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



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## DOI In The News

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### 27 National Monuments Are Under Review. Here Are Five To Watch.

The [New York Times](#) (8/11, Friedman, Popovich, McCann) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "reviewing 27 national monuments to determine if previous administrations exceeded their authority in setting aside craggy vistas, ancient cliff dwellings and other large tracts of land for protection." However, "not all of the monuments are truly in the administration's cross hairs, and Mr. Zinke has already declared some of them safe from changes." The article highlights five monuments to watch: Grand Staircase-Escalante, Bears Ears, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, Katahdin Woods and Waters, and Papahānaumokuākea.

**Free Map Denotes Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument.** The [AP](#) (8/13) reports that Maine Gov. Paul LePage "isn't allowing signs on highways to direct motorists to the Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument," but now there's a map. The Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument has "created a new topographical map that identifies key features, like the loop road." The maps are "available for free at the monument's visitor stations in Millinocket and Patten and at the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce."

**Whose National Monument Claims Are Disingenuous? Not Ours.** In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (8/11, Gosar), Rep. Paul A. Gosar attacks Rep. Raúl Grijalva for penning an op-ed criticizing a letter signed by 17 members of Congress providing comments on the review of national monuments. Gosar takes issue with Grijalva's "eccentric far-left environmentalism" and his apparent conflicts of interest. Gosar urges Grijalva "to drop the partisan nonsense, debate these issues' merits and let's work together to solve problems facing hard-working Arizonans."

**Scientists Urge No Changes To Cascade-Siskiyou Monument (Guest Opinion).** In an op-ed for

the [Oregonian](#) (8/13, Parker, Trail, Williams), Michael Parker, Ph.D., professor and chair of the biology program at Southern Oregon University; Pepper Trail, Ph.D., a fellow of the American Ornithological Society and conservation co-chair of the Rogue Valley Audubon Society; and Jack Williams, Ph.D., the senior scientist for Trout Unlimited and a former Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Supervisor, urge Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to propose no changes to the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. They urge Zinke “to respect the science, the grassroots collaboration and the sustained support of Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden and Gov. Kate Brown.”

In an editorial, the [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (8/13) also supports leaving the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument alone.

**National Monuments Support Jobs, Innovation.** In an op-ed for the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (8/12, Hayes), Marne Hayes, the executive director of Business for Montana’s Outdoors, writes that “Montana may have dodged a bullet” when Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “declared the Missouri River Breaks safe from changes, but our western neighbors are still experiencing the fear and uncertainty of the ongoing review process.” According to Hayes, “that’s why business leaders from across the West converged in Montana last week to protest changes to western national monuments still in the crosshairs of Sec. Zinke’s review.” Hayes argues that “rolling back existing protections in any of these states is just not good for business. It also sets a dangerous precedent that undermines every other existing monument, including the Upper Missouri River Breaks.”

**Fleeing To The Mountains.** In his column for the [New York Times](#) (8/12, Kristof), Nicholas Kristof writes that “public lands are at risk today.” According to Kristof, “more aggressively than past administrations,” the Trump Administration is “systematically handing over America’s public lands for private exploitation in ways that will scar the land forever.” Kristof encourages readers to visit public lands to get a sense of “what is being lost.”

**Additional Coverage.** Additional coverage of the review of national monuments was provided by the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (8/11), the [Daily Caller](#) (8/11, Pearce), the [Arizona Republic](#) (8/13, Loomis), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (8/12, Breaun), and [Montana Public Radio](#) (8/10, Ripley).

### **Additional Coverage: Trump Appointee Wants More Hunting And Fishing On Federal Lands.**

Additional coverage that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “wants to allow more hunting and fishing on federal wildlife refuges, relaxing regulations in some places, opening up moose and turkey hunting in other places,” was provided by the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (8/11), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (8/11), and the [Roseburg \(OR\) News-Review](#) (8/11, Urness).

### **We Cannot Let Heinrich, VeneKlasen, Zinke And The Trumps Define Wilderness.**

In an op-ed for the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (8/13, Bedner), Marc Bedner, a writer for Tea Party for Animals, writes opposes increasing access to the Sabinoso Wilderness for hunting. He argues that “increased public access to previously inaccessible areas is a threat to wild areas.” Bedner writes that “it is time for the 95 percent of the public who do not hunt to protect the few remaining wild areas and the wildlife who live there.”

### **They Protest Too Much, Methinks.**

In an op-ed for the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (8/11, Walcher), Greg Walcher, president of the Natural Resources Group, writes that “nearly every new administration’s natural resources policy is immediately blasted by the environmental industry as a complete disaster,” and “in many cases, the bombast is so over-the-top that it loses all credibility.” Walcher highlights two recent examples: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s “order to revise management plans for the greater sage grouse” and the Interior Department’s “proposed repeal of the Obama BLM’s rule against fracking.” According to Walcher, “the accusation that anyone would purposely destroy nature, whatever side they’re on, reveals more about the accuser than the accused.” He concludes that “calling each other names (wilderness-rapists, eco-nazis or any other) does not enlighten the conversation; it just reveals the insincere agenda of those who protest too much.”

## **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

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### **BIA, FWS Improved Dam Hazard Readiness, Watchdog Says.**

[Law360](#) (8/11, Powell) reports that “the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have successfully implemented a slew of recommended measures for boosting emergency preparedness at high-hazard dams, the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Office of Inspector General said Thursday.”

#### **Drilling Halted At Van Hook Oil Well Site.**

The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (8/11, Holdman) reports that “drilling of a series of oil wells near the Van Hook Resort boat ramp has been stayed by the federal government at the request of the Three Affiliated Tribes.” The tribe appealed the federal permitting of the well site, known as the Torpedo pad, “because it violates tribal setback requirements from the lake, said Tribal Chairman Mark Fox.” The Interior Board of Land Appeals “stayed the project in response to the tribe’s appeal Thursday.”

#### **Activists Challenge Federal Officials Over Proposed Elk Grove Casino.**

The [Elk Grove \(CA\) Citizen](#) (8/11, Armstrong) reports that a casino watchdog group and “three Elk Grove residents are challenging the federal government’s decision to place land into trust for the proposed, \$400 million Wilton Rancheria casino-resort in Elk Grove.” According to the article, “a record of decision approving the taking of 35.9 acres of land by Highway 99 and Kammerer Road into a federal trust for the tribe’s benefit was issued on Jan. 19.” However, “the plaintiffs seek to have that decision reversed, and have the land returned to the authority of the city of Elk Grove and the state.”

#### **Washington’s Wild Grouse Chase.**

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/11) editorializes that regulatory relief is the Trump Administration’s biggest economic policy achievement so far and cites as a recent example of this the greater sage grouse. The Journal says the Interior Department is considering revising 15 Federal land-use plans to better protect the sage grouse, including reducing some restrictions that can benefit conservation efforts, and lauds collaborative models in the Agriculture Department, which runs a Sage Grouse Initiative. The editorial acknowledges that the Interior Department deserves credit for seeking ways to preserve the sage grouse’s habitat while still spurring economic development.

Additional coverage of changes to sage-grouse management plans was provided by the [Idaho Mountain Express](#) (8/11, Moore).

#### **Tribe Appeal Pushed Back.**

The [Falmouth \(MA\) Enterprise](#) (8/11, Houghton) reports that “a US Court of Appeals First Circuit judge agreed this week to extend the opening of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe’s pending appeal regarding its land in trust application.” Appellate judge O. Rogerie Thompson “seeing no objections, agreed on Tuesday, August 8, to extend a deadline to November for the tribe to submit a status report.”

#### **Cobell Family Welcomes Presidential Medal Of Freedom To Browning.**

[KPAX-TV](#) Missoula, MT (8/11, Van Middendorp) reports that “former President Barack Obama awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Elouise Cobell in 2016, four years after her passing in 2011.” Welcoming the medal to Browning earlier this week, Cobell’s sister Joy Ketah said, “this is home for us, for all of us, and y’know it’s good to have it back with the Blackfeet people first.”

### **Bureau Of Indian Education**

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#### **Piece By Piece: New Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School Comes Together In Sections.**

The [Bemidji \(MN\) Pioneer](#) (8/13, Bowen) reports that “workers have been busy putting together a new, 45,000 square-foot Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig junior and senior high school using a new-to-the-area method that school and project leaders say is faster and cheaper than a more traditional build.” Mary Trapp, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig’s superintendent, said that the Bureau of Indian Education and “school leaders drew up a \$20 million construction plan several years ago that never came to fruition.” According to a Department of the Interior spokesperson, “the design that’s being realized now is about \$14.5 million.”

The piece also appears at the [Park Rapids \(MN\) Enterprise](#) (8/13, Bowen).

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

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## **US Cattle Grazing Plan For Idaho National Monument Approved.**

The [U.S. News & World Report](#) (8/11, Ridler) reports that "cattle grazing will continue" at Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve "following a challenge by an environmental group, federal officials announced this week." The U.S. Bureau of Land Management said in a statement Wednesday said grazing on BLM-administered portions of the monument "not covered by lava flows will stay at about 99 percent of current levels." The bureau said in a written statement, "The decision demonstrates the Trump Administration's effort to support traditional uses such as grazing on public lands while providing opportunities for recreation and promoting conservation."

## **BLM To Remove Horses Southeast Of Rangely.**

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (8/12, Webb) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has "approved a plan to remove up to 100 wild horses from private and other land southeast of Rangely this fall, a decision made more controversial due to activists' concerns that animals could end up being euthanized." The bureau "said Friday it plans to use a helicopter operation to round up horses that have strayed outside the designated Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area." The decision, "which is subject to a 30-day appeal period, also will allow future gathers to remove other horses outside the management area."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (8/11).

## **Human Activity — Racing Included — Is Shrinking The Bonneville Salt Flats, U.**

Researcher Says. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/12, Penrod) reports that "two years of research on unique ecosystem indicate speed racing, mining, government management and climate change may all be factors in depletion of salt crust" of the Bonneville Salt Flats. University of Utah geologist Brenda Bowen's "research still is incomplete — her first paper is expected out this fall, and a final report isn't due until 2018." However, "the more data Bowen collects, she said, the more she's convinced human activity is changing the landscape." Meanwhile, Louise Noeth, a spokeswoman for the Save the Salt Coalition, "believes mismanagement by the Bureau of Land Management is at least partly responsible for the salt flats' condition." Hannah Cowan, a spokeswoman for the BLM, "said the agency stands by its decisions on managing the Bonneville Salt Flats."

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## **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

### **Offshore Air Gun Blasts Spark Debate.**

The [Thibodaux \(LA\) Daily Comet](#) (8/12, Magill) reports that "environmentalists and oil industry representatives are sparring over a new federal report that says high-powered air gun blasts used to search for oil in the Gulf of Mexico can harm whales and other sea creatures." The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management "issued the preliminary environmental impact statement about two weeks ago as part of a settlement in a lawsuit filed by environmental groups." Environmentalists point to "the report as proof the oil companies' seismic testing harms marine life." On the other hand, "oil industry representatives counter the practice is safe and that environmentalists have exaggerated the federal report's findings."

### **Researchers Eye Marine Mammals In Offshore Surveys.**

The [Arctic \(AK\) Sounder](#) (8/11, Oliver) reports that "bowhead whales and other marine mammals are the focus of a four-month survey project this summer in Arctic waters." According to the article, "led jointly by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, the Department of Interior and the Marine Mammal Laboratory, the Department of Commerce, and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, this summer's research is part of a series of years-long studies of the region's biodiversity." The project, Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals, "aims to gather data about the populations of these animals in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, specifically in areas where there is potential for future oil and gas development."

### **URI/BOEM Visit Block Island | Block Island Times.**

The [Block Island \(RI\) Times](#) (8/12, Shuman) reports that a research study is "being conducted examining the effects of the Block Island Wind Farm on recreation and tourism in the Ocean State." Researchers were contracted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management "to conduct the



study, which is titled ‘Identifying Indicators of Offshore Wind Benefits.’” BOEM will “use indicators gleaned from the research in National Environmental Policy Act analyses to evaluate the effects of proposed offshore wind energy facility development.”

### **Comment Period On Seismic Testing Leases Near Grand Strand Closing Aug. 17.**

The [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (8/11, Johnson) reports that “environmentalists say the best way to stop oil drilling off the South Carolina coast is for Gov. Henry McMaster to file a statement as the federal government solicits comments.” However, “McMaster, who has said before that he opposes offshore drilling, hasn’t sent in a comment yet — and the window closes Aug. 17.” According to the article, “the federal government relies heavily on the comments of governors as it reviews oil exploration. McMaster has previously said publicly that he is not in favor of oil drilling off the South Carolina coast, but has not yet submitted a comment to BOEM.”

### **OBX Says No To Offshore Drilling.**

Additional coverage that a hearing was held last Thursday in Manteo “to gather public comments on a new five-year plan to explore for oil and gas in the Atlantic” was provided by the [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (8/11, Hampton) and the [Outer Banks \(NC\) Voice](#) (8/11, Lay).

### **Service Companies Shift To Wind To Weather Downturn.**

[Offshore Magazine](#) (8/11, Livingston) reports “many industry analysts do not expect offshore exploration activities” to grow “until sometime in 2018 at the earliest.” Offshore adds that installed assets are expected to grow “45% less than 2014 levels.” Meanwhile, “offshore services contractors are quickly filling their backlogs with wind-related projects.”

### **Survey Says...Offshore Seismic Is Safe.**

In a piece for [Forbes](#) (8/11, Bradley), Robert Bradley Jr. dismisses fears that seismic surveying in the Atlantic Ocean will negatively impact marine life. He argues that “Atlantic drilling would create economic benefits at virtually no environmental cost.” Bradley concludes that “environmental groups who oppose seismic surveying are really fighting against good paying jobs – gainful employment that does not depend on government but free consumer choice.”

## **Bureau Of Reclamation**

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### **U.S. And Mexico Finalizing Colorado River Water-sharing Deal.**

[USA Today](#) (8/12, James) reports that U.S. and Mexican officials are “finalizing a water-sharing deal for the Colorado River, and a newly released summary of the accord’s key points shows negotiators have agreed on a cooperative approach geared toward boosting reservoir levels and trying to stave off a severe shortage.” The document, “which federal officials have circulated among water agencies, outlines a series of joint measures that build on the current 5-year agreement, which expires at the end of this year.” The article says that “the new accord – titled Minute No. 323 to the 1944 Mexican Water Treaty – is expected to be signed sometime this fall, perhaps as early as September, and would remain in effect through 2026.”

### **Federal Judge Clears Way For Completion Of Water Project.**

The [AP](#) (8/11, Nicholson) reports that “a federal judge has cleared the way for completion of a \$244 million project to bring Missouri River water to residents of northwestern North Dakota, though the state of Missouri and the Canadian province of Manitoba can appeal.” U.S. District Judge Rosemary Collyer held Thursday “that the Northwest Area Water Supply project complies with federal environmental law.” Collyer wrote, “This court’s work is done because the Bureau of Reclamation has finally done its work.”

Also reporting are [Reuters](#) (8/11, Aubin), the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (8/11), and [Law360](#) (8/11, Rodriguez).

### **Hydroelectric Plant Coming; 7.5 MW Facility Should Be Online Next Spring.**

The [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (8/11, Pompia) reports that “in what’s being hailed as an historic moment for the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, construction of a hydroelectric generation plant at Pueblo Dam will begin in September.” The project is “the result of an agreement, signed Friday, between the district and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.”

## Fish And Wildlife Service

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### **In South Texas, Threat Of Border Wall Unites Naturalists And Politicians.**

The [New York Times](#) (8/13, Hardy) reports that the specter of a border wall “has loomed over the Rio Grande Valley since 2006, when President George W. Bush signed the Secure Fence Act authorizing 700 miles of fencing along certain stretches of the southern border.” But Presidents Trump’s election “has spurred renewed concern about the economic and environmental consequences of such a wall.” Current plans have the wall running “through countless pieces of private property and bisect[ing] several major wildlife refuges.” Due to the “anticipated resistance from private landowners, the first sections of the border wall most likely will be built on federal land.”

