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



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DOI In The News

Wildfires In The West Revive Push To Thin Federal Forests.

The [Washington Times](#) (9/7, Richardson) reports that for years, "Republicans have sought to reduce the fire danger by thinning the overgrown federal forests, meeting with resistance every time from environmentalists, who insist the problem isn't too many trees, it's global warming." Now, "as treacherous late-season wildfires burn millions of acres from California to Montana, the level of frustration among elected officials and their constituents may have finally combine to break the political logjam." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue have "teamed to figure out ways to clear the dense thicket of litigation and regulation that has for years stalled projects aimed at cutting back the federal forests, many plagued with diseased and dying trees."

Interior Secretary Calls For 'Active Forest Management' To Check Wildfires. [Montana Public Radio](#) (9/7, Ripley) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was a guest on the Northern Broadcasting Network's radio program Voices of Montana Tuesday, and he took a question from a listener about wildfires. Zinke called for "active forest management," and asked for "a little help from my congressional friends to do it." Zinke said, "You go into Glacier, there's trees everywhere. And I'm not proposing we log Glacier, but other parks do use prescribed burns, they have mechanical extraction of timber, just to remove the fuel load."

This US Wildfire Season Is Among The Worst: Here's Why. The [AP](#) (9/7, Elliott) reports that "wildfires are chewing across dried-out Western forests and grassland, putting 2017 on track to be among the worst fire seasons in a decade." The article says that "a snowy winter across much of the West raised hopes that 2017 wouldn't be a dried-out, fire-prone year, but a hot, dry summer spoiled that." Meanwhile, "federal spending to fight fires appears to be headed for a record." The U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Department of Interior "report spending of more than \$2.1 billion so far." According to the article, "that's about the same as they spent in all of 2015, the most expensive wildfire season on record."

Gianforte Focuses Washington's Attention On Montana's Wildfires. [KBZK-TV](#) Butte, MT (9/7)

reports that Rep. Greg Gianforte “took to the House floor” yesterday “to bring attention to the wildfires in Montana.” Gianforte said, “I met with leaders and firefighters at five fires this summer and witnessed the destruction firsthand. I hope this image and the others from back home will make my colleagues more aware of the fires’ devastation and the need for relief in the Treasure State.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KXLF-TV](#) Butte, MT (9/7).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the [AP](#) (9/8, Elliott), the [AP](#) (9/7), the [AP](#) (9/7), the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (9/7, Peterson), the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (9/8, Baughman), and [Yellowstone Insider](#) (9/7, Reichard).

Feds Release \$4M To N Carolina County Over Unfinished Road.

The [AP](#) (9/7) reports that “the federal government has resumed paying a settlement to a North Carolina county over a never-completed road designed to replace one flooded decades ago for a dam near the Tennessee border.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Thursday announced that Swain County is “getting \$4 million earmarked in a 2012 law but never released due to legal concerns.” Swain County “reached a \$52 million settlement with the department in 2010 but had received only one-quarter of the funds.” Sen. Thom Tillis and Sen. Richard Burr “praised the release and said they’d keep working for remaining funds.”

Also reporting are the [Asheville \(NC\) Citizen-Times](#) (9/7, Barrett), the [Asheville \(NC\) Mountain Xpress](#) (9/7, Daffron), and [WLOS-TV Asheville \(NC\)](#) Asheville, NC (9/7, Hart).

FERC, DOI Nominees Move One Step Closer To Confirmation.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (9/7, Bradley) reports that a hearing was held Thursday by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee “to consider the nominations of Kevin McIntyre and Richard Glick to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and Joseph Balash and Ryan Nelson to positions at DOI.” At the conclusion of a hearing, Sen. Lisa Murkowski said, “It is my hope that we will be able to advance your names out of committee shortly.” Balash is nominated to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management; Nelson to be Solicitor at DOI.

Alaska Nominee To Interior Department Advances In Senate. The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/7, Martinson) reports that Balash “pledged to work on speeding permits and allowing drilling and mining on some federal lands at his Senate confirmation hearing Thursday.” Balash “spoke of speeding permitting at the backlogged agency and allowing more drilling and mining on federal lands”

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (9/7, Ruskin) reports that “Balash said he’s a consensus builder, a guy who likes to bring all sides to the table.” He “said he’s fully committed to listening to people affected by the Department’s decisions and really taking what they say into account.” Balash said, “I believe that you get much further when people come to an understanding, jointly, collaboratively, by first understanding the problems that each other has and then identify solutions together.”

Protesters Fail To Stall Hearing On Trump’s Energy Nominees. The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/7, Siciliano) reports that the hearing was interrupted by protesters that chanted “no eminent domain for private gain.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by [Politico Morning Energy](#) (9/7, Adragna) and the [Idaho Business Review](#) (9/7).

ND Gov. Meets With Feds To Advocate For Drought Relief.

The [AP](#) (9/7) reports that North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum “says he has met with federal officials to advocate for drought relief for North Dakota.” Burgum says he met Thursday with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue.

The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (9/7, Dalrymple) reports that “Burgum, who a month ago requested a presidential major disaster declaration for the severe drought affecting much of North Dakota, said Thursday the state may need to pursue a different avenue for federal funding.” The request for “a disaster declaration was sent to President Donald Trump through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is now responding to people affected by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Harvey.” Burgum said, “There’s a very high probability that through the current path that we’re on with FEMA that there may not be money available.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KXMC-TV](#) Minot, ND (9/7, Kelly).

Emails Show Trump Appointees Undermined Facebook CEO Zuckerberg’s Glacier Visit.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/7, Rein) reports that “when Facebook’s communications chief approached the National Park Service to ask the agency to show company founder Mark Zuckerberg how the warming climate is melting ice sheets at Glacier National Park, scientists, park rangers and public affairs staff were giddy with excitement.” However, “their eagerness to accommodate Zuckerberg on his high-profile tour quickly turned into a high-wire scramble for Park Service staffers, as political appointees at the Interior Department, the Park Service’s parent agency, demanded that they walk back their generosity, according to documents The Washington Post obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request.” The Trump Administration was “far less keen on Zuckerberg — who has been increasingly vocal in his criticism of the president — and apparently balked at giving him the red-carpet treatment that national parks often roll out for lawmakers, potential donors and dignitaries.”

The Shrinking Glaciers At Glacier National Park. In a piece for the [Huffington Post](#) (9/7, Coplon-Newfield), Gina Coplon-Newfield, Director of Sierra Club’s Clean Transportation for All Campaign, writes that “only 26 shrinking glaciers remain” in Glacier National Park, “and these are expected to be completely gone by approximately 2030 —a mere 13 years from now.” Coplon-Newfield is “grateful” that park officials are engaged in “thoughtful work to protect the park for today and with an eye toward many generations to come.” Coplon-Newfield thanks them for not focusing “on the politics of the day but on serving the public and protecting the parks.”

Alaska Hatches Plan For Vast Road Network Across The Arctic.

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (9/7, Harball) reports that Alaska has allocated \$7.3 million in funding in this year’s capital budget “to plan the construction of a vast network of roads across the Arctic.” The Arctic Strategic Transportation and Resource Project is “being sold as a lifeline for both oil development and remote communities, but it’s already facing criticism.” The state “wants to get the project moving during today’s favorable political climate — the industry-friendly Trump administration is now reviewing its management plan for the National Petroleum Reserve.” Andy Mack, who heads Alaska’s Department of Natural Resources, “hopes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will be open to the idea of permanent roads across the Arctic.”

Utah Commission Under Scrutiny In Push For Lands Control.

The [AP](#) (9/7, McCOMBS) reports that “Utah lawmakers leading the push for the state to seek control of federal lands are under scrutiny again for their work with outside legal consultants, this time for a perceived lack of transparency about what the firm is doing as preparations for a lawsuit drag into a third year with no action.” The Campaign for Accountability on Thursday “called on the co-chairs of Utah’s Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands to produce a full review of expenditures and accused the commission of allowing the \$2 million set aside for the project to become ‘a slush fund.’” The group “said its numerous public records requests have been denied.”

Conservation Efforts Must Reckon With Diversity And Inclusion.

For the “Pundits” blog of [The Hill](#) (9/7, Bryan, Contributor), Kevin T. Bryan, a senior policy director at the Keystone Policy Center, writes that grassroots organizations are “collectively” seeking to shape “the next 100 years of conservation” by “empowering constituents to see themselves in the natural world and to understand how nature shapes their lives.” Now, “traditional conservation groups are beginning to support these advocacy groups already working on the frontlines.” However, “they are by no means sufficient.” According to Bryan, “there is a need for broader dialogue about increasing access of communities of color to public lands.” he also calls for addressing “the lack of diversity among the workforce of public land management agencies, particularly at the federal level.”

My View: Bears Ears: Perhaps There’s A Third Way.

In an op-ed for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/7, Keshlear), Bill Keshlear, who was a manager last year of Democratic candidate Heidi Redd’s campaign bid for state Senate District 27, writes that there might be a “third way” to protect Bears Ears National Monument. He notes that “in June 2015, a group of ranchers, environmentalists, Native Americans, ATV riders, miners, hunters and archeology buffs — collectively known as the San Juan County Lands Council — produced a plan to protect the Bears Ears and Cedar Mesa area of southeastern Utah.” According to Keshlear, “while the results of the Lands Council efforts didn’t please everyone (shortly after the plan was adopted, a group of Native Americans submitted its own monument proposal to President Barack Obama), it demonstrated that a bit of face-to-face civility, transparency and a spirit of

compromise can overcome even seemingly intractable, deeply held racial, cultural and political beliefs.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Fate Of Casino Still Undecided.

