

To: Herbert Frost[bert_frost@nps.gov]
From: Viets, Alexa
Sent: 2017-02-22T07:48:22-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, February 22, 2017
Received: 2017-02-22T07:48:35-05:00

Bert,

This might be a flag. The Dept. has not given us a go-ahead to respond to this letter.

The [Huffington Post](#) (2/21, D'Angelo) reports that "an explanation provided earlier this month" by Fritzke was "not enough to allay Chaffetz's fears." On Feb. 2, Fritzke responded in writing to the Chaffetz's "initial inquiry that the Twitter post was innocent and that she first learned of the designation on Dec. 28."

This one is also new news ... but not sure if it will be of as much interest.

NPS To Award Grant For Study Of Mammals In Jemez.

Tx,
Alexa

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bulletin Intelligence** <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Date: Wed, Feb 22, 2017 at 7:05 AM
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, February 22, 2017
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

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DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2017 7:00 AM EST

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DOI In The News

Zinke, Perry To Receive Senate Vote After Presidents Day Break.

The "Morning Energy" blog of [Politico](#) (2/21) reported that both Interior secretary nominee Ryan Zinke and Energy secretary nominee Rick Perry "will have to wait another week for Senate action on their nominations." Zinke will receive "a cloture vote on Feb. 27 once the Senate returns from its Presidents Day break." Perry's nomination will be the second "considered after the Senate finishes up with Zinke's."

Sources: Trump Set To Issue Orders On Emissions, Waterways Rules.

Drawing on reporting by the Washington Post, [The Hill](#) (2/21, Henry) reports

that according to unnamed sources, President Trump is poised to issue executive orders instructing the EPA to rewrite a 2015 rule limiting greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants. Another order would "instruct the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to redo another 2015 rule that gives the federal government more regulatory power over waterways," and immediately lift a moratorium on federal land coal leasing. [Reuters](#) (2/21) reports that the orders will also instruct the Interior Department "to lift a ban on new coal mining leases on federal lands."

Additional coverage was provided by [U.S. News & World Report](#) (2/21, Valdmanis), the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (2/21, Carney), [MarketWatch](#) (2/21, Schroeder), and the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (2/21, Eilperin, Mufson).

Chaffetz Says Trump "Absolutely" Wants To Take Action On Bears Ears.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (2/21, Roche) reports that President Trump "absolutely" wants to take action to change the Bears Ears National Monument designation, according to Rep. Jason Chaffetz. Chaffetz said, "I hope it is rescinded. The second option would be to reduce it to a very, very small size. That has more precedent. But I want to go back and do it the right way." But "before that can happen, the congressman said the president's pick for secretary of the interior, Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke, needs to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate."

Additional coverage was provided by [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (2/21).

Chaffetz Looking Into Bryce Canyon National Park's Tweet Welcoming Bears Ears Monument. The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Eilperin) reports that pointing to a tweet Bryce Canyon National Park officials posted in late December, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz is looking into whether they had advance notice of the national monument designation. Chaffetz wrote Bryce Canyon National Park interim superintendent Sue Fritzke that "the message created the appearance that officials at Bryce Canyon coordinated with the White House prior to this most recent designation." Chaffetz "asked for the interim superintendent to answer four questions, including details on any park employees who had been involved in discussions concerning the designation and 'when was a Bears Ears map slot created in the Bryce Canyon National Park's front desk national parks and monuments map area?'"

The [Huffington Post](#) (2/21, D'Angelo) reports that "an explanation provided earlier this month" by Fritzke was "not enough to allay Chaffetz's fears." On Feb. 2, Fritzke responded in writing to the Chaffetz's "initial inquiry that the Twitter post was innocent and that she first learned of the designation on Dec. 28."

Departure Of Outdoor Show From Utah Criticized By Beneficiaries.

The [AP](#) (2/21, McCOMBS) reports that "small business owners joined Democratic state leaders Tuesday to speak out against Utah's Republican leadership for what they called a stubborn stance on public lands that will leave the state without an estimated \$45 million in direct spending" the Outdoor Retailer shows "bring annually." Salt Lake County Councilman Jim Bradley said, "Outdoor recreation is a sustainable business. It will last forever if we protect the product."

In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/21), Utah state Rep. Timothy Hawkes writes that the decision by the outdoor companies means that they have “removed themselves entirely from the debate over public lands in Utah,” which be for the “best if their approach to dialog means embracing over-simplified narratives and a perverse kind of public policy hostage taking.” According to Hawkes, “the trouble is that OR conflates support for public lands with support for top-down, coercive policies that often disregard meaningful local involvement or the need to balance environmental stewardship with legitimate needs for energy and rural economic development.” Hawkes writes that “energy jobs in Utah pay nearly double the average wage and, in rural areas like San Juan County, provide desperately needed income, tax revenue and social stability.” He acknowledges that “tourism and recreation create jobs, too, but often minimum-wage and seasonal ones.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [Philly \(PA\)](#) (2/21, McCOMBS), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/21, McCombs), and the [Daily Mail](#) (2/21).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (2/21, Landers), the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (2/21, Dettmer), and [Fusion](#) (2/21, Harvey).

Additional Coverage: Open Houses Being Held To Discuss Plan To Reintroduce Grizzly Bears To The North Cascades.

Additional coverage that open houses are being held to discuss the plan to reintroduce grizzly bears to the North Cascades was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (2/21, Dickie) and [KUOW-FM Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (2/21, Flatt).

Calls To Lessen Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Criticized.

In an editorial, the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (2/21) raises concerns about President Trump could seek to undo the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument designation. The paper points to “the progress that has been made” following “a concerted effort” between “local business and government leaders to market and promote” the monument. The paper concludes that “any attempt to roll back the monument designation will stall economic development efforts and reignite a bitter debate.”

America’s Great Outdoors

National Park Service

WWII Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument Vandalized.

[Reuters](#) (2/21, Simpson) reports that the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument and World War II Memorial were “defaced with graffiti over the Presidents Day weekend, the third major vandalism of memorials in the U.S. capital since 2013, a National Park Service spokesman said on Tuesday.” The memorials were “defaced with a marker pen sometime from Sunday night into Monday morning, spokesman Mike Litterst said.”

Fox News (2/21) reports that "similar graffiti was found on a power box along the National Mall." According to officials, "the Washington Monument references President John F. Kennedy's assassination and the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks." The markings are being "removed by the National Mall and Memorial Parks monument preservation crew, and they are using a mild, gel-type architectural paint stripper that is safe for use on historic stone."

Additional coverage was provided by CNN (2/21, Levenson), the Washington (DC) Post (2/21, Stein, Hedgpeth), U.S. News & World Report (2/21, Simpson), The Blaze (2/21, Scanlon), WTTG-TV Washington (DC) Washington (2/21), WRC-TV Washington (DC) Washington (2/21), WRTV-TV Indianapolis (IN) Indianapolis (2/21), WXYZ-TV Detroit (MI) Detroit (2/21), and WTVR-TV Richmond (VA) Richmond, VA (2/21).

