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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING**

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**DOI in the News:**

**MURKOWSKI STILL NOT SURE WHEN VOTE FOR ZINKE WILL TAKE**

**PLACE.** The “Morning Energy” blog of [Politico](#) (2/2, 12K) reported Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski “still had no signs on when DOE nominee Rick Perry and Interior Department designee Ryan Zinke might get full votes.” Legislators “are currently working on Betsy DeVos’ Education Department nomination, which Murkowski and fellow Republican Sen. Susan Collins plan to vote against.” According to Murkowski, “Beyond that, there is no certainty to any line up, unfortunately because I really want to get these guys moved.”

[E&E Publishing](#) (2/2, Subscription Publication, 705) reports the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has been “largely spared the nominee tussling” other committees have experienced, although votes on Perry and Zinke “were delayed for one week after ranking member Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) raised objections to Perry’s response to the panel, scuttling a markup that had already been noticed.” Murkowski “told E&E News that she delayed the Zinke and Perry votes out of a desire to start off ‘on the right foot.’” Murkowski stated, “You saw how that played out. ... We were the one committee yesterday that moved through two nominees with no fireworks, no boycotts and a bipartisan vote, and I felt pretty darn proud of what we did.”

***Zinke Wins Bipartisan Support For Stance On Public Lands.*** The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (2/2, 219K) reports that during a Jan. 17 Senate hearing, Interior nominee Ryan Zinke said he would review President Obama’s designation of the Gold Butte National Monument. When questioned by Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, “Zinke said he would visit the area and meet with her personally as well as the local community.” On Tuesday, Cortez Masto was “one of four Democrats on the committee to vote in favor of his approval.” Cortez Masto said she was reassured by “Zinke’s stance against wholesale land transfers and his ‘values as an outdoorsman’.” She said in a statement, “I do have some concerns about Rep. Zinke’s positions on issues like designating national monuments under the Antiquities Act and preserving common-sense energy regulations for public lands, and I will be monitoring the Interior Secretary’s actions closely as a member of this committee and speaking out to ensure the Department is always acting in the best interest of Nevadans.”

***Grand County Council Invites Zinke To Visit Moab, Utah.*** The [Moab \(UT\) Sun News](#) (2/2) reports that Grand County Council members “voted 5-1 on Tuesday, Jan. 31, to send a letter that invites” Interior Secretary nominee Ryan Zinke “to meet with them to discuss public lands issues.” Grand County Council member Chris Baird, “who drafted the letter to Zinke, said that as a rule, it’s wise to develop a working relationship with an Interior Department secretary any time that person happens to be in the region.” Baird said, “It’s always worth talking with those folks about how things work in Grand County, and to have a discussion about public lands issues, as they relate to Grand County.”

***Spicer Takes Federal Lands, Energy Queries Via Skype.*** E&E Publishing (2/1, Subscription Publication, 705) reports “White House press secretary Sean Spicer took questions via Skype for the first time...during his daily briefing,” including public lands and energy questions from some known Trump supporters. In response to a question about federal lands from Lars Larson, a conservative talk radio show host, Spicer said, “I think the president has been very clear that as part of an overall comprehensive energy solution, that we’ve got to utilize the resources that we have that the federal government owns, whether that’s the forests or natural resources and minerals that exist above and below the ground, that we have too infrequently looked at our own resources and counted too much on foreign sources of energy.” Spicer added that Perry and Zinke will be working together and individually “to look at those natural resources that we have to figure out how to best utilize them to benefit not just our energy but also economic growth opportunities with that.”

#### **SOME REPUBLICAN LAWMAKERS IRKED BY DISSENTING CIVIL**

**SERVANTS.** The Hill (2/2, Kamisar, 1.25M) reports that Republican lawmakers are “frustrated with mounting dissent from civil servants over President Trump’s policies.” According to the article, “some of Trump’s allies in Congress want federal employees to quit it and do their jobs—or get out.” Rep. Pete Sessions said, “When someone works full time for the government, it should be no surprise to them that they serve at the pleasure of the [president].” However, “others in the GOP are looking to tamp down the tensions and go back to business as usual.” Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen believes “that things will ultimately ‘calm down’ once the new administration gets settled in.”

***Trump Moves Invigorate Supporters.*** McClatchy (2/2, 74K) reports that “two weeks into the Trump presidency,” many federal employees are “resisting Trump policies and preparing for deep cuts to their ranks.” But “while there may be rebellious fires burning inside the Trump fortress, many of his supporters outside are pleased the new president is striking fear inside the bureaucracy.” The article notes that “Trump campaigned on reducing the federal workforce, and his base expects him not only to fulfill that promise but to reorient the government to serve a conservative agenda.”

***More Than 60 Alternative Government Twitter Accounts Have Popped Up.*** The Billings (MT) Gazette (2/2, 208K) reports that “more than 60 alternative government Twitter accounts — including two for Yellowstone National Park and one for Glacier — have popped up across the United States in the wake of the Trump administration’s mid-January order that Interior Department employees stop making posts on a National Park Service account.” Jeff Ruch, executive director of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, said, “This whole dimension of communication didn’t exist before and hadn’t been controversial because it was used as a means to amplify talking points. But now all the talking points are thrown out the window.” According to Ruch, “the attempt to control information shows how much the political landscape has changed because of social media in just the past few years.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KCET-TV](#) Los Angeles (2/2, 15K).

***Rocky Mountain National Park Denies Joining Alternative Social Media Effort.*** The [Estes Park \(CO\) Trail-Gazette](#) (2/2, 13K) reports that Rocky Mountain National Park is not “part of this movement.” Kyle Patterson, Rocky Mountain National Park’s Management Specialist/Public Affairs Officer, said, “Rocky Mountain National Park is not involved nor have we joined the group.”

***Trump Urged To Pursue Civil Service Reform.*** For the “Pundits” blog of [The Hill](#) (2/2, Stepman, Contributor, 1.25M), Inez Feltscher Stepman, the Director of the Education and Workforce Development Task Force at the American Legislative Exchange Council, writes that “the problem of agencies unresponsive to political will and elected representatives far predates the Trump phenomenon.” According to Stepman, “the civil service reforms over the past century have created a monster; a class of permanent, unelected bureaucrats given massive power to intrude into the affairs of the American people.” Stepman urges the President to take “action to reform a runaway agency class by instituting civil service reform.”