The [Kings Mountain \(NC\) Herald](#) (9/7) reports that the fate of a proposed Catawba Indian Nation resort and casino is “still undecided and that decision remains, as it has for four years, with the US Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, DC.” Thursday was “the fourth anniversary of the signing of an application by the Catawba Nation to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for the securing of 16 acres of land on Dixon School Road off I-85 in Kings Mountain for the development of a casino.” The article says that “the rumor mill was grinding out more rumors during the past several weeks about a casino announcement coming soon,” but “there has been no announcement.”

Community Calls For Action And Justice On The Crow Reservation.

[KULR-TV](#) Billings, MT (9/7, Monte) reports that “a silent protest was held in front of the Bureau of Indian Affairs office in Crow Agency Thursday.” According to the article, “community members said they feel BIA is not doing enough to combat crime in the reservation.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Policy Shift Criticized For Giving Cadiz ‘Free Pass’ For Water Project.

The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (9/7, James) reports that opponents of Cadiz’s water “plan say they fear” a “federal policy change, which was formalized in a Sept. 1 memorandum, is one more step that could clear the way for the company to build a pipeline alongside a stretch of the Arizona and California Railroad to the Colorado River Aqueduct.” The memorandum, signed by Interior Department Acting Solicitor Daniel H. Jorjani, “does not refer to the Cadiz project but rather focuses broadly on the rights of railroads holding easements across public lands under the 1875 law.” The new opinion “follows another policy change by the Interior Department in March, when the agency announced it was scrapping guidelines that detail how officials are supposed to evaluate the uses of public lands running alongside railroads.”

In an op-ed for the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (9/7, Clarke), Chris Clarke, the California Desert Program Manager for the National Parks Conservation Association, asserts that “any objective desert scientist would tell you that Cadiz probably means crucial springs drying up.” While the Trump Administration “appears undeterred in its efforts to advance the Cadiz proposal,” Clarke writes that “Californians have the opportunity to fight back by urging passage of AB 1000, the California Desert Protection Act.” If passed, the legislation “will require state agencies to further review Cadiz’s water claims.”

Parcel Next To ND’s Roosevelt National Park May Be Leased For Oil.

The [AP](#) (9/7) reports that “A parcel of land bordering Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota may be included in a federal oil and gas lease sale.” The Bureau of Land Management is getting pressure from conservationists to not include a 120-acre plot in the lease sale, according to a Bismarck Tribune report. North Dakota’s Land Commissioner Lance Gaebe said the plot’s surface is managed by North Dakota Department of Trust Lands and the minerals beneath the surface are owned by the Common Schools Trust Fund.

New Mexico Democrats Push Feds To Limit Drilling Near Chaco.

The [AP](#) (9/8) reports that “Democratic members of New Mexico’s congressional delegation are pushing federal officials to uphold an agreement that limits oil and gas leasing on public land near Chaco Culture National Historical Park.” The Bureau of Land Management “previously agreed to defer all leases within a 10-mile radius around the park as the agency works to update its resource management plan for northwestern New Mexico.” Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich and Rep. Ben Ray Lujan are asking Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “to maintain the buffer until the planning process is complete.”

Emmer, Nolan Add Amendment To Defund Mining Study.

The [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (9/7, Myers) reports that Reps. Tom Emmer and Rick Nolan “late Wednesday successfully added an amendment to a House appropriations bill to defund a proposed U.S. Forest Service study of all mining near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.” Amendment No. 70 to the Interior Environment Appropriations portion of the omnibus bill “would prohibit the Forest Service from spending any money on the study.” The full bill was set for a House vote late Thursday or Friday.

BLM Seeks Input On Proposed Greater Phoenix Mine Project.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (9/7) reports that the public can submit comments “on Newmont’s USA Ltd.’s proposal to expand the existing gold and copper Phoenix Mine, which employs about 500 people and is approximately 12 miles southwest of Battle Mountain in Lander County.” The Bureau of Land Management “published a notice in the Federal Register of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed expansion.” Comments will be accepted “during the 45-day public comment period that will end Oct. 16.”

DOI Should Be Allowed To Collect Royalties Owed To The Taxpayer.

For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (9/7, Alexander), Ryan Alexander, president of Taxpayers for Common Sense, urges Congress to allow the Interior Department to rewrite the Bureau of Land Management’s methane waste rule. Alexander opposes an amendment offered by Rep. Steve Pearce “that would prevent the agency from using any funds to enforce the new rule.” She says that “the government has a chance to get more natural gas to the market and increase revenue for federal and state governments.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

State Moves To Support OCS Leasing.

The [Cordova \(AK\) Times](#) (9/7, Bauman) reports that Alaska officials have “filed a motion in U.S. District Court in Anchorage to intervene in litigation to allow for offshore oil and gas leasing in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas.” Their “objective is to make sure that Alaska has future development opportunities in the Arctic OCS, said Gov. Bill Walker.” He said, “State agencies routinely balance environmental conservation and protection with responsible resource development and the Arctic OCS is no different. This gives the state a unique stake in the outcome of this litigation and puts us in the best position to defend those interests.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Kevin Moran: Bold Action Still Needed For The Colorado River.

In an op-ed for the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (9/8, Moran), Kevin Moran, the Senior Director for the Environmental Defense Fund’s Colorado River Program, writes that the Bureau of Reclamation “recently issued its annual projections for water levels at Lake Mead for the next two years.” The report “shows the tremendous progress that has been made on water conservation in the region and the Tucson Basin.” Moran argues that “we should use this brief reprieve to redouble our efforts to improve how we use, manage and share our limited supply of Colorado River water.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Monarchs In Western U.S. Risk Extinction, Scientists Say.

[Reuters](#) (9/7, Zuckerman) reports that “monarch butterflies west of the Rocky Mountains are teetering on the edge of extinction, with the number wintering in California down more than 90 percent from the 1980s, researchers said in a study published on Thursday.” The study, “published in the scientific journal Biological Conservation, was funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which is considering giving monarch butterflies Endangered Species Act protections.” Washington State University biologist Cheryl Schultz, the study’s lead author, said, “If the population continues to decline at that rate, we will lose migratory monarchs in the western United States over the next several decades.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/8, Fimrite) and the [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (9/7, Cary).

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Seeks Comments On State DNRC Plan.

The [Belgrade \(MT\) News](#) (9/7) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is “seeking public comment on the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation’s application to amend an incidental take permit to authorize additional incidental take on 81,416 acres of proposed Habitat Conservation Plan land.” The amendment would “change incidental take numbers for the threatened grizzly bear, Canada lynx, bull trout, and unlisted westslope cutthroat trout as a result of the additional proposed lands.”

County Residents Deal With Feds Over Pocket Gopher.

The [Nisqually Valley \(WA\) News](#) (9/7, Perednia) reports that “desperately trying to build their home faster, one Thurston County couple created their own habitat conservation plan to mitigate impacts to the Mazama pocket gopher instead of waiting for the county to create one.” Deborah and Steve McLain were “unable to obtain permits without mitigating the impact construction would have on the gopher.” In order to do so, the McLains “had to work directly with the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife (USFW) to create a mitigation plan.” Their plan was “approved last month and has entered into a 30-day public comment period.”

National Park Service

All Charleston Area National Park Sites Will Be Closed Starting September 8.

The [Charleston \(SC\) Moultrie News](#) (9/7) reports that “all Charleston area National Park Service sites will be closed starting Friday, September 8, 2017 because of the potential threat of Hurricane Irma.”

Irma Forces Evacuation Of Cumberland Island. The [Brunswick \(GA\) News](#) (9/7, Jackson) reports that Hurricane Irma forced the evacuation of more than 20 campers from Cumberland Island National Seashore on Wednesday. Jill Hamilton-Anderson, “chief of interpretation, education and visitor services for the national seashore, said the National Park Service had to cancel more than 100 reservations to the island for this weekend because of the storm.” According to the article, “no date has been set for when the seashore will re-open.”

Park Service Using Lasers To Remove Jefferson Memorial’s Grimy Coating.

[WTOP-FM](#) Washington (9/7, Moore) reports that the National Park Service is “testing a high-tech treatment using lasers to remove a grimy, black film that has plagued the Jefferson Memorial for years.” The NPS “contracted with a Chicago-based company to test its laser-ablation treatment on a portion of the monument in an attempt to remove the filthy-looking coating, known as biofilm.” Beginning next week, the Conservation of Sculpture and Objects Studio, Inc. will “perform a test of its laser-ablation treatment on about 1,000 square feet on the northeast side of the memorial.” According to the article, “the full test will take about four weeks, but the park service said the results should be immediately noticeable.”

Mesa Verde Faces \$65.7 Million In Backlogged Maintenance.

The [Pine River \(CO\) Times](#) (9/7, Mimiaga) reports that “a campaign by the Pew Charitable Trust to raise awareness of eroding infrastructure at national parks recently swung through Cortez.” Restore America’s Parks seeks “to address an estimated \$11.3 billion worth of deferred maintenance needs across 400 national park units, according to a Pew Charitable Trusts report.” The National Park Service, “citing aging facilities, increased visitation and unreliable funding, hasn’t kept pace with infrastructure repairs, campaign organizer Michael Dabbs said during an Aug. 18 meeting at the WildEdge Brewing Collective in downtown Cortez.”

Zion National Park Remains On Pace For Record Visitation.

The [AP](#) (9/7) reports that “new numbers show the stunning red rocks at Zion National Park are on pace to set another record for visits, as park managers consider a first-of-its-kind plan to require reservations.” According to the article, “the official July count shows 2.7 million visitors to the park.” Park officials are “developing a visitor management plan to address overcrowding, with drafts suggesting a reservation system could be implemented.”

Carlsbad Caverns Elevator Service To Be Suspended For Work.

The [AP](#) (9/7) reports that Carlsbad Caverns National Park officials “say elevators to take visitors into the park’s underground cavern will be unavailable for use from Sept. 11-29 while structural

work is being done." According to officials, "consulting engineers determined that structural steel beams need to be reinforced and anchoring clips replaced in the secondary elevators. Other work will include realignment of steel guide rails and replacement of one elevator's large control cable that travels up and down with the elevator."

