resettlement trust fund.” Soon after, “11 million dollars was withdrawn from the 59 million dollar fund, and now Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska plans legislation to restore federal supervision.” Murkowski “objected that an amount more than double the annual budget was withdrawn without any agreement on how it would be spent.”

US Geological Survey

Interior Department’s Climate Science Centers Persevere.

The High Country (CO) News (12/7, Shogren) reports that President Trump’s “first budget proposal took a big swing” at Interior’s eight regional Climate Science Centers, “proposing to cut their numbers in half and reduce their budget by a third.” However, the Trump Administration “didn’t try to eliminate them outright as it has many other Obama climate change initiatives.” The article says that “the key to their resilience is that they don’t focus on the kinds of climate science that the Trump administration likes least – research into the human role in climate change and how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.” Supporters of the Climate Science Centers are now hopeful “the centers will ride out” the Trump Administration.

West Coast Earthquake Early Warning System Continues Progress Toward Public Use.

Phys (UK) (12/6) reports that “in two papers published December 6 in Seismological Research Letters, researchers describe the key components and testing platform for the prototype ShakeAlert system, now being tested in California, Oregon and Washington.” According to Monica Kohler, a Caltech research faculty member in the Department of Mechanical and Civil Engineering, “the development of ShakeAlert has shown that a dense network of seismic stations, swift transfer of seismic data to a central processing and alert station, speedy paths for distributing alert information to users, and education and training on how to use the alerts are all necessary for a robust early warning system.”

Additoinal Reading.

- *The Firestorm This Time: Why Los Angeles Is Burning.* Wired (12/6, Rogers).
- *Biologist: Mad Deer Disease Likely To Reach Indiana.* Dubois County (IN) Herald (12/6, Burke).

Opinion Pieces

Trump's Radical Monuments Reduction Will Sully Precious Lands.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/6) says in an editorial that with President Trump's announcements that he will reduce the size of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments in Utah, the "degree of his shortsightedness became clearer." The Post argues that while "public lands and waters should be open to development, including drilling, so that the nation's resources can drive national growth, enable all sorts of recreation and benefit nearby towns and cities," the federal government "owns some lands that are simply too precious to permanently sully in pursuit of temporary economic gains."

FINALLY! President Trump Kicks Off The Rollback Of National Monument Abuse.

In an op-ed for the [Daily Caller](#) (12/6, Cohen, Boneta), Bonner Cohen, a senior policy analyst with the Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow, and Martha Bonet, a policy advisor with America First Policies, writes that "by significantly reducing the size of two gargantuan national monuments on federal land in Utah, President Donald Trump has begun to undo the decades-old mistreatment of rural Westerners by smug elites in faraway Washington." In doing so, they say Trump has "shown a respect for the rule of law that was conspicuously absent when President Bill Clinton created the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996, and when President Barack Obama designated the Bears Ears National Monument in 2016." The authors urge the Trump Administration to move forward and "right the wrongs at other national monuments around the country, including the Katahdin Woods and Waters in Maine, the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks in New Mexico, Cascade Siskiyou in Oregon and California, Basin and Range in Nevada and castle Mountains in California."

Additional Reading.

- *Trump Argued For Keeping Confederate Monuments. Then He Scaled Back Those Of Native Americans.* [Washington Post](#) (12/6, Scott).
- *Trump's Cuts To National Monuments Are An Assault On Our Humanity.* [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/6, Norton).
- *Editorial: Honey, I Shrunk The National Monuments.* [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (12/6)
- *Donald Trump's Unprecedented Assault On Mother Nature.* [Boston Globe](#) (12/7).
- *Trump Smashes A National Treasure.* [The Week](#) (12/6, Cooper).
- *No Shame, No Future.* [Huffington Post](#) (12/6, Brune).
- *GOP Finally Delivers On Promise To Americans.* [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (12/6, Jensen).
- *Entrance Fee Increase Bad For Montana: Keep National Parks Affordable, Accessible.* [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (12/6).
- *Indiana Dunes Not Worthy Of Being A National Park, Prof Says.* [Indianapolis Star](#) (12/6, Adams).

- ***Congress: Treat Wildfires Like Disasters – And Fix The Funding Problem.*** Pierre (SD) Capital Journal (12/6).
- ***Miners Need Assurance They Can Produce Minerals For The Nation.*** Juneau (AK) Empire (12/6, Baker).
- ***Thomas Mitchell: What To Do About Wild Horses? Part 2.*** Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (12/6, Mitchell).
- ***Trump Administration Defends American Indians.*** Detroit News (12/7, Carlson).

Top National News

Trump Names Jerusalem Israel's Capital, Announces Plans To Move Embassy.

Coverage of the President's announcement that the US now recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and that he has ordered the State Department to begin planning to move the US Embassy to that city from Tel Aviv is highly negative. Reports cast the decision as being made against the urging of world leaders and members of the President's own Cabinet – including Secretary of State Tillerson and Defense Secretary Mattis – amid fears the move could lead to violence in the region and possibly the end of the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians.

In the lead story for CBS Evening News (12/6, lead story, 2:45, Glor), Major Garrett said Trump's decision is "an appeal to his Christian conservative base," but it "rejects...the recommendations of his Secretaries of State and Defense," and Administration officials "could point to no evidence this symbolically important shift in US policy will accelerate peace talks."

James Rosen reported in the lead story for Fox News Special Report (12/6), "He was cautioned not to do it by advisers and world leaders alike, but today President Trump insisted 22 years of doing the same thing in Israel has yielded nothing in terms of peace, so he is going to shake it up." The Los Angeles Times (12/6, Wilkinson, Bennett) says the President "took a swipe at previous presidents who failed to officially recognize Jerusalem or move the embassy," saying they "lacked courage."

Another Los Angeles Times (12/6, Bierman) piece says that while the "decision may have alarmed prime ministers, presidents, kings and their subjects around the world," Trump is the president who tallies "promises kept," and "especially important are promises to the voters Trump sees as his base, who include a strong majority of evangelical Christians."

Bloomberg News (12/6, Talev, Jacobs) says Trump's decision "divided his top advisers and at best complicates an effort to restart peace talks between the Israelis and Palestinians" directed by Kushner. According to Bloomberg, the "urgency for Trump's announcement...was driven partly by Vice President Mike Pence's planned travel to the Mideast later this month." During a meeting last month discussing Jerusalem,

Pence reportedly “argued...it was past time for the US to recognize the 70-year reality that Jerusalem is the country’s center of government.” Chief of Staff Kelly and Ambassador Haley agreed, while Tillerson and Mattis “recommended against the move.”

A front-page New York Times (12/6, A1, Landler) analysis says that for Trump, “the status of Jerusalem was always more a political imperative than a diplomatic dilemma. Faced with disappointing evangelical and pro-Israel backers like [Sheldon] Adelson, or alarming allies and Arab leaders while jeopardizing his own peace initiative, the president sided with his key supporters.”

