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From: Bulletin Intelligence [mailto:WhiteHouse@BulletinIntelligence.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 04:59 AM
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Subject: WHNS for Wednesday, May 14, 2014

WHITE HOUSE NEWS SUMMARY

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TO: THE PRESIDENT AND SENIOR WHITE HOUSE STAFF

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2014 5:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

LEADING THE NEWS:

- + [Obama: House Must Pass Immigration Reform Within Months.](#)
- + [RCP Average Has Obama Job Approval At 44.6%.](#)

UKRAINE NEWS:

- + [Biden's Son Joins Ukrainian Gas Producer.](#)
- + [As Germany Seeks Talks, Six Ukrainian Soldiers Killed By Pro-Russian Separatists.](#)
- + [Satellite Images Show Russian Troops Did Not Pull Back From Border.](#)
- + [Russia Says It Will End Cooperation On Space Station Beyond 2020.](#)
- + [Sanctions Against Russia Could Hurt US Companies.](#)
- + [Cruz To Visit Ukraine.](#)

HEALTHCARE NEWS:

- + [More Federal Dollars Went To Creating State Health Exchanges Than HealthCare.gov.](#)
- + [Insurers Say Patient Choice Can't Be A Priority Under ACA.](#)
- + ["Woodwork Effect" Resulted In More Medicaid Enrollments In Non-Expansion States.](#)
- + [Senate Republicans Push For Vote On Medical Device Tax Repeal.](#)
- + [Jindal Notes Hillary Clinton's 1993 Objections To Individual Mandate.](#)
- + [More Than 90 Arrested For Medicare Fraud.](#)
- + [Report: US Is One Of Three Nations That Does Not Provide Paid Maternity Leave.](#)
- + [Officials Move To Prevent Spread Of MERS In US.](#)

NSA NEWS:

- + [Senators Question Administration Statements On Warrantless NSA Surveillance.](#)
- + [NSA Case Could Mean "Redemption" For Klayman.](#)

SYRIA NEWS:

- + [Obama, Jarba Discuss Additional US Aid For Opposition.](#)
- + [Brahimi Resigns As UN Envoy To Syria.](#)
- + [France: Syria Launched As Many As 14 Chemical Attacks In Recent Months.](#)
- + [Report: Syrian Troops Targeting Medical Workers.](#)
- + [Malinowski's Comments On Rwanda Draw Attention To Syrian Crisis.](#)
- + [Homs Residents Returning After Rebels Withdrawal.](#)
- + [Aid Agencies Cannot Accommodate Number Of Refugees In Lebanon.](#)
- + [Ignatius: Syrian Civil War Boosting Dangerous Terrorist Group.](#)

AFPAK NEWS:

- + [Dobbins: US, Allies Will Continue "Significant" Presence In Afghanistan.](#)
- + [Former Soldier Awarded Medal Of Honor For Actions In Afghanistan.](#)
- + [Afghan Taliban Appoints New Military Commander.](#)
- + [Journalist Describes His Experience Covering Afghan Landslides.](#)
- + [Sixty-Eight Pakistani Lawyers Charged With Blasphemy.](#)

IRAQ NEWS:

- + [Bombings In Shiite Areas Of Baghdad Kill 28.](#)
- + [Father Of Slain Soldier Urges Iraqi Judge To Prosecute Insurgent.](#)

DETAINEE ISSUES NEWS:

- + [Islamic Cleric Tells Jury He Admired Bin Laden.](#)
- + [Judge To Consider Moving Trial For Three Of Tsarnaev's Friends.](#)

TERRORISM NEWS:

- + [National September 11 Memorial And Museum To Be Dedicated This Week.](#)

OTHER NATIONAL NEWS:

- + [Obama To Push For Increased Infrastructure Spending Today.](#)
- + [Senate Votes 96-3 To Begin Debate On Tax Extenders Package.](#)
- + [Administration Moving Ahead With Plans To Spend Billions On Energy Efficiency.](#)
- + [Miller Urges Obama To Establish Commission To Probe VA Hospitals.](#)
- + [Democrats Criticize Obama Judicial Nominee's Legislative Record.](#)
- + [Reid Says Senate Will Vote Soon On Nominee Who Wrote Obama Drone Policy.](#)
- + [WPost Fact Checker: Obama Overstated Number Of GOP Filibusters Since 2007.](#)
- + [NBC's Todd On Benghazi: "All The Questions Have Been Answered."](#)
- + [Watt Announces GSEs Will Continue In Current Role.](#)
- + [Moniz Considering End To Crude Oil Export Ban.](#)
- + [Retail Sales Up Slightly In April; Household Debt Up In First Quarter.](#)
- + [Up Slightly, Dow, S&P Again Hit Records.](#)
- + [Sallie Mae Reaches Settlement With DOJ, FDIC.](#)
- + [Citing Effect On Minorities, Activists Challenge School Closings Nationwide.](#)
- + [Reuters Analysis: Net Neutrality Proposal Likely To Set Off Serious Battle.](#)
- + [Federal Employees Don't Lose Positions Despite Misconduct.](#)
- + [McConnell, Graham Push Abortion Restriction Legislation.](#)
- + [Senate Republicans Not Swayed By Romney's Argument For Minimum Wage Hike.](#)
- + [US Chamber Leading Surge In "Dark Money" Spending In Congressional Races.](#)
- + [AFP Analysis: Despite Equality Push, Poor Kentuckians Oppose President.](#)
- + [In "Win" For Tea Party, Sasse Victorious In Nebraska's GOP Senate Primary.](#)
- + [Cantor's Primary Opponent Gaining Attention.](#)
- + [Cotton-Commissioned Poll Shows Him Leading Pryor 42%-40%.](#)
- + [McConnell's Wife Expected To Play Key Role In Husband's Reelection Race.](#)
- + [Aiken Declared Winner In NC2 Democratic Primary.](#)
- + [Election Official Rules Conyers Failed To Qualify For MI13 Primary Ballot.](#)
- + [Colorado's Polis Drawing Fire For Anti-Fracking Efforts.](#)
- + [Baraka Elected Mayor Of Newark.](#)
- + [Rove Gets Bipartisan Pushback Over His Speculation On Hillary Clinton's Health.](#)
- + [Rubio Calls For Access To Federal Retirement Plan For More Americans.](#)
- + [Rubio Accepts Climate Change, Rejects Legislative Fixes.](#)
- + [Christie Spokesman Says He Was Blindsided By Lane Closure Revelations.](#)
- + [Appeals Panel Appears Split Over Virginia Same-Sex Marriage Ban.](#)
- + [Judge Strikes Down Idaho's Same-Sex Marriage Ban.](#)
- + [Fifth Circuit Stays Execution Of Texas Inmate.](#)
- + [Unfinished Receivers Become Focus Of Latest Gun Debate.](#)

- + Next GM Senate Hearing Expected After Company Completes Investigation.
- + Poll Finds Little Support For Emanuel Or His Property Tax Hike.
- + Protests Of Commencement Speakers Raising Free Speech Concerns.
- + Military Taking On Just One-Fifth Of Applicants.
- + California Faces Extreme Fire Danger Amid High Winds, Drought, Heat Wave.
- + Inmate Says Jackson Doing A "Fastidious Job" Scrubbing Toilets In Prison.
- + Bonamici Introduces Bill To Cut Agency Reports.
- + Sterling Comments On Johnson, AIDS Seen As Compounding His Problems.
- + Dick, Lynne Cheney Launch Tour To Promote Book On Madison.
- + Dowd: Boehner On Fundraising Tour To Protect GOP Majority.
- + WSJournal: Michigan Union Membership Likely To Decline With Right-To-Work Law.
- + WSJournal: Allow Merger Decisions To Be Based On Business Interests.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

- + US Begins Drone Flights As Nigeria Signals Openness To Negotiations With Boko Haram.
- + Kerry Remains Hopeful For Middle East Peace Deal.
- + US, Iranians Warn Of Challenges Ahead As Nuclear Talks Resume.
- + Hagel Arrives In Saudi Arabia For Talks On Iran, Syria.
- + Kerry, New Report Link Climate Change And National Security.
- + China Criticizes US, Kerry For Role In South China Sea Conflict.
- + US Sanctions Five Former CAR Officials.
- + Clapper Arrives In South Korea.
- + Attack On Two US Embassy Employees In Sana'a Raises Security Concerns.
- + ICC: Libya Must Hand Over Gadhafi's Son.
- + Cuba To Resume Some Passport Services In Washington.
- + Sudanese Court: Woman Must Return To Islam Or Face Death Penalty.
- + US Believes Thai Coup Is Unlikely.
- + Uruguayan Prisoner Gains Access To US Ambassador's Cellphone Messages.
- + Kerry To Visit Cyprus Amid Peace Push.
- + NYTimes Analysis: Tunisian Protests Illustrate Citizen's Remaining Frustrations.
- + Court Rules Google Must Comply With EU's Privacy Laws.
- + Turkish Coal Mine Explosion Leads To Confusion About How Many Killed.
- + Friedman: "New Global Force" Emerging For Liberty, Economic Justice.
- + Malaysian Prime Minister Defends Efforts To Find Missing Plane.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + New York Times.
- + Washington Post.
- + Wall Street Journal.

THE BIG PICTURE:

- + Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WASHINGTON'S SCHEDULE:

- + Today's Events In Washington.

Leading The News:

OBAMA: HOUSE MUST PASS IMMIGRATION REFORM WITHIN MONTHS. President Obama's remarks to an audience of law enforcement officials on Tuesday at the White House on the need to reform the country's immigration system received remarkably little national media coverage. None of the three network newscasts covered the story, nor was it a topic of discussion on any of the most-watched prime-time cable news programs Tuesday night. Notably, Fox News did not devote any attention to the President's arguments for passing comprehensive immigration reform, but both [Fox News' Special Report](#) (5/13, 2.15M) and [Fox News' The Kelly File](#) (5/14, 1.33M) reported on newly released statistics showing that in 2013, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement released 36,000 convicted criminals living in the

US illegally back into the general public, including murderers and rapists.

The [AP](#) (5/14) reports that the President “says there’s a two- to three-month window for an immigration overhaul to pass Congress this year before the midterm elections take over.” The AP also notes that on Tuesday, the President said Speaker Boehner is among those Republicans who support comprehensive immigration reform, but “a handful of House Republicans are blocking it.”

However, [USA Today](#) (5/14, Jackson, 5.82M) reports that on Tuesday, Boehner spokesman Michael Steel said “it is impossible to make progress” on immigration reform “until the American people...have faith that the president himself will actually enforce the law as written.” The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/14, Swan, 566K) points out that Boehner himself has said that “the biggest impediment we have in moving immigration reform is that the American people don’t trust the president to enforce or implement the law that we may or may not pass.”

On [MSNBC’s Now With Alex Wagner](#) (5/14, 437K), Alex Wagner said the President “did his best to put immigration reform on the front burner, huddling with over 40 law enforcement leaders at the White House in hopes of putting pressure on Congress to do something – anything – this summer.” Wagner added that “the fate of the nation’s 11 million undocumented residents sits largely in the hands of” Boehner, and on Tuesday, the President “gave him a shoutout” although, according to Wagner, “a rhetorical nod from the Democratic President may not be exactly what he’s looking for.”

Under the headline, “Obama: Small Window To Get Immigration Reform Done This Year,” [Reuters](#) (5/14) reports that the President said, “We’ve got this narrow window. The closer we get to the midterm elections, the harder it is to get things done around here. ... We’ve got maybe a window...of two, three months to get the ball rolling in the House of Representatives.” Reuters notes that the President went on to say, “To their credit, I think Speaker Boehner and some of the other leaders there do believe that immigration reform’s the right thing, but they’ve got to have a political space that allows them to get ahead and get it through their caucus and get it done.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (5/13, Foley, 11.54M) reports that “the 40-plus law enforcement officials” who met with the President on Tuesday “were broadly supportive of reform, and Obama asked them to keep pressure on House Republicans to enact a bill.” According to the Huffington Post, the President “said in remarks to the group that he was aware of the tension over police taking on immigration tasks.”

[Roll Call](#) (5/13, Dennis, 76K) reports that on Tuesday, the President estimated that “about 80 percent of the unauthorized immigrants had been in the United States for more than a decade and are ‘woven into the fabric of our society.’” [The Hill](#) (5/13, Sink, Berman, 237K) says the President “tailored his remarks to the audience, arguing that having to focus on immigration enforcement was stopping police from ‘chasing gang bangers and going after violent criminals.’”

According to [Politico](#) (5/13, Kim, 73K), President Obama’s “comments reflect a sense on and off Capitol Hill that lawmakers could still act on immigration reform this year, but that it’s dead unless that happens before the August recess.” Politico says the President “has previously emphasized the truncated timeframe – for instance, at a Cinco de Mayo reception earlier this month, he urged reformers to mobilize ‘over the next two months’ – but Tuesday’s comments appear to be the firmest yet on a deadline.” Politico also notes that on Monday, Boehner “said both Democrats and Republicans were ‘getting closer on the policy side in terms of how to deal with’ immigration and that he was still committed to reform.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Meckler, Sparshott, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that in regards to the House Republican leadership, the President said, “They’ve got to have a political space that allows them to go ahead and get it through their caucus.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/14, Keane, 4.91M) reported that on Tuesday, the President “urg[ed] police officials to join with evangelical Christians and businesses to pressure House Republicans” to pass immigration reform legislation. Bloomberg says the President made the case that “evangelical groups...are a ‘powerful voice’ that can be combined with business groups and companies such as Microsoft Corp. and Caterpillar

Inc. to prod House Republicans to pass a bill that the Senate already approved.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/14, Parsons, 3.46M) notes that on Tuesday, the President “signaled...that he is open to compromise on immigration reform, saying he is not ‘hell-bent’ on getting everything from the Senate immigration bill into the version that finally hits his desk.” However, the Times reports that the President did say that reform legislation “must hew to some ‘core principles,’ including some sort of ‘pathway to citizenship’ for immigrants in the country illegally.”

According to the [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Boyer, 455K), “prospects appear dim for the Republican-led House to take up the Senate bill in the time remaining this year before November’s elections.” In a piece for the [Daily Caller](#) (5/13, 408K), Neil Munro says the President’s “call to end the enforcement of immigration law came during a staged event at the White House,” which was intended to “stimulate his supporters’ declining interest in the largely defunct and unpopular 18-month campaign to sharply increase the inflow of immigrants and guest-workers.”