Trails Reopen At White Sands After Cleanup From 2014 Crash.

The [AP](#) (9/7) reports that "two trails and other facilities at White Sands National Monument have reopened after being closed for three years for the cleanup of soil contaminated from the 2014 crash of an unmanned Air Force target jet." According to monument officials, "the Dune Life Nature and Playa trails and visitor facilities along Dunes Drive reopened Thursday."

National Park Service Confirms Weapon In Shooting Was An Air Pistol.

The [Harrison \(AR\) Daily Times](#) (9/7) reports that National Park Service officials have "confirmed that the Branson, Missouri, man shot and killed by a park ranger in August had an air pistol that looked like a real firearm." According to a statement released Thursday, rangers were "confronted by a white male, later identified as Jonathan Bolger, 34, of Branson, Missouri." The statement said, "The preliminary investigation has revealed that Bolger was armed with a Umarex XCP air pistol, which resembles a two-toned semi-automatic handgun, and does not have an orange tip to identify it as an air pistol."

Cape Hatteras National Seashore Open To Privately Run Businesses.

The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (9/7, Hampton) reports that entrepreneurs are "taking advantage of the 'commercial use authorization' offered for decades at Cape Hatteras National Seashore." The park "allows private money-making operations within the 67 miles of beaches from Ocracoke to Bodie Island, including kayak excursions, off-road driving trips, photography classes, kite-boarding lessons and interpretive nature and history hikes." According to Sarah Merrill, management analyst for the park, "the park has 20 business ventures functioning, the average for recent years."

Park Service Plans Deer Kill.

The [Gettysburg \(PA\) Times](#) (9/8) reports that "from October 2017 through March 2018, the National Park Service (NPS) will continue managing white-tailed deer at Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site." The sites are "reducing the number of deer in the parks directly by shooting. All venison will once again be donated to Gettysburg area food banks." Bill Justice, acting superintendent, Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site, said, "We continue to manage the deer population at Gettysburg and Eisenhower parks to bring the deer density numbers to a level where we can preserve and protect historic woodlots and farm fields."

Fees At 2 Marin Headlands Campgrounds May Rise.

[KPIX-TV](#) San Francisco (9/7) reports that the National Park Service is "proposing overnight camping and day use fee increases at two campgrounds in the Marin Headlands in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area." According to the article, "fees at the Kirby Cove campground would increase from \$25 to \$30 per night, and day use fees at Kirby Cove would increase from \$35 to \$45 per day."

Additional Coverage: Fast Thinking Businessman Files Claim On NC's New Island.

Additional coverage that a Virginia businessman has filed a Quit Claim Deed to North Carolina's newly formed Shelly Island was provided by the [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (9/7, Price).

Office Of Insular Affairs

Trump, Pence, Long Tout Government Preparations For Irma.

The [Washington Times](#) (9/7, Boyer) reports President Trump said Thursday that emergency officials are ready for Hurricane Irma's expected impact on Florida. "Florida is as well-prepared as you can be for something like this," Trump told reporters at the White House. "Now it is just a question of what happens. We are with everybody in Florida. We are working very hard." [Politico](#) (9/7, Conway) reports Trump also said he is "very concerned" about Hurricane Irma, but "the people of Florida, like the people of Texas, Louisiana, you're seeing how the people of our country

have reacted under this tremendous pressure."

Vice President Pence similarly said in an interview with [WTVJ-TV](#) (9/7, 5:07 p.m. EDT), "I can assure all of your viewers that, at President Trump's direction, we're bringing the full resources of the United States to support all of the efforts of state and local officials as you prepare for Hurricane Irma." Asked if the federal government is prepared to help South Florida, Pence said, "Rest assured the federal government has been making diligent preparations. ... If I had one message to your viewers it's take this storm seriously. ... We just urge every one of your viewers, be confident that your state, local, and federal officials are making every necessary preparation, but take the warnings of your state and local officials seriously and please put your safety and the safety of your family first."

FEMA Director Long said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (9/7), "The states of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina all need to be monitoring this closely. We are already in good communication with all of those states and working with them to be prepared." Long added, "I do know that the President has been in clear communication with Gov. Scott and other governors. ... Just like we had in Harvey, the President stands ready to support disaster declaration requests and communication lines are open and he has given me the authority I need to move forward."

Florida Gov. Rick Scott said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (9/7), "I have spoken to the President multiple times over the weekend and this week. I've spoken to the Vice President. ... The President says he really cares about this state. I know he does. I appreciate everybody's help. ... I am appreciative of everything they are doing."

Trump Approves South Carolina Disaster Declaration. [The Hill](#) (9/7, Manchester) reports President Trump approved South Carolina's request to declare a state of emergency in the state on Thursday, as Hurricane Irma approaches the East Coast. Earlier this week, Trump declared a "pre-landfall emergency" for Florida, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Trump's approval of the declaration allows DHS and FEMA to begin coordinating disaster relief efforts. Gov. Henry McMaster (R) "said a mandatory evacuation order will go into effect on Saturday morning, but has encouraged people to evacuate early."

According to the [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (9/7), the "latest projected track of Hurricane Irma has the powerful storm shifting to the west, with the center of the storm moving from Florida into Georgia, not South Carolina." The State cautions that "while still too soon to predict with certainty, the latest track would spare South Carolina some of the highest winds and rain from the storm."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/7, lead story, 2:25, Glor), chief weather forecaster Lonnie Quinn likewise said, "The new information pushes things a little bit more to the west." It now could continue "in some way, shape, or form right up the spine of Florida, up the East Coast, still maintaining its hurricane strength as it makes its way into Georgia sometime on Monday."

Trump Issues US Virgin Islands Disaster Declaration. The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/7, Quinn) reports the White House said President Trump on Thursday approved a US Virgin Islands disaster declaration, which makes the territory eligible to receive federal aid as it recovers from Hurricane Irma damage.

FEMA Readies Relief Supplies For South Florida. The [Miami Herald](#) (9/7, Ostroff) reports FEMA said Thursday that it has readied "millions of supplies in Alabama to distribute in a disaster-relief mission" once Hurricane Irma has passed. FEMA has prepared "nearly 3 million gallons of water and 7.5 million meals, as well as medical supplies, infant care kits, cots, blankets, generators and tarps," according to the agency. Most supplies are being stored at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, but "more than 500,000 meals and 264,000 gallons of water are also being stored in Selma, Alabama." In addition, two emergency response teams are positioned in Tallahassee and one is in South Carolina, while "liaisons are also in North Carolina and throughout Florida and Georgia areas in Irma's path."

Irma To Test New Building Codes Put In Place After Andrew. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/7, Campo-Flores, McWhirter, Grant) reports that after Hurricane Andrew devastated parts of Florida 25 years ago, local and state officials responded by creating some of the strictest building codes in the country. The Journal says Hurricane Irma will pose the toughest test yet of those new codes.

Georgia Taps New Head Of Emergency Management. The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/7, story 6, 1:05, Glor) reported Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal is "taking no chances, ordering a mandatory evacuation for Savannah, as well as other coastal areas," starting Saturday. The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (9/7, Taylor) reports Deal's "overhauled storm response strategy — and his new head of the state's emergency management agency — face what could be their most significant

weather-related challenge yet as Hurricane Irma barrels toward the Atlantic coast." The Category 5 storm "will be the biggest weather threat since Homer Bryson, a former corrections commissioner, was tapped to lead the state's emergency management agency." The storm will also "test Deal's weather response plan — and his better-safe-than-sorry mantra — in new ways." On Thursday, Deal ordered the mandatory evacuation of "much of coastal Georgia, activated 5,000 members of the Georgia National Guard," and declared a state of emergency in 30 counties.

Zakaria: Americans Should Stop Fearing More Government. In a [Washington Post](#) (9/7) column, Fareed Zakaria writes that the United States needs to stop being "wary of too much government" and embrace greater intervention, as highlighted by federal assistance needed after recent natural disasters. Zakaria concludes, "We need government to be more than a passive observer of these trends and forces. It needs to actively shape and manage them. ... I imagine that this week, most people in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico would be delighted to hear the words 'I'm from the government, and I'm here to help.'"

USA Today: Government Should Make Flood Insurance Reflect Actual Risk. In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (9/7) writes that the National Flood Insurance Program – the government-run insurance fund for homeowners in flood-prone areas – is "costly and counterproductive" and "is certain to take a massive loss this year" after Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. USA Today argues that taxpayers "can't simply absorb ever increasing tabs for flood losses" due aid packages following low flood insurance payouts and that government should create more accurately-priced premiums that encourage people to build their homes in safe places by making flood insurance reflect actual risk.

In a responding [USA Today](#) (9/7, Brown) op-ed, National Association of Realtors President William E. Brown writes that although National Flood Insurance Program premiums "should accurately reflect a property's specific risk of flood," these premiums should not increase dramatically on homeowners who purchased properties not knowing the true risk. Instead, rates "should phase in gradually over time so homeowners have the opportunity to consider their options before reaching a 'full risk' rate."

Irma Causes Widespread Destruction In Caribbean.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/7, Achenbach, Berman, Alvarado) reports Hurricane Irma is "battering Caribbean islands, causing widespread destruction, as it barrels toward" the US mainland. Several islands "pummeled" by Irma on Wednesday "began to grapple with the monster storm's toll on Thursday." The storm is now "grinding onward toward the Bahamas with winds hitting 180 mph and higher gusts registered," according to the National Hurricane Center. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/7, lead story, 3:25, Muir) reported Irma left a "deadly and devastating path across the Caribbean." On the island of Barbuda, "nearly every building and home damaged or destroyed." In the Virgin Islands, Coast Guard teams "have been flying in and out...rescuing people."