Coverage by the AP was picked up by Philly (PA) (2/21), U.S. News & World Report (2/21), the Washington (DC) Post (2/21), the Washington (DC) Times (2/21), the San Francisco (CA) Chronicle (2/21), the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (2/21), the Lowell (MA) Sun (2/21), the Boston (MA) Herald (2/21), the Daily Mail (2/21), WUSA-TV Washington (DC) Washington (2/21), WMUR-TV Manchester (NH) Manchester, NH (2/21), and WAVY-TV Norfolk (VA) Norfolk, VA (2/21).

NPS Investigating "Refugees Welcome" Banner At Statue Of Liberty.

The Washington Times (2/21) reports the National Park Service is investigating who was behind the unfurling of "a giant banner at the Statue of Liberty saying 'Refugees Welcome.'" Spokesman Jerry Willis said the banner was hung from the public observation desk and was taken down more than an hour later.

The Hill (2/21, Firozi) reports that "it is illegal to attach banners to national monuments and the United States." According to the article, "an activist who identified himself only as David told Fusion that he was one of the people behind the banner." The person "said the idea came about in response to President Trump's travel ban."

Additional coverage as provided by USA Today (2/21, Ventura), CBS News (2/21), CNN (2/21, Jackson), the New York Post (2/21, Furfaro), The Week (2/21, Garcia), RT (2/21), Yahoo! News (2/21, Jacobo), WTTG-TV Washington (DC) Washington (2/21), WRTV-TV Indianapolis (IN) Indianapolis (2/21, Boggs), and WXYZ-TV Detroit (MI) Detroit (2/21, Boggs).

Coverage by the AP was picked up by the Washington (DC) Post (2/21), the Minneapolis (MN) Star Tribune (2/21), the Daily Mail (2/21, Gaul), WRC-TV Washington (DC) Washington (2/21), WTVR-TV Richmond (VA) Richmond, VA (2/21), and KCPQ-TV Seattle (WA) Seattle (2/21).

Police Suspect Vandalism After Shaw Memorial Damaged.

The AP (2/21) reports that "a sword has broken off again from" the Robert Gould Shaw and Massachusetts 54th Regiment Memorial. According to National Park Service spokesman Sean Hennessey, "it's happened frequently enough that there are fiberglass replacement swords on hand." Boston authorities are "investigating after the damage was reported Tuesday." They suspect vandalism.

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Boston (MA) Herald (2/21), U.S. News & World Report (2/21), Philly (PA) (2/21), the Washington (DC) Post (2/21), and the Washington (DC) Times (2/21).

Additional coverage was provided by the Boston (MA) Globe (2/21, Annear).

Mild Winter Means Cherry Blossoms Will Peak Early.

The Washington Post (2/21, Fritz) reports that following "the second-warmest January since the year 2000," cherry trees are "already sprouting buds" at the Tidal Basin. According to the article, "it suggests we're probably going to hit peak bloom well before the average date of April 4."

Progress Made On Culling Yellowstone Bison Herd.

The AP (2/21) reports that "wildlife managers estimate that more than 570 Yellowstone National Park bison have been killed so far this winter." The figures "show that bison managers are making progress on their goal to eliminate 1,300 bison from the Yellowstone herd." The article notes that "a 2000 management plan calls for a population of 3,000 bison in the region, but about 5,500 live there now." According to a Yellowstone report, "179 bison have been transferred to Native American tribes for slaughter and 359 have been killed by hunters as of last Friday."

NPS To Award Grant For Study Of Mammals In Jemez.

The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (2/22) reports that the National Park Service "announced this week that it plans to award a \$100,000 grant to assess mammal response to wildfires and forest restoration in the Jemez Mountains in New Mexico." Officials said in a statement, "We are conducting a project to assess the responses of mule deer, elk, and black bears to large-scale forest restoration treatments and recent wildfires on lands managed by the Valles Caldera National Preserve and Santa Fe National Forest in the Jemez Mountains." The NPS said, "This proposal is part of a long-term assessment of the responses of large mammals to forest restoration treatments that started in 2012 with the capture and placement of GPS collars on mule deer, elk, and black bears; the project will continue through at least 2019 pending continued funding availability."

Mesa Verde National Park Receives Field Trip Grant.

The Durango (CO) Herald (2/21) reports that Mesa Verde National Park has been "selected, for a second year, to receive field-trip grant funding from the National Park Foundation to support the 'Every Kid in a Park' program."

Fish and Wildlife Service

Opening Statements Heard in Second Malhuer Standoff Trial.

The AP (2/21, Dubois) reports that "the federal prosecutors who failed to convict Ammon Bundy returned to court Tuesday to try four lesser-known men who

followed Bundy's call to take a hard stand against the government and occupy a national wildlife refuge in Oregon." According to the article, "like the defendants in the first trial, the primary charge facing the men is conspiracy to impede Interior Department employees from doing their jobs at the refuge through the use of force, threats or intimidation." Assistant U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Barrow "spent a good portion of his opening statement telling jurors that a conspiracy does not have to include people gathering around a conference table and drafting a written agreement."

Reuters (2/21, Sherwood) reports that "in the defense's opening argument, a lawyer for one of those charged countered that the men were exercising their constitutional rights to peaceably assemble and seek redress of grievances."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Bristol (VA) Herald Courier (2/21, Dubois), U.S. News & World Report (2/21, Dubois), the Washington (DC) Times (2/21, Dubois), the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (2/21, Dubois), the Seattle (WA) Times (2/21, Dubois), Philly (PA) (2/21, Dubois), and the Daily Mail (2/21).

Additional coverage was provided by the Oregonian (2/21, Bernstein).

FWS Expected To Make Status Decision On Manatee Soon.

CNN (2/21, Gast) reports that "in the next several weeks, the US Fish and Wildlife Service is expected to make public its final decision on whether to 'downlist' the manatee from an endangered to a threatened species a marker of progress in the species' recovery." The agency's "decision will come amid signs that the manatee is thriving." The article notes that "for the third straight year, spotters counted more than 6,000 manatees navigating Florida's waters." However, "some believe reclassification is premature."

Additional coverage was provided by the Miami (FL) Herald (2/21, Staletovich), the Tallahassee (FL) Democrat (2/20, Gillis), the Atlanta (GA) Journal-Constitution (2/21, DiPentima), and WITI-TV Milwaukee (WI) Milwaukee (2/21).

Sullivan Urges Board Of Game To Repeal Predator Control Regulations.

The Alaska Public Radio Network (2/21, Bross) reports that Sen. Dan Sullivan is "urging the State Board of Game to get behind legislation to repeal a rule regulating predator control on federal wildlife refuges in Alaska." Sullivan is "sponsoring a resolution of disapproval similar to one already passed by the US House." He "addressed the Game Board during their meeting in Fairbanks on Tuesday (Feb. 21) telling members he needs their help fighting repeal opponents who he said are mis-characterizing state wildlife management."

Judge Approves Ottawa River Group Deal.

The Toledo (OH) Blade (2/22, Henry) reports that "an agreement requiring a 10-member group of industries to compensate the public for decades of Ottawa River pollution by investing heavily in the western Lake Erie watershed was signed in open court Tuesday by U.S. District Judge James Carr." The consortium, also known as the Ottawa River Group, "struck a deal with the U.S.