Additional coverage of the border wall was provided by [USA Today](#) (8/12, Crow).

### **Federal Money Targets Water Pollution From Vessel Sewage.**

The [AP](#) (8/13) reports that “federal grants totaling \$2.5 million has been awarded to prevent sewage pollution in Washington state waters.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grants will be “used to add more locations where recreational boaters and other vessels can pump out their vessel sewage.” According to the article, “nearly \$1.5 million will go to projects on the coast, while \$1 million will be used for inland waters.”

### **Wildlife Agency: Review Won’t Jeopardize Panther Protections.**

The [AP](#) (8/13) reports that “wildlife officials say a federal review of the Florida panther’s endangered species status will not jeopardize protections for the big cats.” Panther biologist David Shindle said that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s “review aims to gather the best available data on panther biology, habitat and conservation plans, as well as threats to their survival.” According to Shindle, “any change to the panther’s status would require separate action from the wildlife service.”

### **Sen. Bill Nelson Introduces Manatee Protection, Research Bill.**

The [Bradenton \(FL\) Herald](#) (8/12, Nealeigh) reports that “an email from Florida Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson’s campaign team signed by Nelson mourning the loss of Snooty the manatee also announced a new bill introduced by the senator.” On Aug. 3, Nelson introduced a bill “to authorize research and recovery activities to provide for the protection, conservation, and recovery of the Florida manatee, and for other purposes.” An email from Nelson for U.S. Senate said, “The outpouring of support that we’ve seen in the wake of Snooty’s tragic death shows just how beloved these gentle giants are. Yet despite the constant threats these iconic creatures continue to face throughout our state, the federal government has removed them from the endangered species list. Florida’s manatees are a special part of our state’s heritage, and I believe we should continue to protect them.”

### **Deschutes Conservation Planning Picks Up This Week; Public Meetings Slated For Madras, Bend This Week.**

The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (8/13, Hamway) reports that “the next phase of the nearly decadelong process of creating a habitat conservation plan for the Deschutes River Basin will begin in Bend and Madras on Monday.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be “hosting a total of four meetings — two in Bend, two in Madras — where members of the public can learn about the process of creating a long-term plan that will meet the needs of farmers and other water users, while also ensuring that the Oregon spotted frog and other threatened species living in the basin will be protected in the future.”

### **Saving Detroit River Is Dingell’s Legacy.**

In a piece for the [Detroit News](#) (8/12, Finley), editorial page editor Nolan Finley writes that when John Dingell “weighs the impact of his life’s work, he doesn’t look to the Congressional Record, but to an undisturbed stretch of the Detroit River known as the Humbug Marsh,” which is now part of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Dingell, “who retired in 2015, is an avid outdoorsman who dreamed of seeing the Detroit River as again a haven for hunters and fishermen.” The refuge is planning “to open a visitor’s center in Humbug, and by spring hopes to complete a fishing pier that will stretch into the river and allow those without boats a chance at landing one of the trophy walleye or sturgeon that have returned to make the Detroit River a



prime fishing venue.”

### **Wolf Recovery Plan Is Biased.**

In an editorial, the [Arizona Republic](#) (8/11) criticizes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s draft wolf recovery plan. The paper argues that “states shouldn’t have veto power” over wolf releases, and that “without wolf releases, the recovery effort is doomed.” The paper asserts that “final language should make it clear that the states can offer input, but do not have veto power over releases.”

## **National Park Service**

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### **National Parks Plan For Solar Eclipse.**

The [International Falls \(MN\) Daily Journal](#) (8/12) reports that “America’s national parks will be premiere viewing sites for one of nature’s amazing natural phenomena, as a total solar eclipse crosses the continental United States on Aug. 21.” According to the article, “there are 21 parks and seven trails of the National Park System that are within the 60- to 70-mile-wide total eclipse pathway.” Also, “several national parks will stream live video during the eclipse.”

Also covering the eclipse are [MarketWatch](#) (8/14), [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (8/11, Whitehouse), the [Charleston \(SC\) Moultrie News](#) (8/13), and the [Times of Northwest Indiana](#) (8/13).

### **Park Police Briefly Detain Two Youths For Selling Bottled Water On Mall.**

The [Washington Post](#) (8/11, Williams, Hermann) reports that “U.S. Park Police officers handcuffed a teenager and detained a second youth for attempting to sell bottles of water on the Mall this week, police officials acknowledged Friday.” The incident occurred “about 3 p.m. Tuesday near the intersection of Ninth Street and Constitution Avenue NW when a uniformed Park Police officer tried ‘to make contact with multiple individuals who were observed illegally selling water on the National Mall,’ according to a statement released by the Park Police.” The article notes that “Park Police were roundly criticized by city leaders earlier this summer after plainclothes officers handcuffed and detained two 17-year-olds and a 16-year-old for the same violation June 22.” On Friday, Park Police Chief Robert MacLean said in a statement, “In this incident, officers responded with a measured approach to ensure the safety of everyone involved. We hold ourselves to the highest standards of professionalism and strive to ensure that any contact with the public is tactful and considerate.”

### **US Mint To Feature Georgia’s Largest Island On A Coin.**

The [AP](#) (8/13) reports that “the federal government plans to pay tribute to Georgia’s largest barrier island by issuing a special coin.” The National Park Service “says 25-cent coins with a design recognizing Cumberland Island will be produced by the U.S. Mint next year.” The coin’s design “features a snowy egret perched on a branch with a salt marsh in the background.” It’s scheduled to be released in August 2018.

### **Fire Blocks Route For Dozens In Glacier National Park Chalet.**

The [AP](#) (8/12, Volz) reports that “a wildfire has cut off the return route for dozens of people staying in a Glacier National Park backcountry chalet, leaving them the choice of remaining until rangers tell them it’s safe or hiking out along a longer and more difficult trail, park officials said Friday.” Park rangers also “planned to lead out 39 other hikers who were staying in backcountry campsites near fires that broke out after a passing lightning storm on Thursday, Glacier spokeswoman Lauren Alley said.”

Additional coverage of the fire danger at the park was provided by the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (8/11, Puckett) and the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (8/11, Backus).

### **What’s In The Worst Shape At Rocky? The Stuff You Can’t See.**

The [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (8/11, Marmaduke) reports that Rocky Mountain National Park will “celebrate its birthday next month with 102 candles and more than \$75 million in deferred maintenance.” According to the article, “it’s the heftiest repairs backlog the park has seen in seven years, and a recent funding award from the Department of the Interior won’t do much to change that.” In the face of “a growing maintenance to-do list and an uncertain funding future, park officials say they’ll spend the next several years focusing on the nuts and bolts: waterlines and septic systems.”

### **Florida Congressman Helps Kill 5 Pythons In Everglades.**

The [U.S. News & World Report](#) (8/12) reports that Rep. Francis Rooney “helped catch and kill five invasive Burmese pythons during a nighttime hunt in the Everglades.” Rooney “joined hunters hired by the South Florida Water Management District in the wetlands Thursday night.” He “said it’s important for the state to continue funding the hunting program because pythons pose a threat to Everglades restoration efforts.” Rooney “also said he’d like the U.S. Department of Interior to allow python hunting within Everglades National Park as well.”

### **Hopes High 1919 Events Make Parks List.**

The [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (8/13, Mulder) reports on dual efforts to “erect a memorial to all those killed” in the Elaine Massacre of 1919 and to save the Centennial Baptist Church. Committees have been formed “dedicated to each task: the Elaine Massacre Memorial Committee, which has gained nonprofit status, and the Centennial Church Foundation, which is seeking such status.” However, “only the Centennial Church Foundation has made park service overtures to congressional members.”

### **Here’s Your Chance To Weigh In On Plans To Move, Kill Mountain Goats In Olympic National Park.**

The [Olympian \(WA\)](#) (8/11, Spegman) reports that “officials will discuss plans to manage the growing number of mountain goats in Olympic National Park at a meeting in Olympia next week.” Meetings also are planned “for next week in Everett, Port Angeles and Seattle.”

### **Volunteers Help To Restore Shoreline At De Soto National Memorial.**

The [Bradenton \(FL\) Herald](#) (8/12, De Leon) reports that “dozens of volunteers joined the National Park Service and the University of Central Florida on Saturday in a project to help restore the living shoreline along De Soto National Memorial that has been eroded by tropical storms and boat wakes.” They “spent several hours placing bags of oyster shells, previously filled by volunteers, along the shore at different areas in the park. Later, young red and black mangroves, grown by volunteers, were planted behind them.”

### **America’s National Parks Offer Valuable Learning Experiences For Children.**

In an op-ed for [U.S. News & World Report](#) (8/11, Mead), Sara Mead, a partner with Bellwether Education Partners, writes that national parks “provide abundant learning opportunities for both children and adults.” According to Mead, “by illustrating both the great moments and heroic figures and the less admirable parts of our nation’s history, these parks and historic sites can help both adults and children to know and value our history and to understand that the America we have today is not a foregone conclusion to be taken for granted, but a hard-fought patrimony that we as citizens have the opportunity and obligation to continue working to maintain and improve.” She adds that “at a time when many question the value of government, National Parks also illustrate what is possible when Americans, both in government and outside of it, work together to achieve a goal that is bigger than individual interest.” Mead calls for improving access to these “types of learning experiences” for “disadvantaged children.”

### **We’re Suffocating Yosemite; It’s Time To Consider A Reservation System For All Visitors.**

In an op-ed for the [Modesto \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/12, Buckley), John Buckley, executive director Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, argues that Yosemite National Park must confront its overcrowding issue. He argues that “allowing excessive vehicle congestion conflicts with park service mandates to ensure visitors can have a positive experience.” According to Buckley, “the challenge is to identify the best steps to take – not just to improve the deteriorating visitor experience, but more important, to truly protect the ecological health of Yosemite Valley, its Wild and Scenic River corridor, and other stressed resources.” He concludes that “visitors can support seasonal limits on vehicles if they recognize that with a reservation they can avoid traffic jams and actually stop, park and savor the precious natural cathedral of Yosemite Valley.”

## **Office Of Insular Affairs**

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### **Trump: North Korea Will “Truly Regret” Attack On Guam, Warns US Military “Locked And Loaded.”**

President Trump met on Friday with Secretary of State Tillerson, Ambassador Haley, and National

Security Adviser McMaster and in a news conference, the President warned North Korean leader Kim Jong-un that he would “truly regret” any attack on US territories and allies, hours after Trump [tweeted](#), “Military solutions are now fully in place, locked and loaded, should North Korea act unwisely. Hopefully Kim Jong Un will find another path!” The President’s remarks received saturation coverage on the cable and network newscasts, which all led with the story and devoted more than 13 and a half minutes combined, while print and online reporting was also extensive. Analyses and commentary were primarily negative of Trump’s continued aggressive rhetoric toward North Korea and portrayed his latest comments as an troubling escalation of the crisis.

In the lead [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/11, lead story, 3:15, Holt) segment, White House correspondent Kristen Welker reported that “flanked by his secretary of state, UN ambassador, and national security advisor,” Trump “turn[ed] up the heat on North Korea for a third time this week.” Bret Baier of [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (8/11, 6:09 p.m. EDT, Baier) similarly said at the joint news conference, Trump took “a number of questions” on several issues, including “the biggest issue at hand this moment,” the threat from North Korea. In its lead segment, [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (8/11, 6:00 p.m. EDT, Baier) broadcast the President, who said his meeting with Tillerson, McMaster, and Haley was “very good,” and that they “talked about North Korea as you can imagine. We are very much in agreement, we have been right from the beginning. This is something we have to stop. We all feel that very strongly.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/11, A1, Kesling, Radnofsky) reports on its front page that the President said the US is looking “very carefully” at military options and asserted, “I hope that [Kim is] going to fully understand the gravity of what I said. And what I said is what I mean.” [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (8/11, 6:07 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) broadcast Trump saying that the US is considering further, “very strong” economic sanctions against North Korea. When asked about North Korean state media outlets’ assertions that the US is easily defeated, [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (8/11, 6:06 p.m. EDT, Baier) broadcast Trump asserting, “Let me hear Kim Jong-un say it.” Asked whether his Administration is open to regime change in North Korea or Venezuela, Trump declined to comment because “they are very different places,” but he stressed his support for peace and safety, as well as “having to get very tough if we have to protect the American people and also to protect our allies.”

To the [AP](#) (8/11, Lemire, Talmadge), Trump “all but drew a red line that would trigger swift U.S. action” when the President warned if Kim “utters one threat in the form of an overt threat – which by the way he has been uttering for years and his family has been uttering for years – or he does anything with respect to Guam or anyplace else that’s an American territory or an American ally, he will truly regret it and he will regret it fast.” [Reuters](#) (8/11, Oliphant, Kim) reports that when asked about his tweet, Trump said, “Those words are very, very easy to understand.” According to Reuters, “The term ‘locked and loaded,’ popularized in the 1949 war film “Sands of Iwo Jima” starring American actor John Wayne, refers to preparations for shooting a gun.”

Meanwhile, [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (8/11, 5:56 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) broadcast the President saying that the US has “been working very closely with China and with other countries” on the matter, and that he planned to discuss the issue with Chinese President Xi Jinping later Friday night. Trump added that “as far as reassurance,” the South Korean peoples “probably feel as reassured as they can feel. Certainly they feel more reassured with me than with other presidents from the past because nobody’s really done the job they’re supposed to be doing, and that’s why we’re at this horrible situation right now.” Trump added that he also “think[s] Japan is very happy with the job we’re doing.” Although the President [said](#) he has not yet spoken with the governor of Guam, he added, “I feel they will be very safe. Believe me, they will be very safe. And if anything happens to Guam, there’s going to be big, big trouble in North Korea.”

The [Washington Times](#) (8/11, Boyer) reports Trump also “dismissed criticism that his rhetoric is raising the danger level of a potential confrontation.” He said, “My critics are only saying that because it’s me.” He added, “We have tens of millions of people in this country that are so happy with what I am saying, because they say finally we have a president that’s sticking up for our nation and frankly, sticking up for our friends and our allies. And this man [Mr. Kim] will not get away with what he is doing, believe me.”

According to a front-page [New York Times](#) (8/11, A1, Baker) article, Trump “continued to beat war drums on Friday against North Korea,” but despite his latest comments, “there were no indications of imminent action in either part of the world.” The Times reports that “for all the bellicose language emerging from the president’s golf club in Bedminster, N.J., the United States military was taking no visible steps to prepare for a strike.” The Times states that “the juxtaposition between the heated words and the lack of apparent preparations suggested that Mr.

Trump may still be counting on a resolution to the standoff with North Korea as it works to develop a nuclear arsenal capable of reaching the United States."

In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (8/11, A1, Lamothe) similarly reports "the U.S. military does not appear to be moving toward a wartime footing with North Korea despite President Trump's repeated threats this week of military action against Pyongyang, with few if any additional military forces moving into the region and the Pentagon chief emphasizing diplomacy over bloodshed." According to the Post, "Among the signals that a major U.S. operation is not imminent is a trip just underway by Marine Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and a small cadre of his staff. He arrived Friday in Hawaii with plans to visit Japan, South Korea and China, all of which would be in peril if a war between North Korea and the United States explodes." The Post adds that "The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and its accompanying flotilla of destroyers and guided-missile cruisers also returned to port Wednesday in Yokosuka, Japan, the Navy announced."

[USA Today](#) (8/11, Wolf) reports that "as he has done all week, the president appeared more eager to herald U.S. military readiness," but senior White House correspondent Jim Acosta led [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/11, 5:01 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) in reporting that although Trump "insists his team is on the same page," Defense Secretary Mattis on Thursday sought to "tone down the Administration's rhetoric emphasizing diplomacy."