**CHAFFETZ WITHDRAWS BILL TO TRANSFER FEDERAL LANDS TO STATE OWNERSHIP.** The [Washington Post](#) (2/2, Eilperin, 11.43M) reports that Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) has withdrawn legislation “that would have transferred 3 million acres of land from federal to state ownership, citing objections from constituents who complained that the move would limit access to public hunting and fishing grounds.” In a letter to House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop, also a Utahan, Chaffetz wrote, “As a proud gun owner, hunter and public lands enthusiast, I want to be responsive to my constituents who enjoy these lands.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (2/2, Cama, 1.25M), [Reuters](#) (2/2, Volcovici), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/2, 426K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (2/2, 778K), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (2/2, 114K), the [Idaho Statesman](#) (2/2, 197K), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/2, Enders, 4.07M), the [Huffington Post](#) (2/2, 237K), the [Huffington Post](#) (2/2, 237K), [Outside](#) (2/2, 17.02M), [The Verge](#) (2/2, 1.25M), [Vox](#) (2/2, 1.15M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (2/2, 8.62M).

**BEARS EARS RESOLUTION DRAWS CROWD OF MONUMENT SUPPORTERS.** The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/2, 426K) reports that House Speaker Greg Hughes on Thursday made the case for HCR11 to the Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environmental Quality Standing Committee, which passed the measure. According to the article, “at least 300 people, mostly monument supporters, packed two Senate hearing rooms to voice opposition to Hughes’ resolution calling on President Donald Trump to rescind the monument designation.” The article notes that “another committee on Thursday advanced a sister resolution to trim Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Utah Political Capitol](#) (2/2).

**FEDERAL WILDLIFE, LAND MANAGERS SAY THEY FEAR FOR THEIR**

**SAFETY.** [BuzzFeed](#) (2/2, 6.47M) reports that “one in five managers of federal wildlife refuges say that they, their staff, or their families have been threatened or harassed because of conflicts over government land management policies,” according to a new survey released on Thursday by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. PEER received “responses from more than 100 managers of the Fish and Wildlife Service’s National Wildlife Refuges, plus more than 350 land managers employed by the Bureau of Land Management, which controls vast tracts of the American West.” The article notes that “of the wildlife managers who reported being threatened, only half said they were encouraged to report the incident” and “more than 60% of wildlife managers disagreed with a statement that visitor safety is better protected now than it was five years ago.”

**DOE, EPA, INTERIOR IGS NOT TARGETED FOR REPLACEMENT.** [E&E News](#)

[PM](#) (2/1, Bogardus, Smith-Schoenwalder, Subscription Publication) reports that a “now-aborted wholesale purge of inspectors general by President Trump’s transition team did not affect watchdogs from U.S. EPA and the Interior and Energy departments.” Representatives for all three agencies told E&E “that the transition team did not contact their IGs to tell them they would eventually be replaced, as happened elsewhere in the government.”

**America’s Great Outdoors:***National Park Service:***NATIONAL PARKS ALLOWED TO HIRE SEASONAL WORKERS.** [CNN](#) (2/2,

Hetter, 29.79M) reports that national parks have received approval to hire seasonal and short-term temporary employees “necessary to meet traditionally recurring seasonal workloads,” under a list of exemptions to the federal hiring freeze issued Tuesday. The National Park Service, “which hosted a record-breaking 307.2 million visits in 2015, depends on some 8,000 temporary workers to keep the parks running during the summer high season, a park service spokesman confirmed.” Coalter Baker, a US Office of Management and Budget spokesman, said, “As long as the Department of Interior (which oversees the park service) gives advance notice to its OMB resource management office, the hiring of seasonal workers should be allowable.”

**PANEL TO REVIEW NPS HANDLING OF CHIMNEY TOPS FIRE.** The

[Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (2/2, 245K) reports that Joe Stutler, “a forester from Oregon, has been named to lead a panel that will review how the National Park Service handled the fires begun in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park that eventually burned 17,000-plus acres and resulted in the deaths of 14 people.” The panel has seven members, according to a list provided Thursday by the National Park Service Division of Fire and Aviation Management. According to Dan Buckley, NPS Wildland Fire Branch chief, “the panel likely will spend

several weeks in the area reviewing how the fire was dealt with, then take 30 to 45 days to draft its report.”

**DEAL ALLOWS YELLOWSTONE BISON SLAUGHTER.** The AP (2/2, Brown, 272K) reports that “a deal disclosed Thursday will allow the mass slaughter of hundreds of wild bison migrating from Yellowstone National Park, while sparing 25 animals that American Indian tribes want to start new herds.” The deal between Montana, the park and the U.S. Department of Agriculture “resulted from two weeks of intensive negotiations and removes a political obstacle for the park after Montana Gov. Steve Bullock on Jan. 19 temporarily blocked Yellowstone’s plan to kill up to 1,300 of Yellowstone’s 5,500 bison this winter.” According to the article, “the terms are likely to dampen public outcry by averting slaughter for most of a small group of bison that had been earmarked for a conservation effort intended at establishing new herds elsewhere.”

Additional coverage was provided by KPAX-TV Missoula, MT (2/2, 2K).

**NPS NAMES NEW CHIEF HISTORIAN.** The History News Network (2/2, 569) reports that “effective January 8, 2017, Dr. Turkiya L. Lowe entered on duty as the National Park Service’s new Chief Historian.” Joy Beasley, Deputy Associate Director for Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science, said, “We are honored to have Dr. Lowe serving as the NPS Chief Historian. Her varied experiences in parks and regional offices in SER and PWR, as well as in the Washington Office, provide a thorough knowledge of NPS cultural resource programs and partnerships. She brings a combination of keen intelligence and positive energy to the Park History program and we are thrilled to have her.” Lowe said, “I look forward to the multiple and varied opportunities for collaboration, dynamic research and documentation projects, and the exciting challenges of leading the NPS’s Park History program.”

**FOREST GLADE CEMETERY PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.** The Foster’s Daily Democrat (NH) (2/2, 26K) reports that the Forest Glade Cemetery in Somersworth has joined the National Register of Historic Places.

*Fish and Wildlife Service:*

**JUDGE ASKED TO LIFT HOLD ON YELLOWSTONE DAM.** The AP (2/2, Brown, 272K) reports that “U.S. officials are pressing a federal judge to lift his 2015 order blocking a proposed irrigation dam and fish passage on the Yellowstone River, warning that a rapidly-disappearing, ancient fish species faces a grim future with further delays to construction.” While “fisheries biologists have questioned if the \$57 million project near Glendive, Montana would indeed save the 125 wild pallid sturgeon that survive in the Yellowstone,” federal wildlife officials “contend the fish passage around the site is the sturgeons’ best hope.” In a court document filed late Wednesday, Michael Thabault, assistant regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said that “putting off the project

any longer means it will likely lose funding, ‘costing the lives of many of the last wild pallids.’”

Additional coverage was provided by [ABC News](#) (2/2, 3.09M), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (2/2, Brown, 1.02M), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (2/2), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (2/2, 1.27M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (2/2, 942K), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (2/2, 15K), the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (2/2, 85K), and the [Daily Mail](#) (2/2, 4.59M).

