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



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- Caribbean News Now!: Power Restoration Moves Forward In US Virgin Islands.
- Seattle Times: Maryland Governor Sends National Guard To US Virgin Islands.
- Seatrade Cruise News (UK): St. Thomas Expects 25 Cruise Calls In November.
- WKNO-FM Memphis (TN): St. John Could Get Electricity Turned Back On, 6 Weeks After Hurricane Irma.
- Japan Times: Abe And President Of Micronesia Affirm Importance Of Open Pacific.
- Utne Reader: Too Sick To Go Home Too Poor To Get Better.
- Honolulu Civil Beat (HI): The Story Of Micronesians Fighting America's Wars.

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- Associated Press: Study Offers More Evidence Linking Earthquakes To Wastewater Injection Wells.
- U.S. News & World Report: USGS Reports 3 Small Earthquakes Recorded In Oklahoma.
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Top National News

- NBC: Trump: Democrats' Role In Russia Dossier Creation "A Disgrace."
- Corpus Christi (TX) Caller-Times: Trump Attends Harvey Recovery Briefing Before Dallas GOP Fundraising Event.
- Fox Business: Trump: Tax Cuts Will Create "So Many Jobs."
- Reuters: Senate Panel Approves EPA Nominees Over Democrats' Objections.
- Wall Street Journal: WSJournal Analysis: Trump Team Seeks To Foster Economic Growth By Removing Regulations.
- Daily Caller: EPA Prepares To Place Two-Year Delay On Methane Regulations.
- E&E Publishing: Clean Power Plan Repeal Includes Plan To Alter Social Cost Of Carbon.
- Reuters: EPA To Review Whether Clean Air, Water Laws Affect Energy Sector Jobs Losses.
- Bloomberg News: EPA Chief Says He's No Ally To Polluters.
- Wall Street Journal: Author Likens Climate Change Debate To Acid Rain Scare Of 1970s-80s.

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DOI In The News

Feds Outline Ways Policy Hampers Energy Development, A Longstanding Gripe In Wyoming.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/25, Richards) reports that in a report released Wednesday, the Interior Department identified "federal policies that impede energy development." Some "key western issues its officers say may need reform" include "sage grouse management, the permitting of oil and gas wells by the BLM and a proposed end or limitation on self-bonding for coal companies from the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement." Kathleen Sgamma of the Western Energy Alliance "said the Interior report was a positive sign of what the agencies are doing to ease bureaucratic hurdles to energy exploration and production."

[KATC-TV](#) Lafayette, LA (10/25) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "Developing our energy resources to grow our economy and protecting the environment are not mutually exclusive. However, while conducting the review outlined in the Executive Order, we found that several costly and burdensome regulations from the past threaten that balance by hampering the production or transmission of our domestic energy. Our public lands are meant to be managed for the benefit of the people. That means a multiple-use approach where appropriate and making sure that multiple-use includes energy development under reasonable regulations. Following President Trump's leadership, Interior is fostering domestic energy production by streamlining permitting and revising and repealing Obama-era job killing regulations – all while doing so in an environmentally responsible way."

Additional coverage was provided by [Law360](#) (10/25, Daniels).

U.S. Offers Record Lease Sale In Alaska Reserve To Oil, Gas Drillers.

[Reuters](#) (10/25, Gardner) reports the Interior Department is planning to hold a lease sale on December 6 for 900 tracts in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/25, DeMarban) reports the tracts contain 10.3 million acres, about half of the total reserve. The BLM said the size of the offering is the largest ever. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "(The) unprecedented sale in Alaska will help achieve our goal of American energy dominance."

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (10/26), the [Alaska Native News](#) (10/25, Ellis-Wouters), the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/25, Harball), [KTUU-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (10/25, Sullivan), and [KTOO-FM Juneau \(AK\)](#) Juneau, AK (10/25, Harball).

No Mention Of Climate Change In Interior's Draft Strategic Plan.

[The Hill](#) (10/25, Cama) reports a "draft version" of the five-year strategic plan for the Interior Department "does not mention anything about climate change, including whether the agency plans to fight it or how it will adapt." The draft "focuses heavily on plans to produce more fossil fuels and other forms of energy on public lands and the nation's outer continental shelf."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/25, Siciliano, Seigel), the [New York Daily News](#) (10/25, Brennan) and the [Union of Concerned Scientists](#) (10/25).

Nancy Pelosi Demands Probe Into Montana Firm's 'Highly Suspect' Contract To Repair Puerto Rico.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/25, Siegel) reports House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi yesterday "demanded an investigation into how a small Montana-based firm with ties to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke struck a \$300 million deal to repair Puerto Rico's shattered electricity grid." Whitefish Energy agreed to a \$300 million contract with PREPA "to rebuild 100 miles of power infrastructure across the island." In a statement Pelosi said, "All Americans should be concerned about the highly suspect Whitefish contract and the circumstances under which it was negotiated. ... Democrats demand Congress and the appropriate Inspectors General exercise their oversight role to get to the bottom of this suspicious agreement and hold this administration accountable for its dangerous lack of transparency in spending taxpayer money." The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/25, Siciliano) reports the Sierra Club also is "calling for probes of the contract in both the Senate and the House."

The [Daily Caller](#) (10/25, Bastasch) reports "Utah Republican Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, is heading to Puerto Rico this week to personally survey the desperate situation on the island." Committee spokesman Parish Braden said, "The size and unknown details of this contract raises numerous questions."

San Juan Mayor Calls To 'Void' Contract Awarded To Tiny Montana Company. [The Hill](#) (10/25, Henry) reports San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz said the contract is "alarming." She told Yahoo News, "The contract should be voided right away and a proper process which is clear, transparent, legal, moral and ethical should take place."

Interior Department Proposes Doubling The Cost Of Visiting National Parks.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/25, Traywick) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "wants to more than double the cost of visiting 17 of the most popular U.S. national parks when demand for them is the highest." Under the proposal, "visitors to the Grand Canyon, Zion, Yosemite, and 14 other national parks could be paying \$70 during peak seasons instead of \$30." Zinke "said his plan will raise \$70 million in much-needed revenue for the National Park Service, which already suffers from a multibillion-dollar maintenance backlog." He said in a statement, "The infrastructure of our national parks is aging and in need of renovation and restoration. Targeted fee increases at some of our most-visited parks will help ensure that they are protected and preserved in perpetuity."

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/25, Trimble) reports that the National Park Service "said a park-specific annual pass for any of the 17 parks would be available for \$75, while the cost of the annual yearlong pass, which provides entrance to all federal lands, would remain \$80." However, "motorcycles and per person entrance fees could also see increases."

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/25, Alexander) reports that the plan is "meeting resistance from a number of Democrats, conservationists and social-justice advocates." Opponents argue the proposal will "price out visitors and deny many the opportunity to experience the nation's most coveted landmarks, from the Grand Canyon to Mount Denali to Old Faithful." Critics also claimed that "the proposal would hit minority groups particularly hard."

Also reporting are [Fox News](#) (10/25), [CNN](#) (10/25, Park), [NBC News](#) (10/25), [NPR](#) (10/25, Wamsley), [Fortune](#) (10/25, Morris), [USA Today](#) (10/25), [USA Today](#) (10/25), [CNN International](#) (10/25), [Newsweek](#) (10/25, Dupuy), [Money](#) (10/25, Ducharme), [Fortune](#) (10/25), the [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (10/25, Kidston), the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (10/25, Sambides), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (10/25, Miller), the [Boston Globe](#) (10/25, Fonseca), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (10/25, Press), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (10/25, York), the [Daily Mail](#) (10/24), and [The Week](#) (10/25, Weber).

☐ [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/25, story 12, 0:25, Muir) and ☐ [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/25, story 9, 0:30, Holt) also provided reports.

Interior Department Clarifies, Says It Will Continue To Work On Delta Tunnels Project.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/25, Boxall) reports that “after several hours of confusion over the Trump administration’s position on a massive water delivery project, the Interior Department said Wednesday it would continue to work with the state on California WaterFix.” California officials were “scratching their heads over a department statement that the Trump administration does not support the project, which the federal government has helped plan.” Russell Newell, the department’s deputy communications director, told the [AP](#) (10/25, Knickmeyer): “The Trump administration did not fund the project and chose to not move forward with it.” According to the article, “it was initially unclear whether Newell was reiterating the reclamation agency’s previous funding position or making a broader statement that the administration was withdrawing any participation in planning and environmental reviews.” In a statement released Wednesday afternoon, Interior said its position had not changed. The department said, “While the Department of the Interior shares the goals of the state of California to deliver water with more certainty, eliminating risks to the California water supply, and improving the environment, at this time, the Department under the current state proposal does not expect to participate in the construction or funding of the CA WaterFix. The Department and Reclamation will continue to work with the state and stakeholders as the project is further developed.”

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/25, Lochhead) reports that Lisa Lien-Mager, a spokeswoman for the tunnel project, said the late-Wednesday statement “confirms what the state and its water project partners already knew; while the federal government does not intend to fund the construction costs of the project they will continue working with the state and stakeholders to facilitate and permit WaterFix.”

Also reporting are the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/25, Kasler), the [Vallejo \(CA\) Times Herald](#) (10/25, Knickmeyer), the [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (10/26, Kasler), and the [Central Valley \(CA\) Business Times](#) (10/25).

States Urge Revamp On Sage Grouse Management.

[KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (10/25, O'Donoghue) reports that “leaders in Western states pressed their case in a congressional hearing Wednesday that management of the greater sage grouse is best carried out without federal interference.” Speakers “testified before the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources, chaired by Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, during an oversight hearing on ‘state-based management solutions’ to protect and restore the birds’ number.”

Scientists Question Proposed Plans To Manage Sage Grouse. The [Idaho Mountain Express](#) (10/25, Moore) reports that “seventeen scientists involved in revisions of federal sage grouse-management plans throughout the West two years ago are warning Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke of potential harm to the species if the BLM follows through on a proposal to change those plans.” In a letter to Zinke, the scientists wrote, “We are concerned that following many of the Reports’ recommendations will lead to an overall loss of sage-grouse habitat quantity and quality which in turn may result in additional population declines. We are concerned that the current focus on amending the [land-use plans] will detract from the critical task of building from those plans to realize enhanced conditions in currently designated priority and general habitats and stabilized or increasing sage-grouse populations.”

Western Voices Are Ignored In Zinke’s Interior Department. In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (10/25, O'Neill), Jayson O'Neill, deputy director of the Western Values Project, warns against “undoing BLM’s sage-grouse plans.” O'Neill writes that “instead of working to appease corporate donors and putting forth solutions that would benefit a few wealthy people, politicians in Washington should instead be working with folks on the ground to implement and build on the success of the 2015 sage-grouse plans.” He says that “Westerners are sick and tired of having Washington meddling in their business.” O'Neill urges Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Rep. Rob Bishop to “support their efforts to make sure the sagebrush landscape works for everyone out West.”

Campaigns Continue To Remind Alaskan Ivory Products Are Legal.

The [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (10/25, Klouda) reports that “fossilized ivory and walrus ivory carvings created by Alaska Natives are the focus of a renewed public relations campaign to stress to other states that there is no ban on legally obtained Alaska ivory artifacts and art pieces.” The article says that “at the Alaska Federation of Natives convention in Anchorage in a recorded message played Oct. 19, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke used part of his address to reassure delegates.” Zinke said, “On the policy side, we are protecting your right to sell walrus ivory. It is different from banned elephant ivory and it’s important to make that distinction.”

New Attitude, New Hope For Struggling Energy Industry.

The [Lafayette \(LA\) Daily Advertiser](#) (10/25, Stickney) reports that Randal Luthi, president of the National Ocean Industries Association, “told a 2017 Louisiana Gulf Coast Oil and Gas Exposition audience Wednesday that the Trump administration has made important appointments and taken decisive, needed steps to reverse the perceived bias in Washington against fossil fuels.” According to Luthi, “Trump appointments like Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Bureau of Safety and Environment Enforcement Director Scott Angelle of Breaux Bridge, who spoke to LAGCOE on Tuesday, are working with the energy industry, not fighting it.” He said, “Personnel is policy.”

Trump Asked About Changing Denali’s Name Back To Mt. McKinley.

The [New York Post](#) (10/25, Fredericks) reports that according to a story in Tuesday’s [Alaska Dispatch News](#), President Trump “was so determined to reverse his predecessor’s legacy that he asked Alaska’s two senators,” Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, “if he should change the name of the US’ largest mountain back to Mt. McKinley from the Native American name it had been called for 10,000 years.” The Obama Administration “had changed the name to Denali – its name in the indigenous Athabascan language – in recognition of Native Americans’ heritage as the original residents of North America.” Sullivan said he and Murkowski “jumped over the desk, we said, ‘No! No! Don’t want to reverse that.’”

Ryan Zinke’s Silly Flag-Flying Ritual Violates Agency Rules.

The [Huffington Post](#) (10/25, D’Angelo) reports that “a military tradition” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has “revived at Interior Department headquarters in Washington appears to violate the agency’s policy for displaying and flying flags.” The problem, according to the article, is the flag that is flown for deputy secretary David Bernhardt when Zinke isn’t in office. The article notes that “the Interior Department’s manual — specifically Part 310, Chapter 5 — spells out which flags are allowed to be flown outdoors.” That is, “At the Secretary’s direction, [the secretary’s flag] may be flown over DOI-controlled buildings in which the Secretary is present.” The deputy secretary’s ceremonial flag, however, “is for indoor display only, in the immediate office of the Deputy Secretary, and at official functions and ceremonies at which the Deputy Secretary is the principal speaker.”

Navajo Nation Lawmaker Implores Trump To Protect Monuments.

The [AP](#) (10/26) reports that “in a television advertisement airing Thursday, a Navajo Nation lawmaker implores President Donald Trump to protect national monuments.” The 30-second spot “shows Davis Filfred walking in Bears Ears National Monument in southern Utah.” As the ad closes, Filfred says: “Mr. President. Not all monuments divide us. Some bring us together.” Filfred “tells The Associated Press the ad is his way of trying to get attention from officials he says haven’t listened to tribal concerns.”

Enviros Sue DOI For Emails From Oil, Hunting Groups.

[Law360](#) (10/25, Macagnone) reports that “an environmental group has alleged the Interior Department unlawfully held back communications it has had with oil and natural gas lobbying groups, suing the agency Monday to have it release emails and other documents related to its communications with the energy and hunting industries.” The Western Values Project, “which describes itself as advocating balanced energy development on public lands, claims the Interior Department has for months delayed complying with a Freedom of Information Act request for emails.”

U.S. Marine Sanctuary Oil Drilling Report Sent To Trump, Not Public.

[Reuters](#) (10/25, Volcovici) reports Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross sent a report to the White House on Wednesday including recommendations on whether to change the boundaries of 11

marine sanctuaries to allow for more oil and gas drilling. Commerce reviewed the sanctuaries, with more than 425 million acres of coral reefs, habitats and beaches, as part of the Administration's move to open more areas to oil and gas drilling. The report was not made public, and oil industry executives say there is little desire for more drilling in the marine sanctuaries because of costs and public opposition.

This Land Is No Longer Your Land.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/25, Reel) reports that while the fight over national monuments is grabbing the most attention, the "disputed trails leading into the Crazy Mountains represent another front in the escalating battle over control of federal territory, and the fighting here is just as contentious as over the monuments."

Release Final Monuments Report Now.

In an op-ed for the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (10/25, Gangloff), Deborah Gangloff, the president and CEO of Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Cortez, raises concerns about the future of the national monuments as recommended in Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's report to President Trump. Gangloff argues that "opening these areas up to what the administration refers to as 'traditional uses' (i.e., mining, timbering, and grazing) would actually threaten the long-term economic well-being of surrounding communities." From Gangloff's point of view, "not to protect this rich and valuable connection to our shared American history that doubles as an economic engine is not only selfish and short-sighted, but robs people forever of their heritage."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Navajo, Other Tribes Call Land-Use Bill A Step In The Right Direction.

[Cronkite News](#) (10/25, Windes) reports that "tribal leaders backed a House bill Wednesday that would give tribes the ability to control more of their land, instead of having to get federal approval for virtually any use." The American Indian Empowerment Act would allow "tribes shift federally controlled trust land to 'restricted fee land,' a move that could save millions of dollars that tribes now spend on 'burdensome regulation,' while restoring a level of tribal sovereignty." The article adds that "while they called the bill a step in the right direction, however, witnesses said they are concerned about ambiguities in the thin, three-page bill that 'could allow state or local governments to implement property taxes on tribal land,' among other issues." However, "with slight changes, witnesses said at a hearing of House Natural Resources subcommittee, the bill would greatly benefit Indian Country."

10th Circ. Wrongly Put Wind Farm Ruling On Hold, Tribe Says.

[Law360](#) (10/25, Lidgett) reports that "the Osage Minerals Council told the Tenth Circuit Tuesday that it shouldn't have stayed the mandate of a panel decision that said wind farm developers should have obtained a mineral lease from the Osage Nation and Bureau of Indian Affairs approval before starting surface construction for an Oklahoma wind farm."

BIA Fatally Shoots Suspect On Standing Rock Reservation.

The [AP](#) (10/25) reports that "the FBI says a suspect was shot dead after a confrontation with officers of the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation." The FBI's Minneapolis Division, "BIA officers assigned to the reservation responded to a call of shots fired at a gas station Monday," and "after a short vehicle chase, BIA officers tried to take the suspect into custody." The article says that "during the incident, the BIA shot and killed the suspect."

Bureau Of Land Management

Pawnee National Grassland Looking At Gas Well Plan.

The [Loveland \(CO\) Reporter-Herald](#) (10/25) reports the Pawnee National Grassland "is analyzing the proposed Wildwood Federal No. 1 Oil and Gas Well Project, located approximately 4.5 miles north of Briggsdale." US Forest Service spokeswoman Reghan Cloudman said in a press release that the public can comment on the proposal to build and maintain an oil and gas well and production facility on Pawnee National Grassland. "The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are working together to analyze the proposed action," she said.

The [Sterling \(CO\) Journal-Advocate](#) (10/25, Rice) reports that Cloudman said, “We’ll be going through the environmental analysis where specialists will look at possible impacts on resources we have out on the grasslands. The BLM is the one to ultimately give permission for the lease to drill.”

Conservation Groups Challenge BLM Approval Of Drilling Plan In North Fork Valley.

The [Denver Post](#) (10/25, Svaldi) reports Colorado and national conservation groups “have filed a legal challenge to force the Bureau of Land Management to reconsider an oil and gas development plan approved this month in the North Fork Valley near Paonia.” The complaint “seeks to have the BLM reconsider its approval of the Bull Mountain Unit Master Development Plan sought by Houston-based SG Interests.” According to the Post, the BLM approval, “issued Oct. 4, allows for the construction of 33 well pads, 146 natural gas wells and four wastewater disposal wells across 19,670 acres of mineral estate.”