In the lead [CBS Evening News](#) (8/11, lead story, 2:35, Mason) segment, chief White House correspondent Major Garrett said Tillerson and Haley sought "to reassure allies despite the President's tough talk," even as Mattis stated, "the American effort is diplomatically led, it has diplomatic traction, it is gaining diplomatic results. And I want to stay right there right now." Mattis conceded his "responsibility is to have military options should they be needed," but [The Hill](#) (8/11, Greenwood) reports Mattis recognized, "The tragedy of war is well enough known. It does not need another characterization beyond the fact that it would be catastrophic."

While [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/11, 5:33 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) chief national security correspondent Jim Sciutto said Mattis "declined to give details on what military options he's given the president," in broadcast footage, Mattis asserted, "I don't tell the enemy in advance what I'm going to do. Our readiness – we are ready." [Bloomberg News](#) (8/11, Biggs, Sink) reports "a White House national security official....said the Pentagon has contingency plans for any crisis that are updated constantly to provide the president with options and that there was nothing new about the U.S. readiness stance." Former Deputy Assistant Secretary and retired US Marine fighter pilot Col. Stephen Ganyard told the lead [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/11, lead story, 3:20, Vega) segment "the US military has been planning for North Korean aggression for 60 years. They're ready and they're not going to get caught off guard."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/11, Wagner, DeYoung, Johnson) reports that "as Trump continued his bellicose rhetoric Friday – a tactic criticized by some U.S. leaders and allies – North Korea kept up its verbal salvos as well." North Korea's state-run newspaper ran a commentary claiming that the "U.S. military warmongers are running amok" and warned "the U.S. and its vassal forces will dearly pay for the harshest sanctions and pressure and reckless military provocations."

According to [CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (8/11, 6:18 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Will Ripley, Trump's demand for an answer from Kim has thus far gone unanswered, and a recent North Korean statement omitted any mention of its "recent rhetoric" on Guam or any "direct response to President Trump like earlier this week. We haven't seen that kind of response from North Korea today. Also there are no indications, no imminent indications of a North Korean missile launch according to US intelligence. So at this point, North Korea is quiet. And what does that mean? We have to, of course, watch their words, but we also have to watch very closely what their actions are going to be."

Correspondent Will Ripley said as of Friday evening, [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/11, 5:06 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) "did see statements from North Korea threatening to make the United States – the mainland – a stage for nuclear war, saying that President Trump is pushing the Korean Peninsula to the brink of nuclear war." Noticeably, Ripley said "what we did not hear today was any further detail about [North Korea's] supposed plan to simultaneously launch four intermediate range ballistic missiles to Japan, within 20 miles of Guam," which is "home to key US military assets and more than 160,000 American citizens. And this could be because North Korea has given this plan to Kim Jong-un, as they said he would, for his review – or it could be they're dialing back the rhetoric a bit."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/11, 5:49 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) correspondent Brian Todd reported "there certainly is" evidence from US intelligence officials and outside analysts suggesting Kim Jong-un's family has a history of aggression, and they are suggesting Trump should not "push

this dangerous man into a corner.” Furthermore, Todd said, “analysts say it is possible North Korea’s elites may get nervous and move against Kim if he keeps taking his country from one crisis to another. But one expert points out Kim keeps his elites and generals under such close surveillance, it’s tough for them to gather forces against him.” Todd [added](#) that Kim “has two sisters,” and many “observers believe those are possibly the only people around him who he can really trust.”

**Trump Retweets USPACOM Pledging USAF Bombers On Guam “Stand Ready” To Support USFK.** [Politico](#) (8/11, Nelson) reports that Trump on Friday “[retweeted](#) a post from U.S. Pacific Command that featured images of U.S. military aircraft and a message that ‘#USAF B-1B Lancer #bombers on Guam stand ready to fulfill USFK’s #FightTonight mission if called upon to do so.’” Politico notes “USAF is an abbreviation for the U.S. Air Force and USFK stands for U.S. Forces Korea.”

The [Washington Post](#) (8/11, Lamothe) reports the President’s “message, including the dramatic hashtag, may sound ominous to the uninitiated. But combined with comments Thursday from Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and decades of history between North Korea and the United States, it suggests that while the present situation between Pyongyang and Washington is quite serious, Pacific Command is more signaling its readiness to fight if need be than spoiling for a battle within days.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/11, story 3, 1:20, Mason) noted “American B-1 bombers flew from Guam to the Korean Peninsula last month in a show of force after the North’s last ICBM launch.”

Meanwhile, the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/11, story 2, 2:05, Mason) national security correspondent David Martin also reported, “When it comes to North Korea, the US military has been ‘locked and loaded’ for years. The motto of the 28,000 American troops in South Korea, as well as long-range bombers based 2,000 miles away on Guam, is ‘fight tonight,’ meaning be ready for an attack that could come with little or no warning.” Martin added US officials say that if North Korea “fired a missile at the American homeland or a US military base overseas, the Pentagon would first try to shoot it down, and second, retaliate with an attack of its own, perhaps with a cyber weapon. In the unlikely event the North used a nuclear weapon, the US would mount a much more devastating attack.” A [New York Times](#) (8/11, Doyle) analysis also considers how the US could intercept a ballistic missile bound for Guam or the continental US.

**Administration “Quietly” Conducting Back Channel Negotiation With North Korea.** According to the [AP](#) (8/11, Pennington), “the Trump administration has been quietly engaged in back channel diplomacy with North Korea for several months, addressing Americans imprisoned in the communist country and deteriorating relations between the long-time foes.” The AP reports “people familiar with the contacts say the interactions have done nothing thus far to quell tensions over North Korea’s nuclear weapons and missile advances, which are now fueling fears of military confrontation. But they say the behind-the-scenes discussions could still be a foundation for more serious negotiation.” The AP adds that US officials say “the diplomatic contacts are occurring regularly between Joseph Yun, the U.S. envoy for North Korea policy, and Pak Song Il, a senior North Korean diplomat at the country’s U.N. mission.” However, Trump told reporters on Friday, “We don’t want to talk about progress, we don’t want to talk about back channels” and the State Department and White House both “declined to comment on Yun’s diplomacy.”

Correspondent Rich Edson of [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (8/11, 6:11 p.m. EDT, Baier) noted Tillerson just returned from a diplomatic trip to Asia, and is “focused on North Korea while the president was conducting his own diplomacy from home.” Steve Hayes of the [Weekly Standard](#) told [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (8/11, 6:34 p.m. EDT, Baier) that Trump “brings a couple advantages to the debate, a global debate of North Korea. He is not going to settle for the failed diplomacy on North Korea that we’ve seen from three successive Administrations” in “the past 25 plus years.” Hayes added that “there is a believability to the threats.” Byron York of the [Washington Examiner](#) said Trump and Tillerson have seemingly adopted a “good cop, bad cop thing” over “the last several days,” which is “consistent with stressing diplomatic solutions.” Chief foreign affairs correspondent Andrea Mitchell of [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/11, story 3, 2:20, Holt) similarly stated, “The secretary of state has been playing good cop to the President’s bad cop when it comes to talks.” In video footage, Tillerson confirmed, “We have other means of communication open to them, to certainly hear from them if they have a desire to want to talk.”

However, while [The Hill](#) (8/11, Fabian) acknowledges that “Tillerson has expressed openness to negotiations with Pyongyang if the authoritarian regime ceases ballistic missile tests,” he “made enemies within the administration over his approach.” The Hill highlights that Sebastian Gorka, a deputy assistant to the President, on Thursday “knocked Tillerson for offering



a softer message than Trump on North Korea" as "nonsensical."

**Pentagon: US-South Korea To Stage Annual Military Exercise Later This Month.** [Reuters](#) (8/11, Ali) reports a Pentagon spokesman announced Friday that the annual joint US-South Korean military exercise, called Ulchi-Freedom Guardian, "is expected to go ahead as originally scheduled and will start on Aug. 21."

**Guam Prepares Ahead Of Possible North Korean Attack.** [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/11, story 2, 2:45, Holt) reported the "ramped-up rhetoric is being closely followed in Guam, the US territory that sits in striking distance of North Korea. Tonight, the 160,000 US citizens on the island have been given some grim warnings on what to do should the worst-case scenario occur, after North Korea threatened to land missiles just off Guam's coast." Correspondent Miguel Almaguer said that as tourists enjoy "the sun-drenched beaches," Homeland Security officials are issuing "stark warnings – what to do if North Korea carries out its threat to lob four ballistic missiles in this direction. In the event of a missile attack, 'do not look at the flash or fireball – it can blind you,' 'take cover under a concrete structure or below ground,' 'lie flat on the ground and cover your head – it could take 30 seconds or more for blast wave to hit,' and if caught outside, 'shower with lots of soap and shampoo to help remove radioactive contamination.'" The [AP](#) (8/11, Kelleher) and [Reuters](#) (8/11, Chiacu) report Guam's Office of Civil Defense on Friday began distributing the fact sheets titled "Preparing for an Imminent Missile Threat."

[ABC World News Tonight](#)'s (8/11, story 2, 1:15, Vega) Jim Avela explained, "North Korea is four hours away by plane from here, but just 14 minutes by ballistic missile. Today on the island known as the 'tip of the spear,' families fully aware they are in the middle of two nuclear nations." He added that "Guam is always a target because of the military bases here, but this time, it's different because it's a very specific threat with a specific date in mid-August. And you can see from the local paper, Guam is taking this threat seriously." Guam Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo said, "We're staying calm, living our lives, but yeah, at the same time, making preparations."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/11, Craymer) reports Calvo also said Guam is in "typhoon alley," so the island's residents are used to preparing for threats. He added, "Our buildings standards are the best in the U.S. – they're built out of concrete and reinforced steel." Calvo acknowledged, "The worst-case scenario for my community is obviously a missile attack, particularly if they had a nuclear payload," but he asserted, "I think that would be catastrophic not only for Guam but for East Asia."

"Amid fears over potential warfare," the [AP](#) (8/11, Bordallo, Vejpongsa) "asked several Guam residents what they want to know about the situation and what they want the people of North Korea and the United States to know about Guam," and although the [New York Times](#) (8/11, Ives) reports "some Guam residents told reporters that they worried what might happen if North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-un, were actually to follow through" on his threat, scientists in Guam "have at least one other major threat in mind: climate change." The Times adds that "like other Pacific islands, Guam may be affected in the coming decades as climate change prompts shifts in weather, temperature and oceanic acidity, according to the Environmental Protection Agency." In interviews with the Times, the "experts said...that the primary consequences may include people suffering heat stress because of an increase in heat waves, a rise in the intensity of tropical storms, and the damage or destruction of Guam's exceptionally biodiverse coral reefs."

Meanwhile, [Washington Post](#) (8/11, Park) social media editor Gene Park, a Guamanian, laments that "lots of people are asking 'What is Guam?'" but "nobody is asking 'Who is Guam?'" Park contends "the media has been sketching a caricature of sorts describing the people of Guam" this week because "they are powerless. Their voices are heard only whenever North Korea rattles its sword." Park argues Guam is "America's afterthought."

**Moran Calls For Classified Briefing On North Korea, As Cicilline Urges Ryan To End Recess Early Over Threat.** [The Hill](#) (8/11, Carney) "Floor Action" blog reports Sen. Jerry Moran, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, told KMAN-AM on Friday that he has asked the Administration to give him a classified briefing on North Korea in the coming weeks for "details on both the 'economic situation' in North Korea as well as potential military options and 'capabilities.'" He said, "What are our capabilities of taking out ... the silos, the locations of where these devices are, are they spread across the country, what do we know?" Moran added, "What are our capabilities for missile defense? ... Do we have the ability to bring that [North Korean] missile down before it does damage to the United States or our allies?"

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (8/11, Bowden) reports Rep. David Cicilline, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, sent a letter Friday to House Speaker Ryan asking him to "immediately" reconvene the House in the face of escalating tension between the U.S. and North



Korea." Cicilline said, "In light of the ongoing standoff between the United States and North Korea, as well as President Trump's reckless words, I ask that you immediately call the House of Representatives back into session to debate legislation prohibiting the U.S. from conducting a preemptive nuclear strike without prior congressional authorization." The Hill adds Cicilline also "accused the president of making 'a dangerous situation even worse' in the Korean Peninsula with his promise that North Korea would face 'fire and fury' if it continued to threaten the U.S. and its allies."

Rep. Gregory Meeks, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/11, 5:08 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that while Trump is "drawing red lines," he is "also acting like a child. When you look at Kim Jong-un, we don't go down to his level. That's what they've been doing forever." Meeks added Trump is "supposed to be the leader of the free world." Meeks also said Trump's "credibility is shot with reference to the North Koreans and the rest of the world in this sense. Listen, everybody knows how strong the United States of America is and the military fire power we have. Everybody knows." Meeks added that he hoped Tillerson, McMaster, and Haley would explain to Trump "in terms he will understand that he's being unpresidential, and he's not helping the scenario and in fact, endangering."

[The Hill](#) (8/11, Greenwood) reports Rep. Ted Lieu, a colonel in the Air Force Reserves, on Friday also "slammed President Trump's rhetoric toward North Korea as 'reckless' and urged him to pursue a diplomatic solution to Washington's escalating tensions with Pyongyang." In a video posted on Twitter by progressive advocacy group VoteVets, Lieu said, "We need to engage in diplomacy. That's the one thing that Donald Trump has not yet done." He added, "before the president takes us down the dark and bloody path of a catastrophic war, he needs to first engage in diplomacy. ... He owes that to the American people and I call on the president to do that first before issuing provocative and senseless and reckless statements."

***US Allies, China, Russia Urge Trump To Proceed Carefully With North Korea Threats.*** In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (8/11, A1, Deyoung, Wagner, Johnson) reports "calls for more intense diplomacy on North Korea vied Friday with threats of force, with little sense of what strategy would prevail in Washington or Pyongyang or which leader would blink first." The [New York Times](#) (8/11, Chan) reports German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other world leaders "expressed alarm on Friday at the bellicose language emanating from North Korea and the United States, but also [signaled] support for President Trump, as they sought to allay their citizens' fears of a nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula." The Times adds that "among America's allies, Australia was perhaps the most decisive in denouncing North Korea's weapons program." While Merkel "said diplomacy offered the only way out of the crisis," Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull asserted his country stands "shoulder-to-shoulder with the United States."

However, the [New York Times](#) (8/11, Sang-Hun) reports South Korea on Friday said that "the White House had agreed not to do anything on the Korean Peninsula that would catch the South off guard." Chung Eui-yong, the top national security adviser for South Korean President Moon Jae-in, spoke with McMaster by phone for 40 minutes on Friday morning. A spokesman for Moon said, "Both South Korea and the United States reaffirmed their promise that as they take step-by-step measures to ensure their security and the safety of their peoples, they will coordinate with each other closely and transparently."

The [New York Times](#) (8/11, Soble) reports Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has been put in "a tough spot," as Trump has become "an American president who seems overtly eager to confront their mutual adversary, North Korea." Although "the latest escalation of tensions might seem to play into Mr. Abe's hands," the Times says that "Trump's combative language on North Korea makes matters trickier for Mr. Abe." The Times adds that because "North Korea's neighbors would probably bear the brunt of its attacks," in both Japan and South Korea, "support for military action against the North is low," which Trump's rhetoric "is hardly helping to change."

Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (8/11, Solovyov) reports Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov "said on Friday the risks of a military conflict over North Korea's nuclear program are very high, and Moscow is deeply worried by the mutual threats being traded by Washington and Pyongyang." Lavrov stated, "Unfortunately, the rhetoric in Washington and Pyongyang is now starting to go over the top. We still hope and believe that common sense will prevail." He added, "Direct threats of using force are heard. ... The talk (in Washington) is that there must be a preventive strike made on North Korea, while Pyongyang is threatening to carry out a missile strike on the U.S. base in Guam. These (threats) continue non-stop, and they worry us a lot."