**KANSAS OFFICIALS OPPOSE LISTING OF LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN.** The [AP](#) (2/2, 197K) reports that Kansas officials are insisting that “relisting the lesser prairie chicken as threatened or endangered would negatively affect the state’s economy and agricultural industry.” Gov. Sam Brownback, state Attorney General Derek Schmidt and state Department of Agriculture Secretary Jackie McClaskey are “asking government officials to consider having Kansas landowners implement efforts to protect the lesser prairie chicken.” In a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, “the officials noted that categorizing the chicken as threatened or endangered would unduly affect the state’s primary interest in controlling how the land within its borders is used.”

**LEAD AN OBSTACLE IN CALIFORNIA CONDOR REINTRODUCTION.** The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/2, 574K) reports that the Yurok tribe, the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have “launched a formal review of a project that could” return California condors to “the North Coast’s redwoods as early as next year.” Since 2003, “scientists have been testing the lead levels in vultures and ravens to determine how safe California’s northwest region will be for condors.” They “found lead” and “they found that lead levels spike in the fall, when the forested mountains east of Redwood National Park are rife with hunters.” According to the article, “to minimize exposure before any birds are released, condor advocates are reaching out to hunters in an education program that emphasizes the effects of lead ammunition on condors and wildlife generally, and has given away non-lead ammunition.”

**D.C. BOOTH HISTORIC NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY HAS NEW CURATOR.** The [AP](#) (2/2, 856K) reports that “after more than two years without anyone in the position, the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives in Spearfish has a new curator: April Gregory, former Booth Society executive director, started in her new role last month.” Carlos Martinez, hatchery director, said, “Gregory has had an association with D.C. Booth for over seven years, and the institutional knowledge she possess will allow her to benefit” the station immediately. He added, “Her business acumen while dealing with partners and the public is excellent. She enjoys working with people of all ages and backgrounds and does so in a professional and courteous manner.”

**PUBLIC SUPPORT SEEN AS CRITICAL IN FIGHT AGAINST WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING.** [One Green Planet](#) (2/2) reports that a recent study supported by

the U.S. Wildlife Trafficking Alliance “found 80 percent of Americans aren’t aware of the illegal wildlife trade in their own country.” While the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and “others are working hard to stop the trafficking of illegal wildlife products, public outcry against the illicit trade is what will ultimately tip the scales, and the legal system, in wildlife’s favor.”

*Bureau of Land Management:*

**DEMONSTRATORS PROTEST MINING NEAR BOUNDARY WATERS . [KSJR-FM](#)**

[Collegeville, MN \(2/2, 96K\)](#) reports that “more than 50 protesters rallied outside the Duluth office of U.S. Rep. Rick Nolan Thursday, condemning the Democratic congressman’s letter earlier this week calling on the Trump administration to overturn a decision that called for a potential 20-year ban on mining on national forest land within the watershed of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.” In a letter to the protesters, “Nolan wrote that he supported responsible mining and a thorough environmental review process. But he argued an environmental review of mining in the watershed should wait until a specific mining plan is submitted.” However, his letter was “sharply criticized” by Rep. Betty McCollum, who said the Obama Administration’s decision “was a victory for every Minnesotan who cares about preserving clean water, clean air, and pristine wild lands.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (2/2, 1.27M).

**Securing America’s Energy Future:**

*Onshore Energy Development:*

**SENATE APPROVES ROLLBACK OF STREAM PROTECTION RULE.** In the first of what [USA Today](#) (2/2, Collins, 5.28M) says will likely be “many rollbacks of environmental regulations,” the Senate voted 54-45 Thursday to roll back the Stream Protection Rule, which was “designed to limit the dumping of mining waste in local waterways.” [Politico](#) (2/2, Guillén, 2.46M) reported that Democratic Sens. Joe Manchin, Claire McCaskill, Joe Donnelly, and Heidi Heitkamp “joined every Republican except Maine’s Susan Collins in voting for the measure.” The [Washington Times](#) (2/2, Dinan, 272K) says the Senate vote followed House passage on Wednesday. The two votes marked “just the second time Congress has successfully flexed the Congressional Review Act.”

The [New York Times](#) (2/2, Tabuchi, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) calls the vote a first step toward “officially dismantl[ing] Obama-era environmental regulations.” [Reuters](#) (2/2, Lambert) says the rule is “the first of a number of Obama-era regulations congressional Republicans are aiming to kill,” and the [Washington Post](#) (2/2, Eilperin, Mufson, 11.43M) says this is “the first of nearly half-a-dozen rule reversals headed to President Trump’s desk for his signature this month.”

A separate [Politico](#) (2/2, Schor, 2.46M) story said that as Democrats “grind the Senate to

a crawl” over Trump’s Cabinet nominees, Senate Republican leaders “hope to call up several more rifle-shot repeals of Obama regulations as they come over from the House – giving the chamber the appearance of progress even amid the confirmations standstill and with the Republicans seemingly paralyzed over what to do with Obamacare.” Republicans, the AP (2/2, Freking, Daly) reports, are “counting on a new ally in the White House to help reverse years of what the GOP calls excessive regulation.”

Additional coverage was provided by The Hill (2/2, Henry, 1.25M), Bloomberg News (2/2, Natter, Traywick, 2.41M), TIME (2/2, 6.98M), Fortune (2/2, 7.12M), CNN (2/2, Watkins, 29.79M), CNN International (2/2, 598K), Reuters (2/2, Gardner), the Chicago (IL) Tribune (2/2, 2.54M), the Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (2/2, 324K), the Tampa Bay (FL) Times (2/2, 785K), the Durango (CO) Herald (2/2, 31K), the Free Press (ME) (2/2, 32K), the West Virginia Record (2/2, 313), the West Virginia MetroNews (2/2, 6K), the Telegraph (UK) (2/3, Press, 1.04M), Vox (2/2, 1.15M), and KGWN-TV Cheyenne (WY) Cheyenne, WY (2/2, 519).

**HOUSE TO VOTE ON METHANE RULE AS EARLY AS FRIDAY.** The Denver Post (2/2, Finley, 778K) reports House Republicans are set to overturn a rule limiting oil and gas companies from flaring on federal lands. Republicans invoked the Congressional Review Act in an effort to reveal the BLM rule. US Rep. Bob Bishop initiated an energy-industry backed bill that would kill the methane rule. The House is expected to vote on the bill Friday, and then it would move on to the Senate. Republicans argued that emissions have decreased, even as production increased, and that the rule would delay permits for companies seeking to access public land for drilling.

Additional coverage as provided by Natural Gas Intelligence (2/2, Subscription Publication) and KRWG-FM Las Cruces, NM (2/2, 1K).

**Congress Urged Not To Repeal Methane Emissions Rule.** The Durango (CO) Herald (2/1, 31K) editorializes that the methane regulations were “crafted with broad stakeholder input from industry, environmentalists, tribes and regulators.” It argues that the rules “make good economic and environmental sense, and protect our public health.” According to the editorial, “they mitigate the loss of \$330 million annually in taxpayer-owned gas lost to venting and flaring, gas that through royalties could otherwise go to local communities and tribes to pay for schools and infrastructure, and to supply natural gas to up to 740,000 households each year.”

**DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE PROTESTERS ARRESTED AT NEW CAMP.** ABC World News Tonight (2/2, story 7, 0:15, Muir, 14.63M) reported that there were “new clashes” over the Dakota Access Pipeline on Thursday. Authorities say “76 protesters were arrested at a new camp on private land owned by the pipeline developer, Energy Transfer Partners. The new showdown comes after President Trump’s push to expedite the project.”

**TRIBES PLEAD WITH BLM FOR PROTECTION OF CHACO.** The Durango (CO) Herald (2/2, 31K) reports that on Thursday, tribal members “made their case to stop drilling in the greater Chaco area at the Bureau of Land Management’s 10th and final public meeting regarding energy development in the region.” According to the article, “the nearly 100 tribal members in attendance were given several hours to speak their minds, drawing a near unanimous opposition to any future drilling in the region.” However, Mark Ames, BLM project manager, “said despite the overwhelming sentiment from the local Navajo tribe to cease all future oil and gas operations in the area, the BLM has a congressional obligation to recover federal resources.” Ames “said public comments will at least aid regulators in addressing some of the more feasible concerns – such as traffic, noise or light disturbances – when the remaining 10 percent of unleased acres are eventually sold off.”

### **Empowering Native American Communities:**

**DEMOCRATS RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT FEDERAL HIRING FREEZE ON INDIAN HEALTH CARE, SERVICES.** The Billings (MT) Gazette (2/2, 208K) reports that “after a temporary federal hiring freeze, concerns have arisen over filling jobs at long-understaffed Native American health care facilities, although an official exemption for some hiring could be on the way.” Sen. Jon Tester said, “Any freeze in hiring for Indian initiatives, whether temporary or permanent, threatens to make the challenges facing Indian Country worse.” He was “among the seven Democrats on the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs who sent a letter Tuesday to President Donald Trump advocating against the hiring freeze for services for Native Americans, including Indian Health Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education.”

Additional coverage was provided by the Helena (MT) Independent Record (2/2, 38K) and the Ravalli (MT) Republic (2/2, 19K).

**FEDERAL FUNDS PAY FOR REPAIR OF BUSY FLETCHER ROAD.** According to KSWO-TV Lawton, OK (2/2, Turner, 45K), \$250,000 in Federal Highway Administration funds paid for the repair of 1.3 miles of road in Fletcher, Oklahoma. A gathering of the Comanche nation Department of Transportation, The Bureau of Indian Affairs, and The County Commissioners office Thursday inspected the finished project that replaced a road that was “just so rough people were knocking their cars out of alignment and blowing tires out it was that rough,” according to Comanche Nation Director for the Department of Transportation Adrian Tehauno.

### **Tackling America’s Water Challenges:**

**IRRIGATORS RECALLED TO TESTIFY IN “TAKINGS” CASE.** The Klamath Falls (OR) Herald And News (2/2, 45K) reports that “Klamath Basin witnesses in the so-called ‘takings’ trial, some of whom who thought they were free from

further testimony, were recalled to testify Wednesday in Federal Claims Court.” According to the article, “the recall of the irrigators means the defense is able to ask direct questions of the irrigators for the use of their case, specifically if and when they received reimbursement from the government to compensate for the irrigation water shutoff in 2001.” Federal Judge Marian Blank Horn did comment “on the inconvenience to recalling farmers, but both the U.S government defense team and attorneys for the plaintiffs — representing the Klamath area irrigators — agreed on direct questioning of irrigators by the defense.”

**EXCEPTIONALLY WET WINTER MEANS DELTA PUMPS ARE AT FULL THROTTLE.** The Sacramento (CA) Bee (2/2, 574K) reports that “one month into an exceptionally stormy 2017, river flows though the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta have been so powerful that the massive pumps that ship north state water to Southern California and the San Joaquin Valley have roared at full throttle for weeks.” However, “pump operators probably will have to dial back, because they’re starting to run out of space in key reservoirs south of the Delta, said John Leahigh, who oversees day-to-day water management for the State Water Project, which delivers supplies to water agencies throughout California.”

### Top National News:

**TRUMP VOWS TO “DESTROY” BAN ON POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS BY TAX-EXEMPT CHURCHES.** Coverage of President Trump’s remarks at the National Prayer Breakfast is straightforward, focusing on his vow to “destroy” the so-called Johnson Amendment, the IRS rule barring tax-exempt churches from formally backing political candidates. Almost every report also includes coverage of the President’s remarks about Arnold Schwarzenegger, his successor as host of NBC’s “Celebrity Apprentice.” At the same time, the White House revealed that an executive order on religious freedom that some say would permit discrimination is under consideration.

ABC World News Tonight (2/2, story 2, 3:20, Muir, 14.63M) reported that Trump “came with a promise to, in his words, ‘destroy’ a law that bars most churches from endorsing political candidates. ... And while in that room, the President also brought up something else: ratings for ‘The Celebrity Apprentice,’ the show he used to host.” ABC’s Cecilia Vega: “Many in the room, the evangelicals who helped propel him to the White House, and the President giving them a gift so many had wanted: a promise to ‘destroy’ a law that bars tax-exempt churches from endorsing political candidates. ... Just this week, the White House said the President would continue to enforce workplace protection for gays and lesbians implemented by President Obama,” but “there is a proposed draft executive order on religious freedom circulating inside” the White House that “would weaken protections for the LGBT community.” Vega said that Trump also “took a shot at his old show” and its new host. Trump: “They hired a big movie star, Arnold Schwarzenegger, to take my place. ... It has been a total disaster, and I want to just pray for Arnold if we can, for those ratings, okay?”

Nancy Cordes reported on the CBS Evening News (2/2, story 4, 2:00, Pelley, 11.17M) that Trump's promise to get rid of the endorsement restriction "delighted the religious leaders gathered at the annual breakfast." Trump: "I will get rid of and totally destroy the Johnson Amendment and allow our representatives of faith to speak freely and without fear of retribution. I will do that." Cordes said that the law "prevents tax-exempt nonprofits, notably churches, from donating to candidates." Cordes added, "Religious freedom wasn't the only thing on Mr. Trump's mind at the prayer breakfast," then showing Trump's remarks about Schwarzenegger. Cordes: "The White House said that Mr. Trump only joked about the 'Apprentice' because he was introduced at the breakfast by show's creator Mark Burnett. In a video, Schwarzenegger responded that if the President knows so much about ratings, he's happy to switch jobs with him."