Also in a front-page report, the Washington Post (12/6, A1, Dawsey, Ryan, DeYoung) says the “decision to shake off warnings from senior officials such as” Tillerson and “align himself instead with prominent proponents of the move, including Vice President Pence and major donor Sheldon Adelson, underscored the president’s determination to break with past policy and keep a key campaign pledge – despite the potential risks to US interests in the region and the goal of Middle East peace.”

A Wall Street Journal (12/6) editorial praises the President for keeping his campaign promise and argues that the move is not a radical policy departure. The Journal agrees with Trump’s assertion that his decision is “a recognition of reality.” The Washington Post (12/6) editorializes that at the “heart of Mr. Trump’s speech was his boast that ‘while previous presidents...failed to deliver’ on their campaign promises about Jerusalem, ‘I am delivering.’”

Martha Raddatz reported on ABC World News Tonight (12/6, story 3, 2:30, Muir) that Trump “had promised this day would come, but to hear these words from the White House was jaw-dropping.” Trump: “I have determined that it is time to officially recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. ... We cannot solve our problems by making the same failed assumptions and repeating the same failed strategies of the past.” The President is “calling this a long overdue step to advance the peace process, but it’s unclear what the new strategy to attain peace is.”

On NBC Nightly News (12/6, story 3, 2:25, Holt), Hallie Jackson reported, “Leaving a little wiggle room, the President is not taking a position on whether or how Jerusalem should be divided. He also says he’s not ending support for a two-state solution. But in reality, experts say, any solution looks exponentially more difficult now.” Former Ambassador Nicholas Burns: “By giving this unilateral concession to the Israelis today and getting nothing for it, the President has weakened the American position and made it less likely that we’ll get progress from the Israelis at the negotiating table.”

The New York Times (12/6, Landler) reports Trump “cast his decision as a break with decades of failed policy on Jerusalem,” saying, “It would be folly to assume that repeating the exact same formula would now produce a different or better result.” But the Times says the move “isolates the United States on one of the world’s most sensitive diplomatic

issues."

While the Wall Street Journal (12/6, Schwartz) reports Trump said the decision is "the right thing to do" and in the best interests of the US, Reuters (12/6) says it "jeopardizes the United States' historical role as a mediator in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and frays relations with Arab allies that Washington relies on to help it oppose Iran and fight Sunni Islamist militants."

Trump, the AP (12/6, Lee, Klapper) says, "def[ied] dire, worldwide warnings" and "insisted that after repeated peace failures it was past time for a new approach." The AP notes that "no government beyond Israel spoke up in praise of Trump or suggested it would follow his lead."

USA Today (12/6) reports analysts said the move "sends a stark message that Palestinians should abandon their all-or-nothing demands in peace talks and applies subtle pressure on the Jewish state to make concessions." The Washington Post (12/6, Nakamura) calls the move "politically risky," and "in a sign that the move could backfire," Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas "slammed" the announcement as a "declaration of withdrawal" by the US from the peace process. On the CBS Evening News (12/6, story 2, 2:55, Glor), Seth Doane likewise reported Abbas "said that he believes this disqualified America...from being a negotiator." The Wall Street Journal (12/6, Jones) and Axios (12/6, Treene) similarly report Abbas' reaction.

Husam Zomlot, the chief Palestinian representative to the US, said on CNN's Situation Room (12/6) that Trump's decision "would be a kiss of death to the two-state solution" because "we will never recognize Israel's annexation of Jerusalem or control of Jerusalem." He later added, "What is the purpose of this move? It has just injected anxiety in the process, it has injected suspicions and anger. ... I believe today what is certain is that the US has done a self-inflicted disqualification of being the sole arbitrator of this."

USA Today (12/6, Korte) says Trump sought to "minimize the diplomatic consequences of the move" by emphasizing that the decision "is not intended in any way to reflect a departure from our strong commitment to facilitate a lasting peace agreement." Politico (12/6, Nelson) similarly says he was "emphatic in declaring that his decision did not represent a shift in US dedication to the peace process." Trump, the Jerusalem Post (12/6, Wilner) reports, insisted, "We are not taking a position on any final status issues." But the international community "did not immediately interpret Trump's moves in this way." UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters, "Jerusalem is a final status issue that must be resolved in final status negotiations between the two parties."

Asked on CNN's Situation Room (12/6) if the Administration now considers the Old City of Jerusalem part of Israel, and whether the Administration will now "differentiate between West and East Jerusalem," UN Ambassador Haley said, "We are not going to weigh in anymore on

that out of our commitment for the peace process. ... What we want to say is, it is time – for the sake of Israeli children and Palestinian children – it is time for those two sides to come together. It's time for them to negotiate."

Speaking to reporters in Brussels ahead of the President's highly anticipated announcement, the New York Times (12/6, Harris) reports Tillerson said peace in the Middle East was still possible. "The President's very committed to the Middle East peace process," Tillerson said. While Tillerson "has been largely shut out of the usual back-and-forth between Israelis and Palestinians that many secretaries of state spent much of their tenures conducting," he was "complimentary" toward Jared Kushner's Middle East peace efforts. The Washington Times (12/6, Boyer) quotes Tillerson as saying, "We continue to believe there is a very good opportunity for peace to be achieved, and the President has a team that is devoted to that entirely. That team has been working very diligently on new approaches to the peace process. They've been engaged in a quiet way with many in the region around that process."

The Washington Post (12/6, Morello) says Tillerson's message was "one he has delivered repeatedly – with little success in convincing anyone – during two days of meetings at NATO as the anticipated US recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital was criticized from the Kremlin to the Vatican." According to the Post, "Since arriving in Brussels on Monday night, virtually every diplomat who has met with Tillerson has raised objections to Trump's move, though Tillerson said they did not spend much time discussing it." Calling it Tillerson's "go-to catchphrase," the AP (12/6, Lederman) reports that when Tillerson is "called on to explain his boss on the world stage," he responds, "America first is not America alone." Yet on Wednesday, the AP says Tillerson "stood all by himself."

Richard Engel said on NBC Nightly News (12/6, story 4, 2:00) that "it seems the Israelis and President Trump are largely alone in supporting this move," while Jim Acosta reported on CNN's Situation Room (12/6) that some of America's "closest allies in the region and elsewhere" are "very disturbed by the President's move."

The Washington Post (12/6, Noack) reports that "several countries are warning that the move could worsen relations between Palestinians and Israelis and spark unrest in the region." British Prime Minister Theresa May "indicated that she would discuss the decision with Trump," and in the Netherlands, "criticism of Trump was unusually strong." Dutch Foreign Minister Halbe Zijlstra said in an interview, "We think it's an unwise step and a counterproductive step. If we want to solve at some moment the conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis, we need a two-state solution, and a one-sided step is not going to help."