However, the [Washington Post](#) (8/11, Denyer) reports the Global Times, a Chinese state-owned newspaper, warned in a Friday editorial that "China won't come to North Korea's help if it launches missiles threatening U.S. soil and there is retaliation," but Beijing "would intervene if Washington strikes first." The Post adds "the Global Times newspaper is not an official

mouthpiece of the Communist Party, but in this case its editorial probably does reflect government policy, experts said." Nonetheless, [Reuters](#) (8/11, Wen) reports Chinese tourists appear to be "undeterred by escalating tensions between Pyongyang and Washington rattling nerves" and continue to travel to North Korea. Reuters adds "tour operators said their industry remains robust."

**Kissinger, Panetta, Mudd, Bolton, Gore Discuss Trump's Options On North Korea.** In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/11, Kissinger) op-ed, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger lauds the UN Security Council for passing new sanctions on North Korea earlier this month, but warns the time for waiting is over and action is necessary to stop Kim from developing a full-scale nuclear capacity. While he urges the Administration to embrace restraint, Kissinger argues the US should not rule out the use of military force against Pyongyang. He also calls for China, South Korea, and Japan to step up and participate in the peace process.

Former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/11, 6:22 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that Trump's rhetoric "raises a lot of concern," and that the North Korean threat poses "possibly the most serious crisis involving a potential nuclear war since the Cuban missile crisis." He said Trump must "speak in a steady and calm and stable and responsible way, because the rhetoric that's going on is simply fueling this situation and creating something that concerns me, which is that at some point there is a miscalculation, a mistake." Panetta [continued](#) that "one of the things we've learned over 60 years in dealing with various North Korean dictators is that you can't outbully a bully. And the reality is that rather than engaging in this kind of loose talk, which I think, very frankly, undermines the power and prestige of the United States of America," that "the rest of the world" is simultaneously "listening and trying to figure out what is going on."

Panetta [added](#) he finds "it hard to believe that countries throughout the world are not deeply concerned about what is happening here," because they "see the prospect of two countries, because of miscalculation, because of words, because of a misstep, that may wind up in a nuclear war, potential for a nuclear war. Nobody in the world wants that to happen. Nobody. And for that reason, I think there are a lot of nervous world leaders in countries around the world that are trying to figure out just exactly what's going to happen here. And I would certainly include Japan and South Korea and the countries in the South Pacific being worried about just exactly what's going to happen."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/11, 5:37 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), Philip Mudd, a former deputy director of the CIA's Counterterrorist Center and the FBI's National Security Branch as well as a former Director for Gulf Affairs on the National Security Council, said he does not believe Trump "is losing traction" on the matter, and "we have an end game." Senior political analyst Mark Preston said Jong-un's unpredictability constitutes the "big wildcard" right now. Mudd also [acknowledged](#) that intelligence on the North Korean threat "is difficult intelligence to acquire," because it entails "technical information" about a missile launch, which is "an intelligence bonanza" and "not golden intelligence." Second, "North Koreans don't get out of North Korea much," and finally, "I think people in this country don't understand well the power of propaganda." Mudd [added](#) that Trump is endangering national security because in his social media actions, he "threatening a fourth-rate national power and ensuring Kim Jong-un realizes the President is going to elevate his profile internationally by engaging in this game every day."

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (8/11, Delk) reports former Vice President Al Gore told Newsweek on Friday that Trump "can't be blamed" for the tensions with North Korea. Gore asserted, "I think it's only fair to point out he inherited this crisis." He added, "The previous three presidents were not able to find an adequate solution, so he can't be blamed for all of this." However, Gore warned Trump's "intemperate comments on North Korea were really unwise."

Former UN Ambassador John Bolton in a [Breitbart](#) (8/11, Hayward) interview "proposed reunification as the solution to the North Korean nuclear missile crisis." He said Trump "made it clear that this is a different president than the one that North Korea and China have faced for the last eight years," though Bolton cautioned "there's a limit to" the President's rhetoric, as Trump should understand that the more he "makes these kinds of remarks, it gets harder and harder to back away from a very tough stance without risking grave damage to his credibility." According to Bolton, "No amount of negotiation is going to talk North Korea out of it. We've tried that, mistakenly in my view, for 25 years. It's failed." He added, "Either we do something dramatically different diplomatically – my proposal is to convince China to reunite the Korean Peninsula – then you're down to military action. Nobody wants it, but nobody wants to be in the position Trump finds himself in after 25 years of failure."

**WPost, Columnists, Analysts Consider Trump's Response To North Korea.** The [Washington Post](#) (8/11) editorializes that President Trump ultimately has two options for dealing with North

Korea and its leader, Kim Jong Un: “to live with a nuclear North Korea, as we have long lived with a nuclear China, hoping to deter its use of nuclear weapons by assuring Mr. Kim that his regime’s destruction would immediately ensue. The other is to assemble a coalition of nations to impose economic sanctions sufficiently punitive and targeted at the regime that Mr. Kim decides he would be better off making a deal.” The Post contends “it is worth trying the latter before accepting the former,” but for this “to be successful, such a strategy also would require patience, diplomacy, coherence and quiet strength. Just to list those qualities is to acknowledge how unlikely success seems at this moment.”

New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (8/11, 5:20 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), “I don’t object to the President doing a little madman game here with the North Koreans. It’s clearly got their attention,” and appears aimed at compelling “the Chinese to act, because they really have the greatest leverage.” Ultimately, however, “it’s got to be connected to a diplomatic pathway, to a solution. The question is, is it?” Friedman explained Pyongyang will not likely offer a unilateral surrender, so “what’s not clear to me here” is what Trump will offer in exchange. Friedman [added](#) (8/11, 5:27 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that Tillerson, McMaster, and Haley are “serious people,” but “what worries me” is whether they constitute a team with “a coherent strategy” because “you see them often out in multiple directions.”

[Bloomberg View](#) (8/11, Lake) columnist Eli Lake contends that “the most depressing aspect of the current North Korean crisis is that even if Donald Trump wins, he loses.” Lake suggests “The president’s recent bellicosity aims for deterrence and leverage,” as “in substance, if not style, this is very similar to how past administrations have approached the Hermit Kingdom: threaten, cajole and bargain.” While he acknowledges “the critics of war are correct. A pre-emptive strike is not worth the risk,” Lake asserts “neither is another deal” for several reasons, namely that “the North Koreans don’t keep their promises.” Lake argues that “traditional ‘regime change’ should be off the table. But this should not stop the U.S. and its allies from helping to create conditions for the day when Koreans can take their country back. This requires some patience and imagination.”

In her [New York Times](#) (8/11, Collins) column, Gail Collins states that “I believe I speak for a great many Americans when I say I am scared as hell of a confrontation between the head of the strongest nation in the world, who once wanted to play the president in ‘Sharknado 3,’ and a nuclear power dictator whose favorite house guest is Dennis Rodman.” Collins contends “Let’s just pray his current bellicosity is all hot air and no balloon” before concluding “our best hope [is] that the guy with the nuclear football is not necessarily the same person as the one sending out loopy messages on his smartphone. People who’ve dealt with the private Trump often say they found him less crazy than the public version.”

In his [New York Times](#) (8/11, Egan) column, Timothy Egan urges Trump on behalf of the residents of California, Oregon, Washington state, Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam to embrace restraint because “We West Coasters can’t go our separate way on nukes, as we’re doing on climate change, vowing to adhere to the Paris accord even as you turn your back on the rest of the world. We don’t have a shield. We don’t control the nuclear code.” He adds “sanctions, like those just approved by the United Nations, are a good deterrence” and although “diplomacy is hard. ... it beats the alternative.”

### **Trump To Launch Investigation Of China Trade Policies Amid Growing Frustration With Beijing Over North Korea.**

White House officials announced Saturday that President Trump this week will direct USTR Lighthizer to probe China’s trade policies for intellectual property violations. Media coverage, which includes more than seven and a half minutes on the network newscasts, was also extensive in print and online. Reporting suggested that the investigation is an attempt by Trump to pressure China into taking a more forceful stance toward North Korea while appealing to the President’s base at the same time.

In a front-page article on Trump’s “diplomatic gamble,” the [New York Times](#) (8/12, A1, Perlez, Baker) says that the President is “seeking to enlist China as a peacemaker in the bristling nuclear-edged dispute with North Korea at the very moment he plans to ratchet up conflict with Beijing over trade issues that have animated his political rise.” In a separate article, the [New York Times](#) (8/12, Thrush, Rappeport) reports “Trump is planning to jab, not punch, China for allegedly stealing intellectual property from American businesses, part of an effort to fulfill his hard-edge campaign promises on trade without alienating Beijing during the crisis over North Korea’s nuclear weapons program.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/12, Schlesinger) reports White House officials announced the

President will sign a directive on Monday ordering Lighthizer to begin the formal probe, which will investigate if the Chinese government and state-owned companies stole or otherwise coerced US companies into giving up patents and other IP. The [Washington Post](#) (8/12, Swanson) reports on its front page that the probe "could result in severe trade penalties, a threat the United States could wield to pressure Beijing into improving its economic behavior and doing more to contain North Korea's nuclear threat." According to the Post, the investigation "would seek to address what the U.S. business community has described as flagrant trade violations by China" and "may also prove to be a source of leverage to push China to do more to help contain a rising security threat from North Korea, which counts Beijing as its only powerful ally." However, analysts warned the Post that "the measure could also backfire, resulting in more hostility and tension between the world's two largest economies at a time when their cooperation is critical to a diplomatic resolution on North Korea."

While [Reuters](#) (8/12, Wroughton) reports an Administration official "insisted diplomacy over North Korea and the potential trade probe were 'totally unrelated,'" saying the trade action was not a pressure tactic," [Politico](#) (8/12, Restuccia) states that the investigation "will mark the escalation of Trump's increasingly aggressive posture toward China." Politico adds that in response to North Korea's belligerence in recent weeks, "Trump has raged behind the scenes and in public, urged on by China hawks in his administration like trade adviser Peter Navarro and chief strategist Steve Bannon."

**Media Analyses: Trump Unnerves Allies With Comments On North Korea.** In an analysis, the [AP](#) (8/12, Lemire) says Trump thus far has "responded to perhaps the sternest international test of his presidency in precisely the way that some supporters had hoped and critics feared." The AP adds "the mix of plain-spoken bluster, spontaneity and norm-breaking risk defined his political rise, and it's guided his approach on North Korea. When the isolated communist nation punched, Trump tried to punch back harder, as he did in campaign debates. But this was not a Florida debate stage or a low-stakes celebrity Twitter spat of the sort Trump perfected before entering politics."

In a front-page analysis, the [New York Times](#) (8/12, A1, Thrush, Baker) says the President's "four-day fusillade of apocalyptic threats against North Korea [has] left many in Washington and capitals throughout the Pacific wondering whether it was more method or madness." According to the Times, "It was not the first time in his unconventional presidency that Mr. Trump had unnerved friend and foe alike, but never before had it seemed so consequential." The Times adds that some of the President's advisers "quietly asked each other in recent days if Mr. Trump's bellicosity toward North Korea is part of some thought-out strategy that they have not been told about or what they suspect is just more on-the-fly instinct. But some aides have found themselves surprised at other moments when Mr. Trump has done something unexpected and seemingly random, only to explain his thinking afterward in a way that indicated more calculation than they had thought."

[USA Today](#) (8/12, Maresca) reports that as the President "ramps up his bellicose rhetoric toward North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, leaders and ordinary citizens across Asia are watching with various states of alarm, unsure which man poses a greater danger to their safety." USA Today states that in Seoul, South Korea, "many say they aren't particularly concerned about the escalating threats coming from the North Korean government, which has long menaced its next-door neighbor," but in the Philippines, "many residents are watching the situation with concern." USA Today adds that "other reaction around the Asian region was a mixture of wariness and confusion."

In her [New York Times](#) (8/12, Dowd) column, Maureen Dowd calls the "precipice of blustery, threatening exchanges between" President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un "particularly disturbing because they mirror each other in so many unhinged ways." She says much "of what Trump does may be loudmouth blather," but the North Korean threat "is real" and poses "the most severe test since the Cuban missile crisis."

[New York Times](#) (8/12, Douthat) columnist Ross Douthat outlines "the sequence of events that gave us the Cuban crisis," and posits President Trump's "showdown" with North Korea's Kim Jong-un "isn't the first time a reckless, lecherous U.S. president obsessed with his own vigor and out of his depth on foreign policy faced off against a thirtysomething dictator armed with nukes." The US ultimately "survived the Cuban missile crisis," Douthat says, so "there's probably a way to get through this one, too." He acknowledges "manifold" differences in the two scenarios, and suggests if the President averts "war, it will be because Trump is fundamentally a bluffer, who will issue threats on Twitter but won't overrule his advisers if they tell him not to give an order that will leave hundreds of thousands dead."

**Xi Urges Trump To Embrace Restraint Against North Korea.** [Reuters](#) (8/8, Oliphant,



Blanchard) reports Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping spoke in a phone call Friday. According to Reuters, Xi "said there needs to be a peaceful resolution to the North Korean nuclear issue," telling Trump that "he urged all sides to avoid words or action that raise tensions." In a statement, the Chinese Foreign Ministry quoted Xi as saying, "Concerned parties must exercise restraint and avoid remarks and actions that escalate tensions on the Korean peninsula."

[Reuters](#) (8/12, O'Brien) reports the White House in a statement said Trump and Xi "reiterated their mutual commitment to denuclearize the Korean peninsula" and they "agreed that the recent adoption of a United Nations Security Council resolution on North Korea was an important step toward achieving peace and stability on the peninsula." The White House said Trump and Xi "agreed North Korea must stop its provocative and escalatory behavior," adding, the "relationship between the two presidents is an extremely close one, and will hopefully lead to a peaceful resolution of the North Korea problem."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (8/12, story 4, 2:25, Diaz-Balart) said many believe "China, with its strong ties in North Korea, may be key to reining in the regime." Reporting from Dandong, China, correspondent Janis Mackey Frayer explained, "North Korea's economic lifeline – the bridge connecting it to China. More than three-quarters of trade with the regime passes here." Mackey Frayer said as "severe United Nations sanctions could slash a third of North Korea's export revenue, at the choke point, this single-lane bridge, is business as usual. 'It's normal to trade with North Korea,' says this business owner. 'There's nothing to fear.' But these days, tension is running high. Deep suspicion of foreign journalists forced us to keep a low profile. As North Korea's biggest ally and trading partner, China's pressure is crucial. Those sanctions alone have never worked."

[Washington Post](#) (8/12, Von Drehle) columnist David Von Drehle says the North Korean crisis "is very much China's moment," and how it "handles the brinkmanship of Kim Jong Un is the most important test the Chinese have yet faced in their decades-long effort to take a place in the first rank of world powers." He explains the challenge will measure Beijing's reliability, economic strength, and "readiness to lead." Von Drehle says President "Trump's bellicose tone in recent days has been regrettable, but the underlying content of his words is entirely true: The United States possesses the power to destroy North Korea many times over," but in this crisis, "it is China that stands at the crossroads." Beijing's failure, Von Drehle cautions, will "set back China's rise for decades to come."

***Trump, France's Macron Discuss Additional UN Sanctions Against North Korea.*** Errol Barnett of the [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/12, story 2, 2:00, Ninan) reported President Trump is "considering an additional sanctions package" against North Korea "that, in his words, would be as strong as they get." On Saturday, Trump spoke "with French President Emmanuel Macron about enforcing existing UN sanctions, as well as working together to achieve North Korean de-nuclearization."

[Reuters](#) (8/12, Rucker) reports the White House said in a statement that Trump and Macron "discussed the need to confront the increasingly dangerous situation associated with North Korea's destabilizing and escalatory behavior." North Korea Issues Another Threat Toward US.