Department of Justice and the Ohio Attorney General's Office last year to settle many unresolved violations pertaining to habitat destruction, fish and wildlife deformities, public health impacts, and lost recreational opportunities in exchange for its 2011 purchase of a 175-acre tract of environmentally sensitive property formerly owned by the Thomas Corogin family of Ottawa County for \$575,000." The group has "agreed to put \$400,000 of improvements including wetlands enhancement into the site about 30 miles east of Toledo, at the confluence of the Portage and Little Portage rivers near the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge."

Additional Coverage: World's Oldest Seabird Hatches New Chick At Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge.

Additional coverage that Wisdom, "a Laysan albatross thought to be at least 66 years old, has hatched yet another chick at the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge and Battle of Midway National Memorial in Hawaii," was provided by [NPR](#) (2/21, KENNEDY), the [Daily Mail](#) (2/21, Borkhataria), [KSJR-FM Collegeville \(MN\)](#) Collegeville, MN (2/21, Kennedy), and [KTEP-FM El Paso \(TX\)](#) El Paso, TX (2/21, Kennedy).

Endangered Species Act Under Attack.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/21, Board) editorializes that the Endangered Species Act is under attack and "were Congress and President Trump to accede to the demands of anti-regulatory zealots and gut the nature-protecting act, it would be calamitous for hundreds of plant and animal species, local ecosystems, and the complex interconnections that sustain the natural world." It notes that "the usual argument against the act is roughly that it is not used to protect species, but to stifle development." However, "what that argument misses, according to the Center for Biological Diversity, is that the act has helped keep nearly every species added to the list from fading into extinction." The paper argues that "success here should be measured by saves, and by that yardstick, the Endangered Species Act has been a clear success only 30 species have disappeared after being placed on the list."

In his column for the [Florida Times-Union](#) (2/21, Woods), Mark Woods writes that "a recent Senate hearing put a target on the act, with some lawmakers saying it stifles job creation, is unfair to landowners and encroaches on states' rights." Woods supports the panelists who pointed "to the alarming rate of species extinction on earth and the success stories in America."

Bureau of Land Management

House Committee To Investigate Whether BLM Obstructed Probe Into Burning Man Fraud.

[Federal Times](#) (2/21, Ware) reports that the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has "requested an investigation into allegations that employees of the Bureau of Land Management destroyed federal records, tampered with witnesses and obstructed a congressional investigation." In a

letter dated Feb. 14, House Oversight Chairman Jason Chaffetz asked Department of the Interior Deputy Inspector General Mary L. Kendall "to follow up on possible violations to the Federal Records Act and other questionable actions documented in an 'Investigative Report of Ethical Violations and Misconduct by Bureau of Land Management Officials' received Jan. 30, 2017."

The Deseret (UT) News (2/21, O'Donoghue) reports that in addressing the Utah Legislature on Tuesday, Sen. Mike Lee told Rep. Mike Noel "about the ramifications that may come from a recently released federal investigation concerning the actions of BLM agent Dan Love." Lee "said such actions are what come from an oversized federal agency using its own law enforcement arm."

Judge Allows Environmentalists To Intervene In Twin Metals Lawsuit.

The AP (2/21) reports that "a federal judge has approved an environmental group's request to intervene in a lawsuit over mineral rights leases for the proposed Twin Metals copper-nickel mine near Ely in northeastern Minnesota." Judge Susan Richard Nelson held "in a ruling Tuesday that Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness meets the legal requirements for becoming a defendant in the lawsuit."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the Bristol (VA) Herald Courier (2/21), U.S. News & World Report (2/21), the Washington (DC) Times (2/21), and KSTP-TV Minneapolis-St. Paul (MN) Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN (2/21).

Additional coverage was provided by the Virginia (MN) Mesabi Daily Tribune (2/21, Burnes).

Sportsmen Ramp Up Pressure On Chaffetz Over Law Enforcement Bill.

The High Country (CO) News (2/21, Worby) reports that Rep. Jason Chaffetz appeared to have listened to sportsmen when he pulled "the public lands transfer bill he recently introduced, HR 621." Now, "those groups hope he'll listen again when it comes to companion bill HR 622, the Local Enforcement for Local Lands Act." The bill, sponsored by Chaffetz, would "hand a difficult job enforcing federal regulations on public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service to local police." According to the article, "sportsmen fear that this would undermine federal agencies' ability to manage those 438 million acres, making the lands more vulnerable not only to abuse but to potential transfer as well."

US Geological Survey

Three Small Earthquakes Recorded In Oklahoma By USGS.

The AP (2/21) reports the US Geological Survey reported "three small earthquakes have been recorded in Oklahoma." The largest temblor was "a magnitude 3.0...recorded at 2:05 a.m. Tuesday near Waynoka." In recent years, "thousands of earthquakes have been recorded" and "many have been linked to the underground injection of wastewater from oil and natural gas operations." Regulators in the state "have ordered oil and natural gas producers to close injection wells in certain areas or reduce the volume of fluids they inject."

Securing America's Energy Future

Offshore Energy Development

Conservationists Prepare For New Fight Over Offshore Seismic Testing.

The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (2/21) reports exploration companies are preparing for seismic blast testing for oil and natural gas offshore South Carolina, a little more than a month after it was originally stopped. Conservation groups are preparing to stop any new testing, and they say the focus will be on jobs and the economy. While conservationists say the seismic testing harms marine animals, pro-drilling groups say that technology has made operations safer. Randall Luthi, of the National Ocean Industries Association, said, "Industry continues to have interest in updating grossly outdated offshore resource estimates so that future decisions are based on sound science rather than political hyperbole." Business groups have joined conservationists over concerns the energy industry would negatively affect the coastal tourism revenue.

BOEM Withdraws Financial Assurance Rules For Additional Review.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (2/21, Davis) reports that "more stringent financial assurance requirements for offshore production facilities, roundly criticized by the oil and gas industry, were withdrawn late Friday to allow the Trump administration time to review them." The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management "in early January had extended a deadline by six months to implement the requirements, designed to ensure Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lease and grant holders are able to pay for decommissioning and removing offshore production facilities." But on Friday, BOEM "withdrew the orders altogether to give the new administration time 'to review the complex financial assurance program.'"

Texas Commission Grants Award To Help Shrimpers Recover From Gulf Oil Spill.

[Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (2/21) reports the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality announced a \$300,000 award to the Texas Shrimp Association to help the industry recover from the Deepwater Horizon spill. The commission announced the grant on Monday as part of a larger effort to help the state's Gulf regions recover from the economic problems related to the spill. The association's Executive Director Andrea Hance said the money will be used to market Texas shrimp as safe and edible despite the oil spill.

Onshore Energy Development

Army Corps Of Engineers Will Not Extend Evacuation Date For Protest Camp.

The [AP](#) (2/21, Blake Nicholson |, Ap) reports the US Army Corps of Engineers said it will not extend Wednesday's deadline for Dakota Access pipeline protesters to vacate their camp on federal land in North Dakota. Amid concerns of flooding and environmental dangers, the Corps told people on February 3 that they must take their possessions and leave the camp by 2 pm Wednesday. Gov.

Doug Burgum's spokesman Mike Nowatzki said that arrests are possible if people refuse to leave.

ABC News (2/22) reports Energy Transfer Partners said in the filing that oil could start flowing in as early as two weeks, beating previous estimates.