The New York Times (12/6, Horowitz) says "a chorus of international leaders criticized the Trump administration's decision," including UN Secretary-General António Guterres and Pope Francis, who "both expressed alarm that the announcement would provoke new tensions in

the Holy City." The leaders of France, Germany and Italy all also spoke out against the decision. French President Emmanuel Macron, Bloomberg News (12/6, Valentini, Fouquet) reports, said the it "contravenes all rules of international law."

Reuters (12/6) says Arabs and Muslims across the Middle East also condemned the decision as "an incendiary move in a volatile region." Egypt "rejected Trump's decision," while Jordan said Trump's action was "legally null." Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani said Trump's undertaking was a "death sentence for all who seek peace" and called it "a dangerous escalation." The AP (12/6, Karam) reports Saudi Arabia also voiced "strong opposition" to Trump's move, saying it would "provoke sentiments of Muslims throughout the world." USA Today (12/6, Dorell, Hjelmgaard) reports Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said the "whole world is against" Trump, while "diplomats from Iran to China expressed concern the move would aggravate tensions."

The Washington Post (12/6, Morris), however, reports that the announcement was met with "celebration" by Israelis. An hour before Trump delivered his speech, "municipal authorities lit up the ancient walls of the Old City with images of the Israeli and American flags 'as a token of appreciation' to Trump." Politico (12/6, Pazmino) reports the announcement "sent ripples across the local political scene...with many legislators voicing strong support for Trump's decision and others warning that any hopes for a two-state solution would immediately vanish." For his part, the Washington Post (12/6, Morris, Eglash) reports, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hailed Israel's "irreplaceable" relationship with the US in his first public remarks after the announcement, but he "did not address the move directly."

New York Times (12/6) columnist Thomas Friedman writes, "I've never seen a president give up so much to so many for so little." He notes that "every Israeli government since its founding has craved United States recognition of Jerusalem as its capital. And every United States government has refrained from doing that...until now. Today, Trump just gave it away – for free. Such a deal! Why in the world would you just give this away for free and not even use it as a lever to advance the prospect of an Israeli-Palestinian deal?"

Dana Milbank writes in his Washington Post (12/6) column that Trump is "effectively throwing in the towel on Mideast peace. He's inflaming Arab allies, denying the United States legitimacy as a broker and putting already remote hopes of a peace deal into the category of pipe dreams. Not only did he announce the embassy move, but he also softened the longtime American commitment to a two-state solution (embraced by George W. Bush in 2002)," saying the US would support two states "if agreed to by both sides."

Former Wall Street Journal reporter Brett M. Decker writes for USA Today (12/6) that "recognizing Jerusalem is consistent with this

president's agenda to be a purposeful disrupter of the stale, hypocritical status quo that brought him to power."

US Posts Across Middle East Bracing For Protests. Bloomberg News (12/6, Sink) reports that in the wake of the President's announcement, "US facilities in the Middle East are bracing for possibly violent protests." The State Department "sent alerts to embassies and consulates in Muslim-majority countries last week to warn them of unrest." James Longman reported on ABC World News Tonight (12/6, story 4, 0:55, Muir) that the Marines have sent security teams to various US facilities across the region. While things appear "quiet" on the streets of Jerusalem, Longman said "that could change in the days to come."

White House: Trump Slurred Speech Result Of Dry Throat. The New York Post (12/6, Fredericks) reports the President "provoked a Twitterstorm" after his speech Wednesday "in which he appeared to be breathing heavily and slurring some of his words toward the end." Some Twitter users "questioned whether the president was on medication – or if he had dentures that possibly came loose." According to the Post, the White House "did not immediately return a request for comment," but the Los Angeles Times (12/6, Bennett) reports it said later that Trump's slurred speech "was no more than a case of dry mouth." Spokesman Raj Shah said, "His throat was dry. There's nothing to it." Pressed on whether the slurred words "might indicate any health concerns," Shah said: "I know what you're getting at. I'm saying there's nothing to it."

Senate Votes To Go To Conference With House On Tax Legislation.

Reuters (12/6, Morgan, Becker) reports that the Senate formally voted 51-47 on Wednesday to go to a conference committee with the House to work out differences between the tax bills passed in each chamber. Senate Majority Whip Cornyn expressed optimism that an agreement could be reached before the GOP's self-imposed December 22 deadline. The Washington Times (12/6, Sherfinski) reports that Senate Majority Leader McConnell named Cornyn and Sens. Mike Enzi, Orrin Hatch, Lisa Murkowski, Rob Portman, Tim Scott, John Thune, and Pat Toomey to the conference committee.

State And Local Tax Deduction Could Be Expanded. The AP (12/6, Ohlemacher, Gordon) reports that one "possible solution to a standoff with rebellious House Republicans from high-tax states" would be to expand the "deduction for state and local taxes to enable Americans to deduct local income taxes as well as property taxes." House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady said that negotiators "are looking at several options to help people who live in high-tax states." The New York Times (12/6, Rappeport) reports that McConnell "threw his support behind allowing a more generous state and local tax deduction in the final legislation."

Reuters (12/6, Bernstein, Schneider) reports that any "elimination or reduction of tax breaks for homeowners" could hurt the GOP in wealthy suburban districts in the 2018 elections. The Wall Street Journal (12/6,

Brody, Hackman) reports that as the tax bills now stand, school districts in high-tax states could suffer because state and local governments will face pressure to cut taxes. Michael Borges of the New York State Association of School Business Officials said, "Taxpayers that may end up paying higher taxes may take out their anger on school budget votes." However, in an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (12/6) says that instead of compromising, the GOP would best serve residents of high-tax states by cutting all tax rates in return for eliminating deductions.

Corporate Tax Rate May Be Set At 22% Rather Than 20%. The Washington Post (12/6, Paletta, Werner) reports that Republicans are also mulling "scaling back some of the corporate tax cuts that they are trying to usher into law." Both chambers' bills would cut the corporate tax rate from 35% to 20%, "but GOP negotiators are now openly discussing the possibility of moving that rate up to 22 percent in order to free up more revenue, people familiar with the discussions said."

Final Version Expected To Kill ACA Coverage Mandate. The New York Times (12/6, Pear, Kaplan) reports that while negotiators "are likely to eliminate the insurance coverage mandate at the heart of the Affordable Care Act," that could "potentially jeopardiz[e]" Sen. Susan Collins' support for the final measure. Collins voted for the Senate bill only after a "deal [was] struck...to mitigate the effect of the repeal."

Conservative Groups Find Tax Bills To Be A Hard Sell. The New York Times (12/6, Peters) reports that a "problem" Republicans are facing is "that most Americans do not believe" the tax plan will put "more money in the pockets of American families." Republican strategist Steve Schmidt "said that amid all the talk about the need to score an important victory for their party, 'it bears mentioning that the 'win' is something that is extraordinarily unpopular with 75 percent of the American people.'" Yet, for groups like the US Chamber of Commerce and others, "the tax bill would be the only tangible legislative achievement after 11 months of an uneasy and, so far, unproductive alliance with a president they fiercely resisted during last year's election."