In a second segment, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/7, story 3, 1:20, Muir) spoke with Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, who said, "I never contemplated that we could have such damage. I mean, the Barbuda landscape is just totally decimated. Ninety percent or more of the buildings were damaged. It literally destroyed the country."

The [New York Times](#) (9/7, Times) reports that the death toll in the Caribbean was "at least seven on Thursday afternoon, and the authorities warned that the number could rise as communications improved." French Prime Minister Édouard Philippe said that four people were confirmed dead on St. Martin, "lowering a previous toll of eight deaths given by local rescue officials." A St. Martin official said on Wednesday night that "95 percent of the island is destroyed." The [AP](#) (9/7, Abiu, Coto) reports that French, British and Dutch rescuers "rushed aid to a heavily damaged string of Caribbean islands Thursday." Warships and military planes carrying food, water, and troops were dispatched to the region.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/7, story 2, 1:30, Glor) reported that in Puerto Rico, "Irma left thousands homeless and most of the island in the dark." [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/7, story 4, 2:10, Holt) reported from San Juan that Puerto Rico "was spared a direct hit, but raging winds tore down power lines" and "almost a million people are still without power."

Hurricanes Jose And Katia Could Hit Land This Weekend. The [Washington Post](#) (9/7, Samenow, McNoldy) reports that two other "menacing" hurricanes, Jose and Katia, are swirling in the Atlantic Ocean basin and are "forecast to strengthen and impact land areas late Friday into the weekend." Hurricane Jose "could hit some of the same small islands in the northern Lesser Antilles decimated by Irma," but the storm's exact track is "still somewhat in question."

Meanwhile, Hurricane Katia is “forecast to track westward toward Mexico and make landfall as a hurricane on Friday night in the state of Veracruz.” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/7, story 7, 1:55, Muir) also reported Jose is “likely to impact some of the islands that were devastated by Irma. The last time this situation happened was back in 2010.”

Irma Hits Trump’s Vacation Home On St. Martin. The [Fox News](#) (9/7) website reports that “one of the casualties” of Hurricane Irma has been President Trump’s vacation home, Le Chateau des Palmiers, on the island of St. Martin. The extent of the damage “is not known.”

Trump: I’d “Prefer Not Going” Military Route With North Korea, But It “Could Happen.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/7, story 7, 2:15, Holt) reported as the White House is “bracing for the possibility of another missile test by North Korea,” President Trump is “again leaving open the option of military force against Kim Jong-Un, saying if he did, and he hopes he doesn’t have to, it would be what he called a very sad day for North Korea.” Bret Baier reported on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (9/7) that President Trump on Thursday said war with North Korea is not inevitable. Trump was shown saying, “I would prefer not going the route of the military, but it’s something certainly that could happen.”

[USA Today](#) (9/7, Jackson, Przybyla) reports that during a joint news conference with the emir of Kuwait, Trump “refused to say whether he would demand that North Korea give up all its nuclear weapons, saying he did not want to reveal his negotiation strategy.” Said the President, “I can tell you that North Korea is behaving badly and it’s got to stop.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/7, Gearan) says Trump also “cast doubt that further negotiations could work,” saying that US presidents have been “talking and talking and talking” to North Korea for 25 years while North Korea has been developing its nuclear capability.

[Roll Call](#) (9/7, Bennett) reports Trump warned North Korea by saying the US military “has never been stronger,” but notes that “as a candidate he said it was a force weakened by unwise wars as well as budgetary neglect by the Obama administration and Congress.” [Politico](#) (9/7, Nelson) reports that he “boasted of the uptick in military spending since his inauguration,” telling reporters that “each day, new equipment is delivered, new and beautiful equipment, the best in the world, the best anywhere in the world by far.”

State Dept.: “Pressure Campaign” Against North Korea Working. The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/7, Kasperowicz) reports that the State Department said Thursday that the international campaign to pressure North Korea to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile program “is working.” Spokeswoman Heather Nauert said it’s a “legitimate question” to ask if the international campaign is working, and responded, “Yes, I can say that the pressure campaign is working.” She added, “Now, when you see a test that took place on Sunday, you may think, ‘Goodness, that is not working.’ But that is not the case, and here’s why. It can take a long, long time for sanctions to work. It can take a long time for a pressure campaign to work. It is not an overnight thing.”

China Agrees UN Should Action Against North Korea For Nuclear Test. Greg Palkot said [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (9/7) there are reports that Kim Jong-un’s assets “could be frozen by new US-backed UN sanctions,” while “oil imports, textile exports, and North Korean foreign workers could be cut.” Russia is “rejecting” the measures, and China is “dragging its feet,” although it “agrees the UN Security Council should take further action.” China, [Reuters](#) (9/7, Shepherd, Golubkova) reports, agreed Thursday that the UN “should take more action against North Korea after its latest nuclear test, while also pushing for dialogue to help resolve the standoff.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/7, Rauhala) says the comments by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi “suggested possible room for cooperation over US-drafted plans to increase pressures on North Korea after its nuclear test earlier this week.”

UN Report: Sanctions Being Subverted By Member States. A draft UN report obtained by the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/7, Talley) says member countries are helping North Korea evade international sanctions, including through prohibited trade in arms and commodities and financing. The Journal quotes the UN report as saying, “Despite an increased rate of member states’ submission of national implementation reports to the Security Council, the actual implementation of the sanctions lags far behind what is necessary to achieve the core goal of denuclearization.”

South Korea: North Korea Could Another Conduct ICBM Test Soon. The [New York Times](#) (9/7, Sanger) reports that South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon “is saying publicly what American officials will not: In the next few days, intelligence reports predict, North Korea will launch another intercontinental ballistic missile.” At the White House and the Pentagon, however, US officials are “scrambling to decide how the United States should react, particularly if the North

Koreans demonstrate without doubt that they can reach" Guam, or "even a distance equivalent to striking the West Coast of the United States."

Experts: North Korea Nearing Its Nuclear Goal. The [AP](#) (9/7, Talmadge) reports North Korea's latest nuclear test was "part theater, part propaganda and maybe even part fake. But experts say it was also a major display of something very real: Pyongyang's mastery of much of the know-how it needs to reach its goal of becoming a full-fledged nuclear state." However, it remains unclear whether North Korea tested, as it claims, a hydrogen bomb ready to be mounted on an ICBM.

North Korea Threatens Electromagnetic Pulse Attack For First Time. [Breitbart](#) (9/7, Nazarian) reports that North Korea, "for the first time, threatened to wage an EMP (electromagnetic pulse) attack" against the US. Shortly after North Korea launched its latest nuclear test using a hydrogen bomb, its state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) claimed the weapon "is a multi-functional thermonuclear nuke with great destructive power which can be detonated even at high altitudes for super-powerful EMP (electromagnetic pulse) attack according to strategic goals." Breitbart warns that "such an attack has the potential to cause catastrophic damage to North America, Canada, the West, and many of its neighbors."

Analysts: South Korea's Moon "Sandwiched" By North's Threat. The [Washington Post](#) (9/7, Lee) reports South Korean President Moon Jae-in took office earlier this year "with a pledge to foster warmer ties with North Korea. But the North Korean nuclear threat has rapidly escalated in the months since his election," leaving him "sandwiched" between "his supporters' expectations and the realities of dealing with an increasingly volatile regime, analysts say."

Dennis Rodman Wants To "Straighten Things Out" With Friend Kim Jong-Un. The [Washington Times](#) (9/7, Blake) reports former NBA star Dennis Rodman said in an interview Wednesday with "Good Morning Britain" that he'd like to "straighten things out" with his friend, North Korea leader Kim Jong-Un. Rodman said, "I just want to try to straighten things out for everyone to get along together." Rodman, who was also a contestant on President Trump's reality television show, "The Apprentice," added, "I think if the president even tries to reach out for Kim, I think it will be a great possibility. Things can happen if Donald Trump, if they sit down, and have some type of mutual conversation."

US Geological Survey

The World's Parasites Are Going Extinct.

Here's Why That's A Bad Thing. The [Smithsonian](#) (9/7, Panko) reports that "in a study published this week in the journal Science Advances, researchers warn that climate change could drive up to one-third of Earth's parasite species to extinction by the year 2070." The article says "that kind of mass die-off could spell ecological disaster." Kevin Lafferty, "an ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey who has extensively studied parasites and biodiversity, says the study raises important questions about our attitudes toward parasites as they face increasing risks of being wiped out." Lafferty said, "The field of conservation biology has moved to view species neutrally when considering the need for protection, and this view requires that parasites be protected alongside their hosts."

USGS Digs Trench On Teton Range Mountain To Study Fault Line.

[KIFI-TV](#) Idaho Falls, ID (9/7, Keleher) reports that "researchers came to Teton Village hoping to study the Teton fault line." Chris DuRoss, USGS Research Geologist, said, "What we're hoping to find here is a history of earthquakes over the past, say, 10,000 years. We're really interested in how many earthquakes have occurred in that period and how large they were. And that information together gets used to estimate the hazard from this fault."

At Least Two Die In Mexico Quake; Small Tsunami Triggered.

[Reuters](#) (9/8) reports that "an earthquake of magnitude 8.1 struck off the southern coast of Mexico late on Thursday, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) said, killing at least two people, triggering small tsunami waves and damaging some buildings." [CNN](#) (9/8, Berlinger, Castillo) reports that "the quake, which was felt as far as Mexico City and Guatemala City, struck 74 miles (120 kilometers) off the Pacific Coast at 12:49 a.m. ET Friday." The epicenter was "southwest of Tres Picos, Mexico, which is 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) southeast of Mexico City."

USGS: Earthquakes Pepper Pecos, Snyder Areas.

The [Midland \(TX\) Reporter-Telegram](#) (9/7) reports that “there have been a total of six earthquakes in the last 10 days near Snyder and Pecos, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.”

Top National News

Senate Approves Hurricane Relief Funds, Raises Debt Ceiling.