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (5/14, Burr, 470K) reports former Salt Lake County Sheriff Aaron Kennard, who serves as executive director of the National Sheriffs Association, said on Tuesday: “We in law enforcement believe very strongly that it’s time a comprehensive immigration-reform bill is put forward.” According to the Tribune, Kennard also said the National Sheriffs Association “wants secure borders.”

Reform Proponents Urge White House To Resist Using Executive Actions To Slow Deportations.

Under the headline, “Slowing Deportations Could Hurt Chances For House Immigration Action,” the [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/14, Bennett, Parsons, 3.46M) reports that as the President mulls using executive actions to further limit deportations, some supporters of comprehensive immigration reform “are quietly urging the White House to slow that effort down, warning that ordering changes without congressional approval could spook House Republicans.” According to the Times, Alfonso Aguilar, who served in the Bush Administration and is now executive director of the Latino Partnership for Conservative Principles, warns that “a White House move to scale back deportations would unite House Republicans in opposition and end the push for reform.” Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), among the most prominent House Republican supporters of the Senate’s comprehensive immigration reform, is quoted as saying, “The last thing we need is for the president to be doing things that can be interpreted as selectively enforcing the law.”

The [AP](#) (5/14) reports that on Tuesday some “immigrant youth activists” urged “Senate Democrats...to demand that” the President “halt to most deportations of people living in the US illegally.” The AP reports that Sen. Bob Menendez has “called on the administration...to ‘take action today’ to ease deportations,” and Adam Bozzi, a spokesman for Sen. Michael Bennet, said, “If the House continues to drag its feet, we encourage the administration to pursue its efforts to prevent these innocent families from being ripped apart.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/14, Parsons, 3.46M) says the Administration is currently “press[ing] forward with a full review of its deportation practices” although “senior advisors to the president say they aren’t planning to make major changes through the use of his administrative powers.”

However, the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/14, Swan, 566K) notes that the AP recently reported that DHS Secretary Johnson “has been considering allowing immigrants living in the US illegally to remain in the country as long as they do not have serious criminal records.” According to the Monitor, “evidence suggests the Obama administration has already been turning a blind eye to undocumented immigrants who do not have a criminal history.”

DHS Plans To Overhaul Program That Assists Local Police In Enforcing Immigration Laws. The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Nakamura, 4.22M) reports that some police chiefs who met with DHS Secretary Johnson at the White House on Tuesday say the Administration “is likely to overhaul” Secure Communities, “a program that allows the federal government to partner with local law enforcement agencies to identify undocumented immigrants for deportation.” According to the Post, “Immigrant advocates complain that the program has improperly targeted undocumented immigrants who are

arrested for relatively minor violations.” Austin, Texas police chief Art Acevedo, who says he is “not interested” in enforcing Federal immigration laws, said that after meeting with Johnson, “The sense I got is that we are going to see a reboot of Secure Communities, and once that comes out, you’ll see a singular focus in state and local counties on violent criminals.”

ICE Admits Releasing 36,000 Convicted Criminals Living In The US Illegally In 2013. [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (5/13, 2.15M) did not cover the President’s Tuesday remarks on immigration reform, but Bret Baier did note a “new report [that] says the Obama Administration released over 36,000 convicted criminals last year – including murderers and rapists – while they were awaiting the outcome of deportation proceedings.”

Likewise, [Fox News’ The Kelly File](#) (5/14, 1.33M) did not mention the President’s appearance on Tuesday, but devoted a full segment to ICE’s decision to release violent criminals who are in the US illegally, including 193 with “homicide convictions” and 426 with “sexual assault convictions.” Host Shannon Bream noted that “ICE isn’t denying” that they released the criminals back in to the general public. Former Justice Department official J. Christian Adams warned that “many” of the foreign nationals with criminal convictions will never be re-apprehended. Adams added, “Think about it – 50 murderers were released by discretionary decisions of the Obama Administration” in 2013.

The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Boyer, 455K) notes that the Administration’s own “statistics...showed that US Immigration and Customs Enforcement released people who had amassed more than 15,000 drunken-driving convictions, 1,317 domestic violence convictions and even four that the statistics listed as ‘treason, sabotage.’” The Times adds that “there were also convictions for homicide,” including “one classified as ‘homicide-willful kill-public official-gun.’”

Grassley: DHS Allowed Supporter Of Terrorism To Enter The US. The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Kredo, 455K) republishes a piece from the [Washington Free Beacon](#) in which it was reported that Sen. Charles Grassley revealed that the Department of Homeland Security “secretly assembled a terrorist ‘hands off’ list that permitted individuals with terrorist ties unfettered entrance into the United States.” According to the Beacon, “emails – sent between US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) – reveal a row over the admittance of one alleged Muslim Brotherhood official tied to Hamas, Hezbollah, and other terror groups.” The Beacon reported that “while the individual in question is not named in the heavily redacted emails...the person referenced is Jamal Badawi, a Canadian Islamist leader who has praised suicide bombing and is close to Hamas and Hezbollah.”

RCP AVERAGE HAS OBAMA JOB APPROVAL AT 44.6%. The [RealClearPolitics](#) average of recent polling on President Obama’s job approval has it at 44.6%, and his disapproval at 51.6%. Approval is up 0.3 percentage points since yesterday; disapproval is down by 0.1.

The latest [Gallup](#) daily tracking poll of 1,500 adults (5/10-5/12) shows Obama with a 46% approval rating and 49% disapproval. [Rasmussen](#)’s automated survey of 1,500 likely voters (5/9-5/12) finds Obama’s approval at 50%, with 49% disapproving of his performance.

Ukraine News:

BIDEN’S SON JOINS UKRAINIAN GAS PRODUCER. [Politico](#) (5/13, Mccalmont, 73K) reports Vice President Biden’s son, Hunter Biden, is “joining Ukraine’s largest private gas producer,” Burisma Holdings. Hunter Biden will “be in charge of the legal unit,” according to the company, providing “support for Burisma Holdings ‘among international organizations.’” Hunter Biden said the company’s “track record of innovations and industry leadership in the field of natural gas means that it can be a strong driver of a strong economy in Ukraine.”

The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Chasmar, 455K) reports White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said Hunter Biden’s new position “does not reflect an endorsement by the administration.”

[Reuters](#) (5/14, Rampton) reports Vice President Biden's spokeswoman, Kendra Barkoff, said he "does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement" with Burisma.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Sonne, Grimaldi, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports Hunter Biden is a close friend of Secretary Kerry's stepson. The Journal notes the hiring comes a few weeks after Devon Archer, a college roommate of Kerry's stepson, Christopher Heinz, joined the company's board in a role that involves helping the firm attract US investors. Heinz also has ties to one of Kerry's previous presidential campaigns.

AS GERMANY SEEKS TALKS, SIX UKRAINIAN SOLDIERS KILLED BY PRO-RUSSIAN

SEPARATISTS. [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/13, story 5, 0:20, Williams, 7.86M) reported briefly that six Ukrainian soldiers "were killed in an ambush when they came under attack by pro-Russian forces outside a village in the region of Donetsk."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Kunkle, Denyer, 4.22M) reports that attack came as German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier sought to "jump-start talks" between Kiev and the separatists "as part of a European bid to resolve the crisis." But Tuesday's renewed fighting "suggested that the protagonists in the conflict were still talking past each other."

The [AP](#) (5/14, Vasilyeva) reports Steinmeier's trip is part of an OSCE "road map for settling Ukraine's crisis," but Ukrainian officials "sounded skeptical Tuesday about the OSCE plan." Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk "thanked" the OSCE, but "said Ukraine has drawn up its own 'road map' for ending the crisis and noted the people of his country should settle the issue themselves."

And the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Troianovski, Marson, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that there were no signs that talks would begin between the two sides on Wednesday as planned.

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Smale, Cowell, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says Steinmeier's visit "came as the battle lines seemed to harden" between Kiev and the separatists.

SATELLITE IMAGES SHOW RUSSIAN TROOPS DID NOT PULL BACK FROM BORDER. [Reuters](#)

(5/14, Croft) reports the US released new satellite images on Tuesday which shows Russian troops are still near the Ukrainian border. Reuters notes the images contradict Russian President Vladimir Putin's statements last week that indicated Russian troops were pulling back. NATO spokesman Col. Martin Downie said Russia "continues to have 40,000 high readiness troops massed" on the border and "another 25,000 troops in Crimea." Downie added the troops were present "to intimidate Ukraine's government and they could be used for an invasion."

RUSSIA SAYS IT WILL END COOPERATION ON SPACE STATION BEYOND 2020. [NBC Nightly News](#)

(5/13, story 9, 0:35, Williams, 7.86M) reported briefly that Russia announced Tuesday that "it would keep US astronauts off the International Space Station after the year 2020. The problem is the Russians are the only way to get there. The Americans hitch a ride on the Soyuz spacecraft."

[Reuters](#) (5/13) reports Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitri Rogozin said his country will reject the US request to continue the station's operations beyond 2020. "We are very concerned about continuing to develop high-tech projects with such an unreliable partner as the United States, which politicizes everything," Rogozin said.

The [AP](#) (5/14) reports Rogozin added that Russia has "would like to redirect the resources now used for manned spaceflight to other space projects." According to Rogozin, the Russian section of the space station "can exist independently of the American one, but the American segment cannot exist on its own without the Russian one." Rogozin also said that Russia "will act pragmatically and will not place any impediments for work on the ISS."

Russia Threatens To Halt Sale Of Rocket Engines To US. Bret Baier reported on [FOX News' Special Report](#) (5/13, 2.15M) that Russia is also "threatening to withhold Russian engines used to launch

American military satellites into space.” Russia “continues to profit from the sale of those engines,” but Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitri Rogozin “says he will pull the plug unless the US stops using them for military purposes,” according to Fox.

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/14, Ratnam, Meyer, 2.76M) notes Russian-made RD-180 rocket engines are used by United Launch Alliance LLC, the “sole supplier of rocket launches” for the Pentagon. But the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Oustroukh, Cameron, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says the US government currently has a two-year supply of the engines, but the Pentagon has begun to search for domestic alternatives.

SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA COULD HURT US COMPANIES. The [Washington Times](#) (5/13, Taylor, 455K) reports while the White House “claims it can use economic sanctions to punish” Russia’s actions in Ukraine, analysts say the “strategy has quickly run into problems” and “too aggressive a move” by the US “could result in blowback on major American companies with close ties” to Russia. The Times says the Administration is “walking a tightrope between America’s corporate and national interests” by sanctioning Russians who head companies “with ties to US corporate giants.” A future decision to sanction “entire sectors” of Russia’s economy could force those companies to “swallow sudden and serious losses.”

CRUZ TO VISIT UKRAINE. The [AP](#) (5/14) reports Sen. Ted Cruz “will visit Ukraine this month” and meet protest leaders that “forced out the country’s pro-Russian president.” Cruz will also visit other Eastern European countries and Israel on the trip “that could be seen as an attempt to build his foreign policy credentials.” The trip is “sponsored by Secure America Now, a conservative foreign policy group,” and Cruz is the “only lawmaker on the trip,” according to the Senator’s office. Cruz said Ukraine “is facing an enormous threat from Russia...I have particular responsibility to assess firsthand the current and future military threats” facing allies.

Healthcare News:

MORE FEDERAL DOLLARS WENT TO CREATING STATE HEALTH EXCHANGES THAN HEALTHCARE.GOV. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/14, Trumbull, 566K) reported on the problems with some state-run health insurance exchanges, noting that they “have emerged as costly technological messes, unable to function smoothly.” By one account, more taxpayer money “went to setting up individual exchanges for 14 states and the District of Columbia than for the federal Healthcare.gov.” According to Jay Angoff, a health policy expert at the law firm Mehri & Skalet in Washington, Federal funds “used to set up the 15 stand-alone exchanges totals \$3.9 billion, compared with \$3.5 billion to build ‘federally facilitated marketplaces’ for the 36 states that didn’t set up their own exchanges.” The Monitor noted that after receiving hundreds of millions of Federal dollars, both Oregon and Massachusetts have decided to scrap their websites, and it is possible “that other states among the 14 that created their own websites under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including Maryland, will also ditch their trouble-ridden websites.”

Employees Of St. Louis ACA Contractor Paid To Do Nothing. The [Daily Caller](#) (5/13, Treacher, 408K) featured a story from KMOV in St. Louis on an ACA contractor responsible for processing paper applications for health insurance under the ACA. From the KMOV story, “The main thing is that the data entry side does not have hardly any work to do. They’re told to sit at their computers and hit the refresh button every ten minutes. No more than every ten minutes. They’re monitored. To hopefully look for an application. They’re [sic] goals are set to process two applications per month and some people are not even able to do that.”

INSURERS SAY PATIENT CHOICE CAN’T BE A PRIORITY UNDER ACA. The [Daily Caller](#) (5/13, Hurtubise, 408K) reported that health insurers now admit that under the ACA, “patient choice can no longer be a priority for Americans.” According to the Daily Caller, health insurers’ costs are rising, and if they “are going to keep prices at a manageable level, narrow networks are one of their only options.” Cancer centers “have been a primary casualty of narrow networks.” An analysis by the AP found that “just four of the 19 top comprehensive cancer centers are covered by all Obamacare exchange plans in their states.” The Daily Caller noted that these “limited choices were clearly not part of the promise President Barack Obama made when selling his health care law.”

“WOODWORK EFFECT” RESULTED IN MORE MEDICAID ENROLLMENTS IN NON-EXPANSION STATES. [McClatchy](#) (5/13, Pugh, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that an analysis by Avalere Health has found that 17 states which “chose not to expand eligibility for Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act ended up with more program beneficiaries – partly because of all the hoopla surrounding the health law.” Between October and March, more than 500,000 people in those states signed up for Medicaid coverage “even though they were already eligible for the program but were not previously enrolled.” McClatchy notes that the sign-ups took place as the Administration and supporters “were engaged in a massive public outreach and education campaign that resulted in 8 million Americans purchasing a marketplace health plan.” Those 17 states saw increased enrollments due to the “woodwork effect,” which refers to eligible residents who “came out of the woodwork” to sign up.

The [AP](#) (5/14) notes that these states “could be getting billions of dollars more from the federal government if they had expanded eligibility for their Medicaid programs.”