Will Says GOP's "Wager Is Worth Trying." George F. Will writes in his Washington Post (12/6) column that the tax bills are "an amalgam of earnest hoping and transparent make-believe" but are also "a serious lunge for sustained 3 percent growth. Without this, the economy, and hence the entitlement state, will buckle beneath the strain of 10,000 of the elderly each day becoming eligible for Social Security and Medicare." Will says the GOP's "wager is worth trying."

Ahead Of Meeting With Congressional Leaders, Trump Says Shutdown "Could Happen."

A day before he was to meet with congressional leaders from both parties to discuss a spending bill, President Trump on Wednesday "again raised the possibility of a US government shutdown" by the end of the week, "blaming Democrats for that possible outcome," Reuters (12/6, Cowan,

Cornwell) reports. Democrats "have demanded legislative protections" for so-called Dreamers as a condition of their support for a new spending measure, a condition the President has criticized, "saying it could set the stage for an impasse." Trump told reporters, "The Democrats are really looking at something that is very dangerous for our country. ... They are looking at shutting down."

The Hill (12/6, Fabian) says Trump "accused Democrats of impeding talks on a spending deal with demands on immigration." The AP (12/6, Fram, Taylor) reports that Trump said of a shutdown, "It could happen," arguing that Democrats "want to have illegal immigrants pouring into our country bringing with them crime, tremendous amounts of crime. We don't want to have that." The Washington Times (12/6, Boyer, Howell) reports that Trump said, "We want to have a great, beautiful, crime-free country. That's why we're being so careful with our process and with our screening."

House Minority Leader Pelosi responded to Trump's comments with a tweet in which she said, "President Trump is the only person talking about a government shutdown. Democrats are hopeful the President will be open to an agreement to address the urgent needs of the American people and keep government open."

The Washington Post (12/6, Debonis) says Trump's comments came "as tensions on Capitol Hill appeared to diminish after hard-line House conservatives backed off plans to oppose a short-term stopgap." House Freedom Caucus leaders on Wednesday morning left meetings with House Speaker Ryan and House Majority Leader McCarthy "saying they had not decided whether the group's three dozen members would back the two-week stopgap favored by the GOP leaders," but that "they had backed off pushing for a longer-term spending bill and were instead focused on setting up a more advantageous fight with Democrats shortly before Christmas."

Bloomberg News (12/6) says GOP leaders are considering a plan pushed by the Freedom Caucus under which the House's fiscal year 2018 defense spending bill would be attached to "a resolution to keep the government funded after Dec. 22," according to Freedom Caucus Chairman Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) and House Armed Services Chairman Mac Thornberry. According to Meadows, "progress had been made in obtaining assurances this plan would be followed." However, even if the plan clears the House, "it is practically dead on arrival in the Senate where Democratic votes are needed to end debate."

Politico (12/6, Bade, Ferris) says House leaders and conservatives "appear close to reaching a reluctant truce." Meadows said, "I think the real focus for all of us is tax reform and getting tax reform done. ... That was the crux of the conversation we had today: that we gotta get across the finish line on tax reform. Any distraction from that is a problem." Politico adds that if conservatives back the package, "it would likely seal the GOP's hopes of avoiding the need for a last-minute deal with" Pelosi.

Baldwin Indicates Willingness To Support A “Very Short-Term” Spending Bill. Sen. Tammy Baldwin said on CNBC’s Closing Bell (12/6), “I think I am open to short-term, a very short-term extension so that we can resolve the year-end spending issues. I was disappointed that Trump sort of made it harder last week when the leaders were scheduled to meet on a bipartisan basis, but I do think we can work our way through this with the spending caps and an omnibus. Much work has already been done in the House and Senate appropriations committee so I’m hopeful if there is a short-term extension we can get the job done.”

Poll: 63% Say Congress Should Avoid Shutdown “At All Costs.” Politico (12/6, Shepard) reports that a Politico/Morning Consult poll found that “a majority of voters think Congress should avoid shutting down the federal government – and members shouldn’t threaten a shutdown to enact policy changes.” According to the poll, 63% said lawmakers “should avoid a shutdown at all costs,” while 18% said that “members should allow a temporary government shutdown if it helps them achieve their policy goals.” Another 19% were undecided.

Murkowski Touts Senate Energy Bill As Springboard For Trump’s Infrastructure Plan.

Platts (12/6, Melvin) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski, chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, is touting the Senate’s bipartisan energy bill as an springboard for President Trump’s infrastructure plan, which remains short on details. She said the bill, which would streamline permitting for natural gas and hydropower projects, facilitate LNG exports, support modernization of the electric grid, and more, is “ready to go and that’s already pre-vetted.”

Trump’s Travel Ban Faces More Court Challenges.

The AP (12/6, Johnson) reports that in the wake of the Supreme Court’s decision allowing President Trump’s third travel ban to take effect, there is increased attention on “a legal showdown Wednesday before three judges in Seattle who have been cool to the policy.” Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals Judges Ronald Gould, Richard Paez, and Michael Hawkins were scheduled to hear arguments to Hawaii’s challenge to the ban. The judges “unanimously ruled against the second version of the travel ban, saying the president had not shown that allowing travelers from the listed nations would harm American interests.” While courts in Hawaii and Maryland partially blocked the ban, the Supreme Court “lifted those orders pending the outcome of legal challenges in the 9th Circuit and the 4th US Circuit Court of Appeals, which is scheduled to hear arguments Friday in Richmond, Virginia.” Bloomberg News (12/6, Mehrotra) says that whatever the judges rule in those cases, “the president’s directive will remain in effect until the Supreme Court says otherwise.”

Branstad: North Korea Must Halt All Testing For Talks.

Bloomberg News (12/6) reports US Ambassador to China, Terry Branstad, said Wednesday that the Administration "would be ready to talk with North Korea if it renounced further nuclear or missile tests and followed through on the pledge." Appearing on Bloomberg Television, Branstad said, "If they announce that they're not going to be doing any more nuclear tests and they're not going to be launching any more missiles. If they announce that and do that, I think there's an opportunity for us to get back to the bargaining table." With regards to Chinese pressure, he said, "We believe we need to go further. We think oil and also these North Korean workers working in China and other countries, that needs to stop."

Chinese Border Province Warns About Dangers Of Nuclear War. The Washington Post (12/6, Denyer) reports that a provincial state newspaper on China's border with North Korea "spooked a few people Wednesday by dedicating an entire page to advice for local residents on how they might survive a nuclear war." The advisory, by the official Jilin Daily, "was picked up by many online news services and circulated widely on Chinese social media, forcing the paper and other state media outlets to hurriedly issue statements trying to calm people down." The full-page advisory also included "a series of cartoons" reminiscent of public service announcements in 1950s America advising children to "duck and cover" in order to survive a nuclear attack. One cartoon states that "if a bomb goes off when you are near a river, pond or lake – jump in it." The New York Times (12/6, Bradsher) likewise says the publication "caused a flurry of discussion on social media in China, and official news media sought to discourage speculation that a nuclear conflict might be imminent."