DAPL Protesters, Law Enforcement Anticipate Stand-Off Over Wednesday Deadline. Reuters (2/21, McLaughlin, Sylvester) reports up to 300 protesters near the site of the Dakota Access pipeline "are bracing for a stand-off" as North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum and the Army Corps of Engineers have set a Wednesday deadline at 2 p.m. for the demonstrators to leave the Army Corps land in Cannon Ball. If protesters choose to remain, law enforcement and camp leaders predict a "showdown" resulting in numerous arrests.

Standing Rock Sioux Casino Suffers On Economy, Protests. The AP (2/21) reports the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is facing a budget shortfall of nearly \$6 million due to declining revenue at its Prairie Knights Casino. Tribal leaders say a slowing economy, a snowy winter, and the closure of the main access road to do pipeline protests affected the casino's bottom line. The Washington Times (2/21, Richardson) reports LaRoy Kingsley, spokesman for the casino, said, "There's absolutely no doubt that the protests and the closing of the bridge have had a significant impact on people's ability to get to the casino and just their comfort level driving down." He also pointed to the agricultural economy suffering, the energy downturn and the bad weather as factors compounding the problem. Christopher Herrera, a spokesman for the Rainforest Action Network, blamed those associated with the pipeline for the budget shortfall. He said, "The fact that casino management have allegedly cited activities by protesters does not in any way negate the reason for the protesters' presence which is the assault on human rights, the violation of Indigenous rights, the direct threat to clean water, the desecration of sacred lands."

Coal Plants Keep Closing On Trump's Watch.

In an installment of an ongoing series "examining the ups and downs of the coal industry and whether President Trump can save it," ClimateWire (2/21) reports that the "rapid clip" of coal-fired power plant closures not been impacted by Trump's pledge to roll back environmental regulations. E&E suggests that utilities "have shown little appetite for returning" to coal, particularly amid stagnant demand growth and the increasing competitiveness of alternatives like natural gas and renewables. The article recalls that in December, Southern Company Tom Fanning told E&E News that "what's driving this change has nothing to do with Trump and has nothing to do with state regulators. ... It has everything to do with customers and technology." The article highlights the impending closure of the Bailly Generating Station in northwestern Indiana, an area where the impact of the trend has been "particularly stark" given its long-term reliance on coal-fired generation and the jobs that the plant provides.

Additional Coverage Of Decision To Close Navajo Generating Station.

Additional coverage of the decision to close the Navajo Generating Station at the end of 2019 was provided by Natural Gas Intelligence (2/21, Nemec).

Additional Coverage Of Repeal Of Stream Protection Rule.

Additional coverage of the repeal of the Stream Protection Rule was provided by [PBS NewsHour](#) (2/21, Sheldon), [Vox](#) (2/21, Plumer), [Mother Jones](#) (2/21, Drum), [MSNBC](#) (2/21, Benen), and [Salon](#) (2/21, Cesca).

BLM's Methane Rule Supported.

In an op-ed for the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/22, Singer), Thomas Singer, Senior Policy Adviser, Western Environmental Law Center, writes in support of the Bureau of Land Management's "new rule to minimize methane waste from venting, flaring and leaks." According to Singer, "every year, oil and gas operations in New Mexico waste about \$100 million worth of natural gas, resulting in \$6 million in lost state royalties." He urges the U.S. Senate to not "undo the BLM methane rule." Singer argues that voiding the rule would "result in continued waste, forgone royalties for taxpayers and widespread pollution."

Empowering Native American Communities

Legal Hurdles Remain For Elk Grove Casino.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/21, Chang) reports that "the proposed Indian casino in Elk Grove still has several legal hurdles to clear, despite assurances from the Wilton Rancheria tribe that the \$400 million project can move forward smoothly." Tribal chairman Raymond Hitchcock "announced last week that the federal government has confirmed it will take the tribe's newly purchased 36-acre property into trust, a process that had been delayed by the presidential transition." However, "whether the tribe can be free to build a casino on its sovereign tribal ground remains an open question." According to the article, "at the heart of the issue is a development agreement that covers the 36 acres the tribe purchased from Dallas-based Howard Hughes Corp."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Nation Sun News](#) (2/21).

Additional Coverage: Testing Finds IT Vulnerabilities At BIA, BIE.

Additional coverage that "an evaluation of select information technology security controls within a Department of Interior data center has found more than 20,000 critical, high-risk vulnerabilities left unmitigated on 24 systems owned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education" was provided by the [Federal Times](#) (2/21, Ware) and [Federal Computer Week](#) (2/21, Gunter).

Office Of Insular Affairs

Congressional Delegation Visiting Saipan.

[Marianas Variety](#) (2/22) reports that "a U.S. congressional delegation, led by Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah and chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, will arrive on Saipan on the afternoon of Wednesday, Feb. 22." According to the article, "the group has been to Hawaii and American Samoa and will go on from the Marianas to Guam to complete their trip."

Tackling America's Water Challenges

Court Supports Order To Divert Water To Support Salmon.

The [AP](#) (2/21) reports that "a federal appeals court has upheld a decision by federal officials to release water from a Northern California dam to prevent a possible salmon die-off." The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals held Tuesday the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation "had the authority to release the additional water from Lewiston Dam in 2013 to help migrating winter-run salmon in the lower Klamath River."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Eureka \(CA\) Times Standard](#) (2/21), the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/21), and [U.S. News & World Report](#) (2/21).

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (2/21, Egelko) and the [Redheaded Blackbelt \(CA\)](#) (2/21).

Study Links Climate Change To Reduction In Colorado River Flows.

The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (2/21, Davis) reports that "hot weather related to long-term climate change has been a prime cause of this century's chronic shortfalls in Colorado River flows, a new study says." The researchers, Jonathan Overpeck of the University of Arizona and Bradley Udall of Colorado State University, noted that "this is the first study to formally link climate change to the river's declining flows." According to the researchers, "temperature increases averaging 1.6 degrees Fahrenheit above normal in the river's Upper Basin caused one-sixth to one-half of the river's dramatic flow declines."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Environment News Network](#) (2/21), [EurekAlert](#) (2/21) and [Science Daily](#) (2/21).

Top National News

Administration Issues "Sweeping" Changes To Deportation Policy.

DHS Secretary Kelly released implementation memos on [border security](#) and [immigration enforcement](#) on Tuesday, calling for what media outlets are nearly unanimously calling "sweeping" policy changes. Coverage highlights new standards that will permit the deportation of nearly everyone who is in the US illegally, and most reports also note that President Trump is for now exempting "Dreamers" those brought to the US illegally when they were children despite doubts that he will continue to do so. News accounts are fairly straightforward, though analyses and commentary pieces are decidedly hostile toward the new policies.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (2/21, lead story, 4:00) opened with the story and had the longest report of the three broadcast networks, with anchor David Muir saying that "sweeping new guidelines" are "putting millions of undocumented immigrants in America on notice." ABC's Cecilia Vega reported that Trump had pledged "to target the worst of the worst...but the new orders...go far beyond that. Under President Obama, the priority was deporting serious criminals. But the new policy directs Immigration and Border Patrol agents to deport anyone convicted of any criminal offense, including crimes like driving without a license. People charged but not convicted could be targeted too." ABC then aired an exchange between Vega and White House press

secretary Sean Spicer about the new guidelines, with Spicer saying, "The message from the White House and from the DHS is that those people who are in this country and pose a threat to public safety or committed a crime will be the first to go, and we will be aggressively make sure that occurs."