SENATE REPUBLICANS PUSH FOR VOTE ON MEDICAL DEVICE TAX REPEAL. [The Hill](#) (5/13, Becker, 237K) reported that Senate Republicans on Tuesday called for a vote to kill the ACA’s tax on medical devices “as part of a broader package to revive tax breaks that expired at the end of last year.” However, it is “unclear if Republicans have the leverage to win a vote on the medical device tax,” because the larger tax package “is popular with members of both parties.” The Hill noted that Republicans expressed confidence that they “have the support to roll back the medical device tax if it hit the floor, given that 79 senators backed a nonbinding repeal measure last year,” but they “stopped short of saying they would oppose the tax package without the medical device vote.”

[Roll Call](#) (5/13, Lesniewski, Sanchez, Subscription Publication, 76K) reported that Sen. Orrin Hatch, ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, “said he heard from some Democrats that [Senate Majority Leader] Reid was likely to block consideration of a device amendment.” Roll Call noted that Reid “has long supported the tax, even in the face of opposition from a number of members of his caucus.”

JINDAL NOTES HILLARY CLINTON’S 1993 OBJECTIONS TO INDIVIDUAL MANDATE. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, in a piece for [Politico Magazine](#) (5/13, 633K), notes that in 1993, then First Lady Hillary Clinton “testified publicly that if Congress were to pass legislation with an individual mandate to purchase insurance, ‘we worry that the numbers of people who currently are insured through their employment will decrease because there will no longer be any reason for many employers’ to offer coverage, when individuals can receive government subsidies instead.” According to Jindal, “It is a well-known fact that Clinton came to strenuously support an individual health insurance mandate in her 2008 primary campaign,” but “less well-remembered...is that Clinton considered an employer mandate – not an individual mandate – the best way to achieve ‘universal coverage’ in her health care task force’s ill-fated 1993 proposal.”

MORE THAN 90 ARRESTED FOR MEDICARE FRAUD. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/14, Richey, 566K) reports that the Justice Department on Tuesday charged more than 90 people as part of “a nationwide crackdown against what investigators said was massive fraud in federally administered health-care programs.” The defendants, which include 27 medical professionals, including 16 physicians, “were charged with submitting more than \$260 million in fraudulent claims to the Medicare system.” Acting Assistant Attorney General David O’Neil said in a statement, “The fraud was rampant, it was brazen, and it permeated every part of the Medicare system. ... The crimes charged represent the face of health care fraud today – doctors billing for services that were never rendered, supply companies providing motorized wheelchairs that were never needed, recruiters paying kickbacks to get Medicare billing numbers of patients.”

[McClatchy](#) (5/13, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that this was the Medicare Fraud Strike Force’s seventh enforcement action. Since its inception in 2007, the Strike Force has “prosecuted 1,900 people in nine locations on charges that they bilked the government for almost \$6 billion.” Attorney General **Holder** said of Tuesday’s action, “Department of Justice will not tolerate these activities. ... And we will continue working alongside the Department of Health and Human Services – as well as federal,

state and local partners – to use every appropriate tool and available resource to find, stop and punish those who seek to take advantage of their fellow citizens.”

The [Miami Herald](#) (5/14, Weaver, 822K) reports that in South Florida, there were “50 suspects busted over two days on charges of trying to steal almost \$66 million from” Medicare. The South Florida arrests “accounted for the majority of Medicare fraud suspects busted in a coordinated nationwide take-down.”

REPORT: US IS ONE OF THREE NATIONS THAT DOES NOT PROVIDE PAID MATERNITY LEAVE.

[McClatchy](#) (5/14, Zarocostas, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that a new UN study says the US is one of only three nations in the world, and the only in the West “that does not provide some kind of monetary payment to new mothers who’ve taken maternity leave from their jobs.” According to the report from the International Labor Organization, the other two nations are “Oman, an absolute monarchy in the Persian Gulf; and Papua New Guinea, a South Pacific nation where the US State Department says violence against women is so common that 60 percent of men in a UN study acknowledged having committed a rape.” The report notes that the other 182 nations surveyed “provide either a Social Security-like government payment to women who’ve recently given birth or adopted a child or require employers to continue at least a percentage of the worker’s pay.”

OFFICIALS MOVE TO PREVENT SPREAD OF MERS IN US. The confirmation of two cases of the potentially fatal MERS virus in the US was covered by all three network news broadcasts Tuesday evening, and was the lead on two of them. [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/13, lead story, 2:30, Williams, 7.86M) reported that while public health officials “have been down playing the threat,” the Federal government on Tuesday “stepped up its efforts to keep it out of this country.” A health advisory has been posted “at all US major airports alerting travelers to the Middle East and trying to prevent its spread.” NBC’s chief medical editor Dr. Nancy Snyderman added that the White House responded to concerns about the virus’s appearance in the US. White House Press Secretary Jay Carney: “The President has been briefed on this development. The CDC is taking the current situation very seriously and is working in close coordination with local health authorities.”

[ABC World New](#) (5/13, lead story, 2:25, Osunsami)s (5/13, lead story, 2:25, Osunsami) reported in its lead story that “health officials are trying to track down more than 500 passengers from at least 20 states,” who shared a May 1 flight with the Florida patient. Two healthcare workers who treated the patient “are already showing symptoms. One is hospitalized with what looks like pneumonia.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/13, story 6, 0:20, Pelley, 5.08M) reported 21 workers at two Orlando hospitals who came into contact with the patient “are being monitored for symptoms” of the disease, which is “fatal in 30 percent of cases.”

NSA News:

SENATORS QUESTION ADMINISTRATION STATEMENTS ON WARRANTLESS NSA

SURVEILLANCE. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Savage, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Sens. Mark Udall and Ron Wyden on Tuesday accused the Administration of “seeking to ‘ignore or justify’ statements it made to the Supreme Court about warrantless surveillance by the National Security Agency, contributing to what they called a ‘culture of misinformation’ by the executive branch.” In a letter to Solicitor General Donald B. Verrilli Jr., Udall and Wyden “maintained that the Justice Department was not being forthright about what they portrayed as factual misrepresentations to the Supreme Court in 2012.” Their letter “was a response to a letter that the Justice Department sent them in December defending its conduct in the surveillance case.” A spokesman said that the Justice Department “was reviewing the senators’ letter and declined to comment further.”

NSA CASE COULD MEAN “REDEMPTION” FOR KLAYMAN. The [Washington Post Magazine](#) (5/11, Montgomery) examined Judicial Watch founder Larry Klayman’s “landmark challenge of the National Security Agency’s program of collecting records of domestic telephone calls,” noting that after Klayman’s “relevance faded” in the early 2000s, Judge Richard J. Leon’s “scathing 68-page preliminary opinion” on his NSA case “blasted open a path to redemption for Larry Klayman.” Leon wrote that the “technology of

the NSA's phone records program is 'almost-Orwellian,'" and "its use such an apparent violation of the Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable search and seizure that...Klayman would ultimately prevail." While Leon "stayed his ruling so the government could appeal," if "things continue to break his way, Klayman finds himself on the threshold of scoring one of the most monumental rebukes of government overreach in American history."

Syria News:

OBAMA, JARBA DISCUSS ADDITIONAL US AID FOR OPPOSITION. The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, DeYoung, 4.22M) reports President Obama met Tuesday at the White House the Syrian opposition leader Ahmad al-Jarba, who "said they had laid the groundwork for more substantive US assistance." While the Administration "continued to resist opposition entreaties to supply surface-to-air missiles," Jarba adviser Oubai Shahbandar said, "We've made significant headway and laid the pillars for much more significant discussions."

[Reuters](#) (5/14) reports that in a statement, the White House said Obama "welcomed the coalition's leadership and constructive approach to dialogue, and encouraged the coalition to further its vision for an inclusive government that represents all of the people of Syria."

BRAHIMI RESIGNS AS UN ENVOY TO SYRIA. [McClatchy](#) (5/13, Allam, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon on Tuesday "announced the resignation of special envoy" to Syria Lakhdar Brahimi. Ban indicated the international community is "hopelessly divided" on a political solution to the crisis, saying, "I regret that the parties, and especially the government, have proven so reluctant to take advantage of that opportunity" to end the war.

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Sengupta, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports Ban said the failure of Security Council members to "coax allies on the ground into the conflict" was a significant reason for Brahimi's resignation. Ban said Brahimi's efforts "have not received support" from the Council, representing "a failure of all of us."

The [AP](#) (5/14) reports a successor for Brahimi has not been chosen yet, according to Ban, who said he will "take time to find 'the right person.'" According to the AP, diplomats have said candidates include: former Tunisian Foreign Minister Kamel Morjane, former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, former UN envoy Michael Williams from Britain, and former Spanish NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana.

[Reuters](#) (5/14, Nichols) reports Brahimi's last day in the position will be May 31. Brahimi said, "It's very sad that I leave this position and leave Syria behind in such a bad state."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Lauria, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports Brahimi said that he is "sure the crisis will end." Brahimi added, "Everybody who has responsibility and influence in the situation," should ask the question "how many more dead? How much more destruction...before Syria becomes again the Syria we have known."

[AFP](#) (5/14, Viollaz, Revise) reports Brahimi "coaxed" Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Syria's "fractious opposition to attend peace talks," but "negotiations broke down after only two rounds amid bitter recriminations." The war "slipped into a fourth year with an estimated 150,000 dead and millions of refugees," according to AFP.

FRANCE: SYRIA LAUNCHED AS MANY AS 14 CHEMICAL ATTACKS IN RECENT MONTHS. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Gordon, Cowell, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius on Tuesday accused Syria's government of "carrying out attacks using chemical agents, especially chlorine, as many as 14 times in recent months." Fabius, who met with Secretary Kerry earlier in the day, said he "regretted that" the US "decided against using force to enforce its 'red line'" following the Syrian regime's use of chemical weapons on Aug. 21. Fabius added that France was willing to use force as "part of an American-led coalition, but did not want to act alone."

[Reuters](#) (5/14, Wroughton) reports Fabius said samples from the attacks are being examined to confirm the use of chemical weapons. "What it shows is that (the) Bashar al-Assad regime...continues to be able to produce chemical weapons and to use them," Fabius said.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/14, Abdulrahim, 3.46M) reports Nadim Houry, of Human Rights Watch, said the chemical attacks are "one more reason for the U.N. Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court."

NYTimes: Referring Syria To ICC Will Reinforce Condemnation Of Atrocities. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that a decision to "refer Syria to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for possible prosecution of war crimes," will not end the civil war, but it "would underscore the world's revulsion at atrocities by both sides." The Times says "there is ample justification for an investigation," but "there is no reason to believe Russia...or China will back the referral."

REPORT: SYRIAN TROOPS TARGETING MEDICAL WORKERS. According to the [New York Times](#) (5/14, Gladstone, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), a report from advocacy group Physicians for Human Rights says Syrian forces "have systematically attacked doctors and other medical workers in rebel-held areas and are responsible for 90 percent" of assaults on the country's healthcare facilities. The group's executive director, Donna McKay, said, "Syria is among the worst examples of targeting medical care as a weapon of war."

MALINOWSKI'S COMMENTS ON RWANDA DRAW ATTENTION TO SYRIAN CRISIS. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Landler, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports Assistant Secretary of State Tom Malinowski's comments about Rwanda at his swearing in on Tuesday prompted comparisons to the Administration's handling of the Syrian crisis. Malinowski, who previously served as a speechwriter for Secretary of State Warren Christopher, said he thought at the time that the US actions related to Rwanda "probably won't satisfy" the next generation's questions about efforts made to stop the genocide. The Times notes, in his previous role as a human-rights activist, Malinowski urged the White House to do more in the Syrian crisis, and his former colleagues indicated Secretary Kerry "has encouraged him to speak out."

HOMS RESIDENTS RETURNING AFTER REBELS WITHDRAWAL. The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Morris, 4.22M) reports "displaced residents" of Homs are returning home following last week's agreement between rebels and the government which led to the anti-government fighters leaving the city. The Post notes the Syrian flag "is expected to be raised above" the city on Wednesday, as part of a "government ceremony" of the regime's "major step in its attempt to secure central Syria."

AID AGENCIES CANNOT ACCOMMODATE NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN LEBANON. The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Hlavaty, 455K) reports "Lebanon has more refugees" in need of aid "than international agencies can accommodate, and the situation worsens daily" as the Syrian civil war continues. Refugees now make up "one-third of Lebanon's" population, putting a strain on "finances and resources" of the country. UN spokeswoman Dana Sleiman said, "The latest numbers are that 70 percent of refugees in Lebanon are very vulnerable, which leaves 30 percent not receiving aid. For assistance, I am only talking about food, hygiene and baby kits."

IGNATIUS: SYRIAN CIVIL WAR BOOSTING DANGEROUS TERRORIST GROUP. In a [Washington Post](#) (5/14, 4.22M) column, David Ignatius argues the Syrian war has "spawned a terrorist group so extreme" that even Al Qaeda "rejected" it. Ignatius says the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) "is now establishing a safe haven" in the city of Raqqa, which "could soon be used to attack foreign targets."

AfPak News:

DOBBINS: US, ALLIES WILL CONTINUE "SIGNIFICANT" PRESENCE IN AFGHANISTAN. [AFP](#) (5/14) reports special representative James Dobbins said the coalition military presence in Afghanistan will be "significant" despite the drawdown. While speaking to journalists in Tokyo, Dobbins said he hopes a

decision is made “in the next month or two on the exact size of (the remaining) contingent.” Dobbins added the US and its allies “will be prepared for a continuing advisory mission, much smaller numbers” than today, but still capable of “improv[ing] the quality of the Afghan security forces.”

FORMER SOLDIER AWARDED MEDAL OF HONOR FOR ACTIONS IN AFGHANISTAN. [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/13, story 7, 2:10, Williams, 7.86M) reported that after years of bureaucratic delays, the President on Tuesday awarded the Medal of Honor to Army Specialist Kyle White, “whose combat actions in Afghanistan were the definition of courage and sacrifice.” NBC (Mikaslewski) added that on a “rugged mountain pass in eastern Afghanistan,” White’s platoon “came under heavy fire in an enemy ambush.” After being wounded himself, White “repeatedly exposed himself to intense enemy fire in an effort to save” other wounded members of his platoon. [ABC World News](#) (5/13, story 5, 0:30, Sawyer) and the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/13, story 10, 3:05, Pelley, 5.08M) ran similar reports on the awarding of the medal to White.

[USA Today](#) (5/14, Jackson, 5.82M) reports that although White was “wounded and knocked unconscious at one point,” he “treated comrades for injuries and radioed for help to evacuate survivors, some off whom attended Tuesday’s ceremony in the East Room.” USA Today notes that in awarding the medal, the President said, “Today, we pay tribute to a soldier who embodies the courage of his generation.”