NV Geothermal Lease Auctions Total \$78,444.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/25) reports that the Bureau of Land Management “received bids on geothermal leases in Nevada that brought in \$78,444 in total receipts during an online auction held Oct. 23.” According to the article, “twenty parcels totaling 38,308.46 acres were offered during the lease sale,” and “all parcels sold for \$2 an acre.” Marci Todd, Acting BLM Nevada State Director, said, “By providing opportunities for energy development, the BLM is supporting job creation and the economy of local communities.”

Rebuild Planned For Utah’s Historic — And Hellish — Hole-in-the-Rock Road.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (10/25, Maffly) reports that Utah’s Hole in the Rock road is Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument’s most traveled road, but “many visitors aren’t pleased with the famous road’s sorry, channel-like condition that turns the drive from Escalante to Glen Canyon into a three-hour ordeal, on a good day.” Now, Garfield County “has the money to rebuild Garfield’s 16-mile stretch of the road and is seeking the Bureau of Land Management’s permission to proceed.” County officials “say they plan to repair past flood damage, narrow the roadway, shore up culverts and make it easier to maintain and drive on.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Anglers’ NY Wind Farm Challenge Is Premature, Agency Says.

[Law360](#) (10/25, Goldberg) reports that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management “on Tuesday told a D.C. federal judge that seafood industry groups, companies and several towns can’t seek to block a \$42.5 million lease awarded to Statoil Wind for a wind farm off the coast of New York because the company hasn’t even proposed a project yet.”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Now Leading Offshore Safety Bureau, Angelle Promises To Be Industry ‘Partner’ On Federal Level.

[KATC-TV](#) Lafayette, LA (10/25) reports that Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement director Scott Angelle on Tuesday said his agency is “focused on undoing or amending three Obama administration policies.” In a keynote address at an industry event in Lafayette, Angelle “said his mandate within the Trump administration is to eliminate ‘unnecessary regulatory burdens’ that discourage capital investment in the Gulf, while also remaining mindful of safety requirements and environmental safeguards.” Angelle also “told industry professionals gathered at the Cajundome for the Louisiana Gulf Coast Oil Exposition they will enjoy warmer relations with the Trump administration than they did with the previous one.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Fish And Wildlife To Reconsider Kenai Refuge Rules.

The [Kenai \(AK\) Peninsula Clarion](#) (10/25, Earl) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is “planning to revise some of the rules on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, including some

controversial hunting restrictions.” The agency “published a notice of intent in the federal register on Oct. 2 to start a process to reconsider rules finalized on the refuge in May 2016.” The rules, “which took more than a year to finalize after a lengthy public process, include provisions about plane, boat and motorized vehicle access, camping, firearm use and personal-use gathering of edible plants and shed antlers as well as a number of hunting provisions.”

Reward Offered For Info On Wolf-Killing Poacher In Oregon.

The [AP](#) (10/25) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and “five conservation groups have teamed up to offer \$15,500 for information about the illegal poaching of a federally protected gray wolf that was shot dead in a national forest in southern Oregon.” The wolf, “known as OR-33, was being tracked by authorities and is one of at least eight that have been poached or died under mysterious circumstances in the state since 2015, the conservation groups said.” The FWS is “offering \$5,000 for information about the poaching and the conservation groups are offering an additional \$10,500 combined.”

Also reporting are [NPR](#) (10/25, Kennedy) and the [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (10/25, Freeman).

Chiricahua Leopard Frogs Released Into The Wild.

[KTVK-TV](#) Phoenix (10/25, Mudge) reports that over 500 Chiricahua leopard frogs were recently released into the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. Partners in the effort “transported egg masses from the leopard frogs to a rearing facility in Las Cruces, New Mexico.” According to the article, “by raising the tadpoles in a controlled environment, scientists were able to raise the survival rate from less than 5% to over 90%.”

USFWS Designates Tuntutuliak Elder James Charles A “Conservation Hero”.

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/25, MacArthur) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “recognized Tuntutuliak elder James Charles as a ‘Conservation Hero’ at the 2017 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention for his more than 50 years of partnership with the federal service.” Charles has “served on the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the Fish and Game Advisory Council, the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group and the Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fisheries Commission.”

Head Of Ivory, Rhino Horn Smuggling Scheme Pleads Guilty.

The [AP](#) (10/25) reports that “an Australian citizen who masterminded a scheme to smuggle items made of rhinoceros horn, elephant ivory and coral to China pleaded guilty Tuesday in a U.S. court.” According to federal prosecutors, “Guan Zong Chen, who also goes by Graham Chen, and two co-defendants smuggled \$700,000 worth of carvings in violation of federal law and despite the fact that their export was barred under a 1976 international treaty meant to protect endangered species.” Chen “faces 15 years in prison when he’s sentenced.”

For An Endangered Animal, A Fire Or Hurricane Can Mean The End.

The [New York Times](#) (10/25, Ripka) highlights the “more than a dozen rare or threatened species who either perished or suffered habitat loss during recent hurricanes and wildfires across the United States.”

National Park Service

David Horne Selected As Superintendent Of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

[WLUC-TV](#) Marquette, MI (10/25) reports that “David Horne has been selected as the next Superintendent of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Michigan. Horne, “a 23-year veteran of the National Park Service, is currently the Chief Ranger for the Southeast Region of the National Park Service. Regional Director Cam Sholly said, “We are very pleased to welcome Dave as the new Superintendent of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. He has a proven track record of successfully managing complex operations, building strong teams, and collaborating closely with communities and partners.” Horne will begin his new assignment in January 2018.

EBCI And Smokies Work Toward Agreement For Plant Gathering In Park Boundaries.

The [Waynesville \(NC\) Smoky Mountain News](#) (10/25) reports that “Cherokee tribal members could be gathering sochan plants from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park as early as next

spring after Tribal Council's vote last week to fund the \$68,100 needed to complete the regulatory process." Clay Jordan, the park's acting superintendent, said, "We appreciate the commitment that Principal Chief Sneed and the tribe are making to help us complete the required environmental assessment to better understand potential effects associated with traditional gathering. Through the assessment, managers will be able to determine whether traditional gathering can be done without significantly impacting the park sochan population."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Two Fed Supplemental Appropriations Are Good News For USVI.

The [St. Thomas Source](#) (10/25, Kossler) reports that "the U.S. Senate overwhelmingly approved a \$36.5 billion supplemental appropriation for disaster relief Tuesday, including potentially hundreds of millions of dollars or more to aid the U.S. Virgin Islands recovery from Hurricanes Irma and Maria." The measure, passed by the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this month, now goes to President Trump to be signed. In addition, "another supplemental appropriation with Medicaid funding that is crucial for the territory is also working its way through Congress, Delegate Stacey Plaskett told the Source Tuesday."

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (10/25) reports that in a statement, Gov. Kenneth Mapp "said the territory would not receive less than \$800 million in low-interest loans from the \$4.9 billion allocated for Puerto Rico and the USVI." Mapp said, "The \$4.9 billion dollars has been set aside for revenue losses for the United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Of that amount, the Virgin Islands will receive not less than \$800 million."

Power Restoration Moves Forward In US Virgin Islands.

[Caribbean News Now!](#) (10/24) reports that "about a third of the power on the island of St Thomas has been restored, US Virgin Islands Governor Kenneth Mapp said on Monday." Mapp told reporters "that the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (WAPA) reports that St Thomas had 32 percent of its power restored while 15 percent of electricity has been restored in St Croix." Mapp "expects Cruz Bay, St John to be energized by Wednesday, which will bring power restoration on that island up to 25 percent."

Maryland Governor Sends National Guard To US Virgin Islands.

The [AP](#) (10/23) reports that Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan is "sending 100 soldiers from the Maryland National Guard to the U.S. Virgin Islands." Hogan "said Monday they will help with ongoing recovery efforts from Hurricane Irma at the request" of U.S. Virgin Islands. Gov. Kenneth Mapp. According to the article, "members of the 200th Military Police Company from Catonsville will be deployed for up to 30 days to help with local law enforcement and to guard infrastructure."

St. Thomas Expects 25 Cruise Calls In November.

[Seatrade Cruise News \(UK\)](#) (10/22) reports that "as hurricane recovery continues in the US Virgin Islands, Gov. Kenneth Mapp on Friday said 25 cruise ship calls are expected at St. Thomas in November." Royal Caribbean International has also recently announced "that it would return on Nov. 10 with Adventure of the Seas, for the first time since September." Mapp added that "St. Croix expects approximately 90 cruise calls this season, an uptick for that island."

St. John Could Get Electricity Turned Back On, 6 Weeks After Hurricane Irma.

[WKNO-FM](#) Memphis, TN (10/20, Chappell) reports that "if all goes well, people on St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands could have power restored next week for the first time since a pair of devastating Category 5 hurricanes struck in September, the local electric utility says." Jean P. Greaux, Jr., communications director for Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority says, "Portions of St. John are scheduled to be restored by the middle of next week."

Abe And President Of Micronesia Affirm Importance Of Open Pacific.