NBC Nightly News (2/2, story 2, 2:10, Holt, 16.61M) said Trump made "waves by taking a detour from his prepared remarks to taunt his reality show successor." NBC's Kristen Welker said Trump also offered "his most defensive defense yet of his controversial order halting travel from seven predominantly Muslim countries." Trump: "We will not allow a beachhead of intolerance to spread in our nation. We want people to come into our nation, but we want people to love us and to love our values, not to hate us and to hate our values." Welker: "Today, the President vowing to repeal a regulation that prevents political endorsements from the pulpit – the Johnson Amendment, one of the clearest lines between church and state, and most Americans support it."

NBC, like nearly every newspaper and online report, also mentioned the Schwarzenegger line. Reuters (2/2, Mason, Rampton) reports that "during his remarks at an event that typically is a solemn affair," Trump "derided" the "actor and former politician...over TV viewership ratings."

The AP (2/2, Lucey) reports that the President, "declaring that religious freedom is 'under threat,' vowed to repeal the 'rarely enforced IRS rule that says pastors who endorse candidates from the pulpit risk losing their tax-exempt status.'" He "did not detail how he might scrap the IRS rule, which he has previously pledged to do away with." The New York Times (2/2, Landler, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says Trump vowed to overturn the restriction on "political speech by tax-exempt churches, a potentially huge victory for the religious right and a gesture to his political base." USA Today (2/2, Korte, 5.28M) says Trump's promise "was met by enthusiastic applause from the religious leaders."

The Washington Post (2/2, Zauzmer, 11.43M) says Trump presents the "ban on participating in politicking as a restriction on the freedom of faith groups to put their religion in action, if their religion calls on them to campaign for a candidate. At Thursday's prayer breakfast, Trump said that his reason for opposing the Johnson Amendment is that it impinges on the American 'right to worship according to our own beliefs' – apparently describing campaign participation as a form of worship."

The [Washington Times](#) (2/2, Boyer, 272K) reports that Sen. James Lankford introduced legislation to repeal the rule, while [The Hill](#) (2/2, Marcos, 1.25M) reports companion legislation was introduced by House Majority Whip Scalise and Rep. Jody Hice. However, [McClatchy](#) (2/2, Douglas, 74K) says Trump “has a big hurdle” to fulfilling the vow, since 60 Senate votes would be needed to end a near-certain Democratic filibuster “and Republicans have bigger priorities.”

Steven Waldman, author of “Founding Faith: Providence, Politics and the Birth of Religious Freedom in America,” writes in a [New York Times](#) (2/2, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) op-ed that a repeal of the Johnson Amendment “would be horrible for politics – and even worse for religion. ... Conservatives clamoring for this change should think hard: They don’t like their tax dollars going to support groups that perform abortions. Do they really want to pay for churches that push pro-choice candidates? They fear and distrust Islam. Do they really want their hard-earned money to back the preferred political candidates of the local Islamic center?”

The [Catholic Sentinel](#) (2/2) reports that “likely billionaire” Trump also told the crowd that “‘spiritual success’ is a more accurate measure for the United States than wealth. ... Compared to people to have money but no happiness, the people who have no money but happiness ‘are the successful people, let me tell you,’ Trump said.” The [Christian Post](#) (2/2, Smith, 171K) reports that Trump also said “there were five words that gave him solace and comfort” throughout his campaign and early presidency: “What I hear most often as I travel the country are five words that never fail to touch my heart. That’s ‘I am praying for you.’”

***Spicer: Religious Freedom Executive Order Under Consideration.*** The [Washington Post](#) (2/2, Eilperin, Somashekhar, 11.43M) reports White House press secretary Sean Spicer said Thursday that the President “is considering how to allow Americans to opt out of complying with federal policies and regulations on the grounds of religion,” which critics say “could open the door to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender or gender identity.” Spicer said, “There’s clearly a lot of evidence in the last couple of years of the government coming in with regulations and policies that have, frankly, denied people the ability to live according to their faith. People should be able to practice their religion, express their religion, express areas of their faith without reprisal. And I think that pendulum sometimes swings the other way, in the name of political correctness.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/2, Lovett, Gershman, Radnofsky, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) says a draft executive order titled “Establishing a Government-Wide Initiative to Respect Religious Freedom” would expand legal protections on the grounds of religious belief, potentially allowing denial of services to the gay and transgender community, as well as contraception coverage for employees. The [Washington Times](#) (2/2, Boyer, 272K) reports that “several human-rights groups and progressive activists are sounding alarms about the draft order, saying it would sanction discrimination.” Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin

said, “It reads like a wish-list from some of the most radical anti-equality activists.”

Catherine Rampell writes in her [Washington Post](#) (2/2, 11.43M) column, “Much-dreaded ‘sharia law,’ or something resembling it, may well be coming to the United States. Just not in the form many Americans expected.” She writes that “religiously motivated laws creeping into public policymaking aren’t based on the Koran. ... They’re coming from the White House, which wants to make it easier for hard-line Christians to impose their beliefs and practices on the rest of us.”

**ADMINISTRATION PREPARING NEW SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN.** One day after National Security Adviser Flynn warned that the US is “putting Iran on notice,” Administration sources said the White House is preparing to impose new sanctions on Tehran – according to some media outlets, as early as Friday. The President’s remarks Thursday that “nothing is off the table” are also receiving media attention.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (2/2, lead story, 4:10, Muir, 14.63M) said Trump is “turning up the heat” on Iran after its most recent ballistic missile test, “reviewing new sanctions,” the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/2, lead story, 3:05, Pelley, 11.17M) reported. The President, asked about potential military action against Iran, said Thursday that “nothing is off the table.” The [New York Post](#) (2/2, Moore, 3.82M) reports the “aggressive comment” came just hours after Trump took to [Twitter](#) to say, “Iran has been formally PUT ON NOTICE for firing a ballistic missile. Should have been thankful for the terrible deal the US made with them.” The [Washington Times](#) (2/2, Sherfinski, 272K) reports that in a second [tweet](#), the President asserted, “Iran was on its last legs and ready to collapse until the US came along and gave it a life-line in the form of the Iran Deal: \$150 billion.”

[Fox News’ Special Report](#) (2/2, 1.53M) provided details of the draft sanctions, noting that they represent “the first punitive action that the newly minted administration has taken against another country.” The sanctions will reportedly target “more than 20 Iranian entities for terrorism and missile-related activities.” [Reuters](#) (2/2, Mohammed) reports sources said the sanctions could be announced as early as Friday, and are expected to target “about eight Iranian entities...for terrorism-related activities and about 17 for ballistic missile-related activities under separate existing US executive orders.”