ADP: US Businesses Added 190,000 Jobs In November.

In what the AP (12/6, Rugaber) describes as "a sign that hiring is strong enough to reduce an already-low unemployment rate," payroll processor ADP said Wednesday that US companies "added a robust 190,000 jobs in November." Manufacturers added "40,000 jobs, the largest gain this year," while healthcare "added 31,000 positions, and a category that includes restaurants and hotels hired 25,000."

National Homelessness Rates Rise For First Time Since 2010.

The AP (12/6, Weber, Mulvihill) reports for the first time in seven years, homelessness numbers in the US increased by one percent to approximately 554,000 people, according to statistics released by HUD. Of those, 193,000 lacked access to nightly shelter, representing an increase of "more than 9 percent compared to two years ago." Homelessness rates continued to fall in most places, except on the West Coast, where they grew, particularly in major urban centers. Favorable economic conditions were blamed for increasing living costs in those areas and forcing many out onto the street.

EPA Chief Assures Congressmen Of Agency's Scientific Integrity

Policy.

The New York Times (12/6, Friedman) reports EPA Administrator Pruitt reassured lawmakers from now on EPA scientists would not face restrictions on discussing their work, following reports that two EPA scientists were prevented in October from presenting on environmental issues to the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program. The canceled EPA scientist presentations reportedly were to touch upon the concept of climate change. In a letter to Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Pruitt said, "Procedures have been put in place to prevent such an occurrence in the future." Whitehouse and other Democrats who challenged the EPA on the issue were reportedly satisfied with Pruitt's response.

EPA Administrator Announces More Hearings On Clean Power Plan Repeal.

The Washington Examiner (12/6, Siegel) reports the Environmental Protection Agency yesterday announced that "it will host three more public hearings on its move to repeal the Clean Power Plan, including one in San Francisco, after the agency was criticized for not conducting a transparent review process." The agency "had planned only one public hearing, which it held last week over two days in Charleston, W.Va., the heart of coal country." EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said, "Due to the overwhelming response to our West Virginia hearing, we are announcing additional opportunities for the public to voice their views to the agency."

The AP (12/6) reports the hearings will take place "in San Francisco, Gillette, Wyoming, and Kansas City, Missouri."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Holding Prison Guards Accountable." A New York Times (12/6) editorial says "a radically different" version of the state's contract with the New York State prison guards union is needed in order to ensure prison guards answer for wrongdoing. As the contract undergoes a renegotiation, the Times urges Gov. Andrew Cuomo to "hold out for a new one that strengthens state control over the prison system" and "push for a sensible disciplinary system, like that used by the State Police." The current contract contains "a convoluted disciplinary process" and "makes it difficult to fire officers," even in cases of egregious wrongdoing.

"Let's Limit The Term Limit Debate." A New York Times (12/6) editorial says that in response to a new proposal to extend term limits for New York City elected officials, members of the New York City Council should remember that "over the last quarter-century, city voters have affirmed in three referendums – in 1993, 1996 and 2010 – that they want all their officeholders to max out at two consecutive terms." Proponents of the bill say "that a Council with longer terms for its members could be more effective at providing the checks and balances that are part of this

country's founding principles."

"The Olympic Ban Helps Mr. Putin, Hurts Russia." In an editorial, the New York Times (12/7) writes that Russia's "Olympic ban was the perfect setup" for Vladimir Putin to announce he is running for yet another term as Russia's president, as "Putin has maintained his popularity in large part by persuading Russians that he is the guarantor of their national greatness against the machinations of a West forever conniving to keep Russia down." However, "the same power plays that garner Mr. Putin plaudits at home have spectacularly backfired abroad" and "sharply diminished Mr. Putin's, and Russia's, stature in much of the world." The Times concludes by praising the International Olympic Committee for still allowing clean Russian athletes to compete, stating that "the sanctions make clear that the culprit is the Kremlin and its greed for glory."

Washington Post.

"Trump's Jerusalem Move Is A Big Risk." The Washington Post (12/6) editorializes that at the "heart" of President Trump's speech recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel "was his boast that 'while previous presidents...failed to deliver' on their campaign promises about Jerusalem, 'I am delivering.'"

"Trump's Radical Monuments Reduction Will Sully Precious Lands." The Washington Post (12/6) says in an editorial that with President Trump's announcements that he will reduce the size of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments in Utah, the "degree of his shortsightedness became clearer." The Post argues that while "public lands and waters should be open to development, including drilling, so that the nation's resources can drive national growth, enable all sorts of recreation and benefit nearby towns and cities," the federal government "owns some lands that are simply too precious to permanently sully in pursuit of temporary economic gains."

"Russia Scores An Olympic Own Goal." A Washington Post (12/6) editorial argues that Russian objection to the IOC ruling "would be quite wrong," given that the doping was state-sponsored, and that "Russian fans ought to be angry at their leadership for such reckless disregard for the integrity of international sport." Although Russians object that "sports doping and cheating exist in the West, too," Russia's "systematic and centralized cover up and manipulation of the doping control process" means that the punishment imposed by the IOC is justified.

Wall Street Journal.

"How To Help The High-Tax States." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (12/6) says that instead of compromising, the GOP would best serve residents of high-tax states by cutting all tax rates in return for eliminating deductions.

"Trump's Frankenmoore Nightmare." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (12/6) says that with a mass of Senate Democrats having called

on Sen. Al Franken to resign, President Trump should pull his and the RNC's support from Alabama Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore. The Journal argues that if Trump doesn't do so, Democrats – having likely purged their congressional caucus of those accused of sexual misconduct (Franken and Rep. John Conyers) – will use Moore to paint the President and the GOP as soft on sexual harassment.

“The Reality Of Jerusalem.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/6) editorial praises the President for keeping his campaign promise to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and argues that the move is not a radical policy departure. The Journal agrees with Trump's assertion that his decision is “a recognition of reality.”