The [Japan Times](#) (10/25) reports that Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Micronesian President Peter Christian "reaffirmed their commitment to a free and open Asia-Pacific region during summit talks Wednesday in Tokyo, Japanese officials said." According to the article, "Japan is keen to cooperate with Pacific island nations in trade and investment and maintain a shared stance on maritime security to counter China's rising influence in the region." The article

adds that “Abe and Christian also affirmed the importance of making sure U.N. sanctions on North Korea are fully enforced, including those that pertain to North Korean-flagged ships at sea, the officials said.”

Too Sick To Go Home Too Poor To Get Better.

The [Utne Reader](#) (10/23, Langlois) reports that many citizens from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, who have emigrated to the American Midwest, “are too sick to return home, and too poor to get better.” The article says that if Marshallese and other Compact of Free Association migrants “were to receive access to Medicaid, it would increase federal spending by about \$200 million over a 10-year-period.” It adds “that’s \$20 million a year—a tenth of the \$183 million that the U.S. Department of Defense spends annually to maintain its military base in the Marshall Islands.”

The Story Of Micronesians Fighting America’s Wars.

In his column for the [Honolulu Civil Beat \(HI\)](#) (10/24, Blair), Chad Blair shines a spotlight on the Micronesians who serve in the U.S. military. He notes that Nathan Fitch, a producer, cinematographer and director, produced a short video, called “Island Soldier,” which “tells the stories of Micronesians serving in the U.S. military, primarily the infantry, as they deploy to Afghanistan in 2013.”

US Geological Survey

Study Offers More Evidence Linking Earthquakes To Wastewater Injection Wells.

The [AP](#) (10/25, Elliott) reports a study published last week by University of Colorado researchers linked the increase of earthquakes on the Colorado-New Mexico border since 2001 to wastewater injection wells, “similar to human-caused quakes in Oklahoma and other states.” The study “concluded that the wastewater caused a big enough increase in underground pressure to make rock formations slip along fault lines.” According to the US Geological Service, earthquakes in the Raton Basin of northern New Mexico and southern California started to increase in 2001, “about two years after large-scale wastewater injection began.” A 2014 paper by the USGS “blamed injection wells for the area’s quakes,” but the new UC study “went further, using computer models and records of wastewater injection to conclude that enough pressure built up to cause the quakes.”

USGS Reports 3 Small Earthquakes Recorded In Oklahoma.

The [AP](#) (10/25) reports that “the U.S Geological Survey reports three small earthquakes in Oklahoma.” The two largest quakes each have a preliminary magnitude of 3.1. The third was a preliminary magnitude 2.5 quake.

Additional Reading.

- *50 Ways The Next Big Earthquake Could Shatter Seattle.* [National Geographic](#) (10/25, Folger).
- *As California’s Population Grows, People Are Moving Into More Fire-Prone Areas.* [WMEA-FM](#) Portland, ME (10/25).
- *Simulated Flood Injected Life Into Thirsty Colorado River Delta, New Data Shows.* [KUNC-FM](#) Greeley, CO (10/25, Runyon).

Top National News

Trump: Democrats’ Role In Russia Dossier Creation “A Disgrace.”

Coverage of the news that elements of the Democratic Party helped to fund the Fusion GPS dossier on then-candidate Donald Trump focuses mainly on negative aspects for the Democrats. The President’s comments on the news get some attention, but much more is given to how much Hillary Clinton and her campaign knew, and who authorized the payments. Also at issue – particularly in conservative media – is the FBI’s role in the affair.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/25, story 3, 2:10, Holt) reported that Trump “[tore] into Democrats and former rival Hillary Clinton over reports that the Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee helped fund opposition research that wound up in a dossier, containing salacious and unverified allegations about him.” Trump: “They were embarrassed by

it. I think it's a disgrace. It's just really, it's a very sad, it's a very sad commentary on politics in this country."

The [AP](#) (10/25, Tucker) reports, "Trump and fellow Republicans latched onto revelations tying" the Clinton campaign to the dossier, and [Politico](#) (10/25, Cheney) reports that Republicans "mounted a counterattack this week against the drumbeat from multiple investigations into Moscow's meddling...in a dizzying 24 hours." Trump said on [Fox Business' Lou Dobbs Tonight](#) (10/25), "Don't forget Hillary Clinton totally denied this. She didn't know anything. She knew nothing all of a sudden they found out. What I was amazed at it's almost \$6 million that they paid and it's totally discredited. It's a total phony. I call it fake news. It's disgraceful." The [New York Post](#) (10/25, Moore) reports that the President also [tweeted](#), "'Clinton campaign & DNC paid for research that led to the anti-Trump Fake News Dossier. The victim here is the President.' @FoxNews".

[Politico](#) (10/25, McCaskill) reports that when asked by reporters about which Republican might have initially funded it, Trump said, "If I were to guess, I have one name in mind. It'll probably be revealed. I'd rather not say, but you'll be surprised. You'll be surprised." [Breitbart](#) (10/25, Spiering) also runs that quote from the President in a brief item.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/25, Boyer) reports that Trump also told reporters that "given the revelations about the dossier and fresh investigations into a uranium deal with a Russian firm approved by the Obama administration, the Russia controversy has 'turned around' on the Democrats." Trump said, "This was the Democrats coming up with an excuse for losing an election. They lost it very badly. They didn't know what to say, so they made up the whole Russia hoax. Now it's turning out that the whole hoax is turned around." However, in [Politico Magazine](#) (10/25), Jack Shafer calls that "a valiant stab at magical thinking by Baby Donald, but the dossier is only a slice of the evidentiary pie being thrown at him. As the anti-Trump Republican operative Rick Wilson tweeted, even if the dossier was 'a farrago of utter fantasy,' other US government and foreign intelligence findings point to Trump's Kremlin entanglements."

Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) [tweeted](#), "Crooked Hillary has been behind Russian collusion allegations all along! Shame on her for wasting officials' time!" Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA) [tweeted](#), "Hillary Clinton & the DNC lied to Americans about paying for the development of the false Trump dossier." Rep. Pete Olson (R-TX) [tweeted](#), "The corrupt DNC and Clinton camp paid for a fake Russian dossier about our president! Democrats can't be trusted."

Conservative commentators are weighing in. David French of [National Review](#) (10/25) writes, "We don't know what role the Russia dossier has played or is playing in the Russia investigation. ... But we did learn a bit more last night, and what we learned undermines the dossier, indicts the Clinton campaign, and helps Donald Trump." Mollie Hemingway of [The Federalist](#) (10/25) writes, "Here we have the realization that the Clinton campaign, the DNC, and the FBI all worked wittingly or unwittingly with Russians to affect the results of the 2016 election. ... These efforts perverted our justice system by forcing the attorney general to recuse himself for the crime of having attended meetings with Russian diplomats and spawning a massive, sprawling, limitless probe over Russia." Matt Vespa of [Townhall](#) (10/25) writes, "My, oh my – how the tables have turned."

[The Hill](#) (10/25, Fabian, Easley) also reports on the President's remarks.

Clinton Camp "Largely Silent"; Current DNC Leadership Says It Was Not Involved. On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/25, story 3, 2:20, Muir), Brian Ross reported, "Until now, Hillary Clinton and her campaign team would not admit any connection to the Trump dossier," which "was produced for a Washington-based firm called Fusion GPS, which had actually started digging up dirt on Trump for an unknown Republican during the primaries. After several Republican candidates dropped out, the Clinton campaign and the Democrats secretly paid Fusion GPS to continue their research efforts. ... Former Clinton campaign spokesperson Brian Fallon said the Democrats did nothing wrong." Fallon: "I think it's important to remember that opposition research happens all the time in campaigns."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/25, story 6, 2:00, Mason), Jeff Pagues reported, "The 35-page dossier details some of the most explosive allegations now under investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller. ... Until now, some top Clinton campaign officials have denied knowing who was behind the effort to dig up dirt." Fallon: "I'm sure that there's a small group of folks that were aware of the nature of the decision to hire Fusion back in the spring of 2016. But it was kept for reasons that I understand to a very select group, given the sensitive nature of who they hired."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/25, Hamburger, Helderman) reports that "Clinton and top officials of her presidential campaign were largely silent" on Wednesday "in response to the revelation

that the campaign and the Democratic National Committee had paid for research that resulted" in the dossier. Fallon "said he didn't know about the research at the time but called it 'money well spent' if it provided information useful to the special counsel now investigating Russia's involvement." The [Daily Mail](#) (10/25, Earle) reports that Fallon told CNN that Clinton "'may have' known about her campaign's funding of the infamous dossier." He told CNN, "I haven't spoken to her, no. ... She may have known. The degree of exactly what she knew is beyond my knowledge."

Becket Adams of the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/25) writes that either Clinton "knew nothing about her campaign's role in financing the dossier" and "is guilty of nothing worse than ignorance" but was deceived by her staff, or that she "has known about the dossier this entire time, and she has been misrepresenting what she knows. Any way you cut it, it doesn't reflect well on Clinton or her team."

[The Hill](#) (10/25, Easley) reports that Democratic National Committee representatives said that Chairman Tom Perez, "who only became the Democratic leader in April, had nothing to do with the arrangement," and Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN), the DNC's deputy chairman, "emphasized that both he and Perez came to the DNC long after the contract with Fusion GPS had ended." Ellison said, "Tom and me, we weren't even there at the time. I know as much about it as you guys who have reported it." A spokesman for Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), who was DNC chair at the time, said, "She was not aware of anything related to this research arrangement." The [Daily Caller](#) (10/25, Hasson) reports that the DNC "released a carefully-worded statement meant to distance current party leader from the dossier." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/25) editorializes that it appears that the Democrats paid for Russian operatives to compile the dossier, which is a form of collusion in itself.

Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), ranking member on the House Oversight Committee, said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (10/25), "All of this, to me, is unfortunately a distraction from the things that we need to be doing. ... But I think the American people need to understand the whole role that Russia is now playing in our elections and will continue to play and they need to keep in mind that the highest ranking law enforcement person in the country has said basically – and that is Attorney General Sessions – that there is no investigation from his office's standpoint."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/25, Boyer) reports that the Campaign Legal Center has filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission alleging that Clinton's campaign and the DNC violated campaign finance law by failing to disclose payments for the dossier.

FBI's Role Now Under Scrutiny. Byron York of the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/25) writes, "Knowing that the Clinton campaign [and] the DNC...supported the dossier is not the end of the story. The most important next step is the FBI." According to the Washington Post, dossier compiler Christopher Steele "'reached an agreement with the FBI a few weeks before the election for the bureau to pay him to continue his work.' It was an astonishing turn: the nation's top federal law enforcement agency agreeing to fund an ongoing opposition research project being conducted by one of the candidates in the midst of a presidential election."

House Intelligence Chairman Devin Nunes said on [Fox News' Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (10/25), "I think the next focus is going to be on whether or not did the FBI use this dossier to get any warrants, did they use it to open a counter intelligence investigation. And if they did, if they're using unverified information to open up inquiries into American citizens, I think we have a big problem." David Harsanyi of [The Federalist](#) (10/25) asks, "How often did the FBI use the dossier as a pretext for FISA warrants? Seems like a reasonable question."

[Newsday \(NY\)](#) (10/25, Goldschlag) reports that though "the question of who paid for the 'Russia dossier' on Trump is now partly answered, still open is the question of who might pay, in the form of legal jeopardy, if some of its more explosive but unverified contents are found credible" by Mueller.

Max Boot of the Council on Foreign Relations [tweeted](#), "And before that it was paid for by anti-Trump GOPer. So what? Doesn't affect whether it's true. And it's not reason for Mueller probe." ABC political analyst Matthew Dowd [tweeted](#), "Mueller's investigation has little to do with dossier. Much bigger issues." Washington Post conservative blogger Jennifer Rubin [tweeted](#) that the news is "a nothing burger just to give Fox something to cover all day."

Judge Gives Fusion GPS Until Thursday To Answer Congressional Subpoena. [Reuters](#) (10/25, Hosenball) reports that US District Court Judge Tanya Chutkan has given Fusion GPS "until Thursday to reach an agreement with Congress over a subpoena for the firm's bank records." The House Intelligence Committee has "subpoenaed an unidentified bank for the last two years of records of the accounts of Fusion GPS."

Trump: Uranium One Deal Is Modern-Day "Watergate." [The Hill](#) (10/25, Beavers) reports

Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley [tweeted](#) that he is seeking the appointment of a special counsel “to investigate the Uranium One deal that gave a Russian-owned company partial control of US atomic energy resources in 2010” – a deal that the President compared to Watergate on Wednesday. The [Washington Times](#) (10/25, Boyer) reports that Trump told reporters, “I think the uranium sale to Russia and the way it was done so underhanded, with tremendous amounts of money being passed, I actually think that’s ‘Watergate,’ modern age.”

[USA Today](#) (10/25, Johnson) reports that the DOJ has “lifted a gag order on an FBI informant to provide testimony to Congress” about the Uranium One deal. [The Hill](#) (10/25, Solomon) reports, “Multiple congressional committees have been seeking to interview the informant, whose name has not been released publicly.”

Assange Says He Rejected Help Offer From Cambridge Analytica. The [New York Times](#) (10/25, Confessore) reports that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange said on Wednesday “that he had rebuffed a request for help last year” from the head of Cambridge Analytica, a data firm that worked for Trump. Assange “did not disclose what kind of help [was] sought, only that he had declined the request.” Assange [tweeted](#), “I can confirm an approach by Cambridge Analytica [prior to November last year] and can confirm that it was rejected by WikiLeaks.”

[The Hill](#) (10/25, Chalfant) reports that the Trump campaign “appeared to distance itself” from Cambridge Analytica on Wednesday after it was reported that CEO Alexander Nix sought contact with Assange over Clinton’s emails. The [Daily Beast](#) (10/25) reports that Assange told Nix “that he didn’t want his help, and preferred to do the work on his own.” In related news, [Politico](#) (10/25, Gerstein) reports that the Trump campaign argued in a court filing that WikiLeaks’ publication of hacked DNC emails “was legal and specifically protected by federal law.”

Rove: Impeachment Push Could Hurt Democrats. Karl Rove writes in his [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/25) column that billionaire Tom Steyer’s injection of \$10 million into a push to impeach the President moves the matter beyond the back benches of the House, but could ultimately hurt the Democratic Party by resulting in a focus on Trump rather than on an electoral strategy.

Trump Attends Harvey Recovery Briefing Before Dallas GOP Fundraising Event.

Coverage of President Trump’s visit to Texas for a briefing on hurricane recovery efforts and a Republican fundraiser is negative, with reports saying that the briefing was added to justify the cost of a political trip, and that Trump praised his own efforts at the briefing. The [Corpus Christi \(TX\) Caller-Times](#) (10/25, Moritz) reports that the President “arrived in Dallas on Wednesday to a cheering welcome, and later by sign-carrying protesters assailing his truthfulness, where he met with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott for an update on the Hurricane Harvey recovery effort as a prelude to an afternoon of politicking.” During remarks at the briefing, Trump “said he looked forward to seeing plans to address flooding in Houston ‘on a more permanent basis.’”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/25, Phillips) reports that Trump also “praise[d]...himself and his government...then suggested that Houston recovery officials take a look at a special kind of sheet rock that could prevent another Harvey.” Trump said, “They use it in bathtubs and showers, and water has no impact on it.” [The Hill](#) (10/25, Greenwood) reports that Trump said that it “is the same material used around bathtubs and other areas exposed to moisture. Greenboard is a water-resistant drywall.”

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (10/25, Gillman) reports that though “adoring fans cheered him at Love Field and 200 well-heeled donors rubbed elbows with him downtown,” if Trump “was hoping for a respite from the venomous atmosphere in Washington, his day trip to Dallas offered little. Catcalls from hundreds of protesters filtered into the swank fund-raiser. ‘Go home Cheeto!’ they yelled, holding signs that read ‘Liar liar’ and ‘shame.’”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/25, Bennett) reports that Trump was in Dallas “for a Republican fundraiser and political reception,” and had “added a brief meeting about hurricane recovery efforts continuing on the Gulf Coast about 250 miles away.” [Newsweek](#) (10/25) reports that the briefing was added in “an apparent effort to have the political visit subsidized by taxpayer dollars.” The event “cost attendees \$2,700 a ticket and an extra \$35,000 to take a photo with Trump.” The [AP](#) (10/25) reports that the event was “expected to raise \$4 million.”

[Politico](#)’s Alex Isenstadt [tweeted](#), “Trump raised \$4.5 mil for 2020 reelection tonight in Dallas. Big donors present included Andy Beale, Harold Hamm, Tom Hicks Sr.” Mark Knoller of CBS News [tweeted](#) that “tickets range[d] from \$2700 to \$100,000 per person.” The [Washington Times](#) (10/25, Boyer) and the [WFAA-TV](#) Dallas (10/25) website also have brief reports.

Trump: Tax Cuts Will Create “So Many Jobs.”

Asked about tax reform on [Fox Business’ Lou Dobbs Tonight](#) ☐ (10/25), President Trump said, “I

think we're going to get [tax cuts]. I think the senators are going to come together. I think the House is looking really good." Trump also [said](#) that "we're bringing the corporate rate down to 20 percent from 35 percent. This will be the biggest tax cut in history in the history of our country and that's great and we need it because right now our country is about the highest taxed or certainly one of the highest taxed in the world and we can't have that." Trump added, "We are going to have so many jobs created by what we're doing and you know we're going to have companies that aren't leaving our country any more."

Senate Panel Approves EPA Nominees Over Democrats' Objections.

[Reuters](#) (10/25) reports the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee yesterday "approved four nominees to key posts at the Environmental Protection Agency, including one appointee with ties to the chemical industry who will head the agency's office of chemical safety." Sen. Tom Carper "said two of the nominees were of 'grave concern': Bill Wehrum, nominated for assistant administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation, and Michael Dourson to head up the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention." Carper "called Dourson 'one of the most troubling nominees I have ever considered during my time on this committee.'" The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (10/25, Eaton) indicates "the 11-10 vote to advance Dourson's nomination was approved along party lines." Likewise, says [Automotive News](#) (10/25, Kulisch), "all 10 Democrats opposed Wehrum's nomination because of concern that he is too close to industry and taking a lax approach to regulating emissions while at EPA under the Bush administration."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/25, Siegel) notes the committee also "advanced the nominations of Matthew Leopold, President Trump's nominee to be assistant administrator for the Office of General Counsel; and David Ross, chosen to be assistant administrator for the Office of Water." After the votes, "Democrats gave lengthy speeches denouncing Dourson and Wehrum." Sen. Ed Markey "called the committee's approval of Dourson and Wehrum 'one of the low points of my entire career,'" and Sen. Tammy Duckworth "called Dourson the 'absolute worst person I can think of to be in charge of chemical safety in this country.'"