NBC Nightly News (2/21, story 2, 2:30, Holt) also referred to a "sweeping plan to potentially deport millions of undocumented immigrants." NBC's Pete Williams: "As of today, nearly anyone here illegally are subject to deportations, [with] fewer exemptions." On the CBS Evening News (2/21, story 2, 2:05, Mason), Jeff Pegues reported that the new guidelines come as ICE agents "have carried out hundreds of deportation operations across the country. Authorities will now be able to expedite deportation of any undocumented immigrant in the country for less than two years, immediately return many immigrants captured at the Mexican border, and hire 15,000 new border patrol and immigration officers. The guidelines do leave in place an Obama-era program granting work permit to those brought to the US illegally as children."

CNN's Situation Room (2/21) reported that while the new guidance "could vastly expand the number of people detained and deported," President Trump is "not taking steps to repeal President Obama's order protecting so-called Dreamers." Mara Liasson said on Fox News Special Report (2/21), "What we are waiting to see is, does this turn into something that the public sees as a mass deportation force that truly is disrupting families, disrupting communities and does it look bad? Already they have taken one important step to make sure that doesn't happen, which is they are leaving the Dreamers alone, and the Dreamers are the most sympathetic illegal immigrants in the country." The Washington Times (2/21, Dinan) reports that while Dreamers "are still exempted, agents were told there are no longer any other special classes of people that should be considered off limits for deportation."

The AP (2/21, Caldwell) reports that "millions of people living in the United States illegally could be targeted for deportation including people simply arrested for traffic violations under a sweeping rewrite of immigration enforcement policies" announced Tuesday. The AP says the new policy is President Trump's latest effort "to follow through on campaign promises to strictly enforce immigration laws." Bloomberg Politics (2/21, Olorunnipa) reports that the new policy came via two DHS memos. Secretary Kelly "said in one memo that it 'implements new policies designed to stem illegal immigration and facilitate the detection, apprehension, detention and removal of aliens who have no lawful basis to enter or remain in the United States.'"

USA Today (2/21, Gomez) says DHS "issued a sweeping set of orders" that "instruct all agents...to identify, capture and quickly deport every undocumented immigrant they encounter." While Dan Stein of the Federation for American Immigration Reform called it "Christmas in February," immigration advocacy groups "were crushed." However, Dreamers appear "to be spared for now." (Stein argues in a USA Today (2/21) op-ed that DACA should also be ended.) The New York Post (2/21, Schultz) says in a brief item that "Trump had threatened to deport such children but later softened his stance."

In a Washington Post (2/21) op-ed, Bush Administration Education

Secretary Margaret Spellings urges Trump to let Dreamers stay in the US, writing that "these young people were brought to the United States as children, carried along through no decision of their own," and that "under DACA, they came forward in good faith to live within the law, to get on the right side of immigration rules they never chose to break." The San Francisco Chronicle (2/21, Aleaziz) says that while Dreamers are protected, advocates fear families will be broken up.

The Washington Post (2/21) says in an editorial that the policy has "a streak of cruelty" and that it "will break up families and harm people leading peaceable lives." USA Today (2/21) similarly says that "to the extent that the policy places these immigrants in fear, breaks up families and leaves children to fend for themselves, it is wrongheaded and unnecessarily cruel." But the exemption for Dreamers is "one hopeful sign."

The Washington Post (2/21, A1, Nakamura) says the Administration "sought to allay fears in immigrant communities." A DHS official said in a conference call with reporters, "We do not need a sense of panic in the communities. We do not have the personnel, time or resources to go into communities and round up people and do all kinds of mass throwing folks on buses. ... This is not intended to produce mass roundups, mass deportations." Still, the Baltimore Sun (2/21, Fritze) says the new policies "come at a time of apprehension" for those in the US illegally.

The Los Angeles Times (2/21, Wilber, Bennett) also refers to "sweeping new immigration guidelines," reporting that "immigration enforcement officers are free to target any of the 11 million people in the US illegally for removal" under the new policy, which is "a vast expansion of the federal government's deportation priorities as the president pursues his promised crackdown on illegal immigration."

The New York Times (2/21, A1, Nixon, Shear) says that the "change in enforcement priorities will require a considerable increase in resources. With an estimated 11 million people in the country illegally, the government has long had to set narrower priorities, given the constraints on staffing and money." The Houston Chronicle (2/21, Kriel) says the policies "in essence put any immigrant here illegally at risk of deportation in what is a major shift in government strategy."

The Sacramento (CA) Bee (2/21, Lillis) reports that DHS said "it will enlist local police officers and sheriff's deputies to help catch undocumented immigrants." The Minneapolis Star Tribune (2/21, McKinney) says the "sweeping" orders drew "concerns from Minnesota immigration attorneys and church leaders who have vowed to offer sanctuary to those affected."

Politico (2/21, Dawsey, Hesson) says that Trump "pledged during his campaign to create a deportation force. Now, he's equipped federal immigration agents with the tools to potentially remove millions of immigrants from the country." Politico also notes that DHS "stresses that all 'removable aliens' could be subject to immigration enforcement under the new guidelines." The Migration Policy Institute "found that more than half of an estimated 1.9 million deportable immigrants with criminal records were in the country lawfully, either using green

cards or some other type of visa."

In an editorial, the New York Times (2/21) calls the memos "the battle plan for the 'deportation force' President Trump promised in the campaign," saying that they "turn sensible immigration policies upside down and backward." Kelly "makes practically every deportable person a deportation priority. He wants everybody, starting with those who have been convicted of any crime, no matter how petty or old."

The Wall Street Journal (2/21, Meckler) reports that House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte praised new policy, saying, "The Trump Administration has begun work to end the Obama Administration's disastrous policies in order to ensure our immigration laws are actually enforced." Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) similarly said on CNN's Situation Room (2/21), "I think what this is doing is clarifying a difference from the prior Administration. ... If this leads to, you know, trucks going down the street, rounding up anybody that may look like they're here illegally, you're going to hear a lot of outcry from that. That's not what is happening now. This is a clarification of how it's going to work."

The New Yorker (2/21, Davidson) runs an online piece titled "President Trump's Fear-Based Immigration Orders" that says that while "under the Obama Administration, the priority was people who had been convicted of dangerous crimes," the Trump policy "starts with the idea that criminal aliens are the problem, but then widens the definition of criminality and blurs its edges." The Huffington Post (2/21, Frej) says that Trump "has declared an open season on the deportation of undocumented immigrants." Vanity Fair (2/21, Tracy) says, "It seems that Donald Trump's fervid call for mass deportations, which he issued in a blistering anti-immigration speech in September, was one of the campaign promises he meant literally, not figuratively."

Other commentators were also critical. Kirsten Powers said on CNN's The Lead (2/21), "You also end up with people now who are not going to report any crimes, they're not going to talk to the police. That makes everybody less safe. If you are now an undocumented immigrant and something happens to you, there is no way in the world you are going to go talk to a police officer who now may be deputized to deport you, to literally act as an immigration agent." The Los Angeles Daily News (2/21, Gazzar) reports that Angelica Salas of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles said, "[Kelly] has unleashed an unprecedented witch hunt on millions of immigrant families. These immigration enforcement memos are a one-size-fits-all mass deportation approach full of punishment, completely void of fairness and justice."