[McClatchy](#) (5/13, Ordonez, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that the President said, “Kyle, members of Chosen Company, you did your duty, and now it’s time for America to do ours. ... After more than a decade of war, to welcome you home with the support and the benefits and opportunities that you’ve earned. You make us proud, and you motivate all of us to be the best we can be.”

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Jaffe, Wilson, 4.22M) reports that White said the medal “gives him a chance to tell the story of the five soldiers and one Marine who died in a largely unknown battle in one of the most isolated places on earth.” White said, “Finally our story can be told and recognized. ... It was just a number at the bottom of the ticker on a news channel. But these guys were the best of us. I’ll always say that because that’s what I believe. It is important their names are known.”

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Joachim, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) notes that White is the “14th recipient of the Medal of Honor for service in either Afghanistan or Iraq.”

AFGHAN TALIBAN APPOINTS NEW MILITARY COMMANDER. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Trofimov, Totakhil, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that Afghan officials say the Afghan Taliban has appointed Ibrahim Sadar, who was released from Pakistani custody earlier this year, as its new military commander.

JOURNALIST DESCRIBES HIS EXPERIENCE COVERING AFGHAN LANDSLIDES. In a post for the [New York Times](#)’ (5/14, 9.65M) “At War” blog, Ali Latifi described his experience covering the back-to-back landslides which struck the Afghan village of Abi Barik. Latifi noted that on the plateau above the village there was “an odd sense of inertia,” as people “circled from one location to another while stacks of tents and blankets sat unused.” Latifi noted the frustration “as people who had lost everything could only stare at supplies that were collecting dust under the blaring sun.” He added that while the plateau “was awash with sound...the site itself was silent,” as a “community of hundreds of homes, dozens of shops, thousands of animals and seven mosques was buried.” Latifi added that the “real tragedy” of the disaster is that “the story of the land and the people who had made a home here had been silenced.”

SIXTY-EIGHT PAKISTANI LAWYERS CHARGED WITH BLASPHEMY. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Masood, Walsh, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that in a case that highlights “growing intolerance in Pakistan,” police in Punjab Province said Tuesday that they have “filed blasphemy charges against a group of 68 lawyers at the instigation of a Sunni extremist leader.” The charges stem from a May 7 incident in which “dozens of lawyers, mostly from the country’s Shiite minority, staged a street protest against a senior police official, Umar Daraz,” who they say “had detained and beaten a lawyer after arguing with him.” During the protest, the lawyers referred to Daraz “by his first name,” which he shares with Umar Farooq, “a revered historical figure in Islam who was a companion of the Prophet

Muhammad in seventh-century Arabia.” The leader of Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat, Maulana Muhammad Ahmed Ludhianvi, “claimed the lawyers were shouting and insulting the name of the religious figure, not the police officer” and “one of his associates lodged a formal blasphemy complaint” against them.

Iraq News:

BOMBINGS IN SHIITE AREAS OF BAGHDAD KILL 28. The [AP](#) (5/14) reports that 28 people were killed Tuesday in a “wave of car bombings in mainly Shiite areas of Baghdad.” The attacks occurred “as Iraqi Shiites were celebrating the birthday of Imam Ali, the cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad and Shiite Islam’s most sacred martyr.” Although no group “claimed responsibility for the attacks,” they “bore the hallmarks of al-Qaida-inspired Sunni militants who consider Shiites to be ‘infidels.’”

In its report on the bombings, the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Yacoub, 4.22M) reports that “at least 34 people” were killed in the “show of force meant to intimidate the majority Shiites as they celebrated what is meant to be a joyous holiday for their sect.”

FATHER OF SLAIN SOLDIER URGES IRAQI JUDGE TO PROSECUTE INSURGENT. The [AP](#) (5/14) reports that Keith Maupin of Cincinnati, who is the father of a US soldier “whose remains were found near Baghdad in 2008 says he urged an Iraqi judge at a hearing to fully prosecute the insurgent accused of killing his son.” Maupin “participated by video teleconference from the Pentagon in the case of a man in Iraqi custody,” who US officials say “confessed to the killing of Sgt. Matt Maupin, who was kidnapped near Baghdad in 2004.”

Detainee Issues News:

ISLAMIC CLERIC TELLS JURY HE ADMIRERED BIN LADEN. [Bloomberg News](#) (5/14, Hurtado, 2.76M) reports that Abu Hamza al-Masri, the Muslim cleric on trial in New York City for supporting the al Qaeda network, told a Federal jury “of his admiration for Osama bin Laden and said the World Trade Center was blown up by the U.S. government.” Assistant US Attorney John Cronan on Tuesday questioned Abu Hamza “about statements he made in media interviews as well as recorded speeches and sermons, expounding his views while preaching in the 1990s at the Finsbury Park Mosque in London.” Cronan asked Abu Hamza “if he ever said in a television interview that he endorsed bin Laden and that he loved him for his achievements after 1993, adding: ‘Sheikh bin Laden is not a normal person, he’s an example for all mujahedeen, for his past experience, goals and achievements.’” and Abu Hamza agreed that he had made those statements.

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Weiser, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Abu Hamza, also known as Mostafa Kamel Mostafa, “turned combative and defensive” under “a prosecutor’s rigorous cross-examination,” and “even tried to pose his own questions to the prosecutor, accusing him of taking his statements out of context and telling him at one point to ‘try to concentrate.’” US District Judge Katherine Forrest told him at one point, “Mr. Mostafa, we do need to obey the rules of cross-examination, all right? Don’t make speeches.”

JUDGE TO CONSIDER MOVING TRIAL FOR THREE OF TSARNAEV’S FRIENDS. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Seelye, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports from Boston that US District Judge Douglas P. Woodlock on Tuesday “said he wanted to try to find juries in Boston for the trials of three friends of” Boston Marathon bombing defendant Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, but he indicated “that if impartial jurors could not be found here, he might seek a jury from Springfield, Mass., about 90 miles west.” The three friends are charged with trying to cover up for Tsarnaev “after the authorities released photographs of him and his brother, Tamerlan, to the public.” Judge Woodlock “ordered the three to face trial separately and set a trial date of June 30 for Azamat Tazhayakov, Sept. 8 for Dias Kadyrbayev and Sept. 29 for Robel Phillipos.”

Terrorism News:

NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM TO BE DEDICATED THIS WEEK. [USA](#)

[Today](#) (5/14, Rick, Hampson, 5.82M) reports that the National September 11 Memorial and Museum will be dedicated in New York on Thursday. The museum's "monumental artifacts" include "a staircase that channeled the imperiled to safety; a column that refused to yield when others around it fell; a wall that held back the flood; and the cross that materialized in the midst of chaos."

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Cotter, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that the President will attend the dedication of the museum. The Times describes the museum as "emotionally overwhelming, particularly...for New Yorkers who were in the city on that apocalyptic September day and the paranoia-fraught weeks that followed, but almost as certainly for the estimated two billion people around the globe who followed the horror unfolding on television, radio and the Internet." The museum will open to the public next Wednesday.

Other National News:

OBAMA TO PUSH FOR INCREASED INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING TODAY. The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Halsey, 4.22M) reports that on Monday, Sens. Barbara Boxer and David Vitter "released without comment" a "long-awaited bipartisan" transportation spending bill, which is "pegged at around the current level of \$52 billion a year, with an allowance for inflation." According to the Post, "the bill was reassuring to state and local transportation officials who feared their federal funds might be delayed or reduced by mid-summer." The Post notes that the bill "landed in the middle of what advocacy groups have dubbed 'infrastructure week,' a concerted effort to draw...attention to declining national systems said to need \$3.6 trillion in restoration by 2020." The Post notes that on Wednesday, President Obama will "visit New York's Tappan Zee Bridge" as part of his "latest foray to underscore the infrastructure issue."

SENATE VOTES 96-3 TO BEGIN DEBATE ON TAX EXTENDERS PACKAGE. The [AP](#) (5/14) reports that on Tuesday, "a bill to renew more than 50 expired tax breaks...cleared a key hurdle in the Senate," which is "giving hope to millions of taxpayers who would otherwise be hit with unwelcome tax increases next spring," but "other hurdles remain." According to the AP, "The package includes a business tax credit for research and development and a sales tax deduction for individuals who live in states without an income tax," along with "a generous tax credit for using...renewable energy sources to produce electricity, and several provisions that allow businesses to write off capital investments more quickly." The AP says "the tax breaks enjoy broad bipartisan support," but "some Republican senators want the opportunity to" add amendments, including "the repeal of a medical device tax that helps fund" the Affordable Care Act, and "it's not clear whether" Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid will "allow amendments."

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says that when the Senate "vot[ed] 96-3 to take up a package of business tax breaks without offering any way to pay for them," they were "shrugg[ing] off the deficit concerns that were once an animating force" in Congress. According to the Times, "the procedural vote presaged final passage as early as this week and followed the House's overwhelming approval last week of legislation that would...raise the deficit by \$156 billion over the next 10 years." The Times notes that "62 House Democrats joined virtually every Republican in ignoring President Obama's veto threat because of the deficit implications."

ADMINISTRATION MOVING AHEAD WITH PLANS TO SPEND BILLIONS ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY. [USA Today](#) (5/14, Koch, 5.82M) reports that following the Senate's "failure to approve a bipartisan energy efficiency bill," the Administration is "expanding its push to boost the efficiency of appliances, outdoor lights and the buildings of corporate giants." USA Today notes that last week, the President "announced the Department of Energy will work to develop stricter building codes" that "require 8.5% less energy." USA Today adds that "the federal government will spend an extra \$2 billion on upgrades to its buildings over the next three years."

GOP Senators, WSJournal Urge Reid To Allow Vote On Keystone XL Pipeline. [Bloomberg News](#) (5/13, Snyder, 2.76M), in an article on the energy-efficiency legislation sponsored by Sen. Rob Portman and Jeanne Shaheen that effectively died in the Senate on Monday, says "deep divisions on issues unrelated to the bill – such as the Keystone XL pipeline and regulations on the coal industry – doomed it," which Bloomberg says "underscores that even legislation with broad support faces an uphill fight as both

parties eye midterm elections that will determine control of Congress.”

[The Hill](#) (5/13, Barron-lopez, 237K) reported that on Tuesday, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said Majority Leader Harry Reid “can schedule a vote on the Keystone pipeline at any time,” and noted that Reid “has several members that would like to have that vote.” The Hill adds that Sen. Lisa Murkowski, “a co-sponsor of the energy efficiency bill that died Monday, echoed McConnell’s sentiments,” saying, “Sen. Reid’s decision to deny Republicans the ability to offer a handful of energy-related amendments was a sad milestone in the downward spiral of the Senate, but it doesn’t mean we can’t have a vote on the Keystone XL pipeline.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an editorial titled, “Harry Reid’s Senate Blockade,” blames Reid for the demise of the Shaheen-Portman bill, and contends that his refusal to allow votes on amendments is attributable to his alliance with the White House. According to the Journal, the White House is fearful that centrist Democrats will join with Republicans to approve the Keystone project and roll back EPA regulations on coal plants.

Meanwhile, in an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Anderson, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) titled, “Stopping Keystone Ensures More Railroad Tank-Car Spills,” Terry Anderson, president of the Property and Environment Research Center, makes the case that construction of the Keystone XL pipeline would decrease the oil industry’s reliance on trains to transport crude and therefore reduce the number of spills that occur when those trains derail.

MILLER URGES OBAMA TO ESTABLISH COMMISSION TO PROBE VA HOSPITALS. [USA Today](#) (5/14, Zoroya, 5.82M) reports that Rep. Jeff Miller, the chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, has sent a letter to President Obama urging him to “set up a special, bipartisan commission to investigate accumulating allegations of health care delays at VA hospitals.” According to USA Today, Miller “said an independent commission was necessary ‘to thoroughly investigate veteran access issues, patient harm and preventable deaths as a result of delays in care across the VA health care system.’”

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/13, story 2, 3:00, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported that the VA “is under fire over allegations that administrators in Phoenix kept a secret waiting list to hide delays in patient care,” and, according to Pelley, CBS “has discovered the same practice may be happening at another VA hospital,” this one in Chicago.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Hicks, 4.22M) reports that VA Secretary Shinseki will testify Thursday before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee and senators are “poised to question him about VA health clinics allegedly covering up treatment delays.” The Post says that senators are likely to “challenge Shinseki over the amount of time he took to order the preservation of electronic and paper evidence related to the purported treatment delays.”

The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Chasmar, 455K) reports that Sen. Bernie Sanders, who chairs the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, has decried what he describes as a “concerted effort to undermine the VA” driven by the “Koch Brothers and others, who want to radically change the nature of society, and either make major cuts in all of these institutions, or maybe do away with them entirely.”

DEMOCRATS CRITICIZE OBAMA JUDICIAL NOMINEE’S LEGISLATIVE RECORD. The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, O’Keefe, 4.22M) reports that on Tuesday, Senate Democrats opposed to the nomination of Michael Boggs, “a Georgia state judge tapped by [President] Obama to serve on a U.S. district court in Georgia,” “sharply questioned” Boggs “about his previous statements, votes and court decisions related to abortion rights, gay rights and civil rights.” According to the Post, the White House “has stood by Boggs despite strong opposition from a handful of Democratic senators, members of the Congressional Black Caucus, civil rights leaders, NARAL Pro-Choice America and gay rights groups.” The Post reports that “as a state senator from 2000 to 2004, Boggs, a conservative Democrat, supported keeping the Confederate emblem on the Georgia state flag; supported establishing a...license plate that helped fund antiabortion groups; opposed same-sex marriage; and supported a law that would require parents to accompany their daughters to abortion clinics if the daughter is younger than 18.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (5/13, Bendery, 11.54M) reported that Sen. Dianne Feinstein “flat-out told Boggs she wasn’t sure she could support him...given his past votes, despite his assurances that he would follow legal precedent if confirmed as a federal judge.” The Huffington Post also reports that Sen. Al Franken “said he felt misled by a private conversation he had with Boggs about his votes for keeping the Confederate insignia on the state flag,” while Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid “declined to back Boggs in a news conference with reporters,” saying, “I’m not going to make a decision on Boggs until the committee acts on it.”