The [Intercept](#) (10/25, Lerner) reports "powerless Democrats watched in anger as their Republican colleagues...voted along party lines to advance" Dourson's nomination, and [USA Today](#) (10/25, Shesgreen) that Dourson "has sparked intense opposition from Senate Democrats and environmental groups, who have blasted him for engaging in 'fake pseudo-science,' referring to his research funded in part by the chemical industry." Dourson's "findings have generally endorsed high levels of chemicals and pesticides in drinking water and other consumer products." The [AP](#) (10/25, Smith) notes that it "reported last month that Dourson, a toxicologist, has for years accepted payments from chemical companies to write papers pushing back against peer-reviewed studies raising health concerns about his clients' products." The AP adds that "past corporate clients include Dow Chemical Co., Koch Industries Inc. and Chevron Corp."

On the other hand, the [AP](#) (10/25, Biesecker) reports, "committee Chairman John Barrasso called Trump's nominees well-qualified and experienced." The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/25, Siegel) notes that EPA Administrator Pruitt "commended Republicans for advancing the nominations," saying, "These top leaders in their fields will bring positive change to EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment. We look forward to a full Senate vote on these highly-qualified leaders." The [Washington Times](#) (10/25, Wolfgang), among other news outlets, runs a similar report this morning.

WSJournal Analysis: Trump Team Seeks To Foster Economic Growth By Removing Regulations.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/25, Ip) reports the Trump Administration is trying to spur economic growth by removing regulations that stop innovation.

EPA Prepares To Place Two-Year Delay On Methane Regulations.

The [Daily Caller](#) (10/25, White) reports that the EPA is expected to place a two-year delay on Obama-era regulations on methane emissions from oil and gas operations as a means to "buy time for a plan replacing the rule." The oil and gas industry claims the rule is "unnecessary and duplicative of already existing laws," and critics claimed that the rule "was a regulation in search of a problem, pointing to research showing that methane emissions from oil and gas drilling have plummeted, despite a huge increase drilling operations."

Clean Power Plan Repeal Includes Plan To Alter Social Cost Of Carbon.

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/25) reports that the Trump administration's plans to repeal the Clean Power

Plan also includes a proposal to dramatically alter the social cost of carbon used under the Obama administration, which was placed at about \$42 per ton by 2020. The new EPA document “significantly lowers that estimate, placing it between \$1 and \$6 per ton.” The current proposal also “considers only the domestic social cost of carbon, rather than its cost at a global scale.” The controversial shift requires a deep consideration of “our values as a society,” warned Frances Moore, a professor at the University of California, Davis.

EPA To Review Whether Clean Air, Water Laws Affect Energy Sector Jobs Losses.

[Reuters](#) (10/25, Volcovici) reports that the EPA said Wednesday it will examine how “bedrock laws like the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act affect energy industry job losses” as part of President Trump’s executive order to “reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens” on businesses. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, Energy Secretary Rick Perry and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke have all outlined separate lists of measures for review under the order.

[The Hill](#) (10/25, Henry) reports that one of the EPA’s new initiatives will create a task force to review the permitting process for new sources of air pollution under the Clean Air Act, called the New Source Review (NSR.) The EPA argued in a 15-page report on its regulations, “In some circumstances, the NSR process discourages the construction of new facilities or modifications of existing ones that could result in greater environmental improvements.”

DOE Releases Report Highlighting Programs For Repeal, Reform. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/25) reports the Energy Department yesterday “released its long-awaited report” on “policies that are ripe for repeal or reform because they hinder energy production.” Energy Secretary Perry in the report “calls for reviewing National Environmental Policy Act guidelines, streamlining liquefied natural gas exports and reassessing national laboratory policies.” The document “is the first sign of the agency’s response to a high-profile executive order the White House issued earlier this year to scrap red tape and promote ‘energy independence.’”

The [Daily Caller](#) (10/25, Bastasch) reports in a statement on the release of the report, Perry said, “Through our ongoing efforts, we will promote job creation and economic growth, unleash American energy dominance, and advance the energy security of our international trading partners.”

EPA Chief Says He’s No Ally To Polluters.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/25, Dlouhy, Jacobs) reports that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt dismissed critics who say he has been too cozy with the industries he is in charge of regulation, and vowed to “do enforcement, to go after bad actors and go after polluters.” The watchdog group Environmental Integrity Project reported in August that in the first six months of the Trump administration, “civil penalties paid for environmental violations were 60 percent smaller on average than for comparable periods” in the past three administrations.

Author Likens Climate Change Debate To Acid Rain Scare Of 1970s-80s.

In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/25, Darwall), Rupert Darwall, author of “Green Tyranny: Exposing the Totalitarian Roots of the Climate Industrial Complex,” likens the current debate over climate change to the acid-rain scare of the 1970s and 80s, citing the acid-rain alarm, which was proved to be based on faulty science as evidence that the scientific consensus is not a guarantee that the consensus is correct.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“The Real Reason For Republicans’ Silence On Donald Trump.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/25) says, “It’s less striking that a few Republican congressmen have publicly denounced” President Trump’s “conduct than that most of their colleagues have not. Their fellow legislators have silently accepted his outrages in exchange for policies they’ve always wanted,” such as “transferring power to Wall Street, fossil fuel companies, the chemical industry and other special interests,” while “stoking an anti-populist bonfire to incinerate protections for consumers and workers.”

“The Last Thing Australia And Our Planet Need.” The [New York Times](#) (10/25, Board) editorializes that “while global demand for coal is falling as the nations of the world have committed themselves to slashing carbon emissions,” Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull “wants to help a powerful Indian conglomerate build an enormous system of coal mines in a

remote stretch of Queensland.” The Times argues that “burning the estimated 66 million tons of coal a year that the Adani Group aims to produce” from the mine “can only make it harder for the world to meet its aspirations under the Paris climate agreement.”

“Scrapping MetroCards Isn’t Vital, But Any Subway Fix Will Do.” A [New York Times](#) (10/25) editorial.

Washington Post.

“Finally, A Healthcare Proposal That Actually Pays Off.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/25) argues that in light of a CBO study which found that the Alexander-Murray healthcare bill would reduce federal budget deficits and not impact the number of people without coverage, the measure “now officially falls into the category of ‘so obvious it should pass immediately.’”

“The Catalan Crisis Is All Thanks To Two Inflexible Leaders.” A [Washington Post](#) (10/25) editorial says Spain is facing “its worst political crisis since its return to democracy 40 years ago, thanks to the inflexibility of two key leaders” – Catalan President Carles Puigdemont and Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy. The Post says Puigdemont and his followers “badly overestimated their ability to mobilize support for their separatist cause,” while Rajoy’s “hard-line actions risk driving more voters into the separatist camp. He should refrain from more repression and push for a political solution.”

“Trump Crosses Another Line.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/25) editorializes that President Trump’s “disdain for the integrity of the Justice Department may no longer surprise a weary public,” but “it is nevertheless shocking to learn that Mr. Trump has breached tradition to personally interview two candidates for U.S. attorney – both of whom would have the power to investigate him in the future.” Politico and CNN reported that Trump “met with Geoffrey Berman and Ed McNally, whom the administration is considering for the roles of U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York and the Eastern District of New York, respectively.” The Post argues that “any presidential interview of a U.S. attorney candidate would cross the line,” but “it is particularly concerning that Mr. Trump chose to speak with the men and women who could lead investigations into his business in New York.” The Post concludes that “this threat to the impartial administration of justice cannot go unchallenged.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Democrats, Russians, And The FBI.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/25) editorializes that it appears that the Democrats paid for Russian operatives to compile the dossier on then-candidate Trump, which is a form of collusion in itself.

“McConnell 1, Cordray 0.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/25) editorial calls Tuesday’s Senate vote to overturn the CFPB’s arbitration rule a victory for the economy and the leadership of Senate Majority Leader McConnell.

“Jeff Flake’s Public Service.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/25, Board) says that Sen. Jeff Flake’s decision not to seek reelection improves the GOP’s odds of retaining his seat in 2018. The Journal adds that Flake was correct in charging that a great deal of Trump’s rhetoric lacks dignity and is untrue.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[FCC To Ease Limits On Local Media Ownership](#)

[House Republicans Are Still Considering 401\(k\) Changes in Tax Overhaul](#)

[The Morningstar Mirage](#)

[Abadi Wants US-Iran Rivalry Out Of Iraq](#)

New York Times:

[As G.O.P. Bends Toward Trump, Critics Either Give In Or Give Up](#)

[Interactive Feature: Boko Haram Strapped Suicide Bombs To Them. Somehow These Teenage Girls Survived.](#)

[Tax Cuts Are The Glue Holding A Fractured Republican Party Together](#)

[Pitched As Calming Force, John Kelly Instead Mirrors Boss’s Priorities](#)

[Fats Domino, Early Rock ‘N’ Roller With A Boogie-Woogie Piano, Is Dead At 89](#)

Washington Post:

[Republicans Target Bannon In California, A Developing-World Virus First Niger Reports Had Several Missing Gillespie's Strategy For His Own Race? Caution. Thriving Prison Firm Ties Itself To President](#)

Financial Times:

[Xi Breaks With China Tradition To Cement His Huge Power Carlyle Names Executives To Succeed Its Co-Founders Putin Steers Clear Of 1917 Revolution Celebrations US Expats Given Hope Of Lower Tax Bills](#)

Washington Times:

[Clinton Campaign Accused Of FEC Violation Over Anti-Trump Dossier Trump Administration Officially Apologizes For IRS Tea Party Targeting Trump's Energized Base Exposes Republican Divisions, Upheaval Of Party Establishment Pro-Life Groups Struggle Against Planned Parenthood Funding In Virginia Politics Kenya Tries Another Presidential Vote, But Uncertainty And Instability Still Rule](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Trump-GOP Senate; White House-Fallen Soldier Call; Trump-Russian Dossier Investigation; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; Kidnapped US Soldier Trial; US Flights-Tougher Security Check; Louisiana-University Student Murder; California-Mystery Abduction; Africa-Saving Rhinos; Miami Airport-Takedown; Florida-Sheriff Stealing Money; National Park Price Hike; Fats Domino Dies.