Policy Upsets Mexican Officials On Eve Of Visit By Kelly And Tillerson. Politico (2/21, Toosi) says that the timing of the new policy "riled Mexican officials" days before Kelly and Secretary of State Tillerson travel to Mexico City for meetings. Reuters (2/21, Rama) reports that Mexico's incoming ambassador to the US, Geronimo Gutierrez, told the Mexican Senate on Tuesday, "The treatment received by our country is unacceptable and clearly not favorable. Trump and his government deserve respect and they will get it in so far as its reciprocal."

The Los Angeles Times (2/21, Linthicum) also reports Tillerson and Kelly are heading to Mexico for talks on "trade, security and other issues," which come

"at a frosty moment in US-Mexico relations." The Times notes that Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto canceled a scheduled visit to Washington last month after Trump "vowed on Twitter to make Mexico pay" for a border wall, and during a subsequent phone call "threatened to send US troops into Mexico to stop 'bad hombres down there.'" With the US ramping up deportations of illegal immigrants, the Times says Mexican officials "are likely to ask Kelly and Tillerson to assure that any deportations are carried out humanely and managed in a way that enables Mexico to absorb the deported individuals."

The [AP](#) (2/21, Stevenson) reports Mexican officials are "hoping for a bit more calm, less vitriol and more constructive talk" with Tillerson and Kelly "after months in which...Trump has hammered Mexico." The AP says that while the two secretaries "are widely seen as less combative than their boss...many Mexicans are starting to question the point of even talking to a US government that has promised repeatedly to hit Mexico with tariffs, border walls and deportations."

Media Analyses: Critics Not Satisfied With Trump's Condemnation Of Anti-Semitism.

President Trump on Tuesday [condemned](#) anti-Semitism amid a recent series of bomb threats against Jewish community centers across the country. Media coverage treats Trump's specific comments favorably, but also universally highlights that his remarks came after he received criticism for not speaking on the issue previously. Reporting also indicates that Trump's statement was the type that critics demanded, but also that it appeared to not satisfy his detractors. The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/21, lead story, 2:40, Mason) reported that "under growing pressure to use his bully pulpit to condemn anti-Semitism, President Trump did just that today." Indicative of the overall reporting, [USA Today](#) (2/21, Przybyla) says Trump's comments come after he came "under fire for sidestepping earlier opportunities to condemn several waves of anti-Semitic acts since he took office last month." Anti-discrimination groups, USA Today adds, feel the statement "was way too long in the making."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (2/21, lead story, 2:40, Holt) reported that Trump "offered his most direct language on the issue in clear terms, denouncing the recent pattern of anti-Semitic acts as terrible." Trump told reporters, according to [Reuters](#) (2/21, Rascoe), "The anti-Semitic threats targeting our Jewish community and community centers are horrible and are painful and a very sad reminder of the work that still must be done to root out hate and prejudice and evil." The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Barbash, Guarino, Murphy) reports that Trump's comments came following a tour of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, with [ABC World News Tonight](#) (2/21, story 2, 3:55, Muir) showing Trump saying it was "a very meaningful reminder of why we have to fight bigotry, intolerance and hatred in all of its very ugly forms." The [New York Daily News](#) (2/21, Silverstein) reports that "someone at the museum asked if that meant Trump was denouncing anti-Semitism once and for all." The President responded, "Oh, of course," adding, "And I do it wherever I get a chance, I do it." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/21, Pettypiece) quotes Trump as saying during an interview recorded with NBC at the museum that "anti-Semitism is

horrible and it's going to stop and it has to stop."

According to The Hill (2/21, Fabian), "Trump's team has begun to address" the criticism of him not speaking out against anti-Semitism "in recent days." The President's daughter, Ivanka, on Monday "called for 'religious tolerance'" after bomb threats to Jewish community centers. Press secretary Sean Spicer on Monday said "hatred and hate-motivated violence of any kind have no place in a country that was founded on the promise of individual freedom." Politico (2/21, McCaskill, Nelson) reports that Trump said he would visit the US Holocaust Memorial Museum "soon." Trump indicated a visit is "very important for me."

The New York Times (2/21, Davis) reports Trump's statement "came after weeks of private complaints from leaders of major Jewish organizations to members of Mr. Trump's inner circle" about the President's "seeming unwillingness to speak out forcefully against anti-Semitic acts." The Times says Trump's comment "was a rare concession to the demands of outside forces by a president who prides himself on standing his ground." The Los Angeles Times (2/21, Bierman) reports the President's comment "came shortly after a tweet by his former rival, Hillary Clinton, calling on Trump to speak out." The Hill (2/21, Calfas) reports Clinton on Tuesday tweeted, "JCC threats, cemetery desecration & online attacks are troubling & they need to be stopped. Everyone must speak out, starting w/ @POTUS."

McClatchy (2/21, Kumar) in a story headlined "Trump Finally Denounces Anti-Semitic Attacks. Is It Enough?" says that Trump's statement "wasn't enough" as he "was immediately pressed to speak more forcefully about the issue and to take specific steps to tackle hate crime" in the US. Susan Corke of Human Rights First said, "If leaders in the United States continue to halfheartedly condemn hate crime, we will continue to see these horrific instances of anti-Semitism and intolerance." The Washington Post (2/21, Larimer) reports Steven Goldstein, the executive director of the Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect, "blasted Trump in a Facebook post." Goldstein said Trump's statement "is a pathetic asterisk of condescension after weeks in which he and his staff have committed grotesque acts and omissions reflecting Antisemitism, yet day after day have refused to apologize and correct the record." Goldstein added, "Make no mistake: The Antisemitism coming out of this Administration is the worst we have ever seen from any Administration."

NAACP President and CEO Cornell William Brooks said on CNN's Situation Room (2/21), "The President when there is a disaster is consoler in chief. And when there is a rise in anti-Semitism and racism, he must be the tone-setter in chief. That means speaking out clearly, strongly, forcefully saying that he condemns anti-Semitism and racism and then talking about who he's going to do about it." Gloria Borger said on CNN Wolf (2/21) that "it's a conversation that needs to continue because" Trump has previously deflected questions about the topic. Borger added that "it is up to the President of the United States to speak out forcefully about it but not be backed into a corner to talk about it. This is something a President ought to want affirmatively to speak out loud and clear every opportunity he gets." However, Mark Preston said on CNN Wolf (2/21) that Trump is not an "anti-Semitic," but is "inartful, and quite frankly, I don't

think he likes being challenged." Preston added that he "would suspect that it's one of these instances where he feels his critics backed him into a corner, and he was going to do it on his own terms."

Trump References Election During Museum Tour. The Washington Post (2/21, Wagner) reports that Trump continued a pattern of "frequently tout[ing] his election victory" during the tour of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. While "acknowledging those who accompanied him on the tour," Trump thanked Sen. Tim Scott from South Carolina and noted that he "like[s] the state of South Carolina." Trump added, "I like all those states where I won by double, double, double digits. You know, those states."

Cheney To Introduce Pence At Republican Jewish Coalition Meeting. Politico (2/21, Isenstadt) reports former Vice President Dick Cheney is scheduled to introduce Vice President Pence on Friday to the Republican Jewish Coalition meeting in Las Vegas. Politico says the meeting "will bring together many prominent Jewish Republicans" and "comes at a sensitive time for the pro-Israel community" as some people are "raising questions" about President Trump's Middle East policy.