The Senate yesterday voted 80-17 to approve a bill providing \$15.25 billion in hurricane relief, raising the federal debt ceiling and funding the government through December 8. The [AP](#) (9/7, Taylor) reports the House is expected to “easily pass” the measure on Friday, and [Bloomberg News](#) (9/7, Litvan, Wasson) that “even small-government Republicans in opposition predict it will pass because of the urgent need for storm funds.” The Senate vote received just 35 seconds of combined coverage on the major network newscasts, and ABC World News failed to mention it altogether. The [CBS Evening News](#) ☐ (9/7, story 7, 0:20, Mason) reported that “the Senate overwhelmingly approved” the aid package, and [NBC Nightly News](#) ☐ (9/7, story 6, 0:15, Holt) that the measure stems from “a surprise deal that the President cut with the Democrats.”

The [AP](#) (9/7, Taylor) reports “the aid money comes as Harvey recovery efforts are draining federal disaster aid coffers and Irma is taking aim at Florida,” and is “just the first installment on a recovery and rebuilding package for the twin hurricanes that could eclipse the more than \$110 billion cost to taxpayers of Hurricane Katrina.” In a “surprise move late Wednesday,” Senate Majority Leader McConnell “added \$7.4 billion in rebuilding funding to Trump’s \$7.9 billion request.” The aid package is “crafted in such a way to free up another \$7 billion in Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster relief funds.”

The [New York Times](#) (9/7, Kaplan) notes that the bill would also “extend the National Flood Insurance Program, which is to expire on Sept. 30,” and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/7, Mascaro) that the vote came “days before the Federal Emergency Management Agency was expected to run out of money.” According to [Politico](#) (9/7, Ferris), FEMA’s “disaster money” was “expected to run out as soon as Friday, and no later than Tuesday.”

The [Washington Times](#) (9/7, Dinan) calls the Senate vote the “first test of Mr. Trump’s willingness to undercut his own Republicans and work instead with Democrats on Capitol Hill.” The Times notes “all 17 ‘No’ votes came from Republicans who disliked the terms of the deal.” Among them, notes [The Hill](#) (9/7, Carney), were Sens. Lindsey Graham, John McCain and Rand Paul. Sen. Ted Cruz, “whose state was hit hard by Hurricane Harvey, supported the measure.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/7, Peterson) quotes Cruz as saying, “I think it was a mistake to tie it to the debt ceiling, but I’m grateful that we have the first step in significant federal relief for the devastation wrought by Hurricane Harvey.” [USA Today](#) (9/7, Gaudiano) also reports “some Republicans balked at the package, with Sen. Ben Sasse of Nebraska calling it Schumer’s ‘art of the steal.’”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/7, Snell) reports McConnell “praised that agreement Thursday morning despite broad GOP concerns that Trump caved to Democrats on the their request that any deadline for extending the federal borrowing limit line up with a short-term spending package.” McConnell said on the Senate floor, “It will provide certainty and stability for first responder, state officials and the many others involved in preparing for and recovering from these storms with critically needed emergency funds that will not be interrupted by the prospect of a shutdown or default. ... Let’s work together and act on this legislation very quickly.” The [AP](#) (9/7, Taylor) reports “GOP leaders are fuming, but Ryan backed the idea on Thursday, telling reporters that the president didn’t want to have ‘some partisan fight in the middle of the response.’” In an interview with the [New York Times](#) (9/7, Rappeport), however, Ryan also said yesterday that “he continued to believe that short-term debt limit extensions were not a good idea.” Said Ryan, “I personally believe, for the credit markets’ sake, we should have longer extensions of these.”

Michael Crowley of Politico said on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) ☐ (9/7), “This poisons the well going forward. Republicans in Congress are never going to know when Trump might sell them out, when he might tell them one thing on Monday and doing something else Tuesday.” Under the headline “Trump’s Dealmaking Makes Him Look Unreliable To His Own Party,” [Politico](#) (9/7, Johnson, Everett, Caygle) reports “the president has made clear he has little interest in leading the Republican party – whether that means acting to defend its majorities or serving as its ideological ballast.” In fact, “Trump tends to govern more by sentiment than by substance, and he likes Schumer and Pelosi more than...Ryan and...McConnell, who have stomached him but never done a good job disguising the fact that he makes them nauseous.”

Laura Ingraham, however, said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/7), "Where were [Republicans] for the last seven weeks? ... They kept telling...Trump for several months that 'don't worry, this is a complex process,' 'Obamacare repeal, but we've got it.' Then they said we almost have it on the skinny repeal. It's not as good, but it's going to be pretty good. McCain comes in and blows it up. Time after time after time...Trump trusted what was going on on Capitol Hill and they could not deliver a piece of legislation to his desk that actually could be signed. It wasn't possible. What does someone who is a conservative populist do when he wants to move the ball down the field, he's going to find another player to throw to. ... The Republicans have no one to blame but themselves."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/7, Dinan) reports, meanwhile, that "Democrats heaped praise on...Trump Thursday." The [New York Times](#) (9/7, Kaplan) notes Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer "continued to revel in the sudden deal with the president, describing the agreement as a 'ray of hope for both parties' and talking up the virtues of bipartisanship." Said Schumer, "This agreement is a reminder that we don't always have to wait until the 11th hour – risking shutdown, risking default – in order to compromise and do the right thing." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/7, Mascaro), meanwhile, quotes House Minority Leader Pelosi as saying, "Let's hope this is a sign of something to come. ... What I do know is that the world we live in is a giant kaleidoscope. ... Everybody you work with is a resource to you, or can be."

"Super Upbeat" Trump Calls Schumer And Pelosi, Dines With Ryan. [Politico](#) (9/7, Dawsey) reports that "in calls with...Schumer and...Pelosi Thursday morning, Trump raved about the positive news coverage it had received, according to people familiar with the calls, and he seemed very pleased with his decision." According to "one person familiar with the calls," Trump "seemed super upbeat." Politico adds that "another person familiar with the calls said Trump told Pelosi her coverage was even better than his." Moreover, "several White House aides said Trump seemed to be in a good mood Thursday morning, and was planning to have dinner Thursday night with...Ryan." Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders "confirmed the calls with the Democratic leaders but declined to confirm the tweet or the contents."

Mulvaney Defends Deal, Says Both He And Trump Annoyed At GOP Leaders. [Politico](#) (9/7, Conway) reports that in an [interview](#) with Neil Cavuto on the Fox Business Network, OMB Director Mulvaney "said Thursday that the president is probably annoyed with members of the Republican leadership." Said Mulvaney, "Is he annoyed at Republican leadership? Yeah, I think he probably is. ... And believe me, as a Republican, so am I. ... As a citizen, I am too. I was promised that they would have repealed and replaced Obamacare by now." Mulvaney went on to defend the deal, "All we simply did is move this out of the way for now so that we could run the government during these very critical times. ... I don't think we ever had two major hurricanes hit the country in the same week. So there's other priorities right now. Moving it off to December is not burning any bridges, it's not meeting the swamp, it's simply looking at the realities of the day."

House Conservatives Blaming GOP Leaders, Not Trump, For Deal. [The Hill](#) (9/7, Elis) reports "conservatives are blasting the fiscal deal brokered by...Trump and Democratic leaders, but are blaming GOP leaders in Congress more than the White House." RSC Chairman Mark Walker wrote in a letter to Ryan, "While some have advocated for a 'clean' debt limit increase, this would simply increase the borrowing authority of the government while irresponsibly ignoring the urgency of reforms." The Hill notes "Walker's missive didn't mention Trump," and adds that "in a phone call following the deal's announcement, Tea Party Patriots co-founder Jenny Beth Martin said the deal was 'a fool's play, a trap, and Republicans should reject it out of hand.'"

To the [Washington Post](#) (9/7, Debonis), meanwhile, "on Wednesday...Trump sent the hard right a new message: Your enemy's enemy is not necessarily your friend." The deal "set the stage for a grand negotiation later this year that will hand leverage to the minority and frustrate the majority's governing ambitions," and "if history is any guide, that likely includes any hopes conservatives had for ambitious spending cutbacks and a thorough recalibration of the federal government's size and scope." While "outwardly, key conservative leaders blamed Ryan...and McConnell...for the concessions...others openly wrestled with the reality that Trump...would ultimately prove to be an unreliable partner."

Rep. Ted Deutch, meanwhile, said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/7), "There is no question that Congress must – this isn't a question of whether or not Congress will – Congress must ensure that FEMA has the resources to be able to continue to help the people of Texas whose lives were devastated by the storm there last week, but this is a large, dangerous storm with high winds and high surge that's coming up potentially right through Florida. Six million people at risk in south Florida alone, 20 million people throughout the state. I know that FEMA has food and

water and generators ready to come into the state...but they need to be funded and Congress needs to do that right now. We can't leave the people of Florida to wonder whether or not FEMA's going to be there for them. They have to be there for them."

Cole Defends Deal. Rep. Tom Cole said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/7), "I'm sort of thrilled. This is what I've been arguing for. I think the President made the right decision. I think getting the three months buys you the time to deal with the natural disasters we have bearing down on us right now. I think it also gives you the time to negotiate a larger appropriations deal. ... I think the President was wise to clear the decks. ... Again, count me as pleased with what the President did, and I think he's positioned us well as a party and frankly, has positioned the country well to come to a larger deal in November and December that will give us stability for a long stretch of time."

Democratic Leaders Working To Address Caucus "Discontent" About Deal. In a story mostly devoted to House conservative anger over the spending deal, [Politico](#) (9/7, Cheney, Caygle) also reports that "Democrats began grappling Thursday with the reality that they're likely going to be asked to provide the bulk of votes to support" it, and that "discontent simmered in their ranks as well." Politico adds that "some voiced frustration that their leaders may have bargained away leverage to protect" so-called Dreamers. In fact, "House Democrats from various Democratic caucuses – including representatives from the Hispanic, progressive, Asian-American, black and LGBT groups – met secretly Wednesday night to vent about the deal Democratic leaders cut with Trump." At any rate, "Democratic aides...have not done a formal whip count," and "say it's unclear how many members will actually vote against the bill."