According to [Roll Call](#) (5/13, Sanchez, Subscription Publication, 76K), Boggs’ nomination “was part of a larger deal between the White House and the two Georgia senators in order to get more important, higher-level circuit court judges confirmed in the state.”

[The Hill](#) (5/13, Lillis, 237K) reports that Sens. Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson “both spoke Tuesday in support of all seven of those nominees, and the Republicans on the Judiciary Committee appear poised to back the whole slate.” The Hill reports that also on Tuesday, White House press secretary Jay Carney said, “Based on Judge Boggs’s 10-year track record as a state trial and appellate court judge, the president believes he is qualified for the federal bench.”

The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Dinan, Boyer, 455K) reports that “black Democratic leaders in Congress have criticized...Boggs’ nomination and questioned why the Senate hearing was held while the House was on a weeklong recess.”

REID SAYS SENATE WILL VOTE SOON ON NOMINEE WHO WROTE OBAMA DRONE POLICY. [Roll Call](#) (5/13, Lesniewski, 76K) reports that on Tuesday, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid indicated that “senators could soon face a vote on Harvard Law Professor David J. Barron,” who is “the author of legal opinions backing the Obama administration’s drone policy...to be a federal appeals court judge.” Roll Call notes that Sen. Rand Paul “has contested the continued secrecy surrounding the legal justification for targeted killing of American citizens using drones.”

WPOST FACT CHECKER: OBAMA OVERSTATED NUMBER OF GOP FILIBUSTERS SINCE 2007. In his “In The Loop” column for the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Kamen, Itkowitz, 4.22M), A Kamen notes that Glenn Kessler, the Post’s “resident fact checker” gave President Obama “four Pinocchios” after he claimed last week that “since 2007, Republicans have filibustered ‘500 pieces of legislation that would help the middle class.’” Kamen adds that, according to Kessler, “the correct number – generously including nominations as well as ‘pieces of legislation’ – is about 133 ‘successful’ filibusters since 2007.”

NBC’S TODD ON BENGHAZI: “ALL THE QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED.” The [Huffington Post](#) (5/14, Fung, 11.54M) reported that on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) on Tuesday, NBC political director Chuck Todd said that in regards to the 2012 Benghazi terrorist attacks “all the questions have been answered.” Todd added, “There’s just some people that don’t like the answers, that wish the answers were somehow more conspiratorial, I guess.”

Portman: Senate Should Have Its Own Select Committee On Benghazi. Sen. Rob Portman, appearing on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (5/13, 2.15M), advocated the establishment of a Senate select committee to investigate the Benghazi terrorist attacks that would work with the House’s select committee. Portman said, “I would prefer it to be bicameral, in other words, have a House and Senate committee working together.” Portman added, “Frankly, it’s in the Administration’s interests to do it more quickly than have it be closer to a 2016 election.”

WTimes Profile: Gowdy Enjoys Bipartisan Respect In Congress. According to the [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Sherfinski, 455K), “Republicans and Democrats alike say” Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC) “is the right man to head the special congressional investigation into Benghazi, a job that could springboard him into positions such as attorney general or service in a Republican presidential administration.” The Times adds that colleagues “also say the forthright former prosecutor isn’t likely to cut corners on the investigation to score political points or raise his profile.”

WATT ANNOUNCES GSES WILL CONTINUE IN CURRENT ROLE. Media reports are casting the announcement by Federal Housing Finance Agency head Mel Watt that the GSEs will expand their role in the mortgage markets as a major change in policy by the Administration. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Lowrey, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Watt, head of the FHFA, which oversees Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, on Tuesday “announced policies that would maintain the mortgage giants’ role in parts of the housing market, spur more home lending and aid distressed homeowners.” The Times says that the announcement “is a significant shift in strategy for the mortgage financiers.” Speaking at the Brookings Institution, **Watt** said, “Our overriding objective is to ensure that there is broad liquidity in the housing finance market and to do so in a way that is safe and sound.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/14, Puzzanghera, 3.46M) reports that Watt’s move comes as “the housing market showing signs of slowing,” and he “doesn’t want the giant mortgage financing firms to start reducing the federal government’s outsized role in helping borrowers get home loans.” By keeping the pair of GSEs “on course,” Watt “essentially announced a major shift in direction for the bailed-out companies, one that ensures they will keep playing the main role in housing finance for the foreseeable future.”

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Elboghdady, 4.22M) reports that Watt “said that his job is to make sure the mortgage market is working smoothly until Congress decides what to do next” with Fannie and Freddie. The Post says that several bills “propose gradually dismantling the companies and shifting mortgage lending risks away from taxpayers to the private sector.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Timiraos, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says that the move could boost the stuttering housing recovery. The Journal also says that the move could result in the GSEs retaining prominence in the mortgage market despite support in Congress for winding them down.

[USA Today](#) (5/14, Korte, 5.82M) reports that Watt’s proposal will “not reduce the size of mortgages Fannie and Freddie will back” as expected. Watt said that the change “came after the agency heard ‘concerns about how such a reduction could adversely impact the health of the current housing finance market.’” In addition, the GSEs “will back loans even when a borrower misses two mortgage payments in the first three years.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (5/14, Gongloff, 11.54M) says that the Federal government “is about to make it easier for you to get a mortgage,” as Watt has told the two GSEs “to make more credit available to homebuyers, instead of retreating from the mortgage market as they have been doing since the financial crisis.” As part of that effort, Watt “ordered Fannie and Freddie to give banks more protection against the risk of being forced to buy back mortgages that go bad,” which could make banks “more willing to lend to riskier borrowers.”

WPost Criticizes Move, Senate Inaction On GSE Reform. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, 4.22M) says that reducing the Federal role in the housing market “is not a radical free-market notion,” but in fact has enjoyed support from within the Obama Administration in the past. However, Watt’s announcement is a “victory for defenders of the status quo.” The big winners, the Post says, “ironically, may be not the poor and the ‘underserved,’ but a group of giant hedge funds that snapped up millions of beaten-down Fannie and Freddie shares after the government bailout, and are now lobbying Congress — as well as suing in federal court — for a return to private ownership.” The Post says that the bailout of the GSEs will now “pave the way for a colossal windfall for bottom-feeding Wall Street types.”

Rising Home Prices Limiting Properties Available To Middle Class. [USA Today](#) (5/14, Davidson, Hoyer, 5.82M) reports that according to a new study from real estate research firm Trulia, “rising home prices and stagnant incomes are pushing homeownership beyond the reach of middle-class Americans in more cities.” The study found that in “20 of the 100 largest metro areas, a majority of homes on the market are not affordable for middle-income buyers,” up from only 10 metro areas in 2013.

MONIZ CONSIDERING END TO CRUDE OIL EXPORT BAN. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Nam, Kent,

Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that Energy Secretary Moniz said on Tuesday that his department is considering easing the ban on crude oil exports. At a media briefing on Tuesday, **Moniz** said, "The issue of crude oil exports is under consideration. ... A driver for this consideration is that the nature of the oil we're producing may not be well matched to our current refinery capacity."

RETAIL SALES UP SLIGHTLY IN APRIL; HOUSEHOLD DEBT UP IN FIRST QUARTER. [Reuters](#) (5/13, Reuters) reports that retail sales rose just 0.1 percent in April, according to data released Tuesday by the Department of Commerce. That's well below the 1.5 percent increase in March, and a disappointment, as economists expected an increase of 0.4 percent. Reuters says that the data is dampening hopes that growth would accelerate in the 2nd quarter after a very weak 1st quarter.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Shah, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), meanwhile, reports that household debt rose \$129 billion in the 1st quarter to \$11.65 trillion, according to data released on Tuesday by the New York Fed. The increase was driven by a \$116 billion increase in mortgage debt. The Journal says that the report suggests that consumer spending remains weak, as credit card debt fell \$24 billion to \$659 billion.

[ABC World News](#) (5/13, story 6, 2:40, Sawyer) reported that the average US family "owes \$109,000 if you include mortgage car loans student loans and credit cards." Saying, "Imagine being able to climb out of that credit hole for good," ABC (Janis) suggests ways for families to reduce their debt, such as ending the use of credit cards and avoiding late fees at all costs.

UP SLIGHTLY, DOW, S&P AGAIN HIT RECORDS. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Kilgore, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that both the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the S&P 500 hit new records on Tuesday, driven by better-than-expected corporate earnings. The Dow rose 19.97 points to 16715.44, while the S&P 500 was up 0.80 points to 1897.45. Meanwhile, the Nasdaq Composite Index fell 13.69 points to 4130.17.

In its lead story, the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/13, lead story, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that "they were dancing on the street today to a couple of new records," as the Dow hits its fourth record close of the year. CBS (Mason) says that "retail sales barely rose in April, a disappointing sign, but even bad news hasn't been able to derail this rally." CBS (Mason) adds, "Is it a bubble? Price to earnings ratios haven't been this tie since 2010, but with momentum this strong, some traders, say, this rally could go on for a while yet."

WSJournal Analysis: Tech Crash Not Imminent. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Ovide, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that concerns have grown in recent months that another meltdown in tech stocks may be in the offing, but an analysis of tech firms by the paper found that, unlike during the 2000 crash, the firms have significant cash reserves to carry them forward.

SALLIE MAE REACHES SETTLEMENT WITH DOJ, FDIC. The [AP](#) (5/14) reports that student loan provider Sallie Mae and its loan servicing unit, now known as Navient, "has reached a \$60 million settlement with the Justice Department to resolve allegations that it charged members of the military excessive interest rates on their student loans," the Federal government announced on Tuesday. In addition, the FDIC "also announced a \$30 million settlement arising from allegations that the company maximized consumer late fees."

[Politico](#) (5/13, Grasgreen, Shah, 73K) reports that the DOJ "estimates that about 60,000 servicemembers will split the \$60 million." The FDIC, Politico says, "announced a separate \$37 million settlement with Sallie Mae Bank and Navient Solutions, Inc., over deceptive lending practices and violations of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act."

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Bernard, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that the DOJ "said on Tuesday that beginning in 2005, the companies failed to cap interest on loans to military personnel at 6 percent — a ceiling they are entitled to as part of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act." In addition, the DOJ "asserted that the companies improperly obtained default judgments against service members."

[USA Today](#) (5/14, Johnson, 5.82M) reports that Attorney General Eric Holder said, "This alleged overcharging appears to have been the rule, rather than the exception. According to an audit, excessive rates were charged to 93% of active-duty servicemembers who had loans owned or serviced by Sallie Mae." The DOJ settlement "awaits approval by a federal judge in Delaware."

Tennessee Promises Free Community College Tuition To All High School Graduates. The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/13, story 8, 2:15, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that Tennessee's governor has signed a law "that promises free community college tuition to every high school graduate in the state." CBS (Arenas) added that the law "will use \$34 million dollars a year from lottery funds" to cover tuition for a two-year degree. While one-third of Tennesseans have a college degree, Gov. Bill Haslam "wants to raise that to 55 percent."

CITING EFFECT ON MINORITIES, ACTIVISTS CHALLENGE SCHOOL CLOSINGS NATIONWIDE. The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Layton, 4.22M) reports that community activists filed three Federal civil rights complaints on Tuesday, arguing that "school closures in cities across the country disproportionately affect African American students," challenging school closures in Newark, New Orleans and Chicago and calling on the Obama Administration "to halt similar efforts elsewhere." The complaints, sent to the Justice Department and the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights, allege that "students of color from Newark, Chicago and New Orleans have been disproportionately affected by school closures and charter-school expansions." Newark has closed 13 public schools since 2009, and in Chicago, 111 schools have closed since 2001, while in New Orleans, "all the traditional public schools except five have shut down since 2003." The District of Columbia has closed 39 traditional public schools since 2008, according to the Post.

Sixty Years Later, SCOTUS Desegregation Ruling Called A Success. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Thernstrom, Thernstrom, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), Stephan Thernstrom, a history professor at Harvard University, and Abigail Thernstrom, an adjunct scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, write that on the upcoming 60th anniversary of the Supreme Court's ruling in Brown v. Board of Education, American schools have been fully desegregated, the existence of schools with heavy minority populations notwithstanding.

REUTERS ANALYSIS: NET NEUTRALITY PROPOSAL LIKELY TO SET OFF SERIOUS BATTLE. [Reuters](#) (5/14, Selyukh) reports that FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler's decision to press ahead with new net neutrality rules is likely to set off a lengthy battle pitting Republicans and broadband providers, who oppose the rules, against a number of tech companies and consumer advocates on the others. The rules will formally be presented on Thursday, and Wheeler is still looking to win over the two Democrats on the five-member committees.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES DON'T LOSE POSITIONS DESPITE MISCONDUCT. The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, McElhatton, 455K) reports on cases of flagrant acts of misconduct on the job by Federal employees, who held onto their jobs despite their actions. The Times says that Federal employees "have come under scrutiny as reports of time and attendance fraud have mount." The Times focuses on problems at HUD, listing several examples.

Administration Bringing Back Cash Awards For SES Members. In its "Federal Diary" section, the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Davidson, 4.22M) reports that after a year's hiatus, an "awards program for senior level federal executives is stirring again." The Presidential Rank Awards was ended due to the sequestration cuts, but the Administration is now bringing them back. Members of the Senior Executive Service "and their counterparts in scientific fields are eligible for the awards," which can range from 20% to 35% of the individuals salary. The Post says that while the awards "have provided large monetary prizes, potentially more than \$63,000, the savings generated by the honored executives have been much greater."

MCCONNELL, GRAHAM PUSH ABORTION RESTRICTION LEGISLATION. [The Hill](#) (5/14, Bolton, 237K) reports Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and Sen. Lindsey Graham (R), "who are both

facing primaries in the next month, on Tuesday called for legislation banning abortion after 20 weeks." In a press conference, the pair called on Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to schedule a vote on the legislation. Graham said that worldwide, only seven nations, including the US, allow elective abortions "at the 20-week period and beyond. My goal is to make sure when this is over, there are six."

WPost Approves Of McAuliffe Move To Roll Back Abortion Clinic Regulations. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, 4.22M) approves of Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe's (D) move to "roll back absurd, baldly political rules imposed on the state's abortion clinics with the transparent purpose of forcing many of them to close." The "maneuver may mean a reprieve for as many as half" of the 18 remaining clinics, which are "the only convenient option for thousands of women who seek abortions each year."