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump Says US Recognizes Jerusalem As Israel's Capital](#)

[Democrats Call For Al Franken To Resign](#)

[Wall Street Tells Frackers To Stop Counting Barrels, Start Making Profits](#)

[GM's Latest Weapon In Pickup Truck Wars: Carbon Fiber](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Calls Jerusalem Plan Step Toward Peace, But It Puts Mideast On Edge](#)

[For Trump, An Embassy In Jerusalem Is A Political Decision, Not A Diplomatic One](#)

[A Democratic Chorus Rises In The Senate: “Franken Should Resign”](#)

[California Fires Enter The Heart Of Los Angeles](#)

[Conservative Groups Seeking Support For Tax Cuts Find It A Hard Sell](#)

[The Mysterious Buyer Of The \\$450 Million Leonardo Da Vinci? A Saudi Prince](#)

[Putin Confirms He Is Running For President](#)

Washington Post:

[President Was Bent On Fulfilling Vow On Jerusalem's Status](#)

[GOP Steps Up Criticism Of Mueller, FBI Probes](#)

[Democrats Call For Franken To Resign](#)

[Trump Orders Israel Switch](#)

[As Calif. Wildfires Rage, Threat Is Forecast To Grow](#)

Financial Times:

[Apple Will See Up To \\$47bn Potential Benefit From Tax Reform](#)

[Trump Recognises Jerusalem As Capital Of Israel](#)

[Vladimir Putin Announces He Will Seek Re-Election In 2018](#)

[Big Banks Push Back On Launch Of Bitcoin Futures](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump's Recognition Of Jerusalem As Israeli Capital Fulfills Campaign](#)

[Promise Broken By Predecessors](#)

[Gun Rights Activists Celebrate House Approval Of Concealed Carry Reciprocity Bill](#)

[Franken Expected To Resign After Pressure From Fellow Senate Democrats As Millennial Republican Women Fret, 'Bama Boomers See Nothing Inappropriate From Moore](#)

[Stanford Professor's Defamation Lawsuit Puts Chill In Atmosphere Of Climate Scientists](#)

[Rich In Historic Architecture, Mosul Faces A Painful Recovery From Islamic State War](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: California Wildfires; California Wildfires-Forecast; Trump Israel Announcement; Trump Israel Announcement-Responses; Al Franken Sexual Allegations; Russia Meddling Investigation; Roy Moore Campaign; TIME Magazine-#MeToo Movement; Houston-Robbery Manhunt; Florida-Police Car Thief; LA-Cargo Plane On Fire; UPS-Shipping Delays; Birth Control-Breast Cancer; Christmas Cards.

CBS: Trump Israel Announcement; Trump Israel Announcement-Responses; California Wildfires; California Wildfires-Air Quality; VW-Emission Scandal Trial; Al Franken Sexual Allegations; TIME Magazine-#MeToo Movement; Conceal Carry Permits Bill; Homeless Numbers Increase; Winter Weather; Birth Control-Breast Cancer; First And Second Ladies-Texas Visit; SI-Persons Of The Year; Da Vinci Painting; RV Boom.

NBC: California Wildfires; California Wildfires-Air Quality; Trump Israel Announcement; Trump Israel Announcement-Responses; Al Franken Sexual Allegations; TIME Magazine-#MeToo Movement; Russia Meddling Investigation; Birth Control-Breast Cancer; St. Louis-Plane Crash; Google-Amazon Feud; UPS-Shipping Delays; Musician Best Friends.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump Israel Announcement – 13 minutes, 30 seconds

California Wildfires – 11 minutes, 45 seconds

Al Franken Sexual Allegations – 6 minutes, 20 seconds

Russia Meddling Investigation – 4 minutes

Birth Control-Breast Cancer – 3 minutes, 50 seconds

TIME Magazine-#MeToo Movement – 2 minutes, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation; California Wildfires; Al Franken Sexual Allegations; Conceal Carry Permits Bill; Wall Street News.

CBS: Trump Israel Announcement; California Wildfires; Al Franken Sexual Allegations; VW-Emission Scandal Trial; Russia Meddling Investigation; Wall Street News.

FOX: Al Franken Sexual Allegations; Trump Israel Announcement; Russia Meddling Investigation.

NPR: Trump Israel Announcement; Al Franken Sexual Allegations; Roy Moore Campaign; California Wildfires.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with Republican Members of the Senate; meets with the Chairwoman of the Republican National Committee; signs a proclamation for National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day; meets with Congressional leadership; meets with former Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton; hosts a Hanukkah Reception.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 10:00 AM NIH and FDA heads testify to Senate HELP Committee on 21st Century Cures Act implementation – Hearing on 'Implementation of the 21st Century Cures Act: Progress and the Path Forward for Medical Innovation', with testimony from National Institutes of Health Director Dr Francis Collins; and Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on DoD acquisition reform – Hearing on 'Department of Defense Acquisition Reform Efforts', with testimony from Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics Ellen Lord; Secretary of the Army Mark Esper; Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer; and Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of the nominations of Leonard Steven Grasz to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit; James Ho and Don Willett to be U.S. Circuit Judges for the Fifth Circuit; Terry Doughty to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana; Terry Fitzgerald Moorer to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama; Mark Saalfeld Norris Sr. to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee; Claria Horn Boom to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky; John Broomes to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Kansas; Rebecca Grady Jennings to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky; and Robert Earl Wier to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

11:00 AM Bicameral Dems highlight Alzheimer's research fundraising postal stamp – Democrats Sen. Ed Markey and Rep. Elijah Cummings announce legislation to increase Alzheimer's research funding by extending a recently released semipostal stamp, via press conference with Alzheimer's disease patients, researchers, caregivers and advocates Location: U.S. Capitol, SVC 212, Washington, DC www.markey.senate.gov

<https://twitter.com/MarkeyMemo>

2:00 PM Executive session to consider the nomination of Kevin McAleenan to be Customs and Border Protection commissioner Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 215, Washington, DC
<http://finance.senate.gov>

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>
 Senate HELP Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Mitchell Zais to be Deputy Secretary of Education; James Blew to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development; Kate O'Scannlain to be Department of Labor Solicitor; and Preston Rutledge to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Employee Benefits Security Administration Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

US House: 8:30 AM U.N. high commissioner for human rights at event on Capitol Hill – United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein at event in the U.S. Capitol, hosted by the United Nations Foundation in cooperation with the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, in honor of Human Rights Day and in recognition of the 69th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights * Honorary Co-Hosts are bipartisan Reps. James McGovern and Randy Hultgren Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2045, Washington, DC
www.unfoundation.org <https://twitter.com/unfoundation>

9:00 AM Children and teens deliver holiday letters to Congress calling for passage of clean 'Dream Act' – Delegation of children and teenagers deliver letters sharing their 'Dream for the Holidays', calling on Congress to pass a clean 'Dream Act' and protect immigrant families threatened by the elimination of Temporary Protected Status before Congress goes on break for the holidays. Press conference with Democratic Reps. Pramila Jayapal and Lucille Roybal-Allard, MomsRising Director Kristin Rowe Finkbeiner and We Belong Together's Anna Duncan, Rm 2103, Rayburn House Office Bldg (9:00 AM EST); before visits to Congressional offices, starting with House Speaker Paul Ryan, to deliver letters or 'coal', depending on whether the lawmaker has been 'naughty or nice' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.domesticworkers.org
<https://twitter.com/domesticworkers>

9:30 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on counterterrorism efforts in Africa – Hearing on 'Counterterrorism Efforts in Africa', with testimony from Deputy Secretary of State for John Sullivan; and Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Policy David Trachtenberg Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC
<http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation', with testimony from FBI Director Christopher Wray. NOTE: Congressionally-credentialed members of the media MUST RSVP to their respective Press Gallery no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday,

