

**To:** Michael Reynolds[michael\_reynolds@nps.gov]  
**From:** Frost, Herbert  
**Sent:** 2017-06-14T08:22:35-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, June 14, 2017  
**Received:** 2017-06-14T08:22:44-04:00

Probably

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On Wed, Jun 14, 2017 at 7:40 AM, Michael Reynolds <[michael\\_reynolds@nps.gov](mailto:michael_reynolds@nps.gov)> wrote:

The ranger hat upstairs must have been for the Will on the Hill thing....

Sent from my iPhone-sorry for typos.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Bulletin Intelligence <[Interior@bulletinintelligence.com](mailto:Interior@bulletinintelligence.com)>  
**Date:** June 14, 2017 at 7:00:55 AM EDT  
**To:** <[Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com](mailto:Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com)>  
**Subject:** U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, June 14, 2017

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**DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2017 7:00 AM EDT**

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### **DOI In The News**

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#### **Zinke Says Government Is Failing Tribes, Deflects Budget Concerns.**

Law360 (6/13, Westney) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "told a National Congress of American Indians conference Tuesday that federal programs serving tribes aren't working, as NCAI officials and tribal leaders raised concerns about funding cuts to such programs in the Trump administration's proposed budget."

The Connecticut Mirror (6/13, Pazniokas) reports that Zinke "pledged to establish a relationship of respect and consultation with the nation's 567 federally recognized tribes and reassured them that President Trump's deep budget cuts at Interior were not a prelude to dismantling the Bureau of Indian Affairs." Zinke said in remarks delivered at the Mohegan Sun gambling resort, "My pledge is to work with you, partner with you and be your advocate and fix a system that is broken."

Additional coverage was provided by the New London (CT) Day (6/13, Shanahan).

#### **Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Makes Stop In Hooksett.**

New Hampshire Public Radio (6/13, Greene) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "stopped at the Bass Pro Shop in Hooksett Tuesday afternoon, appearing with Governor Chris Sununu and State Fish and Game Executive Director Glenn Normandeau." At the store, Zinke "signed a ceremonial \$1.1 billion check for fish and wildlife conservation programs."

The Concord (NH) Monitor (6/14, Reid) reports that Zinke "enthusiastically recited the state's motto and listed off attributes that he said make it perfect for his announcement: 'very outdoors, loves hunting, loves traditional land use, making sure the land is open to the public.'" He said, "That's what the funds are used for. They're used for restoration, the wildlife refuges, access. ... It's really a program paid for by hunters and fishermen that protects hunting and fishing and the great outdoors."

WBIN-TV Concord, NH (6/13) reports that Zinke said, "For nearly eight decades, the nation's hunters and anglers have generated billions of dollars to protect wildlife and habitat simply by purchasing items that help them engage in the outdoor activities they enjoy. Their support has helped state wildlife agencies protect our country's environmental legacy for future generations of hunters, fishers, recreationalists, and conservationists."

#### **US Interior Chief To Visit Maine Monument Under Review.**

The AP (6/14, Whittle) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "heading to Maine on Wednesday to see Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument as part of a tour of national monuments that are under review." Zinke is "scheduled to spend the day driving, hiking and canoeing through the monument grounds and waters."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by ABC News (6/14, Whittle), Business Insider (6/14, Whittle), the Minneapolis (MN) Star Tribune (6/13, Whittle), the North Platte (NE) Telegraph (6/14, Whittle), the Oklahoman (6/14, Whittle), Philly (PA) (6/14, Whittle), the San Francisco (CA) Chronicle (6/14, Whittle), the Washington (DC) Post (6/14, Patrick Whittle |, Ap), the Washington (DC) Times (6/14, Whittle), and KGMB-TV Honolulu (HI) Honolulu (6/14, Whittle).

***Visit Should Convince Interior Secretary That Monument Is Welcome Addition To Maine, America.*** In an editorial, the Bangor (ME) Daily News (6/13) welcomes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and surrounding area. The paper says that "it is important for him to meet with area residents firsthand and to spend time exploring the monument land himself before making a recommendation to the president." The paper argues that Maine Gov. Paul LePage was wrong in claiming that "there wasn't enough public discussion of the land preservation and that local residents don't want it." It hopes that Zinke will recognize this after his visit.

***The Katahdin Region Can Thrive Alongside The Monument.*** In an op-ed for the Bangor (ME) Daily News (6/13, King), Sen. Angus King touts the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument as an economic "pillar" of the community. King writes about how he has "heard from businesses throughout the area – from hardware store owners, grocers, and lumber retailers to recreational equipment suppliers, lodge and inn operators, and realtors – who have all testified that the monument has been a much-needed boost to their businesses and the regional economy as a whole." He also notes that "these positive developments have led many local elected officials who once opposed the monument to reverse their positions and work unabashedly to secure its success."

***Let's Welcome Interior Secretary Zinke To Our National Monument.*** In his column for the Bangor (ME) Daily News (6/13, Smith), George Smith also welcomes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to Maine. Smith reprints his testimony in favor of the designation of the monument last year at a public hearing hosted by Sen. Angus King and the Director of the National Park Service.

### **Deciphering Protections Inside Bears Ears Monument Designation.**

The Deseret (UT) News (6/13, O'Donoghue) reports that "when Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced a preliminary recommendation that contemplates shrinking the boundaries of the Bears Ears National Monument, one of the key points he emphasized is that some of the land is already subject to special management restrictions." Zinke's interim

report "notes there are 11 wilderness study areas inside the monument that comprise 381,000 acres and are managed by the Bureau of Land Management." According to the article, "the lands have to be in the same or better condition than they were 41 years ago to ensure Congress has the ability to invoke permanent wilderness protection." The article notes "that year is significant, 1976, when Congress passed the Federal Lands Policy Management Act that set up the majority of Utah's wilderness study areas vast amounts of land that have remained in limbo since then."

Additional coverage of Zinke's recommendation on Monday to redraw the boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument was provided by [Fox News](#) (6/13, O'Reilly), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (6/13, Wood), [PBS NewsHour](#) (6/13, McCombs), [Fronteras](#) (6/12, Morales), the [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (6/13), [Courthouse News](#) (6/12, Renda), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (6/13, McCombs, Daly).

***Tribune Editorial: Zinke Leaves Bears Ears Dispute Unsettled.*** In an editorial, the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/13) argues that "the best thing that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke could have done about the Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah was absolutely nothing." According to the paper, "what Zinke did was tantalizingly close to that." It says that "by admitting that some of the area deserves eternal protection, making a vague suggestion about redrawing the monument's borders, calling on Congress to get involved and extending the time for public comments, the secretary has created a little breathing room." The paper hoes that, "when it is all over, a significant amount of land that is sacred to the area's Native Americans will be indeed protected, that the tribes involved will possess some unquestioned legal authority over what happens there and that future monument designations will be done in a way that creates more consensus and less division." Until then, it concludes that "Bears Ears should remain just the national monument it has been designated," "because, right now, nobody has a better idea."

### **California's Senators Ask Residents To Tell The Federal Government To Stay Away From The State's National Monuments.**

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/13, Wire) reports that "California's senators are trying to prevent changes to six national monuments in the Golden State, and they're asking Californians to help by sending comments to the Interior Department." In a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris wrote, "On behalf of all Californians, we urge that these national monument designations are preserved with their present boundaries, to ensure these special places remain for generations to come."

***Porterville Wants Giant Sequoias Reduced.*** The [Visalia \(CA\) Times-Delta](#) (6/13, Lindt) reports that the Porterville City Council "approved a draft letter to the Secretary the Interior to reduce the size of the Sequoia National Monument by about two-thirds." The letter, "approved unanimously, seeks to return the protective zone to its 1992 size." They

recommend that the "Giant Sequoia National Monument's boundaries be reduced to the approximate 90,360 acres established by Proclamation 6457, and encourage the use of active forest management by the Forest Service in protection of the Giant Sequoia Groves, in addition to fulfilling the commitment of developing a Visitors Center for the Monument."

***Residents Support Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.***

The Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News (6/14, Gibbs) reports that "Doña Ana County leaders are speaking up in support of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument and announcing the results of a new poll showing overwhelming support among county residents." According to the article, "the poll of 400 registered voters in Doña Ana County, conducted by the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce from May 13-17, shows that 63 percent oppose any reduction of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, compared to 26 percent who support reducing protections." The survey "also shows Democrats, Republicans and independents all fell positively toward the monument."

***Possible Monument Downsizing Prompts Hold Our Ground Effort.*** The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (6/13, Puckett) reports that "a group from Montana is calling for protections of national monuments in response to President Trump's decision to review monuments designated by presidential executive order since 1996." According to the article, "launched Monday to protect national monuments with cultural, historical and scientific value, Hold Our Ground has produced a television commercial and a series of social media videos demanding monument protection stay in place for the Missouri Breaks." Hold Our Ground is "encouraging history buffs, hunters, anglers and others who recreate on the river to tell the Trump administration to decline to review the Breaks monument, which could lead to modifications," says member Larry Epstein.

***NM Must Speak Up Again For Its Livelihood.*** In an op-ed for the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (6/14, Miyagishima), Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima touts "what the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and Río Grande del Norte national monuments bring our constituents and visitors in economic benefits, quality of life and natural assets." According to the mayor, "since designating the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in 2014, the town of Mesilla's tax revenues have increased and Las Cruces' lodgers' tax revenues are also up." Miyagishima asserts that "the outcome from protected public lands is clear – people and businesses located around places like the Río Grande del Norte National Monument reap the benefits of protection."

***Our View: Monument Review A Moving Target.*** The Medford (OR) Mail Tribune (6/14) editorializes that "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendation to scale back Utah's Bears Ears National Monument may pose less of a threat to Southern Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument than supporters fear." The paper acknowledges that "Zinke's proposal to ask Congress to modify management rules for portions of

Bears Ears might have a better outcome than leaving it up to the White House.” However, it concludes that “this administration is determined to undo what previous presidents put in place” so “the future of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is far from assured.”

### **Tester: Trump Budget Guts Forest, Park Funding.**

The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (6/13, Puckett) reports that Sen. Jon Tester “told reporters Tuesday that President Trump’s budget proposes ‘radical’ cuts for parks, forests and land acquisition that will harm the state’s outdoor economy.” Joining Tester were Randy Newman, “who hosts two outdoor TV programs, former Glacier National Park Superintendent Chas Cartwright and Marne Hayes, executive director for Montana Outdoors.” Tester “said he would work through the appropriations process to help get funding restored but said there are so many cuts it would be difficult.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (6/13, Chaney) and the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (6/13, Wright).