Another [Politico](#) (9/7, Caygle, Kim, Schor) piece refers to "Democratic leaders...facing increased furor within their own ranks," as "a growing coalition of liberals and immigration advocates feel burned that the agreement did nothing to rescue nearly 800,000 Dreamers after Trump's decision this week to cancel protections for them after six months." Schumer and Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin "popped in to the House Democratic whips' meeting – a rare move – to talk up the fiscal deal."

Robinson Refers To Trump's "Betrayal" Of GOP Leaders, Klain Says Democrats "Suckered Trump." In a column titled "Trump's Betrayal Of The Republican Leaders Should Surprise No One," Eugene Robinson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (9/7), "Does it really surprise anyone that President Trump betrayed the Republican leaders who have been trying their best to carry water for him on Capitol Hill...and is playing footsie with their Democratic rivals? It shouldn't. ... I just hope Schumer and Pelosi know not to trust him the way Ryan and McConnell did."

Ron Klain, also in the [Washington Post](#) (9/7), titles his article "Schumer And Pelosi Just Totally Suckered Trump," and argues that "in creating a mechanism to require Trump to repeatedly seek Democratic support for must-pass legislation, Schumer and Pelosi have gotten themselves previously unimaginable future leverage. That's legislative genius, even without a genie."

NYTimes Analysis: Cooperation Between Trump, Democrats Unlikely To Last. A [New York Times](#) (9/7, Baker, Stolberg) analysis says there are "reasons to doubt whether Democrats would sustain a partnership with Mr. Trump beyond the deal they have cut to keep the government open for three months and paying its debts. The centrifugal forces of partisanship tug from the left as well as the right, and the liberal base has put pressure on Democratic lawmakers not to meet in the middle a president it loathes."

WPost: Bipartisan Deal "Encouraging." The [Washington Post](#) (9/7) writes in an editorial that while the deal "is hardly an ideal solution...the president's decision to reach out to Democrats to ensure against a disastrous default on the nation's debts is encouraging, both as a matter of responsible governing and for its bipartisan character." The Post concludes that "even better would be a serious bipartisan effort to come to grips with the nation's long and deep fiscal disorder, including a long-term solution for the debt ceiling and passage of a responsible 2018 budget. Too much to hope for? Probably. But for now, at least, the worst has been avoided."

Amid Trump Outreach, RNC Ad Slams Pelosi And Schumer. [CBS News](#) (9/7, Watson) reported on its website that a new RNC ad "for...Trump assails...Schumer and...Pelosi as 'career politicians' who are 'trying to stop him,' a day after Mr. Trump snubbed his own party to cut a deal with those same Democrats on the debt ceiling."

Trump-Schumer "Gentlemen's Agreement" Will Seek To End Debt Ceiling Votes.

Citing "three people familiar with the decision," the [Washington Post](#) (9/7, Paletta, Parker) is reporting that the President and Senate Minority Leader Schumer "have agreed to pursue a deal that would permanently remove the requirement that Congress repeatedly raise the debt ceiling."

The Post adds that “one of the people familiar described it as a ‘gentlemen’s agreement,’” and that “the two, along with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi...agreed to work together over the next several months to try to finalize a plan, which would need to be approved by Congress.” The Post also reports that “another person familiar with the meeting said Vice President Pence is open to changes he considers in line with the ‘Gephardt Rule,’” which makes it “easier to tie raising the debt ceiling with Congress passing a budget.”

[Reuters](#) (9/7) reports that White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders was asked about the possibility of such a deal, and said, “The president encouraged congressional leaders to find a more permanent solution to the debt ceiling so the vote is not so frequently politicized.” Trump also addressed the topic yesterday. [Roll Call](#) (9/7, Lesniewski) reports Trump “signaled...he could support terminating the debt limit, a radical departure from Republican orthodoxy.” Said the President, “For many years people have been talking about getting rid of the debt ceiling altogether and there are a lot of good reasons to do that. ... So certainly that is something that could be discussed. We even discussed it at the meeting we had yesterday.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/7, Peterson, Radnofsky) runs a similar report under the headline “Trump, Democrats Weigh Eliminating Need For Debt-Limit Votes.”

To the [Washington Times](#) (9/7, Dinan), the potential deal is “part of a new detente Mr. Trump has struck with Democrats, who appear to have found a willing partner in a president still trying to gain his footing when dealing with Congress.” Pelosi, says [Politico](#) (9/7, Dawsey, Everett), “appeared interested in the deal but was noncommittal.” She “confirmed the conversation in a new conference on Thursday,” saying, “The president even said, ‘Has anybody thought about eliminating this vote?’ ... We said, ‘We’ll take it back to our caucus.’”

[Roll Call](#) (9/7, Lesniewski) notes, however, that Speaker Ryan “may not be on board with such an effort.” Ryan said yesterday, “I won’t get into our private conversation that we had, but I think there’s a legitimate role in the power of the purse and Article One powers and that’s something that we defend here in Congress.”

In an analysis piece, the [Washington Post](#) (9/7, Paletta) sees “a remarkable political evolution for Trump, who has long cheered weaponizing the debt ceiling, no matter the cost.” In 2013, for example, he tweeted, “I cannot believe the Republicans are extending the debt ceiling – I am a Republican & I am embarrassed!” The Post adds that an agreement “could mark the end of Congress’ greatest political weapon – a legislative hand grenade that has never exploded but unnerved financial markets for decades.” Rory Cooper, “former top adviser to House GOP leadership, said Trump’s reversal on the issue should come as no surprise, even if it insults the Republican leadership.” Said Cooper, “There’s definitely support on the Hill on the Democratic side and even among some Republicans for doing away with debt-limit votes altogether.”

Graham, Cassidy To Introduce Revised Version Of ACA Replacement.

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/7, Litvan, Dennis) reports that Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy “said Thursday they will introduce a revised version of their proposal to replace Obamacare.” The proposal “would send federal money to the states in block grants while repealing Obamacare’s mandates that all Americans have insurance and most employers provide it.” Cassidy said in an interview that President Trump “is supportive of the plan” and Majority Leader McConnell “has promised a vote in September if the senators can line up 50 of their colleagues to back the measure.” However, the AP adds that the “longshot move” faces “significant obstacles, including Senator John McCain’s insistence that any health-care plan go through ‘regular order’ of committee hearings and debate on amendments.” Sen. Dean Heller is joining Graham and Cassidy in introducing the measure.

[USA Today](#) (9/7, Collins, Berry) calls the measure “a last-ditch effort to pass legislation” as senators “are running short on time because the budget procedure they would use to pass the legislation with a simple majority will expire at the end of the month.” [Reuters](#) (9/7, Morgan) says Cassidy “told reporters he was optimistic the legislation could pass before a Sept. 30 deadline, if it can attract the bare minimum of 50 votes needed to succeed in the Republican-led Senate with tie-breaking support from Vice President Mike Pence.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/7, King) says it is “unclear if Cassidy and Graham have enough support for the bill.”

Meanwhile, [Politico](#) (9/7, Everett) reports that Senate Republicans “are throwing cold water on the idea of holding another” vote to repeal the ACA before the end of September. They say this would be nearly impossible, even though President Trump and some Republicans are urging a vote on the Graham-Cassidy plan. Politico says the proposal is still incomplete, “there is no Congressional Budget Office score, and some Republicans are working with Democrats on a bipartisan plan to shore up insurance markets.” In addition, it remains unclear if such a bill would garner 50 votes, all of which “means the dream of repealing the law with all GOP votes is slipping

away, at least for now." However, [McClatchy](#) (9/7, Dumain) describes Graham as being "on a lonely crusade to repeal and replace Obamacare," but says he "disputed the notion he's on a fool's errand," saying, "Here's what would be crazy for a Republican: The promise of repealing and replacing Obamacare for seven years, throwing your up hands and saying, 'Sorry, we can't do it.' ... This idea has never been tried. It's the best idea to replace Obamacare. It's never been given a shot. You want to kill the Republican party?" he continued. "You want to have us divided forever? Walk away from the promise to repeal and replace Obamacare without taking your best shot."

Trump To Dreamers: "You Have Nothing To Worry About" For Next 6 Months.

The [AP](#) (9/7, Werner) reports House Minority Leader Pelosi urged President Trump Thursday "to tweet reassurances" to the so-called Dreamers, and the President "obliged, in the latest instance of Trump doing the bidding of leaders of the opposition." Trump [tweeted](#), "For all of those (DACA) that are concerned about your status during the 6 month period, you have nothing to worry about – No action!" Pelosi told reporters at her weekly news conference that Trump "has indicated his support and willingness to sign into law the Dream Act," but in response, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said only that Trump "is focused on responsible immigration reform and wants to work with both sides to achieve it."

[Politico](#) (9/7, McCaskill) says Trump "reassured" Dreamers, and the [Washington Times](#) (9/7, Dinan) says he "assured...Dreamers they remain safe for at least six more months."

The [New York Times](#) (9/7, Baker, Haberman) says Trump acted "at the request of...Pelosi," but "did not get the language of his tweet exactly as she wanted." Still the Times says it was "another sign of an effort by the president to work more closely with Democrats." However, [USA Today](#) (9/7, Estepa) says Sanders "did not confirm the reports about Pelosi's tweet request," but [Breitbart](#) (9/7, Spiering) says she did confirm "to White House reporters that Trump did speak with Pelosi," as well as Senate Minority Leader Schumer, Senate Majority Leader McConnell and House Speaker Ryan. "The President is committed to working across the aisle and doing what is needed to best serve the American people," Sanders continued. "The President is also having dinner with Speaker Ryan later tonight."