December 6. Due to anticipated interest, attendance will be limited to one media representative from each outlet. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2141, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on DHS efforts to counter WMDs – Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining the Department of Homeland Security's Efforts to Counter Weapons of Mass Destruction', with testimony from Department of Homeland Security Domestic Nuclear Detection Office Director Assistant Secretary for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction James McDonnell; Department of Homeland Security Director of the Office of Health Affairs Deputy Assistant Secretary for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Larry Fluty; Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate Acting Under Secretary William Bryan; and Government Accountability Office Homeland Security and Justice Team Emergency Management, National Preparedness, and Critical Infrastructure Protection Director Chris Currie Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on DOI reorganization – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Transforming the Department of the Interior for the 21st Century', with testimony from Coalition to Protect America's National Parks advisor Denis Galvin; Heritage Foundation Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies Fellow in Energy and Environmental Policy Nicolas Loris; Property and Environment Research Center Research Fellow Shawn Regan; and Western Energy Alliance President Kathleen Sgamma Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM EPA Administrator Pruitt testifies to House Energy and Commerce subcommittee – Environment Subcommittee hearing on 'The Mission of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency', with testimony from EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Administration Committee hearing on reforming the Congressional Accountability Act – Hearing on 'Preventing Sexual Harassment in the Congressional Workplace: Examining Reforms to the Congressional Accountability Act', with testimony from Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Acting Chair Victoria Lipnic; Office of Compliance Executive Director Susan Tsui Grundmann; Office of House Employment Counsel counsel Gloria Lett; and K&L Gates partner Daniel Crowley Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1310, Washington, DC <http://cha.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAdmnGOP>

10:00 AM House Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearing on the VA Medical Surgical Prime Vendor Program – Oversight hearing on 'New

Names, Same Problems: The VA Medical Surgical Prime Vendor Program', with testimony from Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration Acting Chief Procurement and Logistics Officer Rick Lemmon; Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Acquisition Operations Acting Executive Director Phillip Christy; Government Accountability Office Acquisition and Sourcing Management Director Shelby Oakley; and The Coalition for Government Procurement President Roger Waldron Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC

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

10:00 AM Office of Financial Research director testifies to House Financial Services subcommittee – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining the Office of Financial Research', with testimony from OFR Director Richard Berner Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC

<http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Transportation subcommittee roundtable on emerging technologies in the trucking industry – House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Highways and Transit Subcommittee roundtable on 'Emerging Technologies in the Trucking Industry', featuring J.B. Hunt Senior Vice President of Safety, Security, and Driver Personnel Greer Woodruff (on behalf of American Trucking Associations), Peloton Technology founder and Vice President of External Affairs Steve Boyd, Volvo Group North America Senior Vice President of Public Affairs Susan Alt, National Safety Council Senior Director of Government Affairs Jane Terry, and AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department President Larry Willis Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

11:00 AM Bicameral Dems highlight Alzheimer's research fundraising postal stamp – Democrats Sen. Ed Markey and Rep. Elijah Cummings announce legislation to increase Alzheimer's research funding by extending a recently released semipostal stamp, via press conference with Alzheimer's disease patients, researchers, caregivers and advocates

Location: U.S. Capitol, SVC 212, Washington, DC www.markey.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/MarkeyMemo>

12:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include 'H.J.Res. 123 – Continuing Appropriations Act' and 'H.R. 3971 – Community Institution Mortgage Relief Act of 2017' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

12:00 PM APA Congressional briefing on 'Improving the Physical Health of Patients with Serious Mental Illness' – American Psychiatric Association congressional briefing on 'Improving the Physical Health of Patients with Serious Mental Illness: Identifying Breakthroughs in Approaches to Treatment', including the release of a new white paper focused on the importance of addressing the whole health of patients, including their mental, physical and social needs. Speakers include

Democratic Rep. Grace Napolitano, APA CEO and Medical Director Saul Levin, Morehouse School of Medicine Kennedy-Satcher Center for Mental Health Equity Director Glenda Wrenn, TennCare Strategic Planning and Innovation Group Primary Care Transformation Manager Julia Harris, Mosaic Community Services Health Homes Assistant Director Lauren Swanner, NAMI Board Member Adrienne Kennedy, and Emory University Rollins School of Public Health Mental Health Chair Benjamin Druss
 Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Meeting Room S, Washington, DC, Washington, DC <http://www.psych.org/>
<https://twitter.com/APAPsychiatric>

2:00 PM House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform subcommittee hearing on IT and cybersecurity at VA – Information Technology Subcommittee hearing on ‘Oversight of IT and Cybersecurity at the Department of Veterans Affairs’, featuring testimony from Department of Veteran Affairs Acting Chief Information Officer Scott Blackburn; Department of Veteran Affairs Chief Information Security Officer Dominic Cussatt; and Government Accountability Office IT Management Issues Director David Powner Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee latest hearing on ‘a more efficient federal financial regulatory regime’ – Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee hearing on ‘Legislative Proposals for a More Efficient Federal Financial Regulatory Regime: Part II’, with testimony from the Financial Services Roundtable Senior Vice President and Head of Government Affairs Anthony Cimino; MIT Federal Credit Union President and CEO Brian Ducharme (on behalf of the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions); the Mortgage Bankers Association Chairman Elect Christopher George; and Americans for Financial Reform Policy Director Marcus Stanley Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC
<http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Federal Lands Subcommittee legislative hearing on ‘H.R. 805, Tulare Youth Recreation and Women’s History Enhancement Act’, ‘H.R. 1349, To amend the Wilderness Act to ensure that the use of bicycles, wheelchairs, strollers, and Game carts is not prohibited in Wilderness Areas and for other purposes’, ‘H.R. 3371, Modoc County Land Transfer and Economic Development Act of 2017’, and ‘H.R. 3961, Kissimmee River Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2017’, with testimony from Republican Reps. Tom McClintock, Doug LaMalfa, and Devin Nunes; Democratic Rep. Darren Soto; USDA Forest Service Associate Deputy Chief Glenn Casamassa; County of Modoc, Alturas, CA, District 4 Supervisor Elizabeth Cavasso; Sustainable Trails Coalition President Ted Stroll; The Nature Conservancy Government Relations Manager Garrett Wallace; and Tulare, CA, Vice Mayor Maritsa Castellanoz Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm

1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov>

<https://twitter.com/NatResources>

Other: 8:00 AM Presidential Rank Awards Leadership Summit – 2017 Presidential Rank Awards Leadership Summit – the inaugural event – ‘celebrating the extraordinary public service of senior career professionals by honoring the 2016 and 2017 awardees with the nation’s highest civilian career leadership awards’. Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke, NASA Acting Administrator Robert Lightfoot, and Small Business Administration Administrator Linda McMahon keynote, with other speakers including U.S. Patent and Trademark Office’s Wynn Coggins, Office of Personnel Management’s Suzanne Logan, and Government Accountability Office’s Chris Mihm Location: Mayflower Hotel, Washington, DC <http://seniorexecs.org/> <https://twitter.com/seniorexec1>