### **Washingtonians Take Center Stage At Will On The Hill.**

The “In The Know” blog of [The Hill](#) (6/13, Costello) reports that the Shakespeare Theater Company “hosted the annual tradition, Will on the Hill, where notable Washingtonians take to the stage and act out classic theater with a modern political twist.” According to the article, “the cast poked fun at the president and themselves in their production, ‘Met by Moonlight,’ a take on *Midsummer Night’s Dream*, in which Oberon (Kahn), a forest deity, and his assistant, Puck (Pancholy), encounter two park rangers (Swallow and Fontana), and the four then try to stem the flow of people fleeing the heat of D.C. in the summer.” The Washington-based cast members included Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (6/13, Heil).

### **Why A Cabinet Of Kiss-Ups Is A Big Problem For Trump.**

In the “On Leadership” blog of the [Washington Post](#) (6/13), Jena McGregor writes that the “effusive praise” of President Trump in his first full Cabinet meeting Monday “drew mockery from Democratic corners.” McGregor cites “management experts” as saying the praise likely cuts “down on the kind of dissenting views Trump will need to lead the country well.” In addition, “research shows that when people feel like they need to engage in flattery, it makes them resentful, slows down strategic change and can even prompt subordinates to make negative comments to the press.”

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

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### **DOI Blasts Nooksack Group’s Bid For Redo In Funding Row.**



Law360 (6/13, Powell) reports that the Interior Department “urged a Washington federal judge Monday to stay firm on a recent decision dismissing the purported Nooksack Indian Tribal Council’s lawsuit claiming that the agency has wrongly refused to pay roughly \$14 million in funding, saying there’s no reason to reconsider.”

### **Mashpee Selectmen Show Support For Wampanoag’s Land Into Trust Battle.**

The Cape Cod (MA) News (6/13) reports that “selectmen in Mashpee have restated their support for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe’s continued effort for getting land into trust.” The tribe is “currently in a legal dispute after a lower court ruled in favor of Taunton residents who challenged the federal ruling which placed land into trust in Taunton and Mashpee.” Selectmen sent a letter to the Interior Department “expressing their support for the federal government’s remand application.”

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

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### **Law Professors Urge Court To Continue Hearing Fracking Regulation Case.**

E&E Publishing (6/13) reports dozens of law professors submitted an amicus brief urging the 10th US Circuit Court of Appeals to continue hearing a case stemming from the Obama Administration’s rule for hydraulic fracturing on public and tribal lands. The 29 professors said that freezing the case would leave an incorrect decision stand. The brief said, “The Order contains fundamentally erroneous legal principles of statutory interpretation and administrative law. ... Yet under an abeyance and potentially drawn-out new rulemaking, the Order would remain extant and could solidify further incorrect precedent in other cases even if it were ultimately vacated and rendered moot.”

### **BLM Oil And Gas Lease Auction Brings In Over \$720,000.**

The Fairfield (MT) Sun Times (6/13) reports that “bids on oil and gas leases in northern and southeastern Montana brought in \$720,843 in an online auction held June 13, by the Bureau of Land Management.” The auction “included 156 parcels encompassing approximately 69,000 acres of federal minerals in Big Horn, Carter, Custer, Fallon, Garfield, Powder River and Rosebud Counties were offered at auction.”

### **Winds Push Northwest Colorado Wildfire To Over 5K Acres.**

The AP (6/13) reports that “one of two large wildfires burning in northwestern Colorado has spread to more than 5,000 acres (2,023 hectares).” According to the article, “wind gusts of over 70 mph (113 kph) on Monday fueled the growth of the Dead Dog Fire 10 miles (16 kilometers) north of Rangely.” Bureau of Land Management spokesman David Boyd said “that the fire moved more than 4 miles (6 kilometers)

because of the winds, which also grounded firefighting aircraft.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (6/13).

## **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

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### **Eni Submits Alaska Drilling Plans.**

[Offshore Engineer](#) (6/13, Sustaita) reports that Italian oil major Eni has submitted its proposal to the Bureau of Ocean Management “for a drilling program offshore Alaska, from the man-made island, Spy Island Drillsite (SID) in the Beaufort Sea.” According to the article, “Eni’s proposed exploration plan (EP) is for the exploratory drilling of the company’s Nikaitchuq North Project, consisting of four exploration wells, two mainbores and two sidetracks from the Italian giant’s existing SID man-made gravel island, on the State of Alaska lease.” BOEM has “30 calendar days to evaluate the EP in accordance with federal law and regulations.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Upstream Online](#) (6/13) and the [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (6/13, Brehmer).

## **Bureau Of Reclamation**

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### **Phoenix City Council OKs Colorado River Conservation Plan.**

The [AP](#) (6/13) reports that the Phoenix City Council has “unanimously approved an agreement with tribal, state and federal leaders to help protect the Colorado River and preserve water levels in Lake Mead.” The agreement reached Tuesday “with the state, the Gila River Indian Community and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation will save the equivalent of 35 percent of the Colorado River water used annually by Phoenix residents.” The deal also will “fund a contribution of 13 billion gallons of Colorado River water to system conservation in Lake Mead this year.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (6/14) and [KJZZ-FM Phoenix \(AZ\)](#) Phoenix (6/13, Kuhn).

### **Decision Coming On California’s Delta Tunnels Water Project.**

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (6/13, Sabalow, Kasler) reports that California’s “most powerful water agencies have set a September goal to decide whether they’re going pay” for the Delta tunnels project. Meanwhile, “in greater Sacramento and throughout the Delta, farmers, environmental groups and elected officials remain deeply mistrustful of the proposal.” Delta-area lawyers have “promised a nasty court fight if the tunnels, known officially as California WaterFix, get the go-ahead.”

## **Fish And Wildlife Service**

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### **Groups File Formal Petition To Ban Cyanide Traps In Wyoming.**

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (6/13, Peterson) reports that “a coalition of environmental groups formally petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Tuesday asking for a ban of M-44s, a cyanide trap used to kill

coyotes across the state." The article notes that "many of the groups, which include Western Watersheds Project, WildEarth Guardians and the Center for Biological Diversity, filed a similar petition in Idaho in March." Wildlife Services, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, "decided to remove all M-44s from private, state and federal land in Idaho." Erik Molvar, executive director of Western Watersheds Project, said, "We're not at war with native wildlife, and it is irresponsible to allow poison landmines to be sown anywhere in Wyoming. Wildlife Services got rid of M-44s in Idaho, and they should do the same in Wyoming before more pets, and even people, get hurt or killed."

### **Historic Island Opens To Public.**

The Green Bay (WI) Press-Gazette (6/13, Welter) reports that "the recently completed renovations to the Plum Island dock and breakwater will allow more visitors to one of the jewels among the protected islands managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." A study of the island's structures "found it will cost about \$7 million to either stabilize or renovate buildings including the lighthouse on nearby Pilot island."

### **Public Input Sought On Wildlife Refuge Drive.**

The Fremont (OH) News-Messenger (6/13) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking public input "on a draft Compatibility Determination for the Wildlife Drive at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge." Written comments will be accepted through June 27.

### **Another Wacky Find At Airport Customs: A Stuffed Puffin.**

The Washington Post (6/13, Aratani) reports, "A traveler on a flight from Iceland brought along an unusual keepsake: a taxidermied Atlantic Puffin." The bird "was discovered by U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents at Baltimore-Washington International Marshall Airport earlier this month." CBP notified US Fish and Wildlife Service, "which seized the bird on Jun. 6." The Post says possession of the stuffed puffin "violates the Migratory Bird Treaty Act." CBP Port of Baltimore area port director Dianna Bowman is quoted as saying, "Customs and Border Protection enforces all manner of agriculture protection laws, including laws concerning threatened and endangered animal species...CBP agriculture specialists are our nation's front line protectors of our nation's agriculture industries and they take their job very serious."

Additional coverage was provided by WJLA-TV Washington (DC) Washington (6/13).

### **Our View: Lean On Administration To Deal With Fish And Wildlife.**

In an editorial, the Havasus (AZ) News-Herald (6/14) notes that "it has been a year since the controversial boating restrictions were introduced at the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge." The paper is glad that "we now have an administration that has shown a willingness to consider economic

interests over environmental ones,” but “what that means for the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge is anybody’s guess.” The paper hopes that “if boating restrictions resurface,” then “they’ll have a smaller scope and will be introduced in a way that is considerate of all those impacted particularly Lake Havasu’s boating community.”

## **National Park Service**

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### **Lawmakers Seek Historic Site Designation For Ste. Genevieve.**

The [AP](#) (6/13) reports that “members of Missouri’s congressional delegation are renewing efforts to designate the Mississippi River town of Ste. Genevieve as a national historic site.” Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill, Republican Sen. Roy Blunt and Republican Rep. Jason Smith “on Monday introduced legislation to establish the Ste. Genevieve National Historic Site and designate it as part of the National Park Service.” The legislators “introduced similar legislation last year.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [St. Louis \(MO\) Post-Dispatch](#) (6/13, Raasch) and [KFVS-TV Cape Girardeau \(MO\)](#) Cape Girardeau, MO (6/13, Dobrinick).

### **Pauli Murray’s Historic Home In Durham Gets Federal Grant To Become Accessible.**

The [Durham \(NC\) Herald Sun](#) (6/13, Vaughan) reports that “the historic Pauli Murray House will become wheelchair accessible as the interior is restored, thanks to a National Park Service grant.” The park service “awarded a grant for \$237,575 to the Pauli Murray Center for History & Social Justice, which is set to open in 2020.” National Park Service Acting Director Michael Reynolds said in the announcement, “Through the African American Civil Rights Grant Program, we’re helping our public and private partners tell unique and powerful stories of the African-American struggle for equality in the 20th century.”

### **Yellowstone Sees Drop In Visitation Partly Because Of Storms.**

The [AP](#) (6/13) reports that “partly because of late spring snowstorms, fewer people visited Yellowstone National Park in May when compared with a year ago.” However, “it was still the second busiest May on record at the world’s first national park.” Yellowstone “hosted more than 419,600 visits during May, down 5.6 percent from May 2016’s 444,600 visits.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (6/13).