SENATE REPUBLICANS NOT SWAYED BY ROMNEY'S ARGUMENT FOR MINIMUM WAGE HIKE. [Politico](#) (5/14, Everett, Kim, 73K) reports that "Senate Republicans of nearly all stripes are opposed to raising the hourly minimum wage to \$10.10 as Democrats demand," and "recent public calls for a smaller increase by a trio of 2012 contenders" – Mitt Romney, Tim Pawlenty and Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania – "have done nothing to make them budge." According to Politico, Romney, Santorum and Pawlenty argue that "by refusing to publicly advocate a minimum wage increase, congressional Republicans are ceding the national dialogue to Democrats on an issue that consistently draws majority support in polls."

US CHAMBER LEADING SURGE IN "DARK MONEY" SPENDING IN CONGRESSIONAL RACES. [USA Today](#) (5/14, Schouten, 5.82M) reports that political spending by groups not required to disclose their donors, so-called "dark money," "has ballooned to nearly five times the rate of the last election cycle — already topping \$23 million this week, new figures provided to USA TODAY show." The US Chamber of Commerce "accounts for nearly \$12.2 million," according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

AFP ANALYSIS: DESPITE EQUALITY PUSH, POOR KENTUCKIANS OPPOSE PRESIDENT. [AFP](#) (5/14, Couronne) reports that poor residents of Kentucky generally oppose President Obama, "who has made the fight against economic inequality one of his battle cries." A major reason, AFP says, is the President's opposition to the coal industry, a mainstay among the poorer parts of the state. Another motivation is their socially conservative views.

IN "WIN" FOR TEA PARTY, SASSE VICTORIOUS IN NEBRASKA'S GOP SENATE PRIMARY. Midland University President Ben Sasse (R), a former Bush Administration official, on Tuesday easily [won](#) Nebraska's GOP Senate primary, and now will be heavily favored over attorney David Domina (D), the Democratic nominee, in the general election to succeed retiring Sen. Mike Johanns (R). Sasse won nearly 50% of the vote in the primary, easily outpacing banker Sid Dinsdale (R), state Treasurer Shane Osborn (R), and attorney Bart McLeay.

Sasse's convincing victory is described in reports this morning as a win for the Tea Party. The [AP](#) (5/14), for example, reports, "The tea party scored a win" with Sasse's capturing of the GOP nomination. Sasse was backed by several "outside conservative groups, Sarah Palin and Sen. Ted Cruz," while Osborn, who finished in third, one point behind Dinsdale, was supported by "allies of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky."

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/13, McCormick, 4.91M) reports, "The Tea Party scored a victory in" Tuesday's contest, "a win that groups tied to the limited-government movement are banking will boost momentum heading into the heart of the 2014 nomination calendar." The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Martin, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Tuesday's outcome provides "a much-needed victory for" GOP "anti-establishment forces, whose candidate lost in last week's North Carolina Senate primary" and "are also expected to come up short next week in primaries in Georgia and Kentucky."

The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Dinan, 455K) says that Tuesday's result delivered "a win to insurgent conservative groups who said it served as a rebuke to GOP power brokers in Washington." Running on "a campaign message firmly opposing Obamacare and vowing to fight against the Washington establishment," Sasse far outpaced Osborn, "who had the backing of Washington establishment groups," and Dinsdale.

Under the headline "Tea Party Gets A Win With Ben Sasse In Nebraska GOP Primary," [The Hill](#) (5/14, Jaffe, 237K) reported on its website that Sasse's victory gave "national conservative groups a much-needed win as they work to overcome early disappointments this cycle." Sasse was backed by, among others, "the Senate Conservatives Fund and the Club for Growth," as well as FreedomWorks, which had initially endorsed Osborn, but later withdrew its support after it was revealed that an organization with links to McConnell was financing ads attacking Sasse.

[Politico](#) (5/13, Parti, 73K) reported that Sasse's win gives "conservative groups a victory in year that isn't otherwise looking too promising for tea party candidates." On its website, the [Washington Post](#) (5/13, Sullivan, 4.22M) reported that Sasse's win gives "the national tea party groups that backed him a much-needed victory." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Epstein, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) offers similar coverage of Sasse's win.

CANTOR'S PRIMARY OPPONENT GAINING ATTENTION. The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Portnoy, Costa, 4.22M) reports that "tea party activist" David Brat may be gaining traction in his primary challenge to VA7 Rep. Eric Cantor (R), the House Majority Leader. Brat "is gaining national attention as a potential threat to Cantor's hold on his solidly Republican, suburban Richmond district," including support "some big-name conservatives." While "most Republicans" believe that Cantor is "safe," the "prospect of a competitive and bruising challenge to the second-ranking Republican in Congress is embarrassing to Cantor — and is rattling GOP leaders at a time when the party is trying to unify its divided ranks."

COTTON-COMMISSIONED POLL SHOWS HIM LEADING PRYOR 42%-40%. On its website, [Roll Call](#) (5/13, Levinson, Subscription Publication, 76K) reported that an OnMessage Inc. (R) survey of 600 Arkansas likely voters, taken May 6-8, shows AR4 Rep. Tom Cotton (R) Leading Arkansas Sen. Mark Pryor (D) 42%-40%. The survey, which was commissioned by Cotton's campaign, "comes after an NBC/Marist poll released Monday" showed Pryor leading the Congressman 51%-40%

MCCONNELL'S WIFE EXPECTED TO PLAY KEY ROLE IN HUSBAND'S REELECTION RACE. With Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) expected to beat back a primary challenge from businessman Matt Bevin (R), and then face Kentucky Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes (D) in this fall's general election, the [New York Times](#) (5/14, Horowitz, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says that the senator is likely to rely heavily on campaign help from his wife, ex-Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, in his bid for another term. The Times says that Chao, who helped McConnell's "effort to neutralize" Bevin, "will be more crucial than ever as he turns to face a well-funded female candidate for the first time in his Senate career." McConnell aide Josh Holmes said that Chao "would be a key surrogate in ads and at speaking events." Holmes is quoted as saying that this would particularly be the case should Grimes seek "to paint a picture of Mitch McConnell as having some kind of a blind spot for women's issues."

AIKEN DECLARED WINNER IN NC2 DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY. [Politico](#) (5/13, Parti, 73K) reported that former "American Idol" contestant Clay Aiken (D) on Tuesday "was declared the winner" in the close NC2 House Democratic primary contest, one day after the sudden death of his leading opponent, ex-North Carolina Commerce Keith Crisco (D). Aiken led Crisco "by fewer than 400 votes," with outstanding ballots to be counted. In the final tally, Aiken wound up with "40.86 percent of the vote, while Crisco received 39.49 percent." Crisco, 71, "died Monday after suffering from injuries from a fall." In the general election, Aiken will face NC2 Rep. Renee Ellmers (R), who "is favored to keep the seat."

ELECTION OFFICIAL RULES CONYERS FAILED TO QUALIFY FOR MI13 PRIMARY BALLOT. Yesterday in Michigan, a Wayne County official ruled that veteran MI13 Rep. John Conyers failed to submit enough valid petitions to qualify for the Democratic primary ballot. Reports indicate that short of a successful appeal, Conyers' only hopes of returning to Congress next year appears to be a write-in candidacy. [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/13, story 10, 0:40, Williams, 7.86M) reported that Conyers "may have to leave Congress because of a screw-up." The Democrat "is being kept off the ballot in the primary because of invalid signatures on a petition."

The [Detroit News](#) (5/14, Nichols, Schultz, 643K) reports that Wayne County Clerk Cathy Garrett, a

Democrat, on Tuesday said that Conyers “does not have enough signatures to remain on the Aug. 5 ballot,” a ruling “that puts his half-century career in Congress at risk.” Garrett’s decision “confirms a staff investigation released Friday that found Conyers had 592 signatures — 408 less than the 1,000 required by state law.” Over “640 signatures” were ruled invalid, “after a challenge by primary opponent the Rev. Horace Sheffield of Detroit resulted in a clerk office staff’s finding that the petition circulators were not registered voters as required by state law.”

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (5/14, Walker, Gray, 1.02M) reports that Conyers, who is planning “to file an appeal with the state office,” could be facing “a write-in campaign.” The Free Press added that, among the reasons some of Conyers’ signatures were ruled invalid, included “petition signers not being registered to vote or not being residents of 13th District, a signature being improperly dated or having a bad address.”

The [AP](#) (5/14) quotes Garrett as saying of her ruling, “It is a very unfortunate circumstance that an issue with a circulator of a petition would disqualify the signature of valid registered voter. However, I am bound by the current laws and statutes of the state of Michigan that set forth very specific and narrow instructions regarding candidate petitions.”

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Bosman, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that state Sen. Bert Johnson (D), “who is running Mr. Conyers’s campaign,” told the Times on Tuesday “that the campaign was prepared to take legal action to ensure” the Congressman’s “name would end up on the ballot.” Meanwhile, the American Civil Liberties Union has “filed a lawsuit in federal court arguing that it is unconstitutional to require that signature collectors for campaigns be registered voters.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Dolan, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) also reports briefly on Conyers’ plight.

COLORADO’S POLIS DRAWING FIRE FOR ANTI-FRACKING EFFORTS. The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Richardson, 455K) reports that Democratic Rep. Jared Polis “has become something of a persona non grata among top Colorado Democrats for funding an anti-fracking initiative.” In addition, the Log Cabin Republicans, a gay rights group, is targeting Polis, “the first openly gay man to be elected to Congress,” over the issue in a new ad. Polis originally jumped into the fight by opposing three wells near his vacation property, and he is now “providing the financial muscle behind Coloradans for Local Control, which has proposed 15 initiatives for the Nov. 4 ballot, including an environmental bill of rights.”

BARAKA ELECTED MAYOR OF NEWARK. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Chen, Zernike, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Councilman Ras Baraka (D) on Tuesday “was elected mayor of Newark.” Baraka’s win over law professor Shavar Jeffries (D), says the Times signals “a likely shift in the direction that New Jersey’s largest city had embarked upon for most of the last decade.” Luis Quintana (D), who had been serving as the interim mayor, did not run for a full term. He replaced Cory Booker (D), who won last year’s special election to succeed the late Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D). In defeating Jeffries, who “enjoyed a sizable financial advantage thanks to outside groups, Mr. Baraka relied on his family’s name and fervent union support, while tapping into misgivings about” Booker, who wasn’t able to “erase lingering suspicions among some of Newark’s power brokers that he was an outsider.”

ROVE GETS BIPARTISAN PUSHBACK OVER HIS SPECULATION ON HILLARY CLINTON’S HEALTH. Karl Rove’s speculation last week on former Secretary of State Clinton’s health, in particular his reported suggestion that she may have “brain damage” as a result of a December 2012 fall — something Rove denies having said — generated a great deal of coverage on Tuesday, and nearly all of it was extremely critical of Rove’s judgment in broaching the topic.

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/13, story 8, 2:45, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams described Rove’s remarks as “some very nasty politics” and “a very personal attack.” Williams noted that Newt Gingrich called Rove’s public speculation about Clinton’s health “the type of thing that weakens the fabric of our democracy.” Chuck Todd went on to note that while the [New York Post](#) (5/12, Smith, 2.77M) initially reported that Rove “went there, using the highly charged phrase ‘brain-damage’ during a paid speech,” on Tuesday, Rove “disputed that account.” Rove was shown saying, “I didn’t say she had ‘brain-damage.’ She had a serious health episode. This will be an issue in the 2016 race whether she likes it or not.” Todd went on to report

that, “privately, many Republicans admit if [Clinton] runs, she will win,” so they “hope...going nasty early convinces her not to” actually mount a campaign.

The [AP](#) (5/14) reports that in December 2012, Clinton, then serving as secretary of state, “fell ill with a stomach bug...after returning from a trip to Europe.” According to the AP, Clinton “cancel[ed] a planned visit to North Africa and the Middle East,” and then “while at home, she fainted and fell and suffered a concussion.” The AP goes on to report that “during a follow up examination...doctors discovered a blood clot in a vein that runs between the skull and the brain,” but Clinton was “released after a brief hospitalization.”

[McClatchy](#) (5/13, Douglas, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that while the New York Post reported that Rove claimed Clinton spent “thirty days in the hospital,” Clinton “actually only spent three days in the hospital after the fall.”

[Politico](#) (5/13, Topaz, 73K) reported that in an appearance on Fox News Tuesday, Rove “said his main point was that [Clinton’s] health will invariably come up on the campaign trail if she chooses to run for the Democratic nomination in 2016.” Politico also reports that Rove “accused Clinton’s team of keeping quiet on the issue, saying ‘she’s hidden a lot of this.’”

[Reuters](#) (5/13, Holland) reports that when asked about Rove’s comments on Tuesday, White House press secretary Jay Carney said, “Here’s what I would say about cognitive capacity, which is that ‘Dr. Rove’ might’ve been the last person in America on election night to recognize and acknowledge that the president had won re-election, including the state of Ohio, so we’ll leave it at that.”

[Politico](#) (5/13, Mccalmont, 73K) reported that on Tuesday, Newt Gingrich said he is “deeply offended” by Rove’s “comments questioning whether Hillary Clinton suffered a brain injury.” According to Politico, Gingrich “called on Rove to apologize and stop discussing Clinton’s health.” The [Huffington Post](#) (5/13, Reilly, 11.54M) reported that on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) on Tuesday, former White House Communications Director Nicolle Wallace, “who worked with Rove in the George W. Bush administration, called Rove’s comments ‘off the wall.’” Wallace is quoted as saying, “This was a deliberate strategy on his part to raise her health as an issue and, I think in his view, a legitimate line of questioning ahead of the next campaign.”

Jonathan Allen, in an article for [Bloomberg News](#) (5/13, 2.76M), reports that “since Clinton resigned from the State Department in February 2013, her aides have declined to respond to most Republican attacks,” but “the difference between Rove’s comments and...others...is that health problems could disqualify a presidential candidate in the minds of voters.” According to Allen, “For that reason, Clinton had to respond quickly and forcefully.”

Karen Tumulty, in an analysis for the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, 4.22M), notes that if elected president in 2016, Clinton “would be 69, only a little younger than Ronald Reagan when he won his first term in 1980.” Tumulty also reports that “the injury that Clinton suffered has been the subject of speculation by both her friends and her enemies.” Tumulty points out that in October of 1992, “New York Times medical writer Lawrence K. Altman noted that...Bill Clinton had been ‘less forthcoming about his health than any Presidential nominee in the last 20 years.’”

Cathleen Decker, in a piece for the [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/14, 3.46M), says Rove’s remarks were “a joint assault on the minds of voters and the heart of the would-be White House contender, and it probably worked, at least minimally, by injecting into the conversation something no one had been talking about, and spreading a negative assertion without any proof.”