[ABC World News Tonight](#)'s (8/12, story 5, 3:10, Vega) chief global affairs correspondent Martha Raddatz reported that on Saturday, after almost "a week of threats on both sides," North Korean leader Kim Jong-un issued "a new warning" that was "clearly a response to President Trump's string of warnings." North Korean state-run media cautioned, "If the Trump administration does not want the American empire to meet its tragic doom...they had better talk and act properly." The [Washington Times](#) (8/12, Taylor) reports Pyongyang's official KCNA news agency released the report "a day after – and appeared to be a response to – international headlines that Mr. Trump had made Friday by asserting that the U.S. is 'locked and loaded' and will take action against the regime of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un 'if he utters one threat.'"

In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (8/12, A1, Fifield) reports "the Kim regime has a history of making bellicose threats that it cannot or does not make good on. This may well be one of those cases. Or it might not." According to the Post, "The problem with trying to figure out what Kim might do in a situation like this is severely complicated by the fact that the outside world knows almost nothing about him."

***Trump Says US Stands With Guam "1,000 Percent," Predicts North Korea Threats Will Increase Tourism "Tenfold."*** The [New York Times](#) (8/12, Cagurangan) reports President Trump on Friday called Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo and told him he predicts the threats from North Korea will help the island territory increase tourism "tenfold." In a recording posted "on the Republican governor's Facebook page and other social media accounts," Trump said, "I have to tell you, you have become extremely famous all over the world. They are talking about Guam; and they're talking about you." The President added when that it comes to tourism, "I can say this: You're going to

go up, like, tenfold with the expenditure of no money." Trump also asserted, "You are safe. We're with you 1,000 percent."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/12, Wagner) reports Calvo told Trump that "as the governor of Guam, representing the people of Guam, and as an American citizen, I have never felt more safe or so confident, with you at the helm." [Breitbart](#) (8/12, Spiering) reports he also "praised Trump for his leadership, lamenting the criticism coming from Washington, DC, bureaucrats and the media." Calvo said that despite "all the criticism going on over there, from a guy that's being targeted, we need a president like you, so I'm just so thankful, and I'm glad you're holding the helm, sir."

However, the [Washington Post](#) (8/12, Phillips, Wagner) reports "in talking about the heightened international attention to the island, Margaret Metcalfe, director of Calvo's Washington office, said: 'None of this is good publicity.'" In an interview, Metcalfe told the Post on Saturday, "I'm just saying that is the result of what's happening. Nobody asked for it. Nobody wanted it. It happened. We pray day and night. ... And we hope that calmness prevail and balance prevail. We certainly don't want to do anything that would put our families at risk." Metcalfe added, "I don't think anyone can really predict what our president may offer, because he is one of those thinkers outside the box. But right now, I can tell you, in Guam, our flights are arriving from South Korea and Japan. ... Tourists are coming as normal even with all these flights from the media."

**USAF Commander: Guam Air Base Prepared To Respond To North Korean Attack.** Vladimir Dunthiers, in a segment for the [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/12, story 3, 2:55, Ninan) "CBSN: On Assignment" special series, reported the Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, approximately 2,100 miles from North Korea, "has the largest stockpile of fuel and munitions in the Air Force" and "can respond to threats from the Middle East, Asia, and across the Pacific." Col. Sam White of the US Air Force said troops at the base "stand ready to respond to a wide range of things at the President's call. That's the reason why we have the continuous bomber presence mission, is to give the President of the United States sovereign options against threats to the US. So we're ready today." Dunthiers continued, "Due to North Korea's difficult mountainous terrain and deep bunkers, these types of munitions could be of vital importance in the event of a conflict."

Meanwhile, a [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/11, Cheng) analysis examines how South Korea would defend its 25 million citizens living in Seoul against an attack from North Korea. The [AP](#) (8/12, Riechmann) reports that although US intelligence officials "are pretty sure North Korea can put a nuclear warhead on an intercontinental missile that could reach the United States," experts "aren't convinced the bomb could make it all that way intact," as "they cite lingering questions about North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's nuclear know-how."

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## US Geological Survey

### With 8 Threatening Volcanoes, USGS Says California Deserves Close Monitoring.

The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (8/11, Ellison) reports "the many famous, prominent and dangerous volcanoes of the West Coast will be the subject of field trips and much discussion" at this upcoming annual meeting of the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior taking place in Portland, Oregon from August 14 to 18. According to the story, USGS says there are eight volcanoes in California worthy of close monitoring, and "among the 18 'very high threat volcanoes,' 11 are along the Cascade Range in three states (Alaska and Hawaii have the others)."

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## Top National News

### Trump, White House Under Bipartisan Criticism For Response To Charlottesville Violence.

Second-day coverage of President Trump's response to Saturday's violence in Charlottesville, Virginia was harshly negative, with near-universal criticism of the President's initial statement and many questions about why Sunday's White House follow-up was not made in the President's name. The two networks that ran Sunday evening newscasts opened with reports on the violence itself, but then ran stories on the bipartisan criticism of the President's remarks. Republican Twitter criticism dissipated somewhat on Sunday, but pundits and Democrats remained vocal. Brian Stelter of [CNN's Reliable Sources](#) (8/13) summed up the general mood: "You could make the case that Saturday was the worst day of the Trump presidency, with so many commentators



– including major Republican commentators and GOP senators and congressmen – criticizing the President for his half-hearted response.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/13, story 3, 2:55, Llamas) reported that the President is “facing intense backlash for his response to all the violence, refusing to specifically condemn the hatred unleashed by the white supremacists.” ABC’s David Wright: “Today, the White House struggled to shore up the President Trump’s equivocal response to Charlottesville. ... ‘Of course that includes white supremacists, KKK, neo-Nazi and all extremist groups,’ an unnamed White House official explained today. But Trump has yet to call out those groups for inciting the violence in Virginia.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (8/13, story 2, 2:40, Snow) reported, “President Trump called for unity after yesterday’s violence, but for some including members of his own party, the message fell flat, and today many called for a more forceful denouncement of white nationalism.” NBC’s Kelly O’Donnell: “For a presidency forged by blunt talk, what Donald Trump did not say is politically deafening. ... The President seemed alone in spreading blame for the violence. His omission, choosing not to call out white supremacist groups, some known to support him. A failure, according to critics and many Republicans.”

The [Washington Post](#) (8/13, Johnson, Demirjian) reports that though the White House said that Trump “condemned ‘all forms of violence, bigotry and hatred’ that were on display in Charlottesville this weekend ‘of course that includes white supremacists, KKK, Neo-Nazi and all extremist groups,’” that “clarification stopped far short of what a growing number of Republicans have urged the president to do: directly call out and condemn white supremacy.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/13, Radnofsky, Michaels) reports that the White House statement was not attributed to any specific official. The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/13, Feldscher) reports that “the spokesperson refused to go on the record with his or her name and would not give reporters in New Jersey a reason why the statement could not be attributed.” [Politico](#) (8/13, Cook) reports that the “clarification came less than 24 hours after Trump seemingly blamed both white supremacists and counterprotesters for the vitriol and clashes.” Kaitlan Collins said on [CNN’s Reliable Sources](#) (8/13, Stelter), “Why not attribute that to a White House official like Sarah Huckabee Sanders or another spokesman or the President himself, if he really does condemn hatred in all forms including neo-Nazism, and the KKK, why not put your name on that statement?”

The [AP](#) (8/13, Lemire) reports that the White House “scrambled Sunday to elaborate on” the President’s response “as he came under bipartisan scolding for not clearly condemning white supremacists and other hate groups immediately after the altercations.” The President “remained out of sight and silent, save for a few retweets.” [Bloomberg News](#) (8/13, House, Talev, Epstein) reports the President “faced a second day of criticism after failing to personally denounce” the white supremacists.

The [New York Times](#) (8/13, Thrush) reports that “criticism” of the President “intensified on Sunday, with lawmakers from both parties calling on him to explicitly condemn the role of white racists and agitators affiliated with the so-called alt-right, some of whom brandished pro-Trump banners and campaign placards during [the] violent protests.” Dan Merica said on [CNN’s New Day Sunday](#) (8/13), “What the President didn’t say yesterday is what is getting the most attention. Yes, President Trump did condemn the violence, the hatred that we saw on the streets of Charlottesville yesterday, but he didn’t condemn the alt-right and white nationalists that really started a lot of that violence.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/13, King) writes, “Sometimes what President Trump doesn’t say causes his aides more headaches than things he does.” The White House “defended the president’s failure to explicitly condemn white supremacists” as “criticism of the president poured in for a second day, including from some GOP allies who added their voices to the chorus of opprobrium from Democrats.” [Breitbart](#) (8/13, Spiering) reports, “Media and political figures were furious after the president failed to specifically condemn the white nationalist forces that triggered the violent uproar.”

Julie Pace of the [AP](#) (8/13) writes, “Why doesn’t President Donald Trump just unequivocally condemn white supremacists? It’s a jarring question to ask about an American president. But it’s also one made unavoidable by Trump’s delayed, blame-both-sides response. ... At times, his approach has seemingly inflamed racial tensions in a deeply divided country while emboldening groups long in the shadows.” [The Hill](#) (8/13, Manchester) reports that the White House “was forced to clarify” the President’s response. [Reuters](#) (8/13, Simpson) and the [Daily Caller](#) (8/13, Bennett) also report on the White House statement.

E.J. Dionne writes in his [Washington Post](#) (8/13) column, “There are not, as Trump insisted

Saturday, 'many sides' to questions that were settled long ago: Racism, anti-Semitism, discrimination and white supremacy are unequivocally wrong. A president who cannot bring himself to say this immediately and unequivocally squanders any claim to moral leadership."

Petula Dvorak writes in her [Washington Post](#) (8/13) column, "President Trump lit every one of those torches in Charlottesville. ... When the mob of white men marched in Charlottesville carrying flaming torches Friday night shouting 'Heil Trump' as the curtain-raiser for a day of violent clashes with counterprotesters that left three people dead, they showed the world that America is once again playing with fire. And Trump was the one with the match."

Kelly Jane Torrance of the Weekly Standard said on [CNN's New Day Sunday](#) (8/13), "We have been waiting for months for Donald Trump really, if not more than a year, to condemn white nationalism and to say these people say that they are doing it my name and they say they are supporters of me. We've been waiting for him to strongly disavow them and he hasn't done it. And I think it's really about time for him to do so."

Anne Applebaum [tweeted](#), "No post-hoc White House statement makes up for Trump's cowardice. We now know exactly who and what he fears to criticize." Perry Bacon Jr. of FiveThirtyEight [tweeted](#), "If Bannon is telling Trump to go with this weekend's approach, that matters. But I think we are over-covering staff. Trump is the decider." Fox News' Jedediah Bila [tweeted](#), "Trump shouldn't only publicly condemn white supremacists, but outright reject their support. They should find no safe space in his realm."

Conservative writer Erick Erickson [tweeted](#), "Never forget how Trump's media propagandists tried to excuse and give cover to the alt-right." Matt Fuller of the Huffington Post [tweeted](#), "People Trump has criticized more harshly than neo-Nazis: -Mitch McConnell -POWs -A Gold Star family -The Pope." Bill Kristol [tweeted](#), "WH staff told Trump they had to put out a statement, but couldn't prevail on him to say it himself, in the first person. A revealing moment." Jeremy Peters of the New York Times [tweeted](#), "The right said Obama was soft on terror for not calling it out, blaming Islamists. By extension, Trump is being soft on white nationalism." Amanda Terkel of the Huffington Post [tweeted](#), "Trump White House, basically: All violence matters."

**Pence Denounces White Supremacists While Defending Trump.** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/13, Radnofsky) reports under the headline "Pence Goes Beyond Trump In Condemning White Supremacists" that Vice President Pence, who is in Colombia, made a more forceful and explicit statement on Sunday evening. The [Washington Times](#) (8/13, Boyer) reports that Pence said, "We have no tolerance for hate and violence from white supremacists, neo-Nazis or the KKK. These dangerous fringe groups have no place in American public life and in the American debate, and we condemn them in the strongest possible terms." However, Pence "also criticized those who have accused Mr. Trump of not speaking out strongly enough," saying that "Trump on Saturday 'clearly and unambiguously condemned the bigotry, violence and hatred which took place on the streets of Charlottesville.'"

[Politico](#) (8/13, Cohen) reports that Pence "criticized the media for its coverage" of Trump's remarks. He said, "I take issue with the fact that many in the national media spent more time criticizing the President's words than they did criticizing those that perpetrated the violence to begin with." Tim Alberta of Politico [tweeted](#), "Typical needle-threading from @VP: Takes it further than Trump, while clarifying that Trump himself went plenty far enough."

**McMaster, Pompeo, Bossert Defend Trump's Statement.** On [ABC's This Week](#) (8/13), National Security Adviser McMaster said, "The President called out anyone...responsible for" encouraging "this kind of bigotry and hatred, racism and violence." He added that he thought the President "was very clear on that." On [NBC's Meet The Press](#) (8/13, Todd), McMaster was asked why the President didn't single out the neo-Nazi protesters. McMaster said, "When he condemned bigotry and hatred on all sides, that includes them." He said what was "important to the president" was "to bring all Americans together." On [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (8/13, Dickerson), CIA Director Pompeo said that he believed the President had been specific in condemning bigotry, hatred, and violence.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/13, Wolfgang) reports that White House Homeland Security Adviser Bossert, appearing on CNN's State Of The Union, "said he was proud of the president's comments on Saturday." Bossert said, "I, for one, was with the President yesterday and proud of the fact he stood up and calmly looked into the camera and condemned this violence and bigotry in all its forms."

**USA Today: Ivanka Trump Issued "More Pointed Assessment."** [USA Today](#) (8/13, Collins) reports, "The day after deadly protests that occurred in Charlottesville, Va. following a 'Unite the Right' white nationalist rally, Ivanka Trump issued a more pointed assessment of blame than her father." She [tweeted](#), "There should be no place in society for racism, white supremacy and neo-

nazis." The [Washington Post](#) (8/13, Phillips) says that she "tweeted a reaction with a level of specificity that was absent in her father's statement."

**Gardner, Graham Urge Stronger Statement From Trump.** Sen. Cory Gardner said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (8/13, Tapper) that he sent his own message that the white supremacy is evil and asserted that the same message "must be acknowledged as such by the White House." He called the behavior at the protest for what it is: evil. He said, that Trump "should use this opportunity to say this is terrorism." Sen. Lindsey Graham said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (8/13, Wallace) that President Trump "missed an opportunity to be very explicit here." He said that the supremacist groups seem to think they have a friend in the White House and he urges "the President to dissuade these groups that he's their friend."

The [Washington Times](#) (8/13, Wolfgang) reports that Sens. Ted Cruz, Orrin Hatch, Marco Rubio and other Republicans "condemned the deadly demonstration. But Mr. Trump's handling of the situation fueled commentary that he is comfortable with the support of white nationalist groups, some of which praised his remarks." [Politico](#) (8/13, Cook) reports, "Republicans joined civil rights leaders and Democrats who reacted angrily" to Trump's initial statement, "just the latest example of members of his party starting to carefully take on a president whose words and actions many chose to overlook after his surprise 2016 victory."

However, Rep. Tom Garrett (R-VA), who represents Charlottesville, said on [Fox News' Sunday Morning Futures](#), "I think we ought to, on both sides of the aisle, take him at face value right now and not criticize whether the condemnation was condemning enough or what have you. Let's find something to unite over."

**House Democrats Continue Criticism Via Twitter.** Several House Democrats posted critical tweets about Trump's response, while Republicans were largely quiet on Sunday after some critical tweets on Saturday. Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA) [tweeted](#), "Donald Trump's staff asked him to personally deliver a statement denouncing white supremacists. He refused." Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "Many sides? This is about one side emboldened by Trump's hateful rhetoric. Must keep standing against violence & bigotry." Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "There are many sides to @realDonaldTrump, but why does he appear beholden to David Duke and Vladimir Putin?"