### **Strong Start For Glacier Visitation.**

The [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (6/13, Wilson) reports that “more than a quarter of a million people entered” Glacier National Park “during the first five months of 2017, according to the National Park Service estimate.” The article notes that “that’s the second-highest total in park history for

that time period, second only to the first five months of 2016." Also, "last month's 177,256 visitors to Glacier was similarly the second-busiest May in park history down 13.2 percent from last year."

### **Philadelphia Region Saw Record 42 Million Visitors In 2016.**

Philly (PA) (6/13, Loyd) reports that "the Philadelphia region has seen an uptick in visitors annually for the last seven years, after a tourism slump in 2008 and 2009 due to the recession." Of note, Independence National Historical Park "saw 5.07 million visitors in 2016." Meanwhile, "outside the city, the big attractions were Valley Forge National Historical Park which drew 2.4 million, up nearly 14 percent over the 2.1 million in 2015."

### **Rockslide Blocks Popular Entrance To Yosemite National Park.**

The AP (6/13) reports that "a large rockslide has blocked one of the main roads into Yosemite National Park that will remain closed at least through the weekend, an official said Tuesday." According to park spokesman Scott Gediman, "about 4,000 tons (3,600 metric tons) of rock detached from a cliff on Monday, blocking El Portal Road."

Additional coverage was provided by CBS News, the Los Angeles (CA) Times (6/13, Rocha) and the Sacramento (CA) Bee (6/13, Oide).

### **Park Service Asks For Delay In Cumberland Rezoning.**

The Golden Isles (GA) News (6/13, Jackson) reports that the National Park Service has "asked the Camden County Commission to delay the proposed rezoning of about 1,000 acres of private property on Cumberland Island National Seashore." In a letter sent Monday to county commissioners, superintendent Gary Ingram "said 'valuable progress' is being made in negotiations about proposed zoning and code changes for the barrier island."

### **Replacement Of Canyon Rim Boardwalk System Begins This Month.**

The Beckley (WV) Register-Herald (6/13) reports that the National Park Service has "received funds to replace the boardwalk system at Canyon Rim Visitor Center in New River Gorge National River." According to the article, "the entire project is expected to take several months and closures are necessary to ensure the safety of visitors to the area and to allow the construction to progress as quickly as possible."

### **Daines Is Right: The National Park System Needs To Do More To Protect Workers.**

In an editorial, the Billings (MT) Gazette (6/13) lauds Sen. Steve Daines for leading Senate subcommittee "that was looking into workplace problems within the National Park Systems." The paper calls it "an important move by an important person." That is, "if a Montana Republican cannot condone the behavior, in a Republican Congress, that means things must change."

### **Why We Preserve Our National Parks: Big Bend National Park.**

In a piece for the [Huffington Post](#) (6/13, Preservation, Contributor), the National Trust For Historic Preservation calls for helping the National Park Service to “tackle their backlogs and conduct ongoing maintenance.” Doing so would “create a richer experience for park visitors and locals, increasing economic prosperity and cultural vitality in legions of national parks across the county.” It urges support for the National Park Service Legacy Act, which “would dedicate time and investments to repairing NPS’s roads, facilities, and park structures.”

### **Office Of Insular Affairs**

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#### **DOI Powers Utilities In Territories, FAS.**

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (6/14) reports that Acting Interior assistant secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula “made available this week \$380,447 in maintenance assistance funding from the Office of Insular Affairs to support two regional initiatives and one local initiative that support and bolster capacity for the power utilities in all main islands of the Pacific U.S. insular areas.” Pula said, “Electrical power is costly for residents in the territories and freely associated states. We do all we can to help them keep costs down through building local capacity and facilitating collaboration of ideas and expertise.”

#### **Interior Releases \$7.8M For American Samoa.**

[Marianas Variety](#) (6/14) reports that the Office of Insular Affairs has “released \$7.8 million remaining in grant assistance for fiscal year 2017 to the American Samoa Government through the Office of Insular Affairs’ Operations Grant Program.” Interior Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula said, “These funds are critical for government operations in the territory of American Samoa. We are pleased to transmit the remaining funds on behalf of the administration.”

### **Office Of Surface Mining**

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#### **Trump Clings To Coal As Worldwide Demand Plummets.**

The [AP](#) (6/13, Biesecker) reports that demand for coal is “plummeting worldwide” and coal’s share of global energy consumption is continuing to fall, “even as President Donald Trump has made reviving the long-struggling U.S. coal mines the bedrock of his administration’s energy policy.” Meanwhile, “renewable energy made big gains, growing 14 percent in 2016.” The AP states, “as Trump doubles down on coal, the rest of the world appears headed in the opposite direction.”

### **US Geological Survey**

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#### **Latest Upgrade Of Kīlauea Summit Seismic Stations Completed.**

[Big Island \(HI\) Now](#) (6/13) reports that “field engineers at the USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HVO) recently completed a multi-year

effort to upgrade a subset of seismic stations at the summit of Kīlauea Volcano.” Beginning in 2014, “each of the stations was progressively upgraded with a new-generation broadband seismometer, solar-power system, radio, antenna, enclosure and cabling.” According to the article, “the new enclosures for the seismometers were designed with better insulation properties to buffer the effects of changing temperatures throughout the day.”

### **Officials Agree To Fund Most Of Missouri’s Threatened Stream Gauges.**

The Springfield (MO) News-Leader (6/13) reports that the U.S. Geological Survey and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources have “agreed to spend more than half a million dollars to pay for dozens of water gauges across the state.” USGS and DNR will join “to fund 42 of the 49 river and stream gauges for which funding was previously threatened, said Amy Beussink, director of the USGS Missouri Water Science Center in Rolla.” According to a copy of the agreement, “DNR will pay \$461,203 and the USGS will chip in \$106,800 in federal matching funds.”

### **Top National News**

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### **Sessions: Claims Of Russia Collusion An “Appalling And Detestable Lie.”**

Media reports cast Attorney General Sessions as defiant, forceful, and aggressive in his testimony to the Senate Intelligence Committee. Almost universally, reports highlight Sessions’ claim that the suggestion that he was involved in colluding with Russia during the 2016 campaign is an “appalling and detestable lie.” Coverage focuses heavily on questions surrounding Sessions’ meetings with Russian officials during the campaign and his role in the firing of former FBI Director Comey, while Sessions’ refusal to discuss his private conversations with President Trump – which prompted allegations of stonewalling from Democrats on the panel – also receives a great deal of attention.

The New York Post (6/13, Fredericks) reports that Tuesday’s hearing “was initially going to take place behind closed doors – but ranking committee members decided to make it public.” In his opening statement, Chairman Richard Burr told Session this was “his opportunity to ‘separate fact from fiction and set the record straight on a number of allegations reported in the press.’” Media reports indicate that Sessions appears to have seized that opportunity as Politico (6/13, Kim, Gerstein) says he “forcefully denied” any collusion and Roll Call (6/13, Bennett) reports that Sessions “aggressively denied” any collusion, while USA Today (6/13, Johnson, Kelly) reports that an “animated” Sessions said, “Let me state this clearly. I have never met with or had any conversations with any Russians or any foreign officials concerning any type of interference with any campaign or election. I was your colleague in this body for 20 years, and the suggestion that I participated in any collusion...to undermine the

integrity of our democratic process is an appalling and detestable lie.”

Similar characterizations of Sessions’ testimony appear across the media. For example, Lester Holt said on NBC Nightly News (6/13, story 2, 2:30) that Sessions “came out forcefully in his own defense,” while Kasie Hunt described him as “defiant.” The New York Times (6/13, Savage, Huetteman, Ruiz) describes Sessions’ testimony as “highly contentious,” while the Los Angeles Times (6/13, Tanfani) says Session delivered “sometimes impassioned testimony,” during which he “repeatedly rebutted any suggestions that he had any improper contacts with Russian authorities – but he also repeatedly said he did not recall details of the meeting he had.”

Reuters (6/13, Ainsley, Zengerle) reports that Sessions “had a series of tense exchanges with Democrats” on the committee. In one, Sen. Ron Wyden told Sessions, “I believe the American people have had it with stonewalling. Americans don’t want to hear that answers to relevant questions are privileged,” to which Sessions replied, “I am not stonewalling.” The Wall Street Journal (6/13, Viswanatha, Sonne, Wilber) cites the exchange with Wyden as evidence of the heated tone during Tuesday’s hearing. Wyden said on CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360 (6/13) that Sessions “refused to address the most basic issues today. Why didn’t he recuse himself sooner? What did the President say to him about firing Director Comey? Look, the bottom line is that we have had one of these Trump officials after another and they basically say they’re not going to respond to questions because they don’t feel like it.”

McClatchy (6/13, Leavenworth) says Sessions also “faced tough questioning from Sen. Kamala Harris,” and “appeared visibly relieved when Harris’ time allotment ran out.” The Washington Examiner (6/13, Cohen) offers a more positive assessment, saying Democrats went into the hearing “ready to attack” but Sessions “offered a tough defense.”

The Hill (6/13, Williams) says Sessions delivered a “fiery opening statement” during which he “denied rumors that he had a third, previously unreported private meeting with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak during the campaign.” However, later in his testimony, Sessions “said that it was ‘possible’ the third meeting with Kislyak occurred, arguing that he would have ‘gladly reported it... if I remembered it, or if it actually occurred.’” According to the Washington Post (6/13, Horwitz, Zapotosky), Sessions “took particular aim at news reports about a possible meeting he had with a Russian official during an April 2016 event at the Mayflower hotel.” While he “acknowledged being at the event and said he had conversations with those there,” he “did not remember any with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak.” Said Sessions, “If any brief interaction occurred in passing with the Russian ambassador during that reception, I do not remember it,” and if such a conversation did occur, it was “certainly nothing improper.”

USA Today (6/13, Cummings) reports that Sen. Tom Cotton, referring to the Sessions-Kislyak meeting at the Mayflower, asked



Sessions about his affinity for spy fiction and then inquired, "Have you ever, in any of these fantastical situations, heard of a plot line so ridiculous that a sitting United States senator and an ambassador of a foreign government colluded at an open setting with hundreds of other people to pull off the greatest caper in the history of espionage?" USA describes Sessions as "effusively grateful for Cotton's attempt to paint those theories as absurd," adding that he said, "Thank you for saying that, Senator Cotton. It's just like through the looking glass. I mean what is this?"