CBS: Puerto Rico Recovery-Controversy; Puerto Rico Recovery-Medical Supply Shortage; Trump-GOP Senate; Trump-Public Opinion; Niger-US Casualty Investigation; Trump-Russian Dossier Investigation; Amazon-New Delivery Program; Chinese Wood Flooring Import Fined; New CBS Anchor Named; Fats Domino Dies.

NBC: US Flights-Tougher Security Check; Trump-GOP Senate; Trump-Russian Dossier Investigation; Health-New Vaccine Guideline; Niger-US Casualty Investigation; South Sudan-Demonstration; Florida Juvenile Center-Mismanagement; Amazon-New Delivery Program; National Park Price Hike; Massachusetts-Daylight Savings Policy; Zoo Visiting Couple; Fats Domino Dies.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump-GOP Senate – 7 minutes, 35 seconds
Trump-Russian Dossier Investigation – 6 minutes, 30 seconds
Niger-US Casualty Investigation – 4 minutes, 10 seconds
Amazon-New Delivery Program – 4 minutes
US Flights-Tougher Security Check – 3 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: White House-UN Funding; Tax Reform Bill; Kidnapped US Soldier Trial; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation.

CBS: US Flights-Tougher Security Check; JFK Files Release; Obamacare-Executive Order; Baseball World Series; Trump-GOP Senate; Wall Street News.

FOX: Tax Reform Bill; Obamacare-Executive Order; Trump Approval Rating; Trump-Texas Visit.

NPR: Obamacare-Executive Order; Puerto Rico Recovery-Controversy; South Sudan-Political Stability; Brazilian President-Corruption Scandal.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Delivers remarks on combatting drug demand and the opioid crisis; meets with Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency Scott Pruitt.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a phone call with Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz of Austria; tours Lockheed Martin Waterton Canyon Facility; delivers remarks at a Colorado

Republican Party event.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations including of Kenneth Ian Juster to be U.S. Ambassador to India, Daniel Kritenbrink to be U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam, Richard Duke Buchan III to be U.S. Ambassador to Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as U.S. Ambassador to Andorra, Richard Grenell to be U.S. Ambassador to Germany, Jamie McCourt to be U.S. Ambassador to France, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as U.S. Ambassador to Monaco, Edward McMullen Jr. to be U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as U.S. Ambassador to Liechtenstein, Michael James Dodman to be U.S. Ambassador to Mauritania, Nina Maria Fite to be U.S. Ambassador to Angola, Daniel Foote to be U.S. Ambassador to Zambia, David Dale Reimer to be U.S. Ambassador to Mauritius, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as U.S. Ambassador to the Seychelles, and Eric Whitaker to be U.S. Ambassador to Niger Location: U.S. Capitol, S-116, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

9:45 AM Senate Energy Committee hearing on cyber technology and energy infrastructure – ‘Hearing to Examine Cyber Technology and Energy Infrastructure’, with testimony from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Electricity Market Sector Director Carl Imhoff; Oak Ridge National Laboratory Electrical and Electronics Systems Research Division Director Dr Richard Raines; Idaho National Laboratory Associate Director for National and Homeland Security Zachary Tudor; Qubitekk President and CTO Dr Duncan Earl; and New Context Services CEO Daniel Riedel Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

10:00 AM Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee hearing on the regulatory process – Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management Subcommittee hearing on ‘Improving Oversight of the Regulatory Process: Lessons from State Legislatures’, with testimony from Idaho House Speaker Scott Bedke; North Dakota House member Joshua Boschée; and Connecticut House member Arthur O’Neill Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:00 AM Senate Urban Affairs Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Brian Montgomery to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Housing (Federal Housing Commissioner), Robert Hunter Kurtz to be Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, and Suzanne Israel Tufts to be Assistant Secretary for Administration Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Allison Eid to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit; Stephanos Bibas to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit; Liles Clifton Burke to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama; Walter David Counts III to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Texas; Michael Joseph Juneau to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana; A. Marvin Quattlebaum, Jr. to be U.S. District Judge for the District of South Carolina; Karen Gren Scholer to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas; Tilman Eugene Self III to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia; John Bash to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Texas; Erin Angela Nealy Cox to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas; and R. Andrew Murray to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina, as well as ‘S. 807, Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act of 2017’ Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on free speech on college campuses – Hearing on ‘Exploring Free Speech on College Campuses’, with testimony from University of Chicago President Dr Robert Zimmer; New York Law School Professor Nadine Strossen; Southern Poverty Law Center President J. Richard Cohen; and Middlebury College Professor of International Politics and Economics Dr Allison Stanger * White nationalist Richard Spencer last week spoke on the campus of the University of Florida, after it said it had to allow ‘free expression of speech’ as it is a state entity. It paid an estimated \$500,000 in security costs, and made counselors available for students, faculty, and staff Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Armed Services subcommittee closed briefing on Niger – Seapower Subcommittee closed briefing on ‘Niger’, given by Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Robert Kareem; and Joint Staff Deputy Director for Special Operations and Counterterrorism Maj. Gen. Albert Elton II * Four U.S. soldiers were killed in an ambush in Niger earlier this month, with details of their mission there – as part of a joint U.S.-Nigerien team – and of the attack only leaking out over the last few weeks * The deaths have led to controversy after President Donald Trump was accused of offending the widow of one of the four, Sgt. La David Johnson, by allegedly struggling to remember the soldier’s name and of telling her that he had

known what he had signed up for when joining the military. President Trump denied the accusations, attacked Democratic Rep. Frederica Wilson for her account of the president's phone call with the Johnson family, and claimed that previous presidents had not made as much effort to contact the families of fallen service members as he has Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-217, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

11:00 AM Senate Entrepreneurship Committee hearing on strengthening the 'ecosystem' for women – Hearing on 'Strengthening the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem for Women', with testimony from Great Lakes Women's Business Council Executive Director Michelle Richards; 1843 Capital Founding Partner Tracy Chadwell; and Dell Entrepreneur-in-Residence Elizabeth Gore Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 428A, Washington, DC <http://sbc.senate.gov/>

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on countering radicalization – 'Countering Radicalization: International Best Practices and the Role of the OSCE' Helsinki Commission briefing, with Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Chairperson-in-Office's Special Representative on Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Peter Neumann present the findings from his recent expert report on OSCE activities to prevent violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, plus George Washington University Program on Extremism Deputy Director Seamus Hughes and The Washington Institute Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence Director Matthew Levitt discussing his conclusions and providing their own views on the way ahead for U.S. efforts and international cooperation Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 385, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

US House: 9:00 AM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program – Immigration and Border Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Oversight of the United States Refugee Admissions Program', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration Simon Henshaw; U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director L. Francis Cissna; Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement Director Scott Lloyd; and Government and Accountability Office Director of Homeland Security and Justice Rebecca Gambler Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

9:00 AM House votes on Senate-passed FY'18 budget bill – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including completion of consideration of the Senate Amendment to 'H.Con.Res. 71, Establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

9:00 AM House Dems announce introduction of Port Drivers' Bill of Rights Act and Clean Ports Act – Democratic Reps. Grace Napolitano and Jerrold Nadler announce the introduction of the 'Port Drivers' Bill of Rights Act' (to 'begin to address the growing problem of low wages and poor working conditions for the nation's port truckers') and the Clean Ports Act of 2017 (to 'improve the quality of air for an estimated 87 million Americans who live and work in port regions') via press conference with six port truck drivers from the Ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach, and New Jersey, along with International Brotherhood of Teamsters representatives Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC napolitano.house.gov <https://twitter.com/gracenapolitano>

10:00 AM Energy Markup of Subcommittee Vote on H.R. 1733 – To direct the Secretary of Energy to review and update a report on the energy and environmental benefits of the re-refining of used lubricating oil; H.R. 2872 – Promoting Hydropower Development at Existing Nonpowered Dams Act; ; and H.R. 2880 – Promoting Closed-Loop Pumped Storage Hydropower Act. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM Congressional Women's Working Group on Immigration Reform forum on immigrant women in detention – Congressional Women's Working Group on Immigration Reform hold forum to discuss the experiences of immigrant women in detention under the Trump administration. Speakers include Working Group Co-Chairs Lucille Roybal-Allard and Pramila Jayapal and fellow Democratic Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, with panelists including Casa de Esperanza Senior Director of Public Policy Rosie Hidalgo, Women's Refugee Commission Migrant Rights and Justice Program Senior Program Officer Katharina Obser, Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center Managing Attorney Linda Rivas, former Secretary of Homeland Security's Special Advisor Dora Schriro, and an individual directly impacted by the govt's immigration detention policies Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC <http://roybal->

allard.house.gov/ <https://twitter.com/RepRoybalAllard>

10:00 AM Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission briefing on the Uighurs – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission briefing on 'Uyghur Human Rights in China and Abroad', with a panel of Human Rights Watch China Director Sophie Richardson, World Uyghur Congress President Rebiya Kadeer, Radio Free Asia Uyghur Service Director Alim Seytoff, and Foreign Policy contributing writer Bethany Allen-Ebrahimian discussing China's efforts to control the primarily-Muslim ethnic minority group, and offering recommendations on how the U.S. and the international community can responsibly protect Uighur human rights Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2255, Washington, DC <http://tlhrc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/TLHRCommission>