Rep. Jacky Rosen (D-NV) [tweeted](#), "The fact President Trump failed to explicitly condemn the white supremacist ideology behind this evil from day 1 is beyond shameful." Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "Mr President, call it what it is: radical white supremacist terror." The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/13, Lim) reports that Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) "excoriated President Trump on social media...saying the White House is now the 'White Supremacists' House." She [tweeted](#), "Trump has made it clear – w/ Bannon & Gorka in the WH, & the Klan in the streets, it is now the White Supremacists' House."

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/13) links the violence to the rise of identity politics, and writes that Democrats seemed more interested in tarring Trump this weekend than in addressing racial and ethnic divisions.

**Scaramucci: Trump "Needed To Be Much Harsher."** Anthony Scaramucci said on [ABC's This Week](#) (8/13), "I think he needed to be much harsher as it related to the white supremacists. With the moral authority of the presidency, you have to call that stuff out." The [Washington Post](#) (8/13, Phillips, Wagner) reports that Scaramucci said, "He likes doing the opposite of what the media thinks he's going to do. I think he's also of the impression that there's hatred on all sides, but I disagree with it."

**NYTimes: Trump Was "Placating White Supremacists" With His Statement.** The [New York Times](#) (8/13) editorializes, "Let's discard the fiction that President Trump wasn't placating white supremacists by responding so weakly. ... The neo-Nazis heard his message loud and clear." Trump "is alone in modern presidential history in his willingness to summon demons of bigotry and intolerance in service to himself." His "fear of naming the source of Saturday's violence sharply contrasts with his eagerness to call out Islamist terror."

**WPost Analysis: White Supremacists "Loved Trump's Remarks."** The [Washington Post](#) (8/13, Wang) reports under the headline "One Group Loved Trump's Remarks About Charlottesville: White Supremacists" that the President's "choice of words – and the silence that preceded them – are being cheered by at least a few groups of people: neo-Nazis and white nationalists." The Daily Stormer, "a neo-Nazi website...declared the president's words as a signal of tacit support for their side: 'Trump comments were good. He didn't attack us. He just said the nation should come together. Nothing specific against us.'" (The hacker collective Anonymous [took control](#) of the Daily Stormer early Monday, vowing to shut it down permanently.)

**Charlottesville Mayor Says Trump Courted White Supremacists During Campaign.** The

[Washington Times](#) (8/13, Wolfgang) reports that Charlottesville Mayor Michael Signer said Sunday that Trump “deserves at least some of the blame.” Signer said on CNN’s State Of The Union, “Look at the campaign he ran. Look at the intentional courting, on one hand, of all these white supremacists, white nationalists...and look on the other hand at the repeated failure to step up, condemn, denounce, silence, put to bed all of these different efforts, just like we saw yesterday. This isn’t hard.”

**DOJ Opens Civil Rights Investigation Into Car Attack.** The [Washington Times](#) (8/12, Noble) reports that the Justice Department has opened a civil rights investigation “into the circumstances under which a vehicle plowed into a crowd of people” protesting on Saturday. Twenty-year-old James Alex Fields has been charged “with second-degree murder and other crimes” in the death of 32-year-old Heather Heyer. The [Washington Post](#) (8/13, Shapiro, Silverman, Vozzella, Cox) reports that Fields “long sympathized with Nazi views and had stood with a group of white supremacists hours before Saturday’s bloody crash.” His former history teacher said that Fields “had espoused extremist ideals at least since high school.” The New York Daily News [Monday cover](#) features a picture of Fields with the headline “The Nazi Trump Won’t Call Out.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/13, lead story, 4:05, Llamas) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/13, lead story, 3:50, Snow) opened by summarizing Saturday’s events and Fields’ arrest. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/13, story 2, 3:00, Llamas), [Reuters](#) (8/13, Woodall), and the [New York Times](#) (8/13, Caron) profile Heyer.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/13, Schneider, Soong) reports, “Activists throughout the country...held vigils Sunday in response to” both the white supremacist rally and the ensuing violence; [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/13, story 3, 2:40, Snow) ran a feature on how tensions rose in Charlottesville in recent months.

**McAuliffe Defends Police Response.** The [New York Times](#) (8/13, Stolberg) reports, “Gov. Terry McAuliffe on Sunday strongly defended the police response to the violent demonstrations here on Saturday, saying that law enforcement authorities had done ‘great work’ in ‘a very delicate situation.’” McAuliffe said police “estimated that 80 percent of those at the white nationalists’ rally and counterprotests – including members of self-styled militias in camouflage gear – were armed, ‘yet not a shot was fired.’” He added, “You can’t stop some crazy guy who came here from Ohio and used his car as a weapon. He is a terrorist.”

**Rally Organizer: “Violence Rules Over Speech” In Charlottesville.** [USA Today](#) (8/13, Bacon) reports that Jason Kessler, the organizer of the Unite The Right rally, “tried to hold a news conference Sunday in front of Charlottesville City Hall – and it quickly descended into chaos.” He later tweeted, “I tried my best but once again violence rules over speech and ideas in #Charlottesville. The first amendment is finished it seems.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/13, Kesling, Belkin) reports that Kessler was booed off stage as he tried to address reporters.

**Virginia GOP Senate Candidate: “Let’s Condemn Both Sides.”** The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/13, King) reports that Virginia Senate candidate Corey Stewart, a Republican, “said politicians and the media didn’t focus at all on violence perpetrated by left wing people counter-protesting a white supremacist rally.” He said, “You hear all this condemnation of neo-Nazis and all the people that came out there, and they should have been condemned. There are a whole lot of left-wing agitators that went down there. When we are condemning, let’s condemn both sides.”

The [Washington Post](#) (8/13, Vozzella, Nirappil) reports that Stewart “criticized fellow Republicans who condemned the white nationalists,” telling the Post, “All the weak Republicans, they couldn’t apologize fast enough. They played right into the hands of the left wing. Those [Nazi] people have nothing to do with the Republican Party. There was no reason to apologize.” The [Washington Post](#) (8/13, Weigel) reports that “alt-right” and “far-right media” have been warning of left-wing activists “as a rising danger to law and order, a justification for alt-right organizations to organize armed rallies.”

**Twitter Account Working To Identify White Supremacist Demonstrators.** The [New York Post](#) (8/13, Perez) reports, “White nationalists who appeared at the deadly demonstrations in Charlottesville are being outed on social media – with at least one being fired from their job after his name and picture was posted online.” The “Yes, You’re Racist” Twitter account, with more than 180,000 followers, has been working to identify participants in the demonstrations.

**Seattle “Pro-Trump” Rally Met With Counter-Demonstrators.** The [Seattle Times](#) (8/13) reports, “The pro-Trump Patriot Prayer group and counter-protesters held opposing demonstrations in downtown Seattle” on Sunday afternoon. The two groups “converged at Westlake Park where police reported stopping people carrying shields and backpacks. Officers spritzed several protesters with pepper spray.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/13, story 4, 1:30, Snow) reported on the



protests.

### **Trump Condemns “Hatred, Bigotry” After Charlottesville Violence, But Fails To Blame White Nationalists.**

After at least three people died and 19 others were wounded at a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia on Saturday, President Trump condemned the “egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides, on many sides” in a speech and series of tweets. Media coverage, which included more than 21 minutes on the network newscasts, was also heavy in print and online. While Trump was lauded for calling for unity, reporting was generally critical of the President for not denouncing the white nationalists, neo-Nazis, and Ku Klux Klan members responsible for organizing the rally.

Typical of the coverage was the [Washington Post](#) (8/12, Wagner, Johnson), which says that Trump “condemned ‘in the strongest possible terms’ the spate of violence unfolding in Charlottesville and called for ‘a swift restoration of law and order’ – but avoided placing blame on any particular party for the hate-fueled upheaval.” [Politico](#) (8/12, Cook) similarly reports the President “never denounced by name the extremist group, or called their behavior unacceptable.” Politico adds that “the furthest Trump went in protesting the white nationalists’ ‘Unite the Right’ rally was to say that his administration wanted to ‘get the situation straightened out in Charlottesville and we want to study it and we want to see what we’re doing wrong as a country, where things like this can happen.’” [The Hill](#) (8/12, Manchester) reports Trump said, “It’s been going on for a long time in our country. Not Donald Trump, not Barack Obama. This has been going on for a long, long time.”


[Bloomberg News](#) (8/12, House, Epstein) reports the President spoke at his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey “after two days of violent protests capped by an incident, details of which are still emerging, where a car at the scene plowed into the crowd, leaving one person dead and the driver under arrest.” According to [USA Today](#) (8/12, Johnson), “Trump, interrupting a signing ceremony for legislation benefiting veterans...called the street clashes, ending with a car plowing through a group of counter-protesters, ‘very, very sad.’”

The [Washington Times](#) (8/12, Dinan) reports the President also “called for unity,” asserting, “the division must stop, and must stop right now.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/12, Radnofsky) reports he added, “No matter our color, creed, religion or political party we are all Americans first.”

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (8/12, Blake) reports Trump “weighed in” earlier in the day on Twitter, [saying](#), “We ALL must be united & condemn all that hate stands for. There is no place for this kind of violence in America. Lets come together as one!” The President [continued](#), “Am in Bedminster for meetings & press conference on V.A. & all that we have done, and are doing, to make it better-but Charlottesville sad!” In [another](#) tweet, he said, “Deepest condolences to the families & fellow officers of the VA State Police who died today. You’re all among the best this nation produces.” Trump [added](#), “Condolences to the family of the young woman killed today, and best regards to all of those injured, in Charlottesville, Virginia. So sad!”

[The Hill](#) (8/12, Greenwood) reports First Lady Melania Trump “was the first member of the administration to respond, drawing a line between ‘freedom of speech’ and violence.” [Breitbart](#) (8/12, Starr) reports the First Lady [tweeted](#), “Our country encourages freedom of speech, but let’s communicate w/o hate in our hearts. No good comes from violence. #Charlottesville.” Vice President Pence [tweeted](#), “I stand with @POTUS against hate & violence. U.S is greatest when we join together & oppose those seeking to divide us. #Charlottesville.” Pence also retweeted the first lady and [continued](#), “As @POTUS Trump said, “We have to come together as Americans with love for our nation... & true affection for each other.” #Charlottesville.” Pence [added](#), “Karen & I saddened by the loss of lives in Charlottesville. Thoughts & prayers w/ families of officers & young woman. Also w/ injured victims.”

[The Hill](#) (8/12, Manchester) reports Attorney General Sessions issued a statement denouncing the violence, saying, “We stand united behind the President in condemning the violence in Charlottesville and any message of hate and intolerance.” Sessions added, “This violence is totally contrary to American values and can never be tolerated.” He also pledged that the Justice Department “would support local and state officers on the scene ‘in any way possible.’”

While [NBC Nightly News](#)  (8/12, story 2, 2:40, Diaz-Balart) reported the President struck “a different tone than we’ve heard from him in recent days” with his “call for unity,” Kelly O’Donnell said that despite referring to “bigotry,” Trump “did not specifically rebuke or describe racially motivated protesters, some of whom brought weapons to a planned demonstration.” [ABC](#)



[World News Tonight](#) 's (8/12, story 4, 3:25, Vega) David Wright reported the President's use of "on many sides" in his statement "troubled a lot of people because it [was] ambiguous. Many people heard it as him creating a moral equivalence between the white nationalists and the counterprotesters, blaming both." Wright added the White House now "says the President was condemning hatred, bigotry, and violence from all sources and in all forms."

The [AP](#) (8/12, Lemire) reports Trump's position was not how Charlottesville Mayor Michael Signer "assessed the chaos that led the governor to declare a state of emergency, contending that Trump's campaign fed the flames of prejudice." Instead, Signer "said he was disgusted that the white nationalists had come to his town and blamed Trump for inflaming racial prejudices with his campaign last year." He asserted, "I'm not going to make any bones about it. I place the blame for a lot of what you're seeing in American today right at the doorstep of the White House and the people around the president." In its lead segment, the [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/12, lead story, 2:45, Ninan) broadcast Signer criticizing the "outsiders coming here who've traveled all across the country to try and make Charlottesville a target for their ideology." Signer added, "I refuse to be intimidated."

[The Hill](#) (8/12, Manchester) reports a number of Republican lawmakers also "went after...Trump on Saturday over his statement on violent clashes in Charlottesville." The Hill adds Sen. Cory Gardner went "as far as saying Trump needed to call it a 'terror attack by white supremacists.'" In a separate article, [The Hill](#) (8/12, Manchester) reports Gardner [tweeted](#), "Mr. President – we must call evil by its name. These were white supremacists and this was domestic terrorism." According to The Hill, Sen. Jeff Flake joined Gardner in condemning the aims of the rally, [tweeting](#), "The #WhiteSupremacy in #Charlottesville does not reflect the values of the America I know. Hate and bigotry have no place in this country."

[The Hill](#) (8/12, Seipel) reports Sen. Orrin Hatch also criticized Trump's comments on the rally, [tweeting](#), "We should call evil by its name. My brother didn't give his life fighting Hitler for Nazi ideas to go unchallenged here at home. -OGH." [The Hill](#) (8/12, Thomsen) "Briefing Room" blog reports Sen. Marco Rubio "tore into President Trump Saturday for refusing to single out white supremacists at a white nationalist rally in Virginia." Rubio [tweeted](#), "Very important for the nation to hear @potus describe events in #Charlottesville for what they are, a terror attack by #whitesupremacists."

[The Hill](#) (8/12, Carter) reports House Speaker Ryan condemned the rally, [tweeting](#), "The views fueling the spectacle in Charlottesville are repugnant. Let it only serve to unite Americans against this kind of vile bigotry." [The Hill](#) (8/12, Manchester) reports Sen. Ted Cruz in a statement said, "The Nazis, the KKK, and white supremacists are repulsive and evil, and all of us have a moral obligation to speak out against the lies, bigotry, anti-semitism, and hatred that they propagate. ... Having watched the horrifying video of the car deliberately crashing into a crowd of protesters, I urge the Department of Justice to immediately investigate and prosecute this grotesque act of domestic terrorism."

[The Hill](#) (8/12, Bowden) reports in its "Briefing Room" blog that Democratic lawmakers also "urged President Trump to condemn" the rally, with Senate Minority Leader Schumer [tweeting](#), "March & rally in Charlottesville against everything the flag stands for. President Trump must condemn in strongest terms immediately." Schumer [followed up](#), "Of course we condemn ALL that hate stands for. Until @POTUS specifically condemns alt-right action in Charlottesville, he hasnt done his job." Rep. Steve Cohen, a member of the House Judiciary Committee, [tweeted](#), "Charlottesville alt.right gathering is reminiscent of 1930's Germany and the President needs to condemn it. Make America great; Speak out!"

[The Hill](#) (8/12, Thomsen) "Briefing Room" blog reports former Vice President Joe Biden similarly "took aim at President Trump's comments that 'many sides' led to [the] violence." Biden [tweeted](#), "There is only one side. #charlottesville." [The Hill](#) (8/12, Thomsen) "Briefing Room" blog reports former President Obama [tweeted](#) the Nelson Mandela quote "No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin or his background or his religion..."

[The Hill](#) (8/12, Thomsen) reports in its "Briefing Room" blog that Hillary Clinton "condemned the 'incitement of hatred' which she said led to [the] violence," [tweeting](#), "My heart is in Charlottesville today, and with everyone made to feel unsafe in their country." She [continued](#), "But the incitement of hatred that got us here is as real and condemnable as the white supremacists in our streets." Clinton [added](#), "Every minute we allow this to persist through tacit encouragement or inaction is a disgrace, & corrosive to our values." She [concluded](#), "Now is the time for leaders to be strong in their words & deliberate in their actions."