In an analysis for the Washington Post (6/13), Callum Borchers writes that Sessions' defense for failing to disclose his meetings with Kislyak come down "to a critical distinction: At times during the presidential race, he acted as a surrogate for Donald Trump. At other times, he acted as a US senator." Because those roles were separate, Sessions believes his statement during his confirmation hearing that he had no communications with the Russians "should not be viewed as dishonest." Borchers adds, however, that Sessions does not always see that division, adding that "Sessions couldn't or wouldn't say whether he was acting as a surrogate or a senator" at the Mayflower event.

Tom Bevan of Real Clear Politics said on Fox News' Special Report (6/13), "I thought Sessions was passionate and sincere in his defense, and drove a stake through the heart of the collusion argument," but "I don't know it's going to convince anybody, any Democrats, anybody who thought that there is collusion or obstruction, he probably didn't change any minds in that regard."

The Washington Post (6/13, Horwitz, Zapotosky) focuses on Sessions' repeated refusal to discuss his private conversations with Trump, reporting that in "a number of testy exchanges," he "said he would not discuss his conversations with Trump because of long-standing Justice Department policy that protected private conversations between cabinet secretaries and the president." A USA Today (6/13, Page) analysis similarly says that while Sessions "angrily denied any wrongdoing in his campaign contacts with Russian officials or the steps he later took at the Justice Department leading to Comey's ouster," he "refused to respond to a series of questions about President Trump's actions and motivations."

Pierre Thomas said in the lead story for ABC World News Tonight (6/13, lead story, 5:35, Muir) that Sessions was "defiant," adding that he "repeatedly protect[ed] any conversations he had with the President." CNN senior legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin said on CNN's Situation Room (6/13) that Sessions did not "formally cit[e] executive privilege, referring to some confidentiality which was apparently of his own invention."

To Bloomberg Politics (6/13, Dennis), Sessions sought "to preempt questions from the panel about conversations" with the President, which Nancy Cordes said in the lead story for the CBS Evening News (6/13, lead story, 3:45, Pelley) "frustrated Democrats, who accused Sessions of stonewalling about his conversations with Mr. Trump." Cordes added that

"one top Democrat said tonight...that perhaps Sessions and other top officials should be held in contempt of Congress if they won't answer these questions about the President."

Roll Call (6/13, Bennett) reports that Sessions cited "the potential that the White House could assert executive privilege – which has not yet happened." The Attorney General said, "I am protecting the right of the president ... to assert it if he chooses, and there may be other privileges that apply in this circumstance." Sessions added "that he was unsure if there was any additional clarity he could provide to members of the Intelligence panel in a closed session." Jim Acosta said on CNN's Situation Room (6/13) that according to the White House, Sessions "did not discuss with aides over here whether the President was asserting executive privilege and the President was not invoking it, so Sessions was essentially just dodging those questions during his testimony and the Republican-led committee simply allowed Sessions to do that."

Sen. Chris Murphy said on CNN's Situation Room (6/13) that "the very fact that he continues to not be able to testify to the conversations with the President suggests that there is something that he could be hiding." That, alongside the Deputy Attorney General's refusal in closed session to "give us any information about how he put together that memo that created the justification for Comey's firing," suggests "that there's a potential obstruction of justice charge here that no one wants to testify to."

John Dickerson said on the CBS Evening News (6/13, story 3, 1:30, Pelley) Sessions is "asserting a privilege the President has not asserted. He's saying the President might some day assert exclusive privilege." Similarly, Gloria Borger said on CNN's Situation Room (6/13), "This was General Sessions not talking at all about the President, not invoking any kind of executive privilege but allowing the fact if the President wanted to some time in the future, he didn't want to stand in the way or get in the way of that. I think there were a lot of Democrats, particularly Senator Heinrich, who basically said, 'You are obstructing our investigation.'"

A New York Times (6/13) editorial says that after giving "false testimony" to a Senate committee during his confirmation hearing, Sessions on Tuesday "lowered a broad cone of silence around all his communications with President Trump," citing "a supposedly longstanding policy at the Justice Department although he couldn't confirm that it existed in writing or that, if it did, he had actually read it." Sessions, the Times argues, "has no intention to answer any of those questions now or in the future." In an editorial, USA Today (6/13) says committee Democrats "failed to land any knockout blows, nor did Sessions punch any meaningful holes in Comey's damaging testimony about President Trump." USA Today adds that Sessions "often came across as forgetful, testy and defensive, his testimony sprinkled with the 'do not recall's' that reek of the lawyerly way public officials often evade accusations in Washington." In an

accompanying op-ed for USA Today (6/13), RNC Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel takes a very different view, writing that Sessions “proved his unwavering commitment to transparency and dedication to upholding the integrity of the Justice Department.”

The AP (6/13, Tucker, Werner) reports that Sessions “also rejected any idea of misconduct in the ouster of FBI Director James Comey.” Citing Comey’s claim that “implored” Sessions “to make sure he was never left alone with the president again – but that Sessions didn’t respond,” the AP quotes the Attorney General as saying, “He didn’t recall this, but I responded to his comment by agreeing that the FBI and Department of Justice needed to be careful to follow department policy regarding appropriate contacts with the White House.” Breitbart (6/13, Mason) reports that the Attorney General “took Comey to task for saying Sessions had ‘shrugged’ as if to say ‘what do you want me to do’ when the now-fired FBI director asked Sessions to help him avoid impropriety in his communications with the White House.”

Townhall (6/13, O'Brien) reports that in response to requests that he “expand on his involvement in the firing of Comey,” Sessions explained that the President “asked him and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein for their opinions on Comey and to put it in writing.” Sessions said, “There was a clear view of mine and Rosenstein that we had problems” at the FBI, adding that Comey had demonstrated his unfitness for the job “when he denied prosecution of Hillary Clinton after the email probe,” which Sessions called a “usurpation of authority.” Rep. Adam Schiff said on CNN’s Situation Room (6/13) that Sessions “avoided really answering questions about whether his letter, Rod Rosenstein’s memo were a pretext and they knew they were a pretext for the Comey firing, and from my perspective, Congress can not let those non-answers stand. We’re going to go have to press to get answers, and we’re going to have to force them to invoke privilege if that’s what they intend to do.”

The Washington Times (6/13, Noble) reports that Sessions “called it ‘absurd; that his own recusal would bar him from making the recommendation that former FBI Director James B. Comey be fired, noting recusal in the case should not preclude him from managing Justice Department components.”

Steve Hayes of The Weekly Standard said on Fox News’ Special Report (6/13), “He was weakest in talking about privilege and refusing to answer questions and explaining why he was refusing to answer questions. He was also relatively weak and trying to explain his role of why James Comey was dismissed and why the White House had given the convoluted explanation it gave. But overall, a good witness for the White House. It was a good day for the Trump Administration.”

***NYTimes Analysis: Harris Cut Off During Questioning For Second Time.***

The New York Times (6/13, Rogers) reports that Sen. Kamala Harris, who “employs a rapid-fire questioning pace more commonly seen in courtroom,” was “cut off by Republican senators on Tuesday as she

questioned" Sessions. This is "notable" the Times says, because it marks "the second time in a week that Ms. Harris, who is of Indian and Jamaican descent and is the only minority woman on the committee, was interrupted by two male colleagues during a hearing."

***Miller Says Sessions "Knocked Away The Hysteria" From Harris.*** Former Trump campaign spokesman Jason Miller prompted a heated exchange with USA Today's Kirsten Powers when he said on CNN's Anderson Cooper 360 (6/13) that Sessions "knocked away the hysteria from Kamala Harris and some of the Democrats who wanted to make this a partisan show." Powers questioned (6/13), how "asking some tough questions" made Harris hysterical. Powers added, "She was very dogged but I wouldn't say she was any more dogged than Ron Wyden was, would you say that? ... It's just women that usually are called hysterical."

***Comey Friend Turns Over "Relevant Materials" To FBI.*** ABC News (6/13, Siegel) reports that Columbia Law School professor Daniel Richman, a friend of Comey's who leaked details of the former FBI director's "alleged interactions with President Donald Trump to the media based on Comey's notes, has turned those materials over to the FBI." In a message to ABC News, Richman wrote, "Special counsel has been in contact with the committee to discuss access. In the meantime, I am turning the relevant materials over to the FBI."

***Cohen Asked To Testify Before House Intelligence Committee Sept. 5.*** Reuters (6/13) reports that the President's personal attorney Michael Cohen "said he has been asked to testify on Sept. 5 before the House Intelligence Committee, Bloomberg reported on Tuesday."

***Inglis: Charges Facing Trump Are More Serious Than Charges Against Clinton.*** In an op-ed for the Washington Post (6/13), former Rep. Bob Inglis, who was a member of the House Judiciary Committee that considered the impeachment of President Bill Clinton, writes that Clinton "was impeached for charges less serious than the ones before us now." Inglis adds that although "it's not time to start drafting articles of impeachment, it is time to pursue this investigation into Russian meddling in our presidential election with vigor, without friends to reward and without enemies to punish."

***Russian Hackers Tried To Access Voter Databases In Dozens Of States.*** Jeff Pegues reported on the CBS Evening News (6/13, story 4, 2:05, Pelley) that that while the intelligence community "concluded late last year, that the Russian government's cyberattacks were designed to help the Trump campaign," CBS News "has learned those efforts were even greater than previously reported." In the campaign's final weeks, "hackers tried to gain access to voter databases in more than two dozens states" but "former US officials now say they can't be sure that voter registration data in some states wasn't taken." Pegues added that officials still "do not believe the hacks impacted the outcome of the election." The Washington Times (6/13, Blake), citing a Bloomberg report, says voting systems in more than "three dozen states-- nearly twice as many as previously

thought – bore the brunt of a Russian cyberattack during the November presidential election.”

**President Derides “Fake News,” White House Says There Is “No Intention” To Fire Mueller.**

Newsmax editor-in-chief Christopher Ruddy’s claim Monday on [PBS’ NewsHour](#) that the President is considering the dismissal of special counsel Robert Mueller sparked a great deal of speculation and discussion in Washington. So much so, that Ruddy “appeared on CNN Tuesday morning to walk back his earlier statements.” Kristen Welker reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/13, story 3, 2:40, Holt) that Trump is “under fire” over the “explosive allegations.” and on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/13, story 2, 1:30, Muir), Cecilia Vega said that “the White House is pushing back, saying Ruddy does not speak for the President.” Margaret Brennan reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/13, story 2, 2:20, Pelley) that “the White House says that President Trump interviewed Mueller for the FBI director job just a day before the Justice Department announced that he’d serve as an impartial special counsel. Confidants of the President say this presents yet another conflict for Mueller.”