More Than 200 Graves Vandalized At Jewish Cemetery Near St. Louis. The New York Times (2/21, Davey, Blinder) reports that relatives of deceased family members on Tuesday participated in "a frantic search" of Chesed Shel Emeth Cemetery, located east of St. Louis, "as they tried to learn whether their relatives' graves were intact" after more than 200 were vandalized over the weekend. The families, the Times says, are also wondering "whether the vandalism" is "another in a rash of anti-Semitic episodes occurring in recent weeks."

Pruitt: EPA Will Now Adhere To Rule Of Law, Respect States' Rights.

Newly-installed EPA Administrator Pruitt told agency employees Tuesday that "under his leadership the agency once again will adhere to the rule of law and will respect states' rights," the Washington Times (2/21, Wolfgang) reports. Pruitt, who as Attorney General of Oklahoma "often clashed with the agency in court as he challenged former President Obama's climate-change agenda," told EPA workers in Washington that federal environmental regulations "often have been unnecessarily cumbersome and expensive, and have created confusion rather than clarity." Said Pruitt, "Regulations ought to make things regular. Regulators exist to give certainty to those they regulate. ... I seek to ensure that we engender the trust of those at the state level, that those at the state level see us as partners ... and not as adversaries." Pruitt "is expected to begin dismantling Obama-era EPA regulations." Politico (2/21, Guillén, Wolff) described Pruitt's remarks as "conciliatory" but said he made clear that "he plans a sharp departure from the Obama administration's strategy and will emphasize cooperation with industry."

Mining Companies Showing Profits Again, But Executives Are Cautious. The Wall Street Journal (2/21, Patterson, Hoyle) reports that the world's largest mining companies are showing profits again amid rising commodity prices, surprising analysts, investors, and executives. The Journal adds, however, that while profits are higher, they are still below the levels reached on previous

years, and executives are concerned about how high and how fast coal and iron-ore prices have climbed.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Mr. Trump's 'Deportation Force' Prepares An Assault On American Values." In an editorial, the New York Times (2/21) calls a pair of memos issued by DHS Secretary Kelly on Tuesday "the battle plan for the 'deportation force' President Trump promised in the campaign," saying that they "turn sensible immigration policies upside down and backward." Kelly "makes practically every deportable person a deportation priority. He wants everybody, starting with those who have been convicted of any crime, no matter how petty or old."

"Now, Let General McMaster Do His Job." A New York Times (2/21) editorial calls on the President to remove Chief Strategist Steve Bannon from the NSC Principals Committee in order to form "a coherent national security team."

"Ukraine And The Shadowy Freelancers." In an editorial, the New York Times (2/22) says the "Russia-related questions on which President Trump urgently needs to shed some light seem to multiply by the day." The latest, it says, involves the President's personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, and his work with an Ukrainian opposition legislator and a Russian-born New Yorker "who has done business deals with Mr. Trump" to develop a peace plan for Ukraine. The Times says that while "there may be nothing illegal in this...given all the troubling questions swirling about ties between Russia and Mr. Trump and his associates, the back-channel plan raised a host of new questions about who else might be behind it and why."

Washington Post.

"The Trump Administration's Blueprint For Mass Removals, With A Streak Of Cruelty." The Washington Post (2/21) says in an editorial that the Administration's deportation policy has "a streak of cruelty" and that it "will break up families and harm people leading peaceable lives."

"On Venezuela, A Surprise Stand From Trump." In an editorial, the Washington Post (2/21) writes a decision by President Trump and the State Department last week to support "political prisoners and democracy in" Venezuela was an encouraging step for an Administration that has "so far has exhibited a deep disinterest in and even some contempt for US human rights advocacy." The Post says the Administration's support "for moderate, nonviolent opponents" in Venezuela "ought to be a no-brainer for the United States, given Venezuela's catastrophic decline, anti-American agenda and increasing isolation in the region." Yet, the former Obama Administration "shied from taking action," and negotiations between President Nicolás Maduro and the opposition "were going nowhere." The Post encourages the Administration to follow up its support "with more sanctions," lobby the Organization of American States against Maduro's government "under the Inter-American Democratic Charter," and most importantly, "show resolve about human rights in nations that are not so easy to

oppose,” such as Saudi Arabia and the Philippines.

“Metro Needs Reforms – And Dollars.” The [Washington Post](#) editorializes that the Democratic proposal to increase Metro’s funding in return for demanding improved performance and governance reforms seems “sensible” and “financially modest,” whereas the Republican plan to require the improvement and reforms before increasing funding “starves a system already wasting away,” even if it has “constructive elements.” The Post criticizes both approaches that employ “a nuclear option” of getting rid of Metro’s governing contract and existing funding structure, and it says this is “not necessarily a credible” maneuver. The Post concludes that the transit system needs reform and funding but those forthcoming on Capitol Hill are insufficient.

Wall Street Journal.

“Supreme Court Shots Fired.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/21) argued that a ruling from the Supreme Court that the Constitution protects foreign nationals outside the US would open the door to lawsuits on a range of issues, including drone strikes and interrogations.

“Mnuchin’s MetLife Job.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/21) calls on Treasury Secretary Mnuchin to ask the Justice Department to end its appeal of a judge’s ruling rescinding MetLife’s designation as “systemically important.”

“Trump Isn’t The EU’s Problem.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/21) editorial offers its support for the Administration’s push for NATO members to contribute more financially to the alliance. However, the Journal also urges the President to deliver a speech soon stressing US commitment to defending Europe in order to ease concerns among leaders there.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump Administration Tightens Deportation, Detention Rules](#)

[Carl Icahn Takes Stake In Bristol-Myers](#)

[Nascar, Once A Cultural Icon, Hits The Skids](#)

[Why Verizon Decided To Stick With Yahoo Deal](#)

New York Times:

[New Trump Deportation Rules Allow Far More Expulsions](#)

[3 Generals Bound By Iraq Will Guide Trump On Security](#)

[At Town Halls, Doses Of Fury And A Bottle Of Tums](#)

[Gaza Is Outwardly Rebuilding, But Inwardly Fearful](#)

[Unease Spreads In Atlanta As A City Contracting Scandal Brews](#)

[Trying To Stanch Trinidad’s Flow Of Young Recruits To ISIS](#)

Washington Post:

[Officials Defend Border Ramp-Up](#)

[Two Cities, Two Nations, Shared Economic Fates Booming Border Factories Gird For The Unknown](#)

[New Threat From ISIS Takes Hold: Drones](#)
[For Key Adviser, Trump Taps A Soldier Who Can Say 'No, Sir'](#)
[CPAC Will Celebrate Trump And His Movement](#)

Financial Times:

[HSBC Profits Fall On Writedowns And One-Off Costs](#)
[Mosul Dares To Paint Colorful Future After ISIS](#)
[Azerbaijan's Aliyev Names Wife As Vice-President](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: New Deportation Guideline; Trump-Anti-Semitism; Severe Weather-West Coast; Central Park Pond Ice Incident; Foiled Missouri Man Terror Attack; Australia Plane Crash; Prep School Teen Sex; Auto Insurance Premium Spikes; Philly Commuter Train Crash; Missing Boat Rescue; UPS Drone Delivery Test; Super Bowl Missing Jersey; National Zoo Panda.