[The Hill](#) (8/12, Bowden) reports the NAACP and the Congressional Black Caucus also both "swiftly shot back" at Trump. The NAACP [tweeted](#), "Guess it's hard to disavow bigots and hate when they are amongst your key strategists. #Charlottesville." The CBC [tweeted](#),



".@realDonaldTrump: "Both sides, law & order..." Your false equivalency, dog whistles are sad. White supremacy is to blame. #Charlottesville." According to The Hill, "the reference is to White House chief strategist Steve Bannon, who formerly ran Breitbart News. Bannon has been called a white nationalist before by Trump's critics, most notably by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) in November."

A [Washington Post](#) (8/12, Board) editorial also criticizes Trump and shares what "a presidential president would have said" following the violence in Charlottesville.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/12, Nirappil) reports on how the various Virginia candidates responded to the rally and violence while [USA Today](#) (8/12, Miller) shares "a look at how social media reacted to the #Charlottesville violence."

**Police: Three Deaths Linked To Rally, 19 People Injured When Car Strikes Counter-Protesters.** In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (8/12, A1, Heim, Silverman, Shapiro, Brown) reports "a chaotic and violent day turned to tragedy Saturday as hundreds of white nationalists, neo-Nazis, Ku Klux Klan members – planning to stage what they described as their largest rally in decades to 'take America back' – clashed with counterprotesters in the streets and a car plowed into crowds, killing one person and injuring 19 others." Angela Taylor, a public information officer at the University of Virginia Medical Center, told [USA Today](#) (8/12, Stanglin, Cavallaro) "that 20 patients were taken there and one died. The conditions of the other 19 were not yet determined." USA Today adds that "about three hours after the car crash, the Virginia State Police's Bell 407 helicopter crashed about 7 miles from the scene" and according to police reports, "two people on board died."

While the [AP](#) (8/12, Rankin) reports "the chaos boiled over [when] what is believed to be the largest group of white nationalists to come together in a decade" gathered in order "to protest plans to remove a statue of the Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee," [Breitbart](#) (8/12, Spiering) says the violence erupted "after leftist Antifa protesters attacked a protest of white nationalists." [USA Today](#) (8/12, Rossman) states that "Twitter dispatches showed a violent scene with protesters wielding shields, sticks and flags in massive scuffles that left people bloodied." USA Today adds "there were also reports of urine being tossed at reporters and the air was said to be filled with pepper spray, mace and tear gas."

A front-page [New York Times](#) (8/12, A1, Stolberg, Rosenthal) article reports "by 11 a.m., after both sides had made their way to Emancipation Park, the scene had exploded into taunting, shoving and outright brawling." According to the Times, after Charlottesville police cleared the area, "witnesses said a crowd of counterdemonstrators, jubilant because the white nationalists had left, was moving up Fourth Street, near the mall, when a gray sports car came down the road and accelerated, mowing down several people and hurling at least two in the air." In the lead [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/12, lead story, 3:00, Vega) segment, Eva Pilgrim reported a "silver Dodge Challenger with Ohio plates seen here in this video barreling down a hill. Witnesses say it only stopped after it hit a van and another car. Blocked in, the silver car went in reverse to get away." Pilgrim added the driver "was picked up just a short distance from the scene, not very far at all. Witnesses telling us whoever the driver was, they did not hesitate. They put their foot on the gas and kept going."

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (8/12, Blake) reports Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe "declared a state of emergency late Saturday morning moments before the 'Unite the Right' rally and counterprotests were scheduled to begin" in order to "to aid state response to violence." He subsequently [tweeted](#), "The acts and rhetoric in #Charlottesville over past 24 hours are unacceptable & must stop. A right to speech is not a right to violence."

[The Hill](#) (8/12, Manchester) reports McAuliffe at a press conference later Saturday "ripped white supremacists who sparked violence in Charlottesville, Va. on Saturday, saying there is no place for them in the country." He asserted, "I have a message to all of the white supremacists and the Nazis who came into Charlottesville today. Our message is plain and simple. Go home. You are not wanted in this great commonwealth. Shame on you. You pretend that you're patriots, but you are anything but a patriot." McAuliffe added, "My message is clear. We are stronger than you. You will not succeed. There is no place for you here, there is no place for you in America."

[The Hill](#) (8/12, Seipel) reports Attorney General Sessions announced Saturday that the Justice Department "has opened up a federal investigation into the deadly events in Charlottesville, Va. on Saturday after a car plowed into a crowd of protestors and left one dead." In a statement, Sessions said, "I have talked with FBI Director Chris Wray, FBI agents on the scene, and law enforcement officials for the state of Virginia. The FBI has been supporting state and local authorities throughout the day. U.S. Attorney Rick Mountcastle has commenced a federal investigation and will have the full support of the Department of Justice. Justice will prevail." The Hill adds that the US Attorney's office for the Western District of Virginia and the

Richmond Field Office of the FBI confirmed the probe. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/12, story 3, 0:20, Vega) also briefly reported an investigation into the helicopter crash is underway.

In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (8/12, A1, Hermann, Heim, Silverman) says Charlottesville police have also come "under criticism for failing to keep apart warring white nationalists and counterprotesters who battled it out in the city streets Saturday amid what at first seemed an anemic response from authorities." The Post adds that "anger over how the police responded came from all directions and intensified after the death of a woman struck by a car that plowed into a group of counterprotesters. Experts said police appeared outnumbered, ill-prepared and inexperienced."

**David Duke: Charlottesville Protests About "Fulfilling Promises Of Donald Trump."** [The Hill](#) (8/12, Manchester) "Briefing Room" blog reports former Ku Klux Klan Grand Wizard David Duke "appeared at the 'Unite the Right' rally...prior to [the] violent clashes, saying that the event represented fulfilling the promises of President Trump." Duke said, "This represents a turning point for the people of this country. We are determined to take our country back, we're going to fulfill the promises of Donald Trump, and that's what we believed in, that's why we voted for Donald Trump, because he said he's going to take our country back and that's what we gotta do."

Meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/12, Belkin, Kesling, McWhirter) reports Jason Kessler, the leader of Unity and Security for America, helped organize the demonstration and said in an interview that he wants the President to speak out because Virginia officials and the counter protesters denied the First Amendment rights of Trump's supporters.

**Detroit Red Wings Condemn White Nationalists Over Use Of Modified Logo.** The [Washington Post](#) (8/12, Bonesteel) reports the "anti-immigrant group called the Detroit Right Wings, which has co-opted" a "bastardized" version of the NHL's Detroit Red Wings logo, prompting the team to issue a statement on Saturday "condemning the use of their logo in such a hateful way and threatened legal action."

**White Nationalists Have Held Three Demonstrations In Charlottesville So Far This Year.** [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/12, story 2, 2:45, Vega) Stephanie Ramos reported the rally turned "a major American college campus...into a battlefield." Ramos added that the tensions started Friday night at 10 p.m. as "torches in hand, [the white nationalist's] chants [began] echoing across the historic campus" of the University of Virginia. In the lead [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/12, lead story, 3:50, Diaz-Balart) segment, Tom Costello said the "tensions began simmering [Friday] night when white nationalists carried torches in the city, eerily reminiscent of Nazi Party propaganda events in the '20s and '30s."

According to [USA Today](#) (8/12, Penzenstadler, Toy), this weekend's violent demonstrations in Charlottesville mark "the third time white nationalist groups gathered there this year." USA Today says the groups oppose the City Council's decision to sell a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee and rename the Lee and Jackson parks. USA Today says that while "statues of Confederate leaders nationwide have been removed in recent years as communities viewed them as symbols of slavery," its analysis in May found that "more than 700 Confederate monuments in 31 states still stand."

In an analysis of race relations in the US, [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/12, story 3, 2:30, Diaz-Balart) Morgan Radford reported that "one of the most striking things we found when doing research for this piece is that data reveals that we've come to a point in our country where whites see anti-white bias as more prevalent than anti-black bias." Radford added, "experts on race relations say that this moment, this tension we're seeing will actually pass, but that it might get worse before it gets better."

**Lexington Mayor Accelerates Removal Of Confederate Statues In Wake Of Charlottesville.** [The Hill](#) (8/12, Manchester) "Briefing Room" blog Jim Gray, the mayor of Lexington, Kentucky, announced Saturday that he "is accelerating his plans to remove Confederate statues from key locations in the city due to violence spurred by white nationalists in Charlottesville."

### **Trump: US May Consider Military Option To Venezuelan Crisis.**

On Friday, President Trump met with Secretary of State Tillerson, Ambassador Haley, and National Security Adviser McMaster to discuss North Korea and Venezuela. While reporting on the joint news conference that followed focused predominately on the North Korean threat, Trump's assertion that he has not ruled out a possible military option in Venezuela received moderate coverage, most of which cast the approach as a strategy that is unlikely to succeed.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/11, Johnson, Wagner) reports Trump asserted he will not "rule out a military option" to confront Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and the nation's deepening economic and political crisis during the news conference. [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/11, 5:56

p.m. EDT, Blitzer) broadcast Trump calling Venezuela “a mess” and “a very sad situation.” Trump also [stated](#) that the US has “troops all over the world in places that are very, very far away. Venezuela is not very far away, and the people are suffering, and they’re dying. We have many options for Venezuela, including a possible military option, if necessary.”

Trump provided few details about the potential military option, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/11, Kesling, Kurmanaev, Venezuela) reports, but his amplified threat of a possible armed response came just a day after Maduro called for talks with Trump by phone or during a visit next month for the United Nations General Assembly. Ahead of Trump’s remarks on Friday, the White House said the President rejected that request until Maduro restores democracy in the nation.

Senior Pentagon correspondent Barbara Starr of [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (8/11, 6:14 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) noted that “there is a long history, decades-long, of some not very favorable feelings by many governments there about the US military,” which “could be pretty problematic” for such a strategy. She added that “to go into Venezuela with US military force and try and change the political and security landscape in Venezuela using American troops, which is what a typical military option is, I think at the moment the Pentagon is not thinking about doing that.”

Elise Labott of [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (8/11, 6:57 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) also said she does not believe the US will pursue that approach, and “in fact, his National Security Adviser, H.R. McMaster, just said in an interview within the last 24 to 48 hours or so that there is not a US military option” on the table. She said that “obviously the situation in Venezuela, the democracy, the human rights violations, is awful and they’re trying to get some kind of diplomacy together. The US earlier this week imposed sanctions on some members of the Venezuelan government, there’s been talk about oil sanctions on Venezuela, but even H.R. McMaster said if there was a military option, it would be up to countries lower in the hemisphere, like Brazil, like Columbia to be involved in.”

Former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (8/11, 6:26 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that Trump’s hint of possible military options in Venezuela goes against the need for the President “to speak with some degree of steadiness and responsibility.” He cautioned that “loose talk” in fact “does send mixed signals to the world, and very frankly, it undermines our power.”

Byron York of the Washington Examiner told [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (8/11, 6:52 p.m. EDT, Baier) that Trump’s remarks about Venezuela “kind of surprised me” because he “was not asked about a military option Venezuela. He was asked about the situation there and the United States has actually gotten some good reviews from some of the things it’s done lately, imposing sanctions on some prominent Venezuelans,” but then Trump “just volunteers” the possibility of a military option.

The [Miami Herald](#) (8/11, Mazzei) says Trump’s hard line on Venezuela “has steadily gained allies” in Latin America, however, and in an “unusual” and “striking” display of unity, the foreign ministers of 17 nations gathered in Lima this week “to make the rarest of admissions: When it comes to Venezuela, they agree with President Donald Trump. At least for now.” After the White House publicly labeled Venezuela a dictatorship, “other countries followed.” The “unexpected support explains in part why the White House has appeared to take a more deliberative approach to escalating its response against Venezuela,” says the Herald.

**Sources: Russia Poised To Benefit From Venezuelan Crisis.** In a special report, [Reuters](#) (8/11, Parraga, Ulmer) examines how “Moscow is using its position as Venezuela’s lender of last resort to gain more control over the OPEC nation’s crude reserves, the largest in the world,” even as numerous multinational firms “have all but written off their Venezuelan operations amid the nation’s tanking economy and chronic shortages of raw materials.” According to two people familiar with the discussions, the Venezuelan state-owned oil firm Petroleos de Venezuela “has been secretly negotiating since at least early this year with Russia’s biggest state-owned oil company, Rosneft,” and even offered “ownership interests in up to nine of Venezuela’s most productive petroleum projects.” Reuters says Maduro’s government now relies on “Russia’s money to finance everything from bond payments to imports of food and medicine amid severe national shortages,” and Rosneft has positioned itself “to acquire Venezuelan oil assets on the cheap.”

**WPost A1 Analysis: Economic Collapse Poses Greatest Threat To Maduro.** The [Washington Post](#) (8/11, A1, Faiola, Krygier) reports on its front page that Venezuela “is edging toward the economic brink after an internationally condemned election last month created an all-powerful congress loyal to Maduro,” causing the bolivar to fluctuate “more wildly than ever, a significant feat for a country saddled with the world’s highest inflation rate” and doubling “street prices for staples like bread and tomatoes” in under two weeks. According to analysts, “Maduro’s longevity

in office may now depend less on surviving an opposition challenge than on his ability to sidestep a catastrophic debt crisis," the threat of which the Post says "looms larger than any other."

**Ousted Venezuelan Attorney General Continues Investigations Into Officials.** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/11, Kurmanaev, Magalhaes, Alonso) reports that in the weeks leading to Venezuelan opposition Attorney General Luisa Ortega's flight from her office, she prepared and secured digital copies of documents that she says are crucial in proving that government officials were involved in corruption and conducted human rights abuses against activists. Ortega said she and the Justice Department are now sharing evidence, and attorneys and human rights activists suggested her inquiries could lead to additional sanctions against Maduro's regime, further isolating it financially.

### **Trump: "Unacceptable" That McConnell, Senate Republicans Failed To Pass Healthcare Reform.**

[Politico](#) (8/11, Lima) reports President Trump on Friday said he felt it was "unacceptable" that Senate Majority Leader McConnell and Senate Republicans failed to pass legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act. According to the President, "People have been talking about repeal-and-replace for seven years, long before I ever decided to be doing what I'm doing. Seven years they've been talking repeal-and-replace and it didn't happen. And not only didn't happen, it was a surprise, and it was a horrible surprise." Trump added he was "not impressed" by the unsuccessful congressional effort to pass a healthcare bill.

**House Freedom Caucus Calls For New ACA Repeal Vote.** The [AP](#) (8/11, Fram) reports the House Freedom Caucus "began an uphill fight Friday to force a fresh House vote this fall on erasing much of" the ACA without a replacement, which "seemed to have no chance of passing Congress." According to the AP, "the GOP-led Senate turned down a similar repeal-only bill last month, and top House Republicans have little interest in refighting a health care battle they were relieved to put aside after their chamber approved legislation in May." Rep. Jim Jordan insisted the petition for the vote is "not about calling out anyone, it's about doing what we said. ... I do think people deserve to see if their member of Congress is going to do what they campaigned on." He also told [Breitbart](#) (8/11, Moran) in an exclusive interview that GOP lawmakers should "act like Republicans, let's simply repeal Obamacare and do what we told the voters what we said we would do. Let's keep our promise." Jordan added, "I think if this is brought up to the floor, really, that many people are going to vote for the same bill they voted for 18 months ago. That's why we started this effort. We'll see how it unfolds."

**Meadows, MacArthur In Talks On Cost-Sharing Reductions.** [The Hill](#) (8/11, Sullivan) cites [Axios](#) in reporting House Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows and Rep. Tom MacArthur are engaged "in talks for a bill that would stabilize ObamaCare markets." According to The Hill, "The measure would fund key ObamaCare payments known as cost-sharing reductions, possibly in exchange for expanded flexibility favored by conservatives for states to waive ObamaCare regulations through broadening an existing provision known as 1332 waivers." Alyssa Farah, a spokeswoman for the House Freedom Caucus, said, "I'd emphasize it's merely in discussion phase between MacArthur and Meadows and hasn't been discussed by the Freedom Caucus."