The White House “had to get creative with the application of sanctions for fear of itself violating the nuclear agreement,” because, as [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (2/2, 554K) correspondent Elise Labott noted, “they’re trying to separate this from the Iran nuclear deal, because this missile test is not necessarily in violation” of that deal, but the Administration does believe it violates UN Security Council resolutions. The sanction, [Reuters](#) (2/2, Mohammed, Spetalnick, Landay) says, “may mark the opening shot in a more aggressive policy against Iran that Trump promised during the 2016 presidential campaign.” An [AP](#) (2/2, Schreck) analysis likewise says that

by putting Iran “on notice,” the Administration “is laying the groundwork for a more confrontational approach toward the Islamic Republic.” But “what that means in practice is anyone’s guess, since the White House isn’t saying,” which is “in line with...Trump’s desire to keep America’s adversaries guessing and boost US leverage.”

A [Washington Post](#) (2/2, A1, Gearan, 11.43M) analysis says that while “Trump campaigned on blowing up business as usual in Washington...the administration’s tone has surprised allies and government employees who expected the new president to first spend time offering diplomatic niceties.”

A [USA Today](#) (2/2, Michaels, 5.28M) analysis warns that Trump’s stern warning “risks drawing the United States into a conflict or making Trump look weak if it doesn’t follow through with some retaliation should Iran take another provocative action,” foreign policy analysts said. “If you’re going to make a threat, you need to be prepared to carry through with it,” said Fred Kagan of the American Enterprise Institute. “The question is: Are they prepared to do carry through with it.” David Ignatius writes in his [Washington Post](#) (2/2, 11.43M) column that by putting Iran “on notice.” Trump has “taken aim at a country that’s opposed by many US allies. But he has begun this confrontation without much preparation or strategic planning, continuing the haphazard pattern of his first two weeks in office.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/2, Solomon, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) says Trump has staffed his National Security Council with current and former US military officers who support a more aggressive policy toward Iran, including National Security Adviser Flynn, and two of his top deputies, retired Army Col. Derek Harvey and Joel Rayburn.

Asked on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (2/2, 554K) if he would support military action against Iran, Rep. Darrell Issa said, “I think it has to be, as the President said, on the table.” But [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (2/2, 1.53M) said military options against Iran may be limited “at the moment,” because the US does not have an aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf for “only the second time since 2008.”

The [New York Times](#) (2/2, Erdbrink, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports Iran’s establishment is “treading carefully, with even most hard-liners concerned that the smallest provocation could lead to military conflict. But some question how long their caution will last in the face of a Trump administration that has brought a new level of hostility and confrontation.” On Thursday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi “gave a mild rejoinder,” saying, “It is a shame that the US government, instead of thanking the Iranian nation for their continued fight against terrorism, keeps repeating unfounded claims and adopts unwise policies that are effectively helping terrorist groups.”

The [Washington Times](#) (2/2, Taylor, 272K) says Iranian officials “responded defiantly,”

vowing to advance their nation's ballistic missile program. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (2/2, lead story, 4:10, Muir, 14.63M) reported that an advisor to Iranian Supreme Leader Khamenei said, "Iran does not need permission from any country to defend itself."

***German FM: No Sign US Wants To Cancel Nuclear Deal.*** [Reuters](#) (2/2, Siebold) reports German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel, who was in Washington this week, "said it was necessary to do everything possible to make progress on the nuclear deal with Iran and that he did not see any indications" during his visit "that Washington would terminate it."

#### **MEDIA: TRUMP THREATENS UNIVERSITY'S FUNDING AFTER IT**

**CANCELS YIANNOPOULOS SPEECH.** Media coverage says President Trump threatened to pull federal funding from the University of California at Berkeley after university police canceled a speech by Breitbart writer Milo Yiannopoulos and placed the campus on lockdown following protests against the scheduled speech. Trump [tweeted](#), "If U.C. Berkeley does not allow free speech and practices violence on innocent people with a different point of view – NO FEDERAL FUNDS?" While the overwhelming majority of coverage assumes Trump is making a threat that he considers actionable, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/2, Hamilton, Watanabe, King, Mejia, 4.52M) says "it's unclear whether Trump was actually threatening to cut funding or making some kind of rhetorical point."

The [Washington Post](#) (2/2, Svrluga, Murphy, 11.43M) says Yiannopoulos "has a large following as a self-proclaimed 'free-speech fundamentalist' crusading against political correctness." Other schools, according to the Post, also have canceled or indefinitely postponed events that included Yiannopoulos "because they often generate such intense responses." [Politico](#) (2/2, Nelson, 2.46M) reports that a man was shot last month at a University of Washington demonstration opposing a speech by Yiannopoulos. [AFP](#) (2/2, Zablit) cites a Breitbart News story as saying Yiannopoulos was planning to use the Berkeley event to launch a campaign against sanctuary campuses.

A [New York Times](#) (2/2, Fuller, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) analysis says "protest has been synonymous" with the campus "from the earliest days of the free speech movement," but "now the university is under siege" for its decision. The [Huffington Post](#) (2/2, Satlin, 237K) – in a story headlined "Donald Trump Defends Far-Right Troll Milo Yiannopoulos" – reports that senior adviser Kellyanne Conway told Fox News' "Fox and Friends" on Thursday that Trump "has a point." Conway said, "It's like [Berkeley students] don't welcome free speech." Yiannopoulos responded to the cancellation, [The Hill](#) (2/2, Savransky, 1.25M) says, by calling it "an expression of political violence." He said in a Facebook Live video, "I'm just stunned that hundreds of people...were so threatened by the idea that a conservative speaker might be persuasive, interesting, funny and might take some people with him, they have to shut it down at all costs."

The Los Angeles Times (2/2, Hamilton, Watanabe, King, Mejia, 4.52M) reports that senior University of California officials “have generally said they believe [Yiannopoulos] has a right to speak,” and UC Berkeley spokesman Dan Mogulof “said campus officials went to ‘extraordinary lengths’ over weeks of planning to help the Berkeley College Republicans prepare for the event.” Mogulof indicated that dozens of police officers were brought to the Berkeley campus from other university system schools to help, but it was not enough to prevent an “‘unprecedented’ assault” on Thursday. ABC World News Tonight (2/2, story 4, 1:55, Muir, 14.63M) reported that the originally peaceful protest “erupt[ed]” and “turn[ed] violent” and the school is “blaming more than 100 masked agitators for invading the campus.” Those people, according to the New York Times (2/1, Fuller, Mele, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), “set fires and threw objects at buildings” to protest Yiannopoulos’ appearance. The violence, the CBS Evening News (2/2, story 8, 0:25, Pelley, 11.17M) and NBC Nightly News (2/2, story 4, 2:05, Holt, 16.61M) reported, led to fires and broken windows. The Washington Times (2/2, Richardson, 272K) reports “videos widely disseminated on social media showed would-be attendees being assaulted.”

Local officials, according to the San Francisco Chronicle (2/2, Ravani, 2.2M), criticized Trump’s statement. The Chronicle says California Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom “fired back at Trump” with a Twitter post that said, “As a UC Regent I’m appalled at your willingness to deprive over 38,000 students access to an education because of the actions of a few.” Reuters (2/2, Bernstein, Ingram) quotes Rep. Barbara Lee as promising to fight any effort to pull funding. Lee said, “President Trump’s empty threat to cut funding from UC Berkeley is an abuse of power.”