8:00 AM International LGBTQ Leaders Conference – International LGBTQ Leaders Conference, themed ‘Representation is Power’, with speakers including Democrats Sens. Tammy Baldwin and Cory Booker and Rep. Mark Takano, and Virginia Delegate-Elect Danica Roem Location: Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC www.lgbtleaders.org <https://twitter.com/VictoryFund>

8:30 AM Bipartisan Reps. Mike Coffman, Don Bacon, Ruben Gallego, and Jimmy Panetta speak on AUMF at CSIS – ‘Finding Consensus for a New Authorization for the Use of Military Force’ Center for Strategic and International Studies panel discussion on congressional war powers authority and their proposal for a new Authorization for the Use of Military Force. Panelists include Republican Reps. Mike Coffman and Don Bacon, and Democratic Reps. Ruben Gallego, and Jimmy Panetta Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

9:00 AM GOP Sen. Ted Cruz speaks at NRB event on internet freedom – National Religious Broadcasters ‘Internet Freedom: Rights and Responsibilities’ panel discussion and press conference at the National Press Club, including the announcement of a new internet freedom initiative. Speakers include Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, NRB President and CEO Jerry Johnson, former Federal Communications Commission Commissioner Robert McDowell, PragerU Chief Marketing Officer Craig Strazzeri, and Century Strategies Chairman and CEO Ralph Reed Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.nrb.org/> <https://twitter.com/NRBToday>

10:00 AM GOP Sen. James Lankford discusses ‘Federal Fumbles’ report in CAGW Facebook Live event – Citizens Against Government Waste Facebook Live conversation with Republican Sen. James Lankford on the latest edition of ‘Federal Fumbles’, Sen. Lankford’s annual report on govt waste Location: TBD www.cagw.org <https://twitter.com/GovWaste>

12:00 PM GOP Sen. James Lankford speaks at Cato Institute briefing on curbing wasteful spending – ‘Curbing Wasteful Spending Now and into the Future’ Cato Institute Capitol Hill briefing, with Republican Sen. James

Lankford, Taxpayers for Common Sense Vice President Steve Ellis, Heritage Foundation Institute for Economic Policy Studies Deputy Director Romina Boccia, and Cato Institute Chair for the Public Understanding of Economics Ryan Bourne Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2043, Washington, DC <http://www.cato.org/>
<https://twitter.com/CatoInstitute>

3:30 PM Dem Sen. Chris Coons discusses the judicial nominations process in ACS briefing call – American Constitution Society ‘Democracy at Risk: The Judicial Nominations Process’ American Constitution Society briefing call on longstanding advice and consent norms, including respect for blue slips, stacking confirmation hearings, and ‘lack of thorough vetting of the significant number of nominees’. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Chris Coons and former Deputy Counsel to President Barack Obama Susan Davies Location: TBD www.acslaw.org
<https://twitter.com/acslaw>

6:30 PM Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders speaks at ‘Saving Capitalism’ NPC screening – ‘Saving Capitalism’ NPC Headliner Netflix original documentary screening, with special guest Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders and writer and director Jacob Kornbluth who, with author and former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich, looks at America’s ‘staggering socio-economic divide’ and possible solutions Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://press.org/>
<https://twitter.com/PressClubDC>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to Donald Trump’s announcement on recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel] “The move was opposed by France, the UK, Germany, Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Syria, and the Pope. I never thought I’d say this, but Donald Trump is really bringing the world together!”

James Corden: “A recent article revealed that Vice President Mike Pence once snitched on his college fraternity brothers for, get this, having a keg at a party. I have been thinking about this. I personally think we should praise Mike Pence for being so honest. You know, Mr. Vice President, I know that you are watching, great job. Now be a good boy and also tell Robert Mueller where the kegs are, you know what I am talking about?”

Trevor Noah: “Donald Trump just blew up the Middle East so hard that ISIS is going to take credit for it. And since he is so desperate for compliments, he would be like, ‘You know what, ISIS has many sides folks, many sides.’”

Trevor Noah: "This is how Trump probably wants to put out the California fires, by throwing Samsung phones at them."

Trevor Noah: "This is big news. Al Franken is going to be making an announcement tomorrow. He could be stepping down, or he could be announcing he's having a baby! Either one. So it looks like Al Franken's political career could be over, unless he moves to Alabama to run as a Republican."

Jimmy Fallon: "And following more allegations of sexual harassment, 30 Democratic senators called on Al Franken to resign as senator of Minnesota. But he's already got a back-up plan. He's going to run for senator of Alabama."

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that Vladimir Putin just announced he is seeking reelection. Really? Who's running against him? That's like running for class president when you're home-schooled."

Seth Meyers: "Towards the end of the speech on Israel today, President Trump began to slur his words, leading some to speculate that he may have been wearing dentures. But the White House insists that it's nothing unusual and that most of his words are slurs."

Seth Meyers: "Thirty-two Democratic senators have now called on Senator Al Franken to step aside after another woman accused him of sexual misconduct. Also stepping aside: women when they see Al Franken coming."

Conan O'Brien: "'TIME magazine announced the person of the year today and it is not President Trump. When asked for comment, the White House said, 'Shhh, we haven't told him yet.'"

Conan O'Brien: "In an interview, Senate candidate Roy Moore's spokesperson said his accusers gave Academy Award performances. Then Moore interrupted and said, 'I just wish they'd been Teen Choice Awards.'"

Conan O'Brien: "This morning, Vladimir Putin announced he's going to run

for re-election. Then this afternoon, he announced he'd won."

Jordan Klepper: "Today, TIME magazine named their 2017 Person of the Year, honoring the 'silence breakers' who have spoken out against sexual harassment and assault. This comes after the magazine refused to give the cover to its rightful owner, President Trump. But the joke's on TIME. If Trump isn't Person of the Year, then how come the article spends so much time recognizing the contributions he's made to awareness of sexual predators?"

Jordan Klepper: [Referring to Steve Bannon's comment on Mitt Romney] "That's right, Mitt. If you're going to get a deferment, don't hide behind your religion and do missionary work. Real men defer enlistment because they have bone spurs and bravely stay in New York to try their hand at real estate development."

Samantha Bee: [Referring to Rep. John Conyers' resignation and Sen. Al Franken's announcement tomorrow] "Great news today, the grabby creeps on Capitol Hill is down to infinity minus one. ... And if the Democratic women of the Senate have anything to say about it, it's about to be infinity minus two."

Samantha Bee: "Great job, Democrats. You really showed that Democrat lawmakers will not tolerate a predator with more than six sexual harassment allegations against them. Seven strikes and you are out, probably."

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