10:00 AM House Small Business subcommittee hearing on fintech – Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access Subcommittee hearing on 'Financing through Fintech: Online Lending's Role in Improving Small Business Capital Access', with testimony from PayNet President and co-founder William Phelan; Hudson Cook partner Katherine Fisher; and Mirador CEO Trevor Dryer Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2360, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

12:00 PM Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee briefing on data analytics and AI – Advisory Committee to the Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee hosts 'Blending Data Analytics and AI: Policy Implications' educational briefing, featuring Federal Trade Commission Acting Chief Technologist Neil Chilson, Center for Democracy and Technology Vice President for Policy Chris Calabrese, Workday Chief Strategy Officer Leighanne Levensaler, and Information Technology Industry Council President and CEO Dean Garfield Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2237, Washington, DC www.netcaucus.org [#BigDataAI](https://twitter.com/NetCaucusAC)

12:30 PM Democratic Members of Congress, Nurses to Call for Additional Puerto Rico Aid – key Democratic Members of Congress will join with nurses who recently returned from volunteering in Puerto Rico to underscore the need for additional federal assistance. Participants: Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA); Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez (D-NY); Rep. José E. Serrano (D-NY); Rep. Rep. Luis V. Gutiérrez (D-IL); Bonnie Castillo, RN, Associate Executive Director, National Nurses United; Cathy Kennedy, RN Vice-President, National Nurses United; Olivia Lynch, RN from Merced California; Christine Grant, RN from Washington DC. Location: HVC-215 pelosi.house.gov

12:30 PM 'Legal Aid's Role in Responding to Domestic Violence' Congressional briefing – 'Legal Aid's Role in Responding to Domestic Violence' Legal Services Corporation briefing, held in cooperation with Access to Civil Legal Services Caucus co-founders bipartisan Reps. Susan Brooks and Joe Kennedy III. Former Neighborhood Legal Services Association client 'Brenda B', Putnam County Sheriff's Office (WV) Corporal Tony Craigo, former Indiana Assistant Attorney General Abigail Kuzma, and Legal Aid of West Virginia Executive Director Adrienne Worthy discuss 'the importance of civil legal aid to survivors' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2226, Washington, DC www.lsc.gov <https://twitter.com/lsctweets>

2:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on countering radicalization – 'Countering Radicalization: International Best Practices and the Role of the OSCE' Helsinki Commission briefing, with Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Chairperson-in-Office's Special Representative on Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Peter Neumann present the findings from his recent expert report on OSCE activities to prevent violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, plus George Washington University Program on Extremism Deputy Director Seamus Hughes and The Washington Institute Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence Director Matthew Levitt discussing his conclusions and providing their own views on the way ahead for U.S. efforts and international cooperation Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 385, Washington, DC <http://www.osce.org> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

In Defense of Christians annual Summit for Middle East Christians concludes – In Defense of Christians fourth annual Summit for Middle East Christians, entitled 'American Leadership and Securing the Future of Christians in the Middle East'. Final day agenda includes 'Advocacy Day Briefing: Policy and Education on Capitol Hill', with participants including bipartisan Reps. Robert Aderholt and Ro Khanna Location: Washington, DC www.indefenseofchristians.org <https://twitter.com/indefchristians>

Other: 8:00 AM Axios discussion on 'the potential for bipartisan solutions in a hyper-polarized Washington' – Axios hosts 'Party Wars: Is Progress Still Possible?' conversation on the 'potential for bipartisan solutions in a hyper-polarized Washington', with Democrats Sen. Joe Manchin and Rep. Josh Gottheimer, Republican Rep. Carlos Curbelo, and NBC News Capitol Hill Correspondent

Kasie Hunt Location: AJAX, 1011 4th St NW, Washington, DC www.axios.com
[#Axios360](https://twitter.com/axios)

8:10 AM Charles Koch Institute Advancing Justice 2017 Summit – Charles Koch Institute Advancing Justice 2017 Summit: An Agenda for Human Dignity and Public Safety, to identify the next set of criminal justice reform priorities. Speakers include Republican Sens. Chuck Grassley and Mike Lee, former Sen. Jim DeMint, Fordham University Professor of Law and Economics John Pfaff, Ohio State University Professor of Law Doug Berman, New York University School of Law Professor of Practice Anne Milgram, former Baltimore Ravens player Eugene Monroe, former Acting Attorney General George Tewilliger III, and criminal justice reform advocate Sharanda Jones Location: Marriott Marquis Washington, DC, 901 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC www.charleskochinstitute.org <https://twitter.com/ckinstitute>

9:30 AM 'North Korea's 'An-jeon'bu' Prison Camps' discussed at NPC news conference – 'The Parallel Gulag: North Korea's 'An-jeon'bu' Prison Camps' NPC News Conference, hosted by The Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK), with CSIS Korea Chair Victor Cha, author David Hawk, Korea Society Senior Director Stephen Noerper and HNRK's Amanda Mortwedt Oh, Roberta Cohen Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC www.hrnk.org

12:15 PM AG Sessions discusses Constitutional principles and the rule of law at the Heritage Foundation – Attorney General Jeff Sessions delivers remarks on Constitutional principles and the rule of law at the Heritage Foundation Legal Strategy Forum Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.justice.gov <https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

4:00 PM Liberty Korea Party chairman speaks at NPC on redeploying U.S. nuclear weapons to South Korea – 'Redeploying U.S. Nuclear Weapons to South Korea' NPC News Conference, with Liberty Korea Party Chairman Joon-Pyo Hong discussing recent North Korean actions and missile launches, and the 'necessity of necessity of redeploying U.S. nuclear weapons to South Korea as a method to solve the crisis on the Korean peninsula Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://press.org/> <https://twitter.com/PressClubDC>

6:00 PM Oxi Day Foundation Annual Gala – Oxi Day Foundation Annual Gala. This year's keynote is Secretary of Defense James Mattis, with honorees including North Korean human rights activist Ji Seong-ho, activist against Islamic extremism Ayaan Hirsi Ali, and Bruce Mosler Location: U.S. Institute of Peace, 2301 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC www.oxidayfoundation.org

White House Fellows Foundation and Association Annual Leadership Conference – White House Fellows Foundation and Association 52nd Annual Leadership Conference, this year themed Leadership in a Changing World'. Speakers include Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson, and NSC Director Gen. H.R. McMaster (Thursday), and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt (Friday) Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St NW, Washington, DC www.whff.org <https://twitter.com/WHFellows>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Of course, there's a reason why Jeff Flake and Bob Corker are able to criticize the President so openly, because neither one of them is trying to get re-elected. Like when you and your girlfriend break up, on the way out the door she tells me, 'None of my orgasms were real!'"

Stephen Colbert: "A reporter overheard a member of Trump's Secret Service saying that Trump ate rice and two pieces of cherry pie, took a few sips of his drink, and that, quote, 'He loves rice.' Well, of course he loves rice. It's the same reason he loves Mike Pence – bland and white."

James Corden: "Trump said his meeting with senators was a love fest, to which Mike Pence said, 'That is a sin. Repent.'"

James Corden: "Two slices of cherry pie and rice. Trump managed to show how to eat like a spoiled toddler and a death-row inmate at the same time."

Trevor Noah: "A senator trolling the President of the United States is not normal. It's funny, but it's not normal. It's like Trump is dragging the entire federal government into trash social media."

You know, you realize there going to be emojis in history books now. Like in three years, there won't even be a Capitol Building. Senators will just vote on Instagram stories."

Trevor Noah: "You see, [Steve] Bannon wants all Republicans who go against Trump to quit, so that he can replace them with Trump loyalists. That is really what he wants. Bannon even said he plans to challenge every single Republican politician except Ted Cruz, which is so sad for Ted Cruz. He even gets left out of threats."

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump was tweeting again today. He said that his big meeting with Republican senators was a love fest with multiple standing ovations. Yep, they were mostly people getting up to leave, but still, that counts as standing ovation."

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump sent three tweets about how the senators gave him a standing ovation. It's a big deal for Trump. He hasn't seen 50 people cheering him on since his inauguration."

Seth Meyers: "Housing Secretary Ben Carson said today that rebuilding Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria could take anywhere between one and 100 years. And that's just the kind of precision you expect from a brain surgeon."

Seth Meyers: "A new poll has found that 51 percent of Democrats now have a favorable view of former President George W. Bush, and that makes sense. I'd also have a favorable view of the flu if I suddenly found myself with the plague."

Seth Meyers: "Trump is an old billionaire with a young, beautiful wife who just became President. Why would he ever think, 'I've got to change my ways?' That would be like Larry King going, 'You know what, I'm going to start wearing belts.'"

Conan O'Brien: "Joe Biden made an announcement today. When asked about the 2020 election, Joe Biden said, 'I haven't decided to run, but I've decided I'm not going to decide not to run.'"

Conan O'Brien: "In a late-night vote yesterday, the Senate made it illegal to sue a bank, which is why today Harvey Weinstein petitioned to become a bank."

Conan O'Brien: "In the past week, several prominent men have been fired for sexual harassment. It's called the Harvey effect. Of course, none of them will see any jail time. That's being called the Cosby effect."

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