Bloomberg News (2/2, Nasiripour, 2.41M) reports experts say Trump’s comment “is largely harmless” as he does not “have the unilateral authority to carry it out.” Bloomberg adds that Congress “would have to pass a law altering the rules governing the provision of federal funds to colleges and universities” for Trump to directly impact the school’s funding. USA Today (2/2, Toppo, 5.28M) similarly reports experts indicated that Trump’s threat “may sound serious, but it is essentially toothless.” USA Today quotes Terry Hartle of the American Council on Education as saying there is “no federal law that would allow the federal government to deny funding to an institution of higher education because they prohibited someone from speaking on campus.” TIME (2/2, Reilly, 6.98M) says that if Trump “did take action, such a move would impact student financial aid, research funding and healthcare.” Time indicates that the full University of California system receives about \$8.5 billion in federal funding annually.

***Anarchists Vowing To Confront Far-Right.*** The New York Times (2/2, Stockman, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that “self-described anti-fascists and anarchists are vowing to confront” far-right groups that are “edging into the mainstream with the rise of President Trump.” The anarchists, according to the Times, are saying they will use “any means necessary – including violence.” The Times highlights the protests at Berkeley as an example and says the groups –

which “often make up a small but disproportionately attention-getting portion of protesters” – “defend the mayhem they create as a necessary response to an emergency.” According to the Times, anarchists “say their recent efforts have been wildly successful” by focusing efforts on arguing that Trump “poses a fascist threat” and “by enticing others to join their movement.”

### **Editorial Wrap-Up:**

**NEW YORK TIMES.** *“Wanted: One Republican With Integrity, To Defeat Betsy DeVos.”* The [New York Times](#) (2/2, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says in an editorial that “this country needs a few good Republicans — one more would do — to rescue it from [Education Secretary-designate] Betsy DeVos, one of President Trump’s worst cabinet choices.” The Times concludes that “voters should remind Republican senators that if they surrender to Mr. Trump on appointees so clearly unfit, they will be relinquishing a historic obligation and tarnishing themselves.”

*“New Tensions With Iran.”* A [New York Times](#) (2/3, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorial says “it didn’t take long for tensions to flare” between Iran and Trump, and “both sides have to share the blame” – Iran for conducting a “dangerously provocative” ballistic missile test and the Trump Administration for failing to “discuss the missile issue with Iran privately.” The Times argues that it is “important...to find ways to manage tensions with Iran by exerting pressure when appropriate without creating a path toward confrontation.”

*“Mr. Trump’s Bad Two-for-One Deal.”* The [New York Times](#) (2/3, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorializes President Trump’s “two-for-one deal...sounds more like a fast-food ad than a plan for governing.” It argues that “there are sound ways to streamline regulations, but boxing in regulators this way is neither advisable nor necessary.”

**WASHINGTON POST.** *“Tillerson And Mattis Speak Up For The Right Values Of Leadership.”* A [Washington Post](#) (2/2, 11.43M) editorial says Secretary of State Tillerson’s remarks to State Department employees, “wise as they were...stood out for their rationality and evenhandedness only because they were uttered amid the rapid deterioration of such formerly commonplace standards of political culture.” The President, “in particular, continues to operate according to a different standard: insulting allies, intimidating civil servants, improperly threatening recipients of federal funds,” which “can only hurt the United States’ standing and undermine the peace abroad while damaging democratic norms at home.”

*“An Activist Mysteriously Ill In Russia, And The US Needs To Speak Up.”* The [Washington Post](#) (2/2, 11.43M) editorializes that the most recent offensive by Russian-backed forces in Ukraine and pro-Democracy activist Vladimir Karza-Murza’s hospitalization “most likely holds a message from [Russian President

Vladimir] Putin to the new Trump administration.” The Post says Russia “hopes to establish that such crimes will be tolerated” by Trump “as part of a refounded relationship with Moscow.”

**“One Step Forward For The Mentally Ill In Virginia.”** A Washington Post (2/2, 11.43M) editorial praises Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe for “singl[ing] out mental-health care as the one major area for which he is seeking new funding this year” even as he faces “a projected budget deficit that prompted him to propose an array of spending cuts.”

**WALL STREET JOURNAL. “Betsy DeVos’s School Frenemies.”** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (2/2, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) criticizes charter-school advocates for opposing [Education Secretary-designate Betsy] DeVos. The Journal takes issue with a letter from philanthropist Eli Broad to Senate leaders, which it casts as a regurgitation of teacher unions’ talking points about the nominee.

**“Travis Kalanick Drives Away.”** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (2/2, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) faults Uber chief executive Travis Kalanick for leaving President Trump’s economic advisory council without facing Trump directly when the council meets on Friday.

**“Putin’s Bad Ukraine Deal.”** A Wall Street Journal (2/2, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) editorial welcomes Ambassador Haley’s comments blaming Russia for the recent surge of violence in eastern Ukraine, and urges the Administration to cooperate with lawmakers who want to stiffen sanctions.

## **Big Picture:**

### **HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.**

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

Trump White House Set To Impose Fresh Sanctions On Iran  
Executive Order Draft Would Expand Religious Protections, Could Allow Denial Of  
Services To Gays  
Snapchat Parent Files For IPO  
The End Of Employees

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

Trump Embraces Pillars Of Obama’s Foreign Policy  
Anarchists Respond To Trump’s Inauguration, By Any Means Necessary  
GOP Campaign To Repeal Obamacare Stalls On The Details  
Trump Vows To “Destroy” Law Banning Political Endorsements By Churches  
Uber CEO To Leave Trump Advisory Council After Criticism  
Pregnant Women Turn To Marijuana, Perhaps Harming Infants

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

In Austin, Salvos In The “Sanctuary City” Battle  
Us, Iran Trade Threats  
President Targets Church-State Law  
Trump Team Ditches Obama’s Plan To Take Raqqa  
Democrats Spar In Va.’s Volatile Game Of Thrones  
Tech Firms’ Opposition To Immigration Policies Rises

***Financial Times:***

“Don’t Worry” About Tough Calls, Trump Tells US  
Deutsche Bank Fails To Capitalize On Trump Rally  
Facebook Earnings Soar On Holiday Advertising  
Larsson Leaves Ralph Lauren After Less Than Two Years

***Washington Times:***

Iran Defies Trump’s Threat On Missiles, Puts US On Notice  
Controversial Cabinet Picks Pass First Test In Senate  
Have A Slice Of Super Bowl, Slathered In Protest  
Berkeley Rioters Betray University’s Historical Commitment To Free Speech  
Trump Says He “Loves” Australia But Questioned Refugee Deal

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

**ABC:** Trump-Diplomacy; Trump-Prayer Breakfast; Yemen Raid; Trump-UC Berkeley Protest; Denver Transit Officer Shot; California School Shooting Foiled; Dakota Pipeline Protest; Swiss Flight Malfunction; Holocaust Survivor Suit Maker.  
**CBS:** Trump-Diplomacy; Ukraine Conflict; Pelosi Comment-Bannon; Trump-Prayer Breakfast; Yemen Raid; Delaware Prison Seize; Samsung Phone Arbitration; Trump-UC Berkeley Protest; Sanctuary Cities Policy Reactions; Jazz Teaching Kids History.  
**NBC:** Trump-Diplomacy; Trump-Prayer Breakfast; Yemen Raid; Trump-UC Berkeley Protest; Delaware Prison Seize; Health-Prostate Cancer; Houston Daycare; Detergent Pod Child Warning; Body Clock-Camping; Disabled Child Friendship.