**GOP Lawmakers Facing Criticism Over Healthcare Vote At Town Halls.** "The long August congressional recess, which Republicans hoped would begin a conversation about tax reform and must-pass budget measures, has so far seen another round of angry town halls focused on President Trump and the stalled effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act," the [Washington Post](#) (8/11) reports, as illustrated by the recent experiences of Reps. Earl "Buddy" Carter, Mark Meadows, and Doug LaMalfa.

**Poll: Majority Of Americans Want Administration To Stop Undermining ACA.** The [AP](#) (8/11, Fram) reports the Kaiser Family Foundation's new Kaiser Health Tracking Poll of 1,211 "adults" (8/1-8/6) has a "resounding" message for "Trump and congressional Republicans: Stop trying to scuttle the Obama health care law, and start trying to make it more effective." According to the poll, "around 4 in 5 want the Trump administration to take actions that help Obama's law function properly, rather than trying to undermine it." The poll also found "just 3 in 10 want Trump and Republicans to continue their drive to repeal and replace the statute." The AP adds that "ominously for the GOP, 6 in 10 say Trump and congressional Republicans are responsible for any upcoming health care problems since they control government. ... And by nearly 2-to-1, most say it's good that the Senate rejected the GOP repeal-and-replace bill last month."

### **White House Committed To Releasing Tax Reform Outline In September.**

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/11, Sink, Kapur, Gura) reports that according to a White House official,



"White House tax negotiators and congressional leaders are still planning to release a document in September outlining agreed-upon principles that will serve as a framework for a tax bill" and is "expected to expand on a two-page press release last month from the so-called Big Six involved in tax discussions." Meanwhile, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady said Friday during an interview with Bloomberg TV "that House and Senate tax writers were continuing to work on the details of a revamp over the August recess." Brady asserted, "We are on schedule to move this to the president's desk this year. ... It is an aggressive timetable, no question about that."

***GOP Considers Including Retroactive Cuts In Tax Reform Bill.*** "Republicans are debating whether parts of their tax-reform package should be retroactive in order to boost the economy by quickly putting more money in people's wallets," [The Hill](#) (8/11, Jagoda) reports, as "some Republicans argue that having tax changes take effect as early as January [2018] could help their case." According to The Hill, "The House Ways and Means and Senate Finance committees are weighing the issue as they write legislation that can be introduced after the August recess." While "several prominent Republicans" have expressed support for "retroactive tax changes in recent days," The Hill acknowledges that "even if tax changes aren't retroactive, taxpayers might still be able to see a tangible benefit from lower rates before the midterm elections." National Economic Council Director Cohn last week said, "The way the American public will know that we're successful is when they get their first check in 2018, they can have more disposable income in their check."

***DeVos: Tax Reform Discussions Include School Vouchers.*** The [AP](#) (8/11, Ho) reports Education Secretary DeVos said Wednesday in a interview that school vouchers are "certainly part of our discussion" regarding tax reform. The AP states that President Trump and DeVos have both "promoted the scholarships as a way to give parents greater choice in deciding where their children will go to school."

### **Politico Analysis: Trump Aides Anticipating "Really Tough" September.**

[Politico](#) (8/13, Dawsey) reported that "senior officials" in the White House are describing September "as 'brutal,' 'bad' or 'really tough' because of the confluence of complicated issues" coming next month. Politico said, "Aides hope to have a better blueprint for how" President Trump wants to move forward "on a series of thorny issues – the nation's debt ceiling, the 2018 federal budget, tax reform, infrastructure spending and perhaps another stab at repealing Obamacare – after a series of meetings in New York this week. Their goal is to partially temper Trump's expectations, hammer out some compromises and get a competing band of aides on the same page."

### **US Labor Force Participation Continues To Rise.**

[USA Today](#) (8/13, Davidson) reports that US employers added 209,000 jobs in July, pushing the labor force participation rate from 62.7 percent to 62.9 percent and representing what many observers consider a "vibrant labor market" that is continuing "to draw hundreds of thousands of Americans back into the labor force" and that is "especially lifting less-educated workers in their prime working years." The trend "could have significant implications for wage growth and interest rates," as rising labor force participation slows the decline of the unemployment rate, helping to prevent the acceleration of average pay increases and to temper inflation, "which could prompt the Federal Reserve to put off an anticipated third interest rate hike in 2017."

***Summers: Next Fed Chair Likely To Face Recession.*** In his [Washington Post](#) (8/13, Summers) column, Harvard economist Lawrence Summers writes that the end of Federal Reserve Chairwoman Janet Yellen's term in February brings to light the importance of the Administration selecting a successor equipped to address an economy that likely "will go into recession during the next Fed chair's four-year term," with the odds of a recession in the next term at "about two-thirds." Summers highlights several economic indicators – slow underlying growth, low unemployment, high asset prices, and an uncomfortable inflation- targeting framework – and argues that the Fed must be ready "to improvise through a combination of rhetoric and direct market intervention."

***Samuelson: Middle-Aged Capitalism Slowing Economy.*** In his [Washington Post](#) (8/13) column, Robert J. Samuelson writes that the "persisting puzzle" that the US economy can harbor both robust innovation yet only 2 percent annual growth comes from the fact that the economy is divided between "youthful" companies – such as Google and Apple – that spur innovation, and "middle-aged" companies that have "slowed the recovery." Samuelson argues that these claims are bolstered by a new study from the Journal of Economic Perspectives that examined all US

public companies from 1975 to 2015 and found that profits have become increasingly more concentrated in large tech firms and that corporate capital investment has dropped. Samuelson concludes that the Administration's efforts to accelerate economic growth through change in government policies may not reach success if the weaknesses of "middle-aged capitalism" persist.

### **Pruitt Calls For "Objective" Evaluation Of National Climate Assessment Report.**

[Politico](#) (8/11, Holden) reports EPA Administrator Pruitt said that his agency will review the accuracy of the National Climate Assessment. In a radio appearance, Pruitt called for "peer-reviewed, objective-reviewed methodology and evaluation," adding that "Science should not be politicized." Researchers claim the report is already peer reviewed by a 14-person committee at the National Academies, and worry that the EPA will attempt to suppress their findings.

**As EPA's Pruitt Works In Relative Secrecy, California Sues For Answers.** In a front page article, the [New York Times](#) (8/11, A1, Davenport, Lipton) details the "extraordinary measures" that Pruitt is taking "to conceal his actions," as he works to reverse the agency's "activist agenda." According to Christopher Sellers, an expert in environmental history who interviewed several agency employees, "There's a feeling of paranoia in the agency – employees feel like there's been a hostile takeover and the guy in charge is treating them like enemies." While "Such tensions are not unusual," the Times concedes, "they seem particularly bitter at the EPA." The piece goes on to detail problems that Pruitt's approach may cause, including confusion among employees and difficulty implementing policy.

Meanwhile, [Bloomberg News](#) (8/11, Harris) reports California has sued the EPA "to compel it to say what steps were taken to ensure its rule making and procedures remain impartial." The state's attorney general accuses Pruitt of becoming "the head of the agency responsible for implementing the very same rules that he had been working to overturn just moments earlier," and wants to know how Pruitt complied "with federal ethics rules and who can assume Pruitt's powers in the event he's disqualified from participating in a matter or recuses himself."

**Gore: Trump Has Increase Momentum Of Climate Movement.** [Reuters](#) (8/11, Mills) reports former Vice President Al Gore said on Friday that President Trump's rejection of the Paris climate agreement is "driving much more momentum in the climate movement." He added, "The entire world the next day re-doubled their commitments to the Paris agreement and in the U.S, the governors of our largest states and hundreds of mayors, thousands of business leaders all stood up to fill the gap."

## **Editorial Wrap-Up**

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### **New York Times.**

**"The Hate He Dares Not Speak Of."** The [New York Times](#) (8/13) editorializes, "Let's discard the fiction that President Trump wasn't placating white supremacists by responding so weakly" to the violence in Charlottesville. "The neo-Nazis heard his message loud and clear." Trump "is alone in modern presidential history in his willingness to summon demons of bigotry and intolerance in service to himself." His "fear of naming the source of Saturday's violence sharply contrasts with his eagerness to call out Islamist terror."

**"Mr. Macron's Homefront Flub."** A [New York Times](#) editorial says the domestic outcry over French President Emmanuel Macron's campaign promise to grant official recognition to the nation's first lady effectively forced Macron on Tuesday "to abandon the idea." In light of Macron's diminishing popularity, the timing of the president's abandonment of the idea "could hardly have been worse," the Times says. Macron's government is now pushing for a "charter of transparency" to grant the first spouse a clearly-defined role, but he will soon face "the hard part" of his "promised agenda – budget cuts and labor reforms." The Times contends the first lady proposal is "not a bad idea," but says Macron cannot afford "squandering any more of his dwindling political capital."

**"The Real Suspense In Kenya."** The [New York Times](#) (8/13) editorializes, "Kenya's national elections last Tuesday were closely watched around the world, less for the results than for the threat of violence that has marred past elections." Raila Odinga, "a perennial loser, began crying foul long before the election commission declared that President Uhuru Kenyatta was re-elected" by a nine-point margin. Odinga's "unsubstantiated claims have already touched off rioting in parts of the country, and the violence could spread." The Times says that Odinga has "fanned the embers of ethnic strife," which is "disgraceful and unnecessary."

### **Washington Post.**



***“The Specter Of Civil War In Venezuela.”*** The [Washington Post](#) (8/13) editorializes, “Miserable as the people of Venezuela may be under the increasingly repressive and irrational rule” of President Nicolás Maduro, “they had fresh reason for hope last week – until President Trump’s blundering words on Friday.” The Post says that “the damage Mr. Trump did is mostly intangible,” but he “should not give the regime any new excuses to rally its dwindling band of loyalists – or to enforce obedience on everyone else.”

***“Don’t Ignore A Major Threat To The Chesapeake Bay.”*** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/13) writes that Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan should proceed with his plan announced last week to conduct limited dredging behind the Conowingo Dam – the power station stopping the Susquehanna River and the source of much of the fresh water flowing into the Chesapeake Bay – but only if he also addresses the bay’s nitrogen and phosphorus pollution, which the Post considers “the bay’s biggest problem.”

### **Wall Street Journal.**

***“The Poison Of Identity Politics.”*** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/13) links the violence in Charlottesville to the rise of identity politics, and writes that Democrats seemed more interested in tarring President Trump this weekend than in addressing racial and ethnic divisions.

***“Dan Loeb’s Political Offense.”*** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/13) argues that a recent poorly phrased Facebook post by activist hedge-fund investor and charter school supporter Daniel Loeb has drawn heavy criticism not because of Loeb’s choice of language but because of his support for charters in New York. The Journal asserts that unions and their political subsidiaries – particularly, AFT President Randi Weingarten and New York Mayor Bill de Blasio – are choosing to attack Loeb on grounds of racism because they cannot defend their own record of not addressing failing public schools.

***“Philadelphia’s Soda Tax Bust.”*** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/13) writes that a recent Tax Foundation report found that Philadelphia’s new 1.5 cent-per-ounce soda tax is harming low-income earners and generating less revenue than proponents anticipated. The Journal highlights lost income and jobs by truck drivers, supermarkets, and gas stations as a result of the post-tax 45 percent decline in soft drink sales; the \$6.9 million less revenue in expected tax collections; and the rise in beer purchases as soda consumption has shifted to ale.

## **Big Picture**

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### **Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.**

#### ***Wall Street Journal:***

[Trump Chips Away At Postcrisis Wall Street Rules](#)  
[Trump Pressed To Disavow White-Nationalist Groups](#)  
[Top US General Readies Military Plan For North Korea. But Pushes For Diplomacy](#)

#### ***New York Times:***

[Hurt And Angry, Charlottesville Tries To Regroup From Violence](#)  
[White House Acts To Stem Fallout From Trump’s First Charlottesville Remarks](#)  
[How A Conservative TV Giant Is Ridding Itself Of Regulation](#)  
[In Total Eclipse’s Path, Hope And Uncertainty In Rural Kentucky](#)  
[Cuomo Calls Manhattan Traffic Plan An Idea ‘Whose Time Has Come’](#)

#### ***Washington Post:***

[US Says Nuclear War Isn’t Imminent](#)  
[Trump’s Fraying Relationship With GOP Colors Ala. Special Election](#)  
[Va. Suspect Was Nazi Sympathizer](#)  
[Fighting Fire, Then FEMA](#)  
[Hate-Filled Marchers Are ‘Not Charlottesville’](#)  
[White House Seeks To Quell Backlash Over Trump Remarks](#)

#### ***Financial Times:***

[Donald Trump Criticised For Failing To Denounce Hate Groups](#)  
[Brussels Seeks Tighter Vetting Of Foreign Takeovers](#)  
[Record ETF inflows Fuel Price Bubble Fears](#)

## **Washington Times:**

[Fellow Republicans Pressure Trump To Forcefully And Clearly Condemn White Nationalism](#)  
[Chicago Still Leads Nation In Homicides; Violent Crime On Rise In Other Big Cities](#)  
[Tillerson: A Calm And Cautious Voice For A Volatile Foreign Policy Messenger](#)  
[North Korea Rhetoric Remains Sharp But Shows Signs Of Cooling](#)  
[Clashes Over Title VII Protection Of Sexual Orientation Make Way Toward Supreme Court](#)  
[Clinton Email Case Far From Closure As FBI Hands Over More Classified Documents To State](#)

## **Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:**

**ABC:** Virginia-White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism Clash-Victims; WH-White Nationalism Clash; Scaramucci Interview; North Korea Threats; Pharmacies-Price Manipulation Lawsuit; Police Violence Video; Oklahoma-Train Derailment; Tom Cruise-Stunt Action; Football Player-Hospital Volunteering.

**CBS:** Virginia-White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism Car Mowing-Suspect; White Nationalism Clash-Victims; WH-White Nationalism Clash; Iraq-US Casualties; Syria-White Helmet Casualties; NFL-National Anthem; Amazon-Eclipse Glasses Recall; Lottery Winner; Milwaukee Police Training; Rice Branding Controversy; Helicopter Parenting.

**NBC:** Virginia-White Nationalism Clash; WH-White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism History; White Nationalism Clash-Seattle; North Korea Threats; Opioid Epidemics-Chinese Import; Teen Detectives; NASA-Voyager Probes.

## **Network TV At A Glance:**

White Nationalism Clash – 21 minutes, 50 seconds

WH-White Nationalism Clash – 8 minutes

North Korea Threats – 4 minutes, 20 seconds

## **Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:**

**ABC:** Wisconsin-Car Show Shooting; White Nationalism Clash; North Korea Threats;

**CBS:** White Nationalism Clash; North Korea Threats; Gasoline Price; Wall Street News.

**FOX:** White Nationalism Clash; WH-White Nationalism Clash; Western Africa-Terror Attack; Southern California-Wildfire.

**NPR:** White Nationalism Clash; Iraq-US Casualties.

## **Washington Schedule**

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### **Today's Events In Washington.**

#### **White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Signs a memorandum on addressing China's laws, policies, practices, and actions related to intellectual property, innovation, and technology; meets with the National Economic Council; speaks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan by telephone.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Continues trip to Central and South America, on behalf of President Donald Trump, with stops in Cartagena and Bogota, Colombia, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Santiago, Chile, and Panama City, Panama; meets leaders from govt and the business community to 'reaffirm the president's commitment to deepening bilateral trade and investment ties with the region' and 'continue the administration's support of security cooperation, business engagement, agriculture, and infrastructure development.'

**US Senate:** On recess until 5 September.

**US House:** On recess until 5 September.

**Other:** No notable event scheduled.

## **Last Laughs**

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### **Late Night Political Humor.**

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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