John Roberts said on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (6/13), “Sources tell Fox News President Trump was upset about the firestorm Ruddy ignited and dispatched the communications team to get the clarification. The President took aim at the press for not checking its facts, [tweeting](#), ‘Fake news is at an all-time high. Where is their apology to me for all of the incorrect stories???’”

The [New York Times](#) (6/13, Thrush, Haberman, Davis) says that soon after Mueller’s appointment Trump “began entertaining the idea of firing [him] even as his staff tried to discourage him from something they believed would turn a bad situation into a catastrophe, according to several people with direct knowledge of Mr. Trump’s interactions.” The Times adds, “For now, the staff has prevailed.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/13, Bennett) reports that deputy White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters traveling with the President on Tuesday that he has “no intention” of firing Mueller. Sander said, “While the president has the right to, he has no intention to do so.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/13, Westwood) also reports on Sanders’ comments.

Also Tuesday, the [Washington Times](#) (6/13, Noble) reports, Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein “tamped down” the rumors during testimony before a Senate appropriations committee. Rosenstein told the panel he is aware of “no secret plan” to fire Mueller “and indicated it would only be appropriate to do so if there was good cause to support it.” [Reuters](#) (6/13) quotes Rosenstein as saying, “Director Mueller is going to have the full degree of independence that he needs to conduct that investigation appropriately.”

[Politico](#) (6/13, McCaskill, Cheney) cites House Speaker Ryan’s expression of “confidence” in Mueller and Sen. Dianne Feinstein’s

prediction that such a move “would destroy any shred of trust in the president’s judgment that remains over here,” but adds that while “prominent Washington figures bat down the idea that Mueller could be shown the door, the debate is still aiding the White House’s efforts to try to discredit the former FBI director and push the idea that the sprawling Russia probe is a vendetta against Trump.” Under the headline “How Trump could fire the special counsel (if he were foolish enough to try),” a Washington Post (6/13, Bump) analysis lays out the steps “of how that might progress.”

Democratic lawmakers were, nonetheless, suspicious. In an interview on MSNBC’s Morning Joe (6/13) before Attorney General Sessions’ testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee, Sen. Richard Blumenthal said that he wants a commitment from Sessions “that he will resign if the President of the United States fires Bob Mueller.” Rep. Adam Schiff was asked on MSNBC’s Morning Joe (6/13) how Republicans would react if Trump fired Mueller. Schiff said, “I would hope that would be the last straw for many Republicans that have stayed their hand and not been willing to speak out, if he were to take this step with all its echoes of Watergate. I would hope that what Congress would do would be to take up a law...so that Bob Mueller could be reappointed because I don’t think Congress would sit still and allow the President to pick his own investigator.”

Politico (6/13, Caygle, Bresnahan) reports that House Minority Leader Pelosi believes Trump will “self-impeach” and that “Democrats should wait for the Russia investigations especially special counsel Robert Mueller’s probe to play out before pushing to remove him from the Oval Office.” Pelosi also believes that firing Mueller “would be enough to push Republicans to begin seriously considering acting against the president on their own.”

The Los Angeles Times (6/13) argues in an editorial that a “decision to dismiss Mueller and abort the investigation” would be “disastrous.” The Washington Post (6/13) also warns against firing Mueller, arguing in an editorial that it would, “more than anything else the president has done in office, firm up a case that Mr. Trump is obstructing justice.”

***Trump: Lynch Gave Clinton Cover During Email Probe.*** The New York Post (6/13, Moore) reports that in a tweet Tuesday, President Trump accused former Attorney General Lynch of giving Hillary Clinton cover during the investigation into her use of a private email server. Trump wrote, “A.G. Lynch made law enforcement decisions for political purposes...gave Hillary Clinton a free pass and protection. Totally illegal!.”

### **Trump Talks Healthcare, Apprenticeships In Visit To Wisconsin.**

President Trump’s brief visit to Wisconsin on Tuesday, accompanied by Labor Secretary Acosta, Education Secretary DeVos, and Ivanka Trump, receives relatively light coverage, mainly limited to in-state media and brief items in some national outlets. Though the President discussed both

the push to repeal the Affordable Care Act and his call for an apprenticeship program for young people, most coverage focuses on the latter. And while reporting is basically straightforward, a few articles highlight the fact that the President, now pushing an apprenticeship plan, famously hosted a TV show called "The Apprentice."

The Wisconsin State Journal (6/13, DeFour) reports that the President visited Wisconsin "to promote apprenticeships and attend a fundraiser that Gov. Scott Walker is billing as 'one of the biggest events we've ever had for a statewide elected official.'" During a discussion with Walker, state government officials, business leaders, and students at Waukesha County Technical College, Trump "mentioned that he and Walker were negotiating with a 'major, major incredible manufacturer of phones and computers and televisions.' ... It wasn't immediately clear to which company Trump was referring, but Walker recently traveled to Japan for a trade mission." WFRV-TV Green Bay, WI (6/13, 10:07 p.m. CDT) reported that Trump "hinted that a major employer could be bringing jobs to Wisconsin."

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (6/13, Glauber, Gilbert) reports that during the "whirlwind trip," Trump discussed the Affordable Care Act at Milwaukee's Mitchell International Airport, talked about his planned apprenticeship program at the college, "and returned to Milwaukee to raise campaign cash for Walker. ... On the airport tarmac, he spoke for four minutes about 'Obamacare victims.'" Wisconsin Radio Network (6/13, Beckett) reports on its website that Trump "used a brief speech in Milwaukee Tuesday to continue his call for Congress to repeal" the ACA.

WITI-TV Milwaukee (6/13, 5:33 p.m. CDT) reported that Trump "met with two families he's calling victims of the Affordable Care Act." WAOW-TV Wausau, WI (6/13, 10:03 p.m. CDT) showed a clip of Trump saying, "Millions of American families, and I mean millions, continue to suffer from Obamacare, while congressional Democrats obstruct our efforts to rescue them. And I'll tell you, that's exactly what's happening. The Democrats have let you down big league." In response, Sen. Tammy Baldwin tweeted, "@POTUS, the people who are let down 'bigly' are Americans who want solutions, not partisan bickering."

In a piece headlined "Who Else But Trump To Call For A Nation Full Of Apprentices?" the AP (6/13, Boak, Thomas) reports, "The man who parlayed a run on TV's 'The Apprentice' into a winning presidential campaign said Tuesday the nation needs a stronger system of apprenticeship to match workers with millions of open jobs." GM Today (WI) (6/13) writes that during his brief presidential bid, Walker was critical of Trump, saying, "We don't need an apprentice in the White House." But during Trump's Tuesday visit, the President both discussed apprenticeships and raised money for his ex-rival. WAOW-TV Wausau, WI (6/13, 10:03 p.m. CDT) reported that Trump "commended" Walker "for developing workforce programs for students across the state, but says the nation needs stronger apprenticeship programs."

The Washington Times (6/13, Miller) reports that Trump "said enhancing training and educational opportunities to help young people to get good-paying jobs 'is one of the most important questions facing' their generation." The Hill (6/13, Fabian) reports that the President "said it requires a change in mentality from institutions of higher learning, which typically offer two- and four-year degrees." Politico (6/13, Kullgren) reports that Trump is expected to follow up the visit by signing "an executive order Wednesday that would virtually eliminate oversight of government-subsidized apprenticeship programs. ... The draft executive order would shift certification of federally funded apprenticeship programs from the Labor Department to grant recipients."

The Washington Post (6/13, Wagner) reports that as the President "has pushed workforce development this week, critics have charged that other actions he is pursuing would hurt the people he says he wants to help." His budget proposal would cut the Labor Department budget by 21 percent in the next fiscal year, including "a 40 percent cut to the Labor Department's Wagner-Peyser Employment Service, which supports about 14 million job seekers annually and last year helped nearly 6 million people find jobs."

Reuters (6/13) reports in a brief item that Trump also said he was "making progress on behalf of Wisconsin dairy farmers in a dispute with Canada over its trade practices." Trump said, "We are making big progress on opening things up."

On arrival, the President tweeted, "Just arrived in Wisconsin to discuss JOBS, JOBS, JOBS! #MAGA". He later tweeted, "Just got back from Wisconsin. Great day, great people!" Twitter discussion was light; comments from anti-Trump protesters in Milwaukee were shared on Twitter under the hashtag #TrumpInWI. Bloomberg Politics (6/13, Epstein) reports that Trump won Waukesha County "by 2-to-1 over Democrat Hillary Clinton" last year. The Washington Examiner (6/13, Jashinsky) says those number are the "reverse image" of the President's current national approval rating.

### **Meadows: Freedom Caucus Considering \$1.5 Trillion Debt Ceiling Increase.**

Politico (6/13, Bade) reports Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows said after a group meeting yesterday that some of his conservative colleagues favor a \$1.5 trillion raise in the debt limit, compared to the Administration's proposed \$2.5 trillion lift. Meadows said the \$1.5 trillion raise would put the deadline for revisiting the contentious issue past the 2018 mid-term elections.

***WPost: Mnuchin Is Administration's "Adult In the Room" Regarding Debt Ceiling.*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (6/13) writes that Treasury Secretary Mnuchin espoused a view of "simple realism" when he said in congressional testimony on Monday that Congress should adopt additional borrowing authority, as "the debt ceiling should not be a Republican issue



or a Democrat issue.” The Post finds Mnuchin to be the “adult in the room, with respect to government debt,” as he made two important clarifications that show the Administration’s intention to maintain the “risk-free” status of Treasury securities, which “undergird the global financial system.” First, Mnuchin said a failure to increase the debt limit would “create a serious problem.” Second, he recommended that it would be best to pass such legislation well before August and without amendments.