[Reuters](#) (9/7, Cornwell) reports Schumer said the President "said he wanted to help lawmakers pass legislation aimed at helping" Dreamers. Sen. Richard Durbin likewise said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/7), "I think the President can help us. We need his voice in support of a good approach, passing the DREAM Act, making sure that we do it in a bipartisan fashion."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/7, Dinan), meanwhile, reports Pelosi also said yesterday that the phaseout of DACA was part of a racist alt-right push for "purification of America."

Rep. Eric Swalwell said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (9/7), "I want to say that I believe that Donald Trump's wall and the premise for his well, yes, is racist. Having border security is a responsibility we have, but these Dreamers are a part of our country."

Bannon: Conservatives "Are Not Happy" With Trump's DACA Decision. [Politico](#) (9/7, Nelson) reports former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon "said he doesn't agree" with President Trump's decision to end the DACA program and "blasted" the Catholic Church's support for undocumented immigrants because "they need illegal aliens to fill the churches." In an excerpt of his upcoming interview with 60 Minutes aired on [CBS "This Morning,"](#) Bannon said, "I don't agree with that DACA decision, but I understand how he struggled with it. I understand how he's giving a possibility of a legislative thing." He added, "The Catholic Church has been terrible about this. ... Because [they're] unable to really — to come to grips with the problems in the church, they need illegal aliens. They need illegal aliens to fill the churches."

[Politico](#) (9/7, McCaskill) reports Cardinal Timothy Dolan calls Bannon's comments so "preposterous," "insulting" and "ridiculous" that it doesn't merit a response.

Mnuchin, Ryan Predict Tax Overhaul Will Pass By Year's End.

[Reuters](#) (9/7, Chiacu, Heavey) reports that a day after President Trump "reached a deal with Democrats to avert an unprecedented default on US government debt, keep the government funded at the outset of the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 and provide aid to victims of Hurricane Harvey," Treasury Secretary Mnuchin and House Speaker Ryan "expressed confidence...that Congress will pass an overhaul of the US tax code by the end of this year." Reuters adds that the White House is hopeful that the deal Trump reached with Democrats "clears the decks for Congress to tackle the tax overhaul, a top Trump campaign promise."

Ryan told the [New York Times](#) (9/7, Rappeport) that "an outdated tax code was a drag on the economy and that the changes that Republicans are proposing would raise wages and

accelerate economic growth.” However he said that “Trump’s call for a 15 percent corporate tax rate was unrealistic and suggested that the president’s math did not add up.” Ryan added that “getting the corporate tax rate to the mid to low 20 percent range was more likely and would make American businesses more competitive.” Said Ryan, “He obviously wants to push that as low as possible. ... At the end of the day we have to make these numbers work.” The Times adds that after “months of meetings between Trump administration officials and Republican leaders in the House and Senate, fundamental differences remain” including “whether the eventual legislation will be ‘deficit neutral’ and whether they would support temporary tax cuts that add to the deficit as a last resort.”

EPA Expected To Finalize Review Of Clean Power Plan This Fall.

[The Hill](#) (9/7, Henry) reports that in a court filing yesterday, the EPA said that “federal officials expect to finalize their review of the Obama administration’s climate rule for power plants this fall.” Earlier this year, President Trump ordered the agency “to review and consider repealing the Obama administration’s Clean Power Plan, which sets carbon reduction targets for states to apply to their energy sectors.” The agency “is widely expected to formally order the rule off the books at the end of its review.” The filing said, “At this time, EPA expects that the administrator will sign the proposed rule in the fall of 2017.”

Senate Appropriations Committee Approves \$10 Million For UN Climate Change Fund.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/7, Siegel) reports a “handful of Republicans” yesterday joined Democrats in a Senate Appropriations Committee vote “to give \$10 million to the United Nations’ climate change agency, defying President Trump, who had proposed eliminating the funding.” The committee, “by a vote of 16 to 14,” approved “an amendment providing funding for the U.N.’s Framework Convention on Climate Change in a spending bill for the State Department.” Sen. Jeff Merkley said, “[This] fits in with Secretary of State [Rex] Tillerson’s desire that we both continue to monitor the changes in the world’s climate and that we keep a seat at the table.” Republican Sens. Lamar Alexander, Susan Collins and Lindsay Graham “joined all Democrat committee members except Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia in supporting the amendment.” [E&E Publishing](#) (9/7) reports that during the “rollout” of the budget earlier this year, “White House Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney dismissed climate science spending as ‘a waste of your money.’”

Nordhaus: “Impossible Environmentalism” Precludes Realistic Approaches To Climate Change.

In an op-ed in [USA Today](#) (9/7, Nordhaus) Ted Nordhaus, co-founder and executive director of the Breakthrough Institute, claims that some environmental groups “promote utopian fantasies” while utilizing tactics that preclude more pragmatic approaches to climate change, a strategy that he calls “impossible environmentalism.” Nordhaus says “the targets vary but the tactics are the same: identify speculative or infinitesimally small health or environmental risks, exaggerate those risks wildly in the media, [and] ignore or downplay trade-offs and the far greater and more prosaic risks associated with present day production.”

Lomborg: Costly Climate Change Measures Can Divert From More Meaningful Solutions.

In an op-ed in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/7, Lomborg) Bjorn Lomborg, president of the Copenhagen Consensus Center, urges people to maintain a sense of perspective on climate change, arguing that overreactions to every social and economic ill tenuously linked to climate change can divert resources from more practical solutions. For example, Lomborg cites the argument that rising temperatures caused by climate change has increased the places malaria-carrying mosquitoes can become endemic. Although the science in the argument is unambiguous, he says that reducing temperatures in line with Kyoto Protocol would cost \$180 billion while only saving 1,400 lives from malaria. Meanwhile, \$500 million spent in one year on measures like mosquito nets, sprays, and treatment could save up to 300,000 lives.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Why The Return Of Bigger Banks Means Bigger Risks For Everyone Else.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/8, Board) criticizes the Administration for having “made it clear” it favors

big financial institutions, "that Wall Street need have no real concern about Dodd-Frank's provisions and that the lessons of the financial crisis will be ignored." In particular, the Times blasts an upcoming Treasury Department report that is expected to recommend restricting the government's ability to designate financial firms other than banks too big to fail. Such a move "would be blind to history," as during the financial crisis "non-banks proved as unstable as banks." The Times laments that "financial corporations are being given the nod to re-establish their unholy alliances," spreading risk throughout the financial system. While the greater risk means greater potential returns for bank executives and traders, for everyone else it "means greater economic peril, including threatened destruction of jobs, pay, savings, home equity and career opportunity."

"Myanmar Intensifies Its Abuse Of Rohingya." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/8) criticizes Myanmar for the resumption of "scorched-earth tactics against Muslim Rohingya." The Times calls their "persecution...a colossal moral failure" by the nation's government. In particular, the Times condemns Myanmar leader and Nobel Peace laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, especially "her ridiculous accusation last week that international aid groups were supporting the insurgency."

"School Lunch Without Shame." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/8, Board) praises New York City's public school system for making free lunch available to all its students, calling the move "an important national example." The change will not only ensure more children get proper nutrition, but "relieve the sense of stigma and shame that often leads children to refuse subsidized meals." The Times also condemns other school systems' "barbaric policies under which children are openly humiliated when their parents cannot pay lunch bills" as "cruel, counterproductive and costly." The Times urges schools that serve poor children to register for the federal Community Eligibility Provision to "increase reimbursement for meals...improve nutrition, eliminate stigma and cut administrative costs."

Washington Post.

"Trump's Deal With Democrats Saves Us From Disaster – But Not For Long." The [Washington Post](#) (9/7) writes in an editorial that while the President's deal with Democrat leaders "is hardly an ideal solution...the president's decision to reach out to Democrats to ensure against a disastrous default on the nation's debts is encouraging, both as a matter of responsible governing and for its bipartisan character." The Post concludes that "even better would be a serious bipartisan effort to come to grips with the nation's long and deep fiscal disorder, including a long-term solution for the debt ceiling and passage of a responsible 2018 budget. Too much to hope for? Probably. But for now, at least, the worst has been avoided."

"Another Cyberattack Alarm Is Going Off. We Need To Pay Attention." The [Washington Post](#) (9/7) says in an editorial that the Dragonfly malware is the second instance this year of evidence "of a serious potential threat to electrical and industrial systems from cyberattack." The Post says, "The latest disclosure should serve as yet another alarm that cyberattacks and intrusions are not just about stealing data or emails. They can lead to real-world damage."

"School Officials Should Decide How Long Summer Vacation Is – Not Larry Hogan." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/7) criticizes Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's decision to open the state's public schools after Labor Day, arguing that the postponement "caused child-care headaches for many parents, disrupted the operations of local school districts and may well have exacerbated the summer learning loss that is particularly pernicious for low-income students." The Post contends that local school officials, not the governor, should have final authority to make such decisions.

Wall Street Journal.

"The DeVos Guidance Speech." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/7) defends Education Secretary DeVos, and casts her plans as an attempt to restore due process to the handling of campus sexual assaults.

"The Next Middle East War." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/7) writes that Israel's airstrike on a Syrian military facility on Thursday – a facility linked with Iran – should draw focus to the fact that the danger of a proxy war or a direct war between Israel and Iran over southern Syria is steadily growing.