[Politico](#) (5/13, Levine, 73K) reported that neurologist Alexander Dromerick “said there was no outward sign the former secretary of State had any permanent injury from her 2012 health problems.”

RUBIO CALLS FOR ACCESS TO FEDERAL RETIREMENT PLAN FOR MORE AMERICANS.

[McClatchy](#) (5/13, Adams, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that in the latest in a series of policy

speeches, potential 2016 candidate Sen. Marco Rubio (R) “proposed allowing many Americans the option of enrolling in the retirement plan for government workers.” Rubio said on Tuesday that the Thrift Savings Plan “is one of the most efficient savings plans in America. It charges fees which are a fraction of those in most private defined-contribution plans, allowing beneficiaries to save more.” Rubio’s move is driven by “concern that large percentages of Americans have no savings and no access to a retirement plan.”

[Reuters](#) (5/14, DeBenedetti) reports Rubio said, “I believe the American dream my parents lived is still possible. But among too many of our people, there is now a nagging sense that achieving it has become more difficult than ever. Financial security has faded for millions Americans, and with it the hope of a stable and secure retirement.” Rubio made his announcement at the National Press Club, and adds that the speech is part of an effort to develop his policy priorities.

RUBIO ACCEPTS CLIMATE CHANGE, REJECTS LEGISLATIVE FIXES. The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Lowery, 4.22M) reports that on Tuesday, Sen. Marco Rubio “acknowledged” that climate change “exists but questioned whether current legislative proposals could stop it.” On Sunday, Rubio “attracted attention with controversial comments about the environment.” On Tuesday, he said that “although climate change is a reality, he doesn’t see a solution in existing legislative proposals.” Rubio said, “Headlines notwithstanding, of course the climate is changing. The climate is always changing and that is a measurable that you can see. There is climate change.” He added, “The issue is whether there is legislative proposals before us that can do anything about it. What I have said and what I disagree with is the notion that if we pass cap and trade, it will stop this from happening.”

In her column for the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, 4.22M), Ruth Marcus writes that by questioning whether humans are responsible for global climate change on Sunday, Rubio undermined “his other assertion, to ABC’s Jonathan Karl: that he is prepared to be president.” Marcus portrays the move as an effort to position himself for the GOP presidential primaries.

CHRISTIE SPOKESMAN SAYS HE WAS BLINDSIDED BY LANE CLOSURE REVELATIONS. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Zernike, Santora, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Michael Drewniak, the chief spokesman for New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R), on Tuesday testified “that he was misled about why lanes leading to the George Washington Bridge were closed last September and was ‘shocked and disoriented’ when he learned that the motive appeared to be political vengeance.” Drewniak, testifying before a state legislative committee investigating the matter, “said that neither the governor nor any of his closest advisers in his office were involved in the lane closings.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Haddon, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that Drewniak said, “The conduct, callousness and cavalier attitude expressed in them was like nothing I’ve witnessed in my entire working lifetime, and certainly not in this administration.”

[Reuters](#) (5/14, Cavaliere) reports that Drewniak told the panel that Port Authority official David Wildstein, a Christie appointee, told him that the lane closures were tied to a legitimate traffic study.

In an earlier preview, [Bloomberg News](#) (5/14, Dopp, 2.76M) reports that before the hearing, panel co-chair Loretta Weinberg (D) said, “We are not going in there with any preconceived notions other than learning the timing, what he did and when they learned about” the closings.

Christie Facing Difficult Decision On Ammo Restriction Bill. The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Chumley, 455K) reports that Christie “will face a difficult decision in the coming days over an ammunition restriction bill that’s nearly found its way to his desk.” The Times says that the pressure from gun-rights activists and gun-control proponents “could very well hang the fate of his White House aspirations.” The legislation, which reduces the allowed capacity for ammo magazines to 10 rounds from the current 15, has cleared the state Senate and is now heading to the state House, “where support is strong.”

APPEALS PANEL APPEARS SPLIT OVER VIRGINIA SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BAN. The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Barnes, 4.22M) reports from Richmond, VA that Virginia’s ban on same-sex marriage and civil unions “got an emotional hearing” before a three-judge panel of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals on

Tuesday, “even as one of the judges described the court’s deliberations as a likely ‘way station’ on a journey to the Supreme Court.” The Post notes that two judges “with distinctly different views” on the issue “dominated questioning at the hearing on whether Virginia has a right to ban same-sex unions or whether marriage is a fundamental right protected by the constitution that must be offered regardless of sexual orientation.” The judges are “reviewing a February decision of a Norfolk federal district judge that Virginia’s comprehensive ban – it also bars recognition of same-sex marriages performed in states where it is legal and any legal arrangement that resembles marriage – violates constitutional guarantees of equal protection and due process.”

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Eckholm, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that in “sharp exchanges,” the judges “appeared to be divided on the issues in what legal experts consider a crucial case that could propel the marriage question to the Supreme Court in the coming year. ‘Is this a constitutional issue of magnitude or a democratic issue that can be decided by the states?’ asked the presiding judge, Paul V. Niemeyer, in one of several comments that seemed to suggest support for Virginia’s restrictive law.” Judge Roger L. Gregory “gave strong indications of support for equal treatment of gay and lesbian couples,” and as attorneys “defended Virginia’s restrictions as a reasonable attempt to foster procreation and child welfare, Judge Gregory pressed them, asking ‘Do same-sex couples have children? Do you think that child wants less of the dignity of marriage than any other child?’” The Times adds that Judge Henry F. Floyd, “who spoke relatively little, might provide the decisive vote,” but his “few questions” suggest “support for overturning Virginia’s ban.”

The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Sherfinski, 455K) reports that Judge Niemeyer, “whose questioning was predominately aimed at attorneys supporting dismissal of the ban, at one point said that for argument’s sake he didn’t think it was useful to compare same-sex marriage to a traditional family unit ‘that has been recognized throughout history.’ ‘To mix the two is to play with the language, I think,’ he said. ‘I think we have a brand new relationship we have to look at.’” Judge Gregory, “who took the opposite tack from Judge Niemeyer and engaged state attorneys defending the ban, asked during the proceedings whether sexual orientation precludes a person from the same right to marry as prisoners or 90-year-old couples with little chance of producing offspring.”

[Reuters](#) (5/14, Robertson) reports that two same-sex couples, one male and one female, brought the initial challenge to the state’s ban.

JUDGE STRIKES DOWN IDAHO’S SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BAN. The [AP](#) (5/14) reports from Boise, ID that US Magistrate Judge Candy Dale ruled on Tuesday evening that Idaho’s ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. Judge Dale wrote in the ruling that Idaho’s laws “banning same-sex marriage unconstitutionally deny gay and lesbian citizens of their fundamental right to marry,” saying that marriage “works a fundamental change on the lives of all who experience it, and holds immense personal and spiritual significance.” She ruled that Idaho’s laws “wrongly stigmatize gay and lesbian couples and relegate their families to second-class status without sufficient reason.”

FIFTH CIRCUIT STAYS EXECUTION OF TEXAS INMATE. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Fernandez, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports from Huntsville, TX that the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans on Tuesday “granted a Texas inmate’s request for a stay of execution hours before he was scheduled to die.” The court granted the request from attorneys for Robert James Campbell, 41, “on the grounds that his execution be stopped because of intellectual disability.” Campbell’s attorneys “said that new information uncovered in state files showed that he had an intellectual disability and was ineligible for execution,” arguing that state officials “withheld the results of two I.Q. tests” given to Campbell, “a 68 when he was a child and a 71 shortly after he arrived on death row at the age of 19.” The Supreme Court has banned the execution “of those whom the law refers to as mentally retarded, and has said that an I.Q. score of ‘approximately 70’ indicates retardation.”

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Berman, 4.22M) reports that the court’s opinion said, “Because of the unique circumstances of this case, Campbell and his attorneys have not had a fair opportunity to develop Campbell’s claim of ineligibility for the death penalty. In light of the evidence we have been shown, we believe that Campbell must be given such an opportunity.” Campbell was sentenced to death in 1992 for

murdering Alexandra Rendon, a 20-year-old bank teller, in 1991.

UNFINISHED RECEIVERS BECOME FOCUS OF LATEST GUN DEBATE. The [Washington Post](#) (5/13, Horwitz, 4.22M) reports that John Zawahri was prevented from buying a firearm in California several years ago, so instead purchased an “unfinished receiver,” and used that to build an assault rifle himself, which he then took on a killing spree. The Post says that such receivers are “unregulated and have become readily available for purchase online and at some gun stores.” BATFE officials “view the spread of the receivers as an effort to get around strict gun-control laws, particularly in California,” but “also acknowledge that they have no idea how many of the components have been made and sold.”

NEXT GM SENATE HEARING EXPECTED AFTER COMPANY COMPLETES INVESTIGATION.

[Reuters](#) (5/14) reports that the next round of hearings on GM’s delayed ignition recalls will likely come after the company completes its internal probe, according to a Senate aide. The investigation is expected to be completed later this month. A House aide said that it has not yet set a date for its next hearing.

POLL FINDS LITTLE SUPPORT FOR EMANUEL OR HIS PROPERTY TAX HIKE. The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (5/14, Spielman, 1.1M) reports that Chicago aldermen say winning City Council approval for a \$350 million property tax increase has become “infinitely more difficult” for Mayor Rah Emanuel in the wake of a Sun-Times poll showing that only one percent of Chicagoans support the tax increase “as a solution to the city’s pension crisis,” and Emanuel’s has the support of “a mere 29 percent support of likely Chicago voters.” The Sun-Times notes that the poll gives aldermen “a tangible reason to fear political fall-out from a property tax increase,” and “fewer reasons to fear retribution” from the mayor.

PROTESTS OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS RAISING FREE SPEECH CONCERNS. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/14, Paulson, 566K) reports that decisions by both IMF director Christine Lagarde and Robert Birgeneau, former head of the University of California, Berkeley, “to withdraw as planned commencement speakers are only the latest in a rash of controversies this commencement season.” Other high-profile figures have also either been “disinvited from speaking or withdrew in the face of significant student protest.” It is a “trend that some believe is growing, and that many observers worry is shifting college campuses away from being a free marketplace of ideas.”

Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (5/14, Pérez-Peña, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that on Tuesday, Haverford College “joined a growing list of schools to lose commencement speakers to protests from the left,” when Birgeneau “withdrew from this weekend’s event.” The Times adds that “some students and faculty members” objected “to the invitation to Mr. Birgeneau to speak and receive an honorary degree because, under him, the University of California police used batons to break up an Occupy protest in 2011.”

MILITARY TAKING ON JUST ONE-FIFTH OF APPLICANTS. The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Ernst, 455K) reports that today, the US military “is only taking 20 percent of the applicants who walk into their local recruiter’s office intent on enlisting in the armed services.” The Army “hopes to hit 57,000 recruits for active duty this year. It’s on pace to do just that, even while applying a stricter set of standards as it pertains to physical fitness, appearance (i.e., tattoos), intelligence test results and an applicant’s criminal history.” The “tough environment for potential recruits” is mainly due to “troop reductions in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the Pentagon’s plans to cut the size of the active duty Army.”

CALIFORNIA FACES EXTREME FIRE DANGER AMID HIGH WINDS, DROUGHT, HEAT WAVE. [ABC World News](#) (5/13, story 2, 1:40, Sawyer) reported that Californians are “under a red flag warning about the drought, low humidity and the wind and a choking heat wave.” ABC (Vega) added that amid “extremely dry conditions, triple digit temperature and heavy winds, California is bracing for danger.” With winds “expected to reach 50 mph,” red flag warnings are “in effect for more than 15 million people.”

INMATE SAYS JACKSON DOING A “FASTIDIOUS JOB” SCRUBBING TOILETS IN PRISON. The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (5/14, 1.1M) reported that an inmate who served time with former Rep. Jesse Jackson, says in a letter that the former lawmaker “is doing a ‘fastidious job’ scrubbing toilets, showers, and sinks.” The inmate, former Pennsylvania attorney John Karoly, wrote, “He’s doing a fastidious job —

a toothbrush doing wonders on a clogged drain. ... I later learn the inmate considers this a part of his personal penance. ... But no matter how hard he scrubs, he later tells me that it doesn't wipe his slate clean. He has embarrassed himself, his family name, and all those who counted on him to be different. Like the rest of us, he yearns for the forgiveness that has eluded him."

BONAMICI INTRODUCES BILL TO CUT AGENCY REPORTS. The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Fahrenthold, 4.22M) reports that Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D) "has introduced a bill to fix a problem that Congress itself created — an expensive pileup of written reports from federal agencies, many of them unnecessary and unread." Her bill, which she wrote after reading about the problem in Sunday's Washington Post, would, every five years, "get rid of almost all the reports and start over."

STERLING COMMENTS ON JOHNSON, AIDS SEEN AS COMPOUNDING HIS PROBLEMS. All three network news broadcasts covered LA Clippers owner's comments during an interview with CNN, in which he lashed out at Magic Johnson. All three were in agreement that Sterling's comments only served to make his situation worse.

[ABC World News](#) (5/13, story 3, 1:50, Sawyer) reported that LA Clippers owner Donald Sterling "compounded his racist comments with a random assault on Magic Johnson." ABC (Smith) added that Johnson "was one of the first to call for the NBA to ban Sterling after his racist rant." On Monday, "Sterling was on CNN lashing out at the basketball legend." Sterling: "What kind of guy goes over to every city and has sex with every girl and catches HIV? Is that someone we want to respect and tell our kids about? I say he should be ashamed of himself. ... What has he done? Can you tell me? Big Magic Johnson. What has he done? He's got AIDS. Did he do any business? Did he help anybody in south LA?" ABC added that Johnson "seemed outraged at Sterling's claim he's done nothing to help people." Johnson: "My whole life is dedicated to urban America, so I just wish he knew the facts when he's talking."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/13, story 7, 1:50, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that Sterling "may have made things worse" with the interview. CBS (Tracy) added that while Johnson "said he'd rather focus on the play-offs than Donald Sterling's comments," he "did directly respond to Sterling's allegations that Magic Johnson has not helped black Americans." Johnson: "My whole life is devoted to urban youth so, you know, I just wish he knew the facts when he's talking but he's a man who's upset and he's reaching. ... He's trying to find something he can grab on to, to help him save his team, and it's not going to happen. And, again, I'm going to pray for the man because even if I see him today, I'm going to say hello to — hello to Donald, and his wife as well. I'm not a guy who holds grudges and all that. Yes, am I upset, of course. But at the same time, I'm a God-fearing man. I'm going to pray for him and hope things work out for him."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (5/13, story 3, 2:50, Williams, 7.86M) reported that as Sterling tries "desperately" to "hang on to his team," his comments about Johnson and AIDS have him "in more trouble." Meanwhile, his wife is "speaking out in a new interview...reacting to her husband's comments." NBC (Guthrie) added that in the "puzzling" interview, Sterling "dug the hole deeper," offering "extended criticism of NBA legend Magic Johnson." Sterling's estranged wife Shelly said of the interview, "He's not the man I know or I knew. There's something wrong. ... I really think personally he has dementia because I can't believe anybody would answer questions like that."