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

Trump-Diplomacy – 10 minutes, 35 seconds  
Trump-Prayer Breakfast – 7 minutes, 30 seconds  
Yemen Raid – 6 minutes, 25 seconds  
Trump-UC Berkeley Protest – 4 minutes, 25 seconds  
Delaware Prison Seize – 2 minutes, 10 seconds

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

**ABC:** New York Shops Protest; Travel Ban-Legal Challenge; Delaware Prison Seize; Smokeless Tobacco Recall; Wall Street News.  
**CBS:** Trump-Diplomacy; Mattis South Korea Visit; Trump-Johnson Amendment; Snapchat IPO; NYU Protest; Wall Street News.  
**FOX:** NYU Protest; UC Berkeley Protest; Iran Sanctions; Mattis South Korea Visit.  
**NPR:** UN Ambassador-Russia Criticism; Iran Sanctions; Comcast Protest; New York Shops Protest.

**Washington Schedule:****TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.****White House:**

**PRESIDENT TRUMP** — Participates in a strategy and policy forum; signs Executive Orders; has lunch with Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn; departs White House for Joint Base Andrews to travel to his Florida property for a weekend of meetings.

**VICE PRESIDENT PENCE** — Joins the President to participate in a strategy and policy forum; joins the President as he signs Executive Orders; meets with the President of Hillsdale College, Larry Arnn.

**US Senate:** No public schedule announced.

**US House:** 9:00 AM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including completion of consideration of ‘H.J.Res. 36 – Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule of the Bureau of Land Management relating to ‘Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation’ \* Administration has said it strongly supports the resolution and that President Donald Trump would be expected to sign it if it reaches his desk Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

**Other:** 8:00 AM U.S. Chamber of Commerce hosts ‘The Shifting Paradigm of Retirement’ conference – U.S. Chamber of Commerce hosts ‘The Shifting Paradigm of Retirement: What it Means for Employers, Workers, and Retirees’ conference, highlighting the release of a policy solution roadmap and exploring ‘what retirement saving means for employers, workers, and retirees in today’s evolving landscape’. Participants include Investment Company Institute Chief Economist Brian Reid, Employee Benefit Research Institute Research Director Jack VanDerhei, American University Kogod School of Business Tax Policy Academic Fellow Jen Brown, and USCC Senior Vice President of Labor, Immigration and Employee Benefits Randy Johnson, Executive Director of Retirement Policy Aliya Wong, and Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness President and CEO David Hirschmann Location: USCC, 1615 H St NW, Washington, DC [www.uschamber.com](http://www.uschamber.com) <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

8:30 AM Conference on Tax Competition with keynote from GOP Rep. Kevin Brady – Georgetown Law Institute of International Economic Law and the International Tax Policy Forum Conference on Tax Competition, examining international tax competition as the U.S. ‘stands on the brink of business tax reform’, with keynote by House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Rep. Kevin Brady Location: Gewirz Student Center, Georgetown Law, 600 New Jersey Ave., Washington, DC [iitelaw.org](http://iitelaw.org)

9:30 AM Medellin, Colombia, mayor speaks – in Spanish – at Brookings – ‘Challenges and Opportunities in the U.S.-Colombia Relationship’: Brookings Institution Latin America Initiative and Center for 21st Century Security and Intelligence host Medellin, Colombia, Mayor Federico Gutierrez Zuluaga, who speaks (in Spanish, translation provided) on ‘the remarkable progress, challenges, and

opportunities facing Medellin, as well as Colombia and the future of its relationship with the U.S. during the Trump administration' Location: Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC  
<http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst>

### **Last Laughs:**

#### **LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.**

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "When [Donald Trump] said he was going to get tough on foreign leaders, I didn't realize he meant Arnold Schwarzenegger."

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "You know we have a problem when turning the country over to Arnold Schwarzenegger seems like a good idea to people."

**Jimmy Kimmel:** [Referring to Trump's phone call to the Australian Prime Minister] "And from now on, the only Australian leader President Trump will deal with is Miss Australia."

**Stephen Colbert:** "The President used the national prayer breakfast to insult Arnold Schwarzenegger. And tomorrow, he's going to roast Rosie O'Donnell at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier."

**James Corden:** "The groundhog has been predicting weather since 1887 and has been wrong 61 percent of the time. And yet this is still front-page news every year. So I guess fake news isn't a recent phenomenon. I mean, you guys, you know that this isn't actually based on any science, right? And for that reason, that Donald Trump has just appointed the groundhog to a special committee on climate change."

**Trevor Noah:** [Referring to Donald Trump's message, 'bad hombres down there'] "Hey, look on the bright side. Trump's learning Spanish."

**Trevor Noah:** [Referring to Trump's phone call to the Australian Prime Minister] "So Trump damaged relations with a key strategic ally because he missed his nap time? That is the cutest, most terrifying excuse I have ever heard!"

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Trump is causing all kinds of trouble this week. In fact, I saw that Israel just had to apologize to Mexico, after their prime minister tweeted support for Trump's border wall. So not only has Trump failed to solve the Middle East conflict, somehow he's dragged Mexico in the middle of it."

**Seth Meyers:** "Today is Groundhog Day, and Punxsutawney Phil came out of his burrow, and was immediately captured and detained for extreme vetting. Things have changed since last year, Phil."

**Seth Meyers:** "President Trump spoke at the national prayer breakfast this morning. Of course, ever since he was elected, every breakfast is a prayer breakfast."

**Seth Meyers:** “Hombres. I like how Trump thinks threats will go down better if he sprinkles in some sixth-grade Spanish.”

**Seth Meyers:** [Referring to Education Secretary nominee Betsy DeVos] “You want to be the Education Secretary, and you plagiarized someone else’s work? How do you expect students to behave while you’re in charge? ‘Brad, did you copy someone else’s homework?’ ‘So what if I did? Betsy DeVos does it.’ ‘Did you Brad?’ ‘I support accountability.’”

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