### **Hiltzik: Trump’s EPA Cuts Revisit “Morale-Sapping Approach” Of Reagan-Era Administrator.**

Columnist Michael Hiltzik writes for the Los Angeles Times (6/13) that President Trump’s proposed budget presents the EPA with the most “devastating cuts” of any federal agency. The proposal would cut the agency’s budget by 31 percent, but because two programs for clean water and drinking water infrastructure will maintain complete funding, the rest of the EPA would experience an effective cut of 42 percent. According to former EPA attorney and Environmental Protection Network organizer Ruth Greenspan Bell, the cuts seem like “a full-frontal attack,” as “everything at EPA is so intertwined”: “Science is tied into the regulatory process, permitting, enforcement.” Hiltzik points to Reagan-era EPA Administrator Anne Gorsuch’s similar vision for scaling back the agency’s reach, saying that her “morale-sapping approach made her job all the more difficult.”

### **Fed Set To Raise Rates On “Brighter Economic Outlook.”**

The AP (6/13, Wiseman) reports that “the Federal Reserve is set to raise short-term interest rates Wednesday for the third time in six months – a vote of confidence in the American economy and especially in the resilience of the U.S. job market.” However, the AP writes, “neither the U.S. nor the world economy is likely to regain the robust health that prevailed before the recession struck a decade ago.” The article adds that “the IMF foresees the global economy growing 3.5 percent this year up from 3.1 percent in 2016 but well below the 4 to 5 percent growth typical of the mid-2000s.” The AP writes, “A big problem is that the richest countries can’t count on steadily growing workforces to drive expansion because their populations are aging,” and “across the globe, for reasons that largely confound economists, countries are struggling to generate the acceleration of worker productivity that normally underpins prosperity.”

### **House Passes VA Reform Bill.**

The Los Angeles Times (6/13, Rosenblatt) reports that in a 368-55 vote on Tuesday, the House approved The Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017, which will “make it easier for the troubled Veterans Affairs Department to fire managers accused of misconduct.” The measure “would make it easier to fire employees for cause, adds some protections for whistleblowers and puts

more power in the hands of Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin," but civil service unions condemned it, arguing it is "an end-run around long-standing protections for government employees and whistle-blowers." The Hill (6/13, Mitchell) says the measure, which was already approved by the Senate, now goes to President Trump is "expected to sign it." NBC Nightly News (6/13, story 4, 0:20, Holt) also reported on the bill.

### **Tillerson Says He Still Supports Paris Climate Deal, But Respects Trump's Decision.**

Roll Call (6/13, Nawaguna) reports Secretary of State Tillerson, who backed the US staying in the Paris climate agreement, told lawmakers on Tuesday that his views have "never changed," but that he respects President Trump's decision to withdraw from the international accord. Asked by Sen. Ben Cardin during testimony Tuesday if he had changed his position on the agreement, Tillerson said, "I will tell you that the president was quite deliberative on the issue and took some time to make his decision, particularly after he had heard from European counterparts. My views were heard out. I respect that the president heard my views, but I respect the decision he's taken."

### **Trump Tells Tangier Island Mayor Not To Worry About Sea-level Rise.**

USA Today (6/14, Vaughn) reports, "President Trump phoned Tangier Island Mayor James 'Ooker' Eskridge Monday after viewing a CNN report about the Virginia island's struggle with rising sea levels," telling him "not to worry about sea-level rise." Eskridge said Trump said, "Your island has been there for hundreds of years, and I believe your island will be there for hundreds more." Eskridge added that he responded to Trump, "The stuff you are doing is just common-sense stuff. I believe you're for the working man – and you want people to get back to work – you're for the military, and Israel and religious liberties – it's all the stuff that we value. I believe you came along for such a time as this."

### **EPA Looks To Halt Emission Rules For Two Years.**

The Washington Examiner (6/13, Siciliano) reports the EPA is now looking to halt the Obama Administration's emission rules for hydraulic fracturing for two years, rather than the initial 90-day stay. The EPA said, "Under the proposal, sources would not need to comply with these requirements while the stay is in effect. Since issuing the final rule, EPA has received several petitions to reconsider certain aspects of the rule." The agency said the delay is needed to conduct a review of the methane emission rules. The Hill (6/13, Henry) reports the EPA's announcement must undergo a 30-day public comment period. Environmental groups have already sued over the EPA's decision to implement a stay of the regulations limiting methane leaks at drilling sites.

### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

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**New York Times.**

**"Jeff Sessions Clams Up In Congress."** A New York Times (6/13) editorial says that after giving "false testimony" to a Senate committee during his confirmation hearing, Attorney General Sessions on Tuesday "lowered a broad cone of silence around all his communications with President Trump," citing "a supposedly longstanding policy at the Justice Department although he couldn't confirm that it existed in writing or that, if it did, he had actually read it." Sessions, the Times argues, "has no intention to answer any of those questions now or in the future."

**"How To Protest In Russia."** In an editorial, the New York Times (6/14, Board) calls Alexsei Navalny, the organizer of anti-corruption protests in Russia, a "master of mobilization" who has captured the world's attention. The Times explains Navalny and other critics of the Kremlin "have succeeded in mobilizing the internet and social media to maintain a lively opposition in major cities" by targeting "what is arguably the most vulnerable attribute of the ruling elite: its corruption." The Times concedes Navalny "will not defeat Vladimir Putin for the Russian presidency in March 2018," but his strategy is remarkable because it focuses on wealthy, corrupt Russian leaders, which "Putin cannot facilely dismiss as the work of a hostile West."

**Washington Post.**

**"North Korea's Outrageous Treatment Of A US Student Must Not Go Unpunished."** A Washington Post (6/13) editorial says North Korea's treatment of American college student Otto Warmbier "should not go unpunished" and calls on President Trump to make security the release of three other Americans held by Pyongyang "a priority." The US, it argues, "should also move quickly to step up sanctions on the regime of Kim Jong Un."

**"By Firing Mueller, Trump Would Make A Stronger Case That He Is Obstructing Justice."** The Washington Post (6/13) warns President Trump against firing special counsel Robert Mueller, arguing in an editorial that it would, "more than anything else the president has done in office, firm up a case that Mr. Trump is obstructing justice."

**"It's Time To Get Realistic About The Debt Ceiling."** In an editorial, the Washington Post (6/13) writes that Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney espoused a view of "simple realism" when he said in congressional testimony on Monday that Congress should adopt additional borrowing authority, as "the debt ceiling should not be a Republican issue or a Democrat issue." The Post finds Mulvaney to be the "adult in the room, with respect to government debt," as he made two important clarifications that show the Administration's intention to maintain the "risk-free" status of Treasury securities, which "undergird the global financial system." First, Mulvaney said a failure to increase the debt limit would "create a serious problem." Second, he recommended that it would be best to pass such legislation well before August and without

amendments.

### **Wall Street Journal.**

**"Uber's Growing Pains."** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/13) writes that as Uber Chief Business Officer Emil Michael stepped down on Monday and CEO Travis Kalanick said yesterday he would take an indefinite leave from the company, the firm is at a crossroads. Reforming "workplace culture" is important, and changing management is logical since workplace culture usually flows from the top. However, Kalanick's determined entrepreneurial spirit was a key factor in Uber's meteoric growth. Therefore, if management of the tech firm relies on its legal and human-resources teams, it won't survive, let alone maintain its status as the dominant ride-hailing app in most US cities.

**"Otto Warmbier's Homecoming."** A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/13) editorial says American college student Otto Warmbier's fate underscores the inappropriate nature of Dennis Rodman's latest visit this week to Pyongyang.

**"Pennsylvania's Lesson For Illinois."** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/13) editorializes that Pennsylvania took a positive first step toward addressing its pension woes – it has up to \$70 billion in liabilities – when Gov. Tom Wolf signed a bill on Monday that would enroll new state employees in "hybrid" retirement plans featuring defined-contributions from employees and smaller ones by the government. The Journal says the plan, effective 2019, has the advantages of eliminating taxpayer risk for new hires and giving employees the option of portability. Current workers would have the option to switch to the new plan. The Journal recommends that Connecticut and Illinois take note of Pennsylvania's policy.

### **Big Picture**

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

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

[Uber CEO Travis Kalanick To Take Indefinite Leave Of Absence](#)  
[Sessions Calls Russian Collusion Allegation An 'Appalling And Detestable Lie'](#)

[Wall Street Veteran Leads Search For Next Fed Chief](#)  
[Total Eclipse: Oil Giant Sees Its Future In Electricity](#)

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

[Jeff Sessions Denies Collusion, Deploing 'Detestable Lie' In Senate Testimony](#)  
[Trump Stews, Staff Steps In, And Mueller Is Safe For Now](#)  
[Uber Embraces Major Reforms As Travis Kalanick, The CEO, Steps Away](#)  
[Otto Warmbier, Detained American, Is Evacuated From North Korea In A Coma](#)  
[On A Tiny Norwegian Island, America Keeps An Eye On Russia](#)  
[As Church Shifts, A Cardinal Welcomes Gays; They Embrace A 'Miracle'](#)

***Washington Post:***

U-Va. Student Released By N. Korea In A Coma

With Each Puff, A Deeper Socioeconomic Gap

Northam Fends Off Perriello In Va.

Sessions Silent On Talks With Trump

Uber CEO On Leave As Firm Tries To Repair Its Culture

Secret Meeting Offers Prospect Of Wider Talks

***Financial Times:***

Macron Leaves Door Open To UK Staying In EU

Japan Inc's Silence Over Toshiba Sends Chill Across Tokyo

Uber Chief Travis Kalanick To Take Indefinite Leave

Cristiano Ronaldo Accused Of €14.8m Tax Fraud

***Washington Times:***

Sessions Calls Talk Of Russian Collusion A 'Detestable Lie,' Says Comey

Fired Over Clinton Probe

Gillespie Ekes Out GOP Win In Virginia Governor's Race; Northam Easily

Claims Democratic Victory

Minority Judicial Nominations By Trump Would Pose Political Dilemmas For Democrats

With U.S. Pullback, China Pursues Further Foothold In Latin American Business

No Apologies: ICE Chief Says Illegal Immigrants Should Live In Fear Of Deportation

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

**ABC:** Sessions Senate Hearing; Trump-Special Counsel; Healthcare Reform Plan; North Korea Detainee Released; Georgia-Escaped Fugitives Manhunt; NYC-Carbon Monoxide Leak; Severe Weather; Ohio-Killing Spree; Bill Cosby Trial; Teen Texting Suicide Trial; Ohio-Highway Chase; Uber-Shake Up; NBA Finals-MVP.

**CBS:** Sessions Senate Hearing; Trump-Special Counsel; Sessions Senate Hearing-Expert Opinion; Russia Meddling Investigation; Bill Cosby Trial; Georgia-Escaped Fugitives Manhunt; North Korea Detainee Released; Uber-Shake Up; Afghanistan-US Soldiers Murdered; NBA Finals-MVP.