"Democrats And Dogma." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/7) editorial is critical of Senate Democrats' questioning of Notre Dame Law School Prof. Amy Barrett's religious views, arguing it is part of a larger effort on the part of the left to exclude people with strong religious beliefs from public life.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Senate Passes Bill On Storm Aid, Debt Limit And Spending](#)
[The Corporate Hurricane: Houston CEOs Race To Mend A Battered Workforce](#)
[Equifax Data Breach Potentially Affected 143 Million In US](#)
[Amazon Seeks Prime Location For \\$5 Billion Second HQ](#)

New York Times:

[The Fake Americans Russia Created To Influence The Election](#)
[Devastation In The Caribbean As Irma Heads Toward Miami](#)
[Energized Trump Sees Bipartisan Path, At Least For Now](#)
[Trump Jr. Says He Wanted Russian Dirt To Determine Clinton's 'Fitness' For Office](#)
[Equifax Says Cyberattack May Have Affected 143 Million Customers](#)
[Graydon Carter To End 25-Year Run As Vanity Fair's Editor](#)

Washington Post:

[Trump's Shift Shakes Parties](#)
[Equifax Breach Hits Credit Data Of Millions](#)
[Florida Bracing For A Direct Hit From Irma](#)
[At Least 10 Dead As Massive Storm Pounds Caribbean](#)
[NFL's Most Talked-About Player Is Also A Player Without A Job](#)

Financial Times:

[ECB Begins Discussions On Tapering QE Despite Stronger Euro](#)
[Emmanuel Macron Makes Case For 'Ambitious' Overhaul Of Eurozone](#)
[Irma Set To Hit Florida As 'Dangerous Major Hurricane'](#)
[Saudi Arabia Redrafts Crown Prince's Transformation Plan](#)

Washington Times:

[Ruthless Iranian Militia Vows To Turn Against U.S. Troops Once Islamic State Is Defeated In Iraq](#)
[Depth Of War Carnage Comes Into Focus As Syrians Start Long Struggle To Rebuild Their Lives](#)
[Trump Hails New Era Of Bipartisanship After Lawmakers Vote For More Debt, Spending](#)
[More Than 5,000 Out-Of-State Voters May Have Tipped New Hampshire Against Trump](#)
[DeVos To Overhaul 'Shameful' Obama-Era Campus Sexual-Assault Regulations](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; Hurricane Irma-Forecast; Hurricane Irma-Barbuda; Hurricane Irma-Florida; Hurricane Irma-Miami; Hurricane Irma-Travel Disruption; Hurricane Irma-Wind Strength; Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Junior; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; West Coast-Wild Fires; Las Vegas-Police Violence; Hurricane Irma-Neighbor Generosity.

CBS: Hurricane Irma-Forecast; Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; Hurricane Irma-Miami; Hurricane Irma-Florida; Hurricane Irma-Storm Surge; Hurricane Irma-Georgia, Carolinas; Senate-Hurricane Relief; DeVos-Campus Sexual Assault Policy; Steve Bannon Interview; Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Junior; West Coast-Wild Fires; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Amazon-New Headquarters Plan; US Womens Tennis.

NBC: Hurricane Irma-Florida; Hurricane Irma-Travel Disruption; Hurricane Irma-Forecast 1; Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Senate-Hurricane Relief; Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Junior; Hurricane Irma-Infrastructure; Amazon-New Headquarters Plan; British Royal Family-Prince Returns To School; Hurricane Irma-Forecast 2.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane Irma – 37 minutes
Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Junior – 4 minutes, 20 seconds
Equifax-Cyber Security Breach – 2 minutes, 30 seconds
West Coast-Wildfires – 45 seconds
Amazon-New Headquarters Plan – 45 seconds
Senate-Hurricane Relief – 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Hurricane Irma; Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Junior; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach.

CBS: Hurricane Irma; Hurricane Harvey-Former Presidents Fundraising; North Korea Threats; California-Travel Restriction Lawsuit; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach.

FOX: Hurricane Irma; Senate-Hurricane Relief. Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Junior.

NPR: Hurricane Irma; California-Travel Restriction Lawsuit; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Receives a hurricane update; Departs the White House to Camp David.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President to receive a hurricane update; Joins the President at Camp David.

US Senate: No public schedule announced.

US House: 9:00 AM House expected to vote on omnibus funding bill – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of 'H.R. 3354 – Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act, 2018', and possibly also consideration of legislation related to a continuing resolution, Hurricane Harvey supplemental funding, and the debt ceiling Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

10:00 AM Dem Reps. Bobby Scott and John Conyers hold forum on affirmative action, racial climate on college campuses – Democratic Reps. Bobby Scott and John Conyers hold a forum titled 'Affirmative Action, Inclusion, and Racial Climate on America's Campuses', convening student officers, representatives from institutions of higher education, and key legal experts to discuss the role of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act in 'ensuring that students are welcomed to a safe, inclusive learning environment free of harassment and intimidation on the basis of race, color, or national origin'. Attendees include NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund President and Director-Counsel Sherrilyn Ifill, Southern Poverty Law Center Executive Director Richard Cohen, University of Virginia President Theresa Sullivan, Duke University Office for Institutional Equity Vice President Dr Benjamin Reese, and University of Maryland Chief Diversity Officer Roger Worthington Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2203, Washington, DC www.bobbyscott.house.gov <https://twitter.com/repbobbyscott>

12:00 PM Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee briefing on Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act – Advisory Committee to the Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee hosts 'Carving Out Exceptions to Section 230: How Will It Affect The Internet?' educational briefing, featuring Georgetown University Law School Professor in Law & Technology Julie Cohen, Santa Clara Law School Professor Eric Goldman, and Engine Policy Director Rachel Wolbers Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2237, Washington, DC www.netcaucus.org [#Sec230](https://twitter.com/NetCaucusAC)

Other: 9:00 AM Commerce Secretary Ross speaks at The Washington Post – Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross speaks at The Washington Post, interviewed by the newspaper's James Hohmann, about Trump administration efforts to 'reshape the playing field for international trade', the future of NAFTA, the tax reform push, and other 'pressing domestic and international economic issues' * Event held as part of The Daily 202 Live event series, sponsored by Bank of America Location: The Washington Post Live Center, 1301 K St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.washingtonpost.com/> <https://twitter.com/washingtonpost>

9:00 AM '9/11 to ISIS and Beyond' BPC conference – '9/11 to ISIS and Beyond: The Future of Terrorism (And What We Can Do About It)' Bipartisan Policy Center conference examining 'the evolution of terrorism from 9/11 to ISIS and beyond, the effectiveness of U.S. counter-terrorism strategy, and how to break the cycle in the future'. Participants include Republican Rep. Michael McCaul, State Department Coordinator for Counterterrorism Nathan Sales, former New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean, former Rep. Lee Hamilton, Atlantic Council Senior Fellow Jasmine El-Gamal, Coexist President Tarek Elgawhary, Middle East Broadcasting Networks President Alberto Fernandez, Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy Senior Fellow Hassan Hassan, International Institute for Strategic Studies Middle East Corresponding Director Sir John Jenkins, Talisman-gate.com's Nibras Kazimi, IREX President and CEO Kristin Lord, and American Enterprise Institute Critical Threats Project Research Manager Katherine Zimmerman Location: Sofitel Washington DC Lafayette Square, 806 15th St, NW, Washington, DC www.bipartisanpolicy.org

https://twitter.com/BPC_Bipartisan

9:15 AM Ohio Gov. Kasich and Colorado Gov. Hickenlooper discuss bipartisan proposal to stabilize health insurance market at AEI – American Enterprise Institute and Center for American Progress host conference on health care, with Governors John Kasich (Ohio) and John Hickenlooper (Colorado) discussing their bipartisan proposal to 'stabilize the individual insurance market and reform the health system'. Also at the event, a panel discusses the challenges of ensuring access to affordable health coverage Location: American Enterprise Institute, 1789 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.aei.org/> <https://twitter.com/AEI>

11:00 AM Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue ceremonially swears in Tony Tooke as the 18th U.S. Forest Service chief Location: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC www.usda.gov <https://twitter.com/USDA>

Congressional Budget Office releases 'Monthly Budget Review for August 2017' report Location: TBD www.cbo.gov/ <https://twitter.com/USCBO>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Said [Donald Trump Jr.] only took the meeting because he felt it was his responsibility to find out if the Russians had any information that could call into question 'the fitness, character or qualifications of a possible future President of the United States.' For real, that's what he, has he ever met his father?"

Stephen Colbert: "I'm going to say something a little weird right now, so bare with me. The Democrats won something. Because, during a White House meeting about the upcoming agenda in Congress, 'Trump sides with the Democrats on the debt limit and funding for Hurricane Harvey.'"

Stephen Colbert: "You guys remember the debt limit, right? We talk about it every so often, okay. It's the amount of debt America is legally allowed to carry, and, if we don't raise it every once in a while, we default on everything and America gets repossessed by China."

Stephen Colbert: "Steve Bannon, technically, I guess Bannon wasn't fired because on the day he left, the administration issued a statement 'White House Chief of Staff John Kelly and Steve Bannon have mutually agreed today would be Steve's last day.' Yes, it was mutual. Same way my college girlfriend and I mutually agreed that she'd be happier having sex with Gary."

James Corden: "Donald Trump went against his own party and sided with Democrats in a deal to raise the debt ceiling. And because it's Trump, the debt ceiling will not only be raised, it will also be covered in gold leaf and feature a tasteless painting of Donald Trump holding a sword riding a lion."

James Corden: "Former White House Chief Strategist Steve Bannon gave an odd interview to Charlie Rose where he criticized the Catholic church, saying they had been terrible on the issue of immigration and that they need illegal aliens to fill their churches. This is just in case you had any doubt that Steve Bannon is literally the Anti-Christ."

Trevor Noah: "We covered this part of the news last night on the show, Donald Trump making a deal with the Democrats. What we didn't know last night, though, is how it actually went down, because it seemed like the negotiation was a carefully choreographed ballet. Today we learned it was more like a Molly seizure at Bernie land."

Trevor Noah: "The President of the United States abandoned his party's legislative strategy because the words made him tired? If Donald Trump was Winston Churchill, Britain would have folded before tea time. 'We will fight them on the beaches, we will fight them...you know what? They can have the beaches. I'm tired.'"

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