CBS: Trump-Anti-Semitism; New Deportation Guideline; New Immigration Order; Severe Weather-West Coast; Australia Plane Crash; Pro-Obamacare Protests; Breitbart Editor Controversy; Foiled Terror Attacks; Slaughterhouse Bull Runaway; National Zoo Panda; Oldest Female Astronaut.

NBC: Trump-Anti-Semitism; New Deportation Guideline; Immigrants Fleeing To Canada; Severe Weather-West Coast; Australia Plane Crash; Breitbart Editor Controversy; Health-Dementia; LA Lakers New President; National Zoo Panda; Holt-Child Interview; Officer Helping Homework.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump-Anti-Semitism 9 minutes, 15 seconds
New Deportation Guideline 8 minutes, 35 seconds
Australia Plane Crash 5 minutes, 20 seconds
Severe Weather-West Coast 5 minutes, 10 seconds
Breitbart Editor Controversy 4 minutes, 35 seconds
National Zoo Panda 2 minutes, 10 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Severe Weather-West Coast; New Deportation Guideline; Maryland Gun Control; Kim Jung-Nam Assassination.

CBS: New Deportation Guideline; Texas-Plan For Parenthood; North Dakota Pipeline Protest; Severe Weather-West Coast; Foiled Terror Attacks.

FOX: New Deportation Guideline; Anti-Trump Protests; Severe Weather-West Coast.

NPR: New Deportation Guideline; CIA Veteran Resigns; Kim Jung-Nam Assassination; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP Meets with Secretary Tillerson; holds a discussion

regarding the Federal budget with senior staff; leads a legislative affairs strategy session.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE Participates in listening discussions with American workers and employees of Fabrick Cat.

US Senate: On recess from 17 Feb 27 Feb.

US House: On recess from 17 Feb 27 Feb.

Other: 9:00 AM FTC Chair Ohlhausen speaks at U.S. Chamber release of reports on cross-border ICT services U.S. Chamber of Commerce Center for Global Regulatory Cooperation releases two reports on best practices for privacy regulators and the economic impact of cross-border ICT services, with keynote from Federal Trade Commission Chairman Maureen Ohlhausen Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St., NW, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

10:00 AM The American Legion national commander speaks at NPC The American Legion National Commander Charles Schmidt discusses 'ways the Trump Administration and Congress can improve the delivery of benefits to the country's 20+ million veterans' via NPC Newsmaker news conference * While in Washington, DC, Schmidt will also testify to the House and Senate committees on veterans' affairs and is expected to meet with new Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington DC <http://press.org/> <https://twitter.com/PressClubDC>

1:00 PM NASA presents new findings on planets beyond our solar system NASA presents new findings on exoplanets planets that orbit stars other than our sun via news conference featuring NASA Science Mission Directorate Associate Administrator Thomas Zurbuchen, University of Liege (Belgium) astronomer Michael Gillon, NASA Spitzer Science Center manager Sean Carey, Space Telescope Science Institute astronomer Nikole Lewis, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology Professor of Planetary Science and Physics Sara Seager * Briefing (1:00 PM EST) followed by Reddit AMA on exoplanets, with scientists answering questions in English and Spanish (3:00 PM EST) * Details of the findings are embargoed by the journal Nature until 1:00 PM EST Location: NASA Headquarters, 300 E St SW, Washington, DC <http://www.nasa.gov> <https://twitter.com/NASA> #askNASA

2:00 PM Conservative Political Action Conference activism events Conservative Political Action Conference begins with activism bootcamp and reception, ahead of the general sessions which begin tomorrow * Speakers during the four-day event include President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus, White House Senior Counselor Stephen Bannon, Republicans Sen. Ted Cruz and Reps. Ron DeSantis, Mike Burgess, Kevin Brady, Andy Biggs, French Hill, Jody Hice, Ken Buck, Barry Loudermilk, FTC Acting Chairman Maureen Ohlhausen, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts, Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback and Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer, Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin and Lt. Gov. Jenean Hampton, former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, Nevada AG Adam Laxalt, Ronald Reagan's son Michael, former U.S. Permanent Representative to the U.N. John Bolton, former Sens. Rick Santorum and Jim DeMint, and TV and

radio personalities Sean Hannity, Lou Dobbs, Dana Loesch, and Mark Levin
 Location: Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, 201 Waterfront St,
 National Harbor, MD <http://cpac.conservative.org/> [#CPAC2017](https://twitter.com/CPAC)

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: "It is an exciting day for President Trump, because he went on a field trip to the Museum of African American History. He was so worried Steve Bannon wouldn't sign his permission slip."

Stephen Colbert: "Yes, Trump really started something by hiring Ben Carson. It is the biggest advancement for African Americans since about four weeks ago when we had a black President."

Stephen Colbert: "Last Thursday was something called, 'A day without immigrants.' ... I didn't really know about this. I thought that's what Trump called it when Melania stays in New York."

Stephen Colbert: "Now, we know the President has been to the golf course six times, but for some reason, his aides would not confirm that Trump played golf each time he went to the course. Sure, he could be on the course for any reason. We know he loves making fun of people's handicaps!"

James Corden: "The British Parliament is debating whether or not Donald Trump should be allowed to make a state visit to the United Kingdom after a petition to keep him out garnered 1.8 million signatures. ... Hey, Donald, how's that travel ban feel when it's on the other foot?"

James Corden: "You can tell [H.R.] McMaster is a good choice for National Security Adviser to Trump. You know because it's been 24 hours and he hasn't backed out yet."

James Corden: "Donald Trump has made six different trips to golf courses in Florida in his first month as President. ... It's definitely a lot for a guy who once tweeted this: 'Can you believe that, with all the problems and difficulties facing the US, President Obama spent the day playing golf.' We all thought Trump was being critical. Turns out he was being jealous."

James Corden: "I bet it's hard to play golf with Trump because every time he misses a putt, Kellyanne Conway comes out and explains why he actually won that hole."

Jimmy Fallon: "Guys, yesterday was Presidents' Day. And I read that Donald Trump supporters were emailed the Presidents' Day card to sign for him. And since President Trump was busy golfing, they were asked to sign some executive orders for him too."

Jimmy Fallon: "At his rally on Saturday, Trump suggested there was a terror attack in Sweden that didn't really happen. And then the Swedish embassy asked the State Department for an explanation. You know things are bad when the country that makes IKEA instructions is totally confused."

Jimmy Fallon: "Actually, Trump went on a tour of the African American Museum with Ben Carson. Things got awkward at each exhibit when Trump would turn to Carson and say, 'Friend of yours?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Yesterday, he announced his new pick for National Security Adviser, Lieutenant General H.R. McMaster, who was actually Trump's third choice for the job. Yeah. He's like the RC Cola of National Security Advisers."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump today visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture as part of his ongoing quest to find Barack Obama's birth certificate."

Seth Meyers: "The White House today disputed claims that a retired general turned down President Trump's offer to serve as National Security Adviser, saying he made it very clear he wanted the job, but refused for financial reasons. Well, technically, what he said was, 'I wouldn't do that job for all the money in the world.'"

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