**NBC:** North Korea Detainee Released; Sessions Senate Hearing; Trump-Special Counsel; Veteran Affairs Reform Plan; Uber-Shake Up; Bill Cosby Trial; Georgia-Escaped Fugitives Manhunt; Afghanistan-US Soldiers Murdered; SUV Headlight Safety; Oprah-Not Running 2020; Young Girl-Thanking Officers; Wedding Proposal.

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

Sessions Senate Hearing – 13 minutes, 20 seconds

North Korea Detainee Released – 8 minutes, 15 seconds

Trump-Special Counsel – 6 minutes, 30 seconds

Georgia-Escaped Fugitives Manhunt – 5 minutes, 45 seconds

Afghanistan-US Soldiers Murdered – 1 minute

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

**ABC:** London High-Rise Fire; Sessions Senate Hearing; Bill Cosby Trial; Healthcare Reform Plan; North Korea Detainee Released; War In Afghanistan.

**CBS:** Sessions Senate Hearing; Trump-Special Counsel; Bill Cosby Trial; North Korea Detainee Released; War In Afghanistan; Wall Street News.

**FOX:** London High-Rise Fire; North Korea Detainee Released; Sessions Senate Hearing; Bill Cosby Trial; Georgia-Escaped Fugitives Manhunt.

**NPR:** Sessions Senate Hearing; Bill Cosby Trial; UK-France Meeting.

**Washington Schedule**

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**Today's Events In Washington.**

**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP Gives remarks at the Apprenticeship Initiative kickoff; signs an Executive Order.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE Gives remarks at the National Association of Home Builders Legislative Conference.

**US Senate:** 9:45 AM Senate Judiciary Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers John Kenneth Bush to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit; Kevin Christopher Newsom to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit; and Damien Michael Schiff to be a U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Public Works Committee legislative hearing on the Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act – Legislative hearing on 'S. 517, the Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act', with testimony from Advanced Biofuels Business Council Executive Director R. Brooke Coleman; Clean Air Task Force Senior Counsel Jonathan Lewis; Sheetz Executive Vice President Mike Lorenz; Briggs & Stratton Corporation Chairman, President, and CEO Todd Teske; and Ecoengineering Principal Engineer Dr Janet Yanowitz Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate Transportation Committee hearing on self-driving vehicles – Hearing on 'Paving the Way for Self-Driving Vehicles', with testimony from Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers President and CEO Mitch Bainwol; NVIDIA Corporation Vice President and General Manager of Automotive Business Rob Csongor; American Center for Mobility President and CEO John Maddox; and Mothers Against Drunk Driving National President Colleen Sheehey-Church Location: Rm 253, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Homeland Security Committee hearing on violent extremism – Hearing on 'Ideology and Terror: Understanding the Tools, Tactics, and Techniques of Violent Extremism', with testimony from

Stanford University Hoover Institution Research Fellow Ayaan Hirsi Ali; Muslim Reform Movement co-founder Asra Nomani; Institute of World Politics President Dr John Lenczowski; and former National Counterterrorism Center Director Michael Leiter Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenRonJohnson>

10:00 AM Senate Finance Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, with agenda including consideration of nominations of Eric Hargan to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services; David Malpass to be Under Secretary of the Treasury; Andrew Maloney to be Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury; and Brent James McIntosh to be Department of the Treasury General Counsel Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:30 AM Defense Secretary Mattis testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FY'18 budget – Defense Subcommittee hearing on 'Review of the FY2018 Budget Request for the U.S. Dept. of Defense', with testimony from Secretary of Defense James Mattis; and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford, Jr. Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

11:00 AM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FY'18 Congressional budgets – Legislative Branch Subcommittee hearing on 'Review of 2018 Budget Requests for the Senate Sergeant at Arms, U.S. Capitol Police', with testimony from Senate Sergeant at Arms Frank Larkin; and U.S. Capitol Police Chief Matthew Verderosa Location: Rm 124, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

2:00 PM Senate Energy and Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Water and Power Subcommittee legislative hearing, with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science Scott Cameron; Western Area Power Administration Administrator and CEO Mark Gabriel; Harlowton, MT, Mayor Jeff Sell; Yuma County Water Users' Association General Manager Tom Davis; Patterson Lake Homeowners Association President Tom Fisher; Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Chief Engineer/CEO Mike Hamman; and Brookfield Renewable Energy Group Vice President for Northeast Operations Christopher Wynn Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC [www.energy.senate.gov](http://www.energy.senate.gov)

2:30 PM VA Secretary Shulkin testifies to Senate committee hearing on FY'18 and FY'19 budgets – Hearing on 'Fiscal Year 2018 Budget for Veterans' Programs and Fiscal Year 2019 Advance Appropriations Requests', with testimony from Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin; Acting Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Management and Department of Veterans Affairs CFO Edward Murray; Acting Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Information and Technology Rob Thomas; Veterans Health Administration CFO Mark Yow; Veterans Benefits

Administration Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary James Manker; National Cemeteries Division Deputy Under Secretary for Finance and Planning and CFO Matthew Sullivan; Paralyzed Veterans of America Associate Executive Director of Government Relations Carl Blake; Disabled American Veterans Assistant National Service Director LeRoy Acosta; Veterans of Foreign Wars National Legislative Service Director Carlos Fuentes; and Vietnam Veterans of America National President John Rowan  
Location: Rm 418, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC  
<http://veterans.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Ryan Phillippe testifies to Senate Aging Committee hearing on military caregivers – Hearing on 'Military Caregivers: Families Serving for the Long Run', with testimony from actor Ryan Phillippe; Elizabeth Dole Foundation founder Elizabeth Dole; RAND Corporation Senior Behavioral Scientist Terri Tanielian; veteran caregiver Mary Hahn and veteran Thomas Ward; veteran caregiver Melanie Swoboda and veteran Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) Joe Swoboda; and veteran caregiver Wanda Ickes and veteran Sgt. (Ret.) Samuel Ickes  
Location: Rm 106, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://aging.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FY'18 NNSA budget – Energy and Water Development Subcommittee hearing on 'Review of the FY2018 Budget Request for the National Nuclear Security Administration', with testimony from NNSA Administrator (and Under Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Security) Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Frank Klotz, Acting Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs Philip Calbos, Acting Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation David Huizenga, and Deputy Administrator for Naval Reactors Adm. Frank Caldwell, Jr.  
Location: Rm 138, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

2:30 PM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing on southeast Europe – Europe and Regional Security Cooperation Subcommittee hearing on 'Southeast Europe: Strengthening Democracy and Countering Malign Foreign Influence', with testimony from Atlantic Council Executive Vice President Damon Wilson; SAIS Foreign Policy Institute Fellow Dr Majda Ruge; National Endowment for Democracy Associate Director for Europe Ivana Cvetkovic Bajrovic; and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Hoyt Brian Yee  
Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC  
<http://foreign.senate.gov/>

3:00 PM Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee hearing on tax reform – Hearing on 'Tax Reform: Removing Barriers to Small Business Growth', with testimony from S Corporation Association President Brian Reardon; AICPA Tax Executive Committee Chair Annette Nellen; and Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center Director Mark Mazur  
Location: Rm 428A, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC  
<http://sbc.senate.gov/>

5:00 PM Community College Innovation Challenge finalists on Capitol



Hill – Community College Innovation Challenge Finalists’ Reception on Capitol Hill, with members of the House of Representatives and Senate meeting the finalists from the third annual Challenge, in which the National Science Foundation and American Association of Community Colleges annual invite teams from across the country to submit ‘innovative solutions grounded in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to solve some of the nation’s most pressing challenges’. Reception includes all 10 finalist teams showcasing their projects, and the NSF and AACC announcing the top three finalists \* Event follows a four-day Innovation Boot Camp, where the students learn ‘how to put their proposals into action to make real-world change’ Location: Rm 485, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.nsf.gov/> [#CCICChallenge](https://twitter.com/NSF)

**US House:** 9:00 AM Hearing on ‘The FY 2018 Foreign Affairs Budget’, with testimony from Secretary of State Rex Tillerson Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

9:30 AM Helsinki Commission hearing on Romania – Helsinki Commission hearing on ‘The Romanian Anti-Corruption Process: Successes and Excesses’, with witnesses – Mayer Brown Special Counsel Mark Gitenstein, Center for Strategic and International Studies Senior Vice President Heather Conley, foreign policy commentator and consultant David Clark, and Freedom Capital Chairman Philip Stephenson – examining the current state of the process with the goal of understanding its successes and excesses and how best to respond Location: SVC 212-210, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

10:00 AM Department of Defense Intelligence and Overhead Architecture Subcommittee closed hearing on ‘Ongoing Intelligence Activities’ Location: HVC-304, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseIntelComm>

10:00 AM Treasury Secretary Mnuchin testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing – State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee ‘Department of the Treasury – International Programs Budget Hearing’, with testimony from Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Federal Lands Subcommittee legislative hearing on discussion draft of the ‘Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act’ (aka ‘SHARE Act’) Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Energy subcommittee hearing on state security planning and emergency preparedness – Energy Subcommittee hearing on

'States' Perspectives on Energy Security Planning, Emergency Preparedness, and State Energy Programs', with testimony from National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners First Vice President John Betkoski III; Michigan Agency for Energy Executive Director Valerie Brader; Washington State Department of Commerce Assistant Director Michael Furze; Georgia Environmental Finance Authority Energy Resources Division Director David Gipson; Public Utility Commission of Texas Executive Director Brian Lloyd; and National Association of State Energy Officials Executive Director David Terry Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Financial Services Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 1422, the Flood Insurance Market Parity and Modernization Act', 'H.R. 1558, the Repeatedly Flooded Communities Preparation Act', 'H.R. 2246, the Taxpayer Exposure Mitigation Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2565, To require the use of replacement cost value in determining the premium for flood insurance coverage under the National Flood Insurance Act, and for other purposes', 'H.R. 2868, the National Flood Insurance Program Policyholder Protection Act of 2017', 'H.R. XXXX, the National Flood Insurance Program Administrative Reform Act of 2017', and 'H.R. XXXX, the 21st Century Flood Reform Act' Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Ways and Means Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 2742, Modernizing the Interstate Placement of Children in Foster Care Act', 'H.R. 2857, Supporting Families in Substance Abuse Treatment Act', 'H.R. 2834, Partnership Grants to Strengthen Families Affected by Parental Substance Abuse Act', 'H.R. 2866, Reducing Barriers for Relative Foster Parents Act', 'H.R. 2847, Improving Services for Older Youth in Foster Care Act', and 'H.R. 2842, Accelerating Individuals into the Workforce Act' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.J.Res. 76, Granting the consent and approval of Congress for the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Maryland, and the District of Columbia to enter into a compact relating to the establishment of the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission', 'H.J.Res. 92, Granting the consent and approval of Congress for the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Maryland, and the District of Columbia to amend the Washington Area Transit Regulation Compact', 'H.R. 495, Protection of Children Act', and 'H.R. 2826, Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act' Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:15 AM Health Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining the Extension of Safety Net Health Programs' Location: Rm 2322, Rayburn House Office

Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>

<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:15 AM House Workforce subcommittee hearing on legislative reforms to the National Labor Relations Act – Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee hearing on 'Legislative Reforms to the National Labor Relations Act: H.R. 2776, Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act; H.R. 2775, Employee Privacy Protection Act; and, H.R. 2723, Employee Rights Act', with testimony from McGuireWoods partner Seth Borden; Communications Workers of America General Counsel Guerino Calemine III; Karen Cox of Dixon, IL; and Michigan Health and Hospital Association Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff Nancy McKeague  
Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC  
<http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

11:00 AM Rep. Peter DeFazio; House members join Pilots Of American Airlines, Flight Attendants, others for Capitol Hill Rally – On Flag Day, pilots of American Airlines join U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, flight attendants, aviation workers, their families and supporters for a Capitol Hill rally to support the American flag and urge passage of H.R. 2150, the Flags of Convenience Don't Fly Here Act, bipartisan legislation introduced by DeFazio and supported by 54 additional co-sponsors. "H.R. 2150 would prohibit the Department of Transportation from issuing a permit to a foreign airline unless DOT determines that it is not establishing itself in a particular country just to avoid regulations a so-called "flag of convenience" scheme that allows companies to skirt international labor standards, outsource cheap labor from low-wage countries, and take advantage of weak safety and security oversight." Participants include: Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.); Rep. Paul Cook (R-Calif.); Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas); Rep. Bill Johnson (R-Ohio); Captain Dan Carey, President of the Allied Pilots Association; Captain Lee Collins  
Location: Capitol Grounds, Corner of First Street SE and Independence Ave, across from Library of Congress.

11:00 AM House Small Business Committee hearing on 'SBA's failed 2014 agency restructure' – Hearing on 'A Cautionary Tale: A Review of SBA's Failed 2014 Agency Restructure', with testimony from Small Business Administration Acting Inspector General Mike Ware, and COO Joseph Loddio  
Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/>  
<https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

11:00 AM Markup hearing on 'H.R. 2825, the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act of 2017' Location: HVC 210, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC [homeland.house.gov](http://homeland.house.gov)  
<https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

11:30 AM Conversations with Conservatives event – Conversations with Conservatives session, with Republican Reps. Dave Brat, Warren Davidson, Andy Harris, Thomas Massie, Mark Sanford, and Mark Walker meeting traditional press and bloggers to discuss issues of the day \*

Chaired by Reps. Raul Labrador, Jim Jordan, and Mark Meadows Location: Rm 2247, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://jordan.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/conversations> #CWC115

12:00 PM House expected to debate VETERAN Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include 'H.R. 2372 – VETERAN Act' and beginning consideration of 'H.R. 2579 – Broader Options for Americans Act' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM Secretary of State Tillerson testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget – State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee 'Department of State – Budget Hearing', with testimony from Secretary of State Rex Tillerson Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee marks up End Neglected Tropical Diseases Act – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee markup hearing, on 'H.R. 1415, End Neglected Tropical Diseases Act' Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

2:15 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on famines in Africa – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on 'Africa's Current and Potential Famines', with testimony from Alliance to End Hunger Executive Director Emeritus Tony Hall; Chicago Council on Global Affairs Senior Fellow for Global Food and Agriculture Roger Thurow; and InterAction Director for Humanitarian Practice Julien Schopp Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

5:00 PM Community College Innovation Challenge finalists on Capitol Hill – Community College Innovation Challenge Finalists' Reception on Capitol Hill, with members of the House of Representatives and Senate meeting the finalists from the third annual Challenge, in which the National Science Foundation and American Association of Community Colleges annual invite teams from across the country to submit 'innovative solutions grounded in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to solve some of the nation's most pressing challenges'. Reception includes all 10 finalist teams showcasing their projects, and the NSF and AACC announcing the top three finalists \* Event follows a four-day Innovation Boot Camp, where the students learn 'how to put their proposals into action to make real-world change' Location: Rm 485, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.nsf.gov/> <https://twitter.com/NSF> #CCICChallenge

**Other:** 8:30 AM 'Building a Competitive U.S.-Mexico Border' conference – 'Building a Competitive U.S.-Mexico Border' conference hosted by the Wilson Center Mexico Institute and the Border Trade Alliance, to discuss

'improving border management in order to strengthen the competitiveness of both the U.S. and Mexico'. Speakers include Republicans Sen. John Cornyn and Rep. Will Hurd, Democratic Rep. Henry Cuellar, Customs and Border Protection Acting Commissioner Kevin McAleenan, Mexico Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Geronimo Gutierrez, San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey, and State Department Border Coordinator Hillary Quam Location: Wilson Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington, DC <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/> <https://twitter.com/TheWilsonCenter>

9:00 AM 2017 CSIS-JETRO Conference – 2017 Center for Strategic and International Studies-Japan External Trade Organization Conference on 'Asia-Pacific Economic Integration and the Role of the United States and Japan', with Democratic Rep. Rick Larsen, JETRO Chairman and CEO Hiroyuki Ishige, and CSIS President and CEO John Hamre Location: CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Ave, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

6:00 PM Endowment for Middle East Truth's 'Rays of Light in the Darkness' Annual Dinner – Endowment for Middle East Truth's 'Rays of Light in the Darkness' Annual Dinner, honoring Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Ron Dermer, Republican Sen. Jim Inhofe, Republican Rep. Mark Meadows, Democratic Rep. Juan Vargas Location: Washington, DC [www.emetonline.org](http://www.emetonline.org)

6:00 PM National Partnership for Women & Families Gala Dinner – National Partnership for Women & Families Gala Dinner. Distinguished honoree and keynote speaker is Democratic Sen. Kamala Harris Location: Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.nationalpartnership.org/> <https://twitter.com/NPWF>

7:30 PM CFA Annual Awards Dinner – Consumer Federation of America Annual Awards Dinner, for awards recognizing individuals who have made exceptional progress in American consumerism by improving the marketplace, eliminating fraud, promoting consumer health and safety, and providing consumer information. Honorees include Democratic Rep. Bobby Rush, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Chairman Martin Gruenberg, Center for Digital Democracy Executive Director Jeffrey Chester, National Cooperative Bank President and CEO Charles Snyder, and The Nation Institute Investigative Fund Reporting Fellow Susan Antilla Location: Capital Hilton, 1001 16th Street Northwest, Washington, DC <http://www.consumerfed.org/> <https://twitter.com/consumerfed>

## **Last Laughs**

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

*Jimmy Kimmel:* "Senate Democrats accused [Attorney General] Jeff Sessions of stonewalling, which the attorney general adamantly denied. Although he did add if he did decide to stonewall, the Mexicans would definitely be paying for it."

**Stephen Colbert:** "I'm sure you know everyone is talking about America's favorite new reality TV show, 'So You Think You Can Testify About Russia.' Today's contestant: Attorney General and Last Surviving Little Rascal, Jeff Sessions."

**Stephen Colbert:** "As soon as Sessions sat down, everyone had the same question, are you now, or have you ever hidden any pots of gold?"

**Stephen Colbert:** "Attorney General Sessions, you're not answering, even though the President hasn't claimed executive privilege, and you haven't claimed executive privilege. So what are you claiming, white privilege?"

**Stephen Colbert:** "Wait a second. Everybody knows there was communication between Russia and Michael Flynn. That's why he was fired. Sessions really seems to know nothing. Which explains why he was the first senator to endorse Trump."

**Trevor Noah:** "The play was so violent, Delta pulled out. Terrible news for the Public Theater, but a great opportunity for United Airlines!"

**Trevor Noah:** "At some point, we're going to have to stop saying Trump is committing political suicide. Alright, Donald Trump don't die, people. Donald Trump is the Transformers movie of politics. No matter how bad it gets, it's never over."

**Trevor Noah:** "Jeff Sessions uses that line all the time: 'I recuse myself from the Russia investigation, but I will not recuse myself from these nachos, yeah! Wait, \$5 for guacamole? I recuse myself!'"

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Attorney General Jeff Sessions testified in Congress today as part of the Russia investigation. And it wasn't a good sign when they asked him if he swore to tell the truth and nothing but the truth, and he said, 'Da.'"

**Jimmy Fallon:** "During his testimony, Sessions said he doesn't recall having any conversations with Russian officials at the Mayflower Hotel. Then John McCain interrupted to talk about being on the Mayflower."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Jeff Sessions said he doesn't recall meeting with any Russians at the Mayflower. For those of you who don't know, 'doesn't recall' is the Washington term meaning, 'I definitely recall, and I'm in trouble.'"

**Seth Meyers:** "Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich has published a new book titled 'Understanding Trump,' and I have to say it's a pretty quick read."

**Seth Meyers:** "It seems like every day, the news surrounding the Russia scandal and the firing of former FBI Director James Comey gets more intense and more unbelievable. It's like every time we think we're on top of crazy mountain, a cloud blows away and there is another peak to climb."

**Seth Meyers:** "Trump's our first President to spend more time watching 'The Situation Room' than he does in the actual situation room."

**Conan O'Brien:** "After winning the NBA championship – this is a big story – the Golden State Warriors unanimously decided to skip the traditional visit to the White House. They're skipping it. After hearing this, Melania Trump said, 'Wait, you can do that?'"

**Conan O'Brien:** "A new report came out and found that the employees at a Trump clothing factory in Indonesia are subject to low wages and verbal abuse. And even they wouldn't change places with Sean Spicer."

**Conan O'Brien:** "It's rumored that President Trump's upcoming trip to the UK is on hold because he's worried about angry protests. Yeah. I have to admit, of all the wars I thought Trump might restart, I wasn't counting on revolutionary."

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