DICK, LYNNE CHENEY LAUNCH TOUR TO PROMOTE BOOK ON MADISON. The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Roberts, 4.22M) reports that former Vice President Dick Cheney and his wife Lynne kicked off a tour to promote Mrs. Cheney's new book on James Madison with an event at the American Enterprise Institute. The Cheneys are "scheduled to appear together at several book signings, including at the Nixon and Reagan presidential libraries, next week."

DOWD: BOEHNER ON FUNDRAISING TOUR TO PROTECT GOP MAJORITY. In her column for the [New York Times](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), Maureen Dowd writes that House Speaker Boehner is on a fundraising tour "to ensure that Republicans keep the House in November and he keeps his job." Describing Boehner as the "G.O.P.'s Dean Martin," Dowd notes some of the jokes offered by the Speaker during a golf outing with donors.

WSJOURNAL: MICHIGAN UNION MEMBERSHIP LIKELY TO DECLINE WITH RIGHT-TO-WORK LAW. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) notes that membership in Michigan's SEIU Healthcare affiliate declined after state lawmakers passed a law excluding home-care workers from the state's definition of public employees and opines that union membership in the state will similarly decline since Michigan's passage of a right-to-work law in 2012.

WSJOURNAL: ALLOW MERGER DECISIONS TO BE BASED ON BUSINESS INTERESTS. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) editorializes that decisions regarding mergers should be left to shareholders and directors, who know the business, rather than governments and politicians.

International News:

US BEGINS DRONE FLIGHTS AS NIGERIA SIGNALS OPENNESS TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH BOKO HARAM. [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/13, story 4, 2:15, Williams, 7.86M) reported that a "US military Global Hawk drone flew its first surveillance mission over Nigeria today in the search for hundreds of kidnapped school girls." Also Tuesday, the Nigerian government said that it "might negotiate with the terrorists."

Hamish MacDonald reported on [ABC World News](#) (5/13, story 4, 1:35, Sawyer) that US forces "are peering down tonight from surveillance craft," examining "a remote and rugged area the size of New England, in search of the missing girls. The plane is equipped with powerful cameras that give real time images of the ground as far away as 35,000 feet." The plane "can also monitor phone calls below. Tonight, ABC News has learned a long-range US drone has also joined the search."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/13, story 2:20, Pelley, 5.08M), Debora Patta also reported on the US drone flight and noted that the Nigerian government "appears to be changing its minds on negotiating with Boko Haram. Yesterday, they said they wouldn't talk. Today, the minister of special duties said they might. Exchanging the girls for Boko Haram prisoners seems to be a possible bargaining chip."

The [AP](#) (5/14, Adigun, Umar) too says a "Nigerian government official" said "all options" are on the table, including negotiations or "a possible military operation with foreign help." Meanwhile, Africom Commander Gen. David Rodriguez was in Abuja on Tuesday for talks with officials at the US Embassy.

Minister of Special Duties Tanimu Turaki told [Reuters](#) (5/14, Onuah) by telephone, "The window of negotiation is still open."

But the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Gearan, 4.22M) reports the White House yesterday voiced its "opposition to any offer of ransom or other concessions." Press Secretary Jay Carney said, "We, as a matter of policy, deny kidnappers the benefits of their criminal acts, and that includes ransoms or other concessions." He acknowledged, however, that the Nigerian government is leading the search effort.

In a report titled "Doubts Emerge On Pace Of Nigerian Search," the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Vogt, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that officials in the Nigerian state of Borno where the girls were taken said Tuesday that no troops have arrived yet to search the Sambisa Forest, where Boko Haram is widely believed to be hiding them.

Sen. John McCain, [McClatchy](#) (5/14, Douglas, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports, said Tuesday that the US should send troops to rescue the girls, "even if it means doing so without permission from the Nigerian government." Said the senator, "I wouldn't be waiting for some kind of permission from some guy named Goodluck Jonathan."

On its front page this morning, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, A1, Hinshaw, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) profiles Boko Haram's leader, Abubakar Shekau, who it says had become Africa's most notorious terrorist.

First Lady's "Headline-Grabbing" Condemnation Of Nigerian Kidnappings Noted. [Politico](#) (5/13,

Epstein, 73K) reports that the Administration's "most headline-grabbing public condemnation" of the kidnapping of Nigerian school girls came from First Lady Michelle Obama. Politico notes the involvement by the First Lady is "unusual," because she "selects her causes carefully" and has "never waded into a truly heated, foreign policy issue before," and sourced indicated the "decision to act was her own." Politico says "if the saga ends in tragedy," the First Lady's involvement could "have attracted more attention to another instance" when President Obama "failed to stop" human rights violations.

Jon Stewart Blasts Limbaugh's Reaction To Social Media Campaign. [Politico](#) (5/13, Topaz, 73K) reports Comedy Central's Jon Stewart "criticized" Rush Limbaugh for "his dismissal of the social media campaign that has expressed outrage" at the kidnappings. During the past week, Limbaugh "has railed against the Twitter campaign," and "singled out" the First Lady's photo holding a sign that read #BringBackOurGirls as "pathetic." Stewart said "hashtag activism...cannot force a crazy person to do something, but it can shame a less crazy person into not doing nothing."

Milbank: Conservatives Seek To Blame Hillary Clinton. In a [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Milbank, 4.22M) column, Dana Milbank argues that "conservatives have reached the firm conclusion that Hillary Clinton is to blame" for the kidnappings, but "all they have to do now is fill in the details." Milbank says the push to blame Clinton is "worth examining, because it shows how a scandal is born."

WPost, USA Today Weigh In On Nigerian Girls. The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, 4.22M) editorializes that the "social media campaign in support" of the kidnapped children "is producing results." The Post notes Nigeria "has been shamed into accepting" international help in the search and Boko Haram has "shifted from a vow to sell off the girls" to a "proposal to trade them for prisoners." The Post says the US should use this incident to "alter Nigeria's self-defeating response" to Boko Haram.

[USA Today](#) (5/14, Board, 5.82M) editorializes that "educating girls is one of the least expensive and most effective ways to change" a country, but "in parts of the world this is seen not as progress but as a problem." USA Today says "educated girls become more independent and less subservient," making them a threat to "violent, ultraconservative religious groups." According to USA Today, the "war on terrorism will ultimately have to be won one schoolgirl's mind at a time."

KERRY REMAINS HOPEFUL FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE DEAL. In an interview Tuesday with the [Boston Globe](#) (5/14, Viser, 1.62M), Secretary of State Kerry "said...he holds out hope that peace talks can be revived between the Israelis and Palestinians." Said Kerry, "There's always hope. There's always hope. In the Middle East, the efforts to make peace don't end. They take a different shape or they take a different form." During talks Thursday in London with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Kerry "said he was not planning to make any specific offer, and he would not detail what he will ask of the Palestinian leader." Asked whether talks could continue if Abbas forms a unity government with Hamas, Kerry said Hamas would have to take steps, such as renouncing violence and recognizing Israel's right to exist.

Palestinians Begin Talks On Forming Unity Government. [Reuters](#) (5/14, Al-Mughrabi), meanwhile, reports that officials from Fatah and Hamas met in Gaza on Tuesday to discuss the formation of a unity government.

Survey: 26% Of Adults Worldwide Hold Anti-Semitic Views. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Gladstone, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that a survey by the Anti-Defamation League found that 26 percent "of all adults worldwide harbor anti-Semitic attitudes and nearly half have never heard of the Holocaust." the League described the survey as an "unprecedented and sobering" global assessment of "the level and intensity of hostility toward Jews." According to the survey, the "highest concentration of anti-Semitic attitudes was found in the Middle East and North Africa...led by the West Bank and Gaza, where 93 percent of respondents held such views, followed by Iraq at 92 percent, Yemen at 88 percent and Algeria at 87 percent."

Former Israeli Prime Minister Olmert Sentenced To Prison. [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/13, story 6, 0:35, Williams, 7.86M) reported that former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert "was sentenced to six years today for accepting bribes in a real estate scam before he became prime minister. At sentencing today in

Israel the judge said quote, 'A public servant who accepts bribes is akin to a traitor.'

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Eglash, 4.22M) reports the charges were the result of actions when Olmert was mayor of Jerusalem. The Post notes this is the "first time such a high-level Israeli official has been found guilty of a breach-of-trust crime." Israeli President Shimon Peres said, "This is a sad day for me personally. But this is the legal process which is custom in democratic states."

US, IRANIANS WARN OF CHALLENGES AHEAD AS NUCLEAR TALKS RESUME. [AFP](#) (5/14, Sturdee) reports US and Iranian officials in Vienna for a fourth round of nuclear talks "cautioned Tuesday that there was still hard work to be done before a final deal can be reached." Arriving in Vienna for talks, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said "a lot of effort" was still needed. A "senior US official" too said that the talks would be "very, very difficult." The official added, "There are a range of complicated issues to address and we do not know if Iran will be able to make the tough decisions they must to assure the world that they will not obtain a nuclear weapon and that their program is for entirely peaceful purposes."

[Reuters](#) (5/14, Charbonneau, Dahl) notes that officials will begin drafting a final agreement this week.

HAGEL ARRIVES IN SAUDI ARABIA FOR TALKS ON IRAN, SYRIA. [AFP](#) (5/14) reports Defense Secretary Hagel arrived Tuesday in Saudi Arabia, the first stop on a "regional tour focusing on Iran's nuclear program and Syria's civil war." In addition to talks with Saudi officials, Hagel will also attend a Gulf Cooperation Council defense ministers meeting before traveling to Jordan and Israel.

Also noting Hagel's arrival in Saudi Arabia, the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Sly, Londoño, 4.22M) reports the kingdom said yesterday that it has invited Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to visit Riyadh, "breaking the ice in one of the most hostile relationships in the Middle East." Speaking to reporters, Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal "said the kingdom was ready to host...Zarif 'anytime he sees fit' and indicated that Riyadh is willing to open negotiations" with Tehran "to make the region as safe as possible." Speaking to reporters in Washington, Secretary of State **Kerry** said the US "played no role in the Saudi invitation," but that "we encourage it, we welcome it."

KERRY, NEW REPORT LINK CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATIONAL SECURITY. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that a study released Tuesday by the Center for Naval Analyses Military Advisory Board warned that the "accelerating rate of climate change poses a severe risk to national security and acts as a catalyst for global political conflict." In an interview, Secretary of State Kerry, who is expected to deliver a "major" speech this summer of the topic, "signaled that the report's findings would influence American foreign policy." Said **Kerry**, "Tribes are killing each other over water today. Think of what happens if you have massive dislocation, or the drying up of the waters of the Nile, of the major rivers in China and India. The intelligence community takes it seriously, and it's translated into action." He also said the Administration is "going to try to lay out to people legitimate options for action that are not bank-breaking or negative."

CHINA CRITICIZES US, KERRY FOR ROLE IN SOUTH CHINA SEA CONFLICT. [Reuters](#) (5/14) reports China responded on Tuesday to Secretary of State Kerry's characterization of its moves in the South China Sea as "provocative," by blaming the US for the rising tensions in the disputed territory. The Chinese Foreign Ministry said other parties, rather than China, are taking provocative actions and the US is encouraging the actions. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said, "We hope the US side can carefully reflect...what kind of role do they actually want to play?" Hua said China urges Kerry to "objectively and fairly" examine the issue and "act and speak cautiously."

In a separate story, [Reuters](#) (5/14, Mogato) reports the Philippines on Wednesday accused China of claiming land on a reef in the disputed Spratly Islands, with the intent of building an airstrip. Reuters notes it would be the first airstrip built by China on any of the land it occupies on the islands. Philippine Foreign Ministry spokesman Charles Jose said China began initial preparations for the project.

Kerry, Lew Expected To Participate In China Talks. [AFP](#) (5/14) reports China and the US "will hold

annual strategic talks” in July, according to US officials. The sixth US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue will occur in Beijing. Secretary of State Kerry and Treasury Secretary Lew are “expected to attend.” In a statement, the Treasury Department said the talks will focus on a “wide range” of areas of “immediate and long-term economic and strategic interest.”

Lew Pushes China To Let Market Determine Exchange Rate. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Perlez, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports Treasury Secretary Lew “pushed China on Tuesday to let market forces decide its exchange rate,” and also asked China not to help Russia circumvent sanctions over their actions in Ukraine. In comments to Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang, **Lew** said a market-controlled rate “will help provide for more balanced domestic growth, and global trade.” **Lew** said he discussed with China “the impact our sanctions are having and the importance that they are not offset by others’ coming in.”

Report Shows Negative Quarter For Chinese Manufacturing, Property. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Maginer, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports newly released data indicates a negative first quarter of the year for Chinese manufacturing and property. The Journal notes home sales decreased, leading to an impact on manufacturing and retail.

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Bradsher, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports “prices are falling” for Chinese apartments, the “volume of deals is drying up,” and “developers are pulling back.” The Times notes “housing starts plummeted 25 percent in April from a year ago.” The impact of the decreasing real estate market has “broad consequences for the country’s economy and possibly its politics,” according to the Times.

US SANCTIONS FIVE FORMER CAR OFFICIALS. [Reuters](#) (5/14, Rampton) reports the US on Tuesday imposed sanctions on former Central African Republic President François Bozizé and four other former officials tied to violence and human rights abuses in the country. Also among those sanctioned was former interim president Michel Djotodia. [AFP](#) (5/14) reports in addition to Bozize and Djotodia, the US targeted “the leader of the anti-Balaka militia, Levy Yakete; the Seleka militia’s number two Nourredine Adam; and Abdoulaye Miskine, also of the Seleka.”

The [AP](#) (5/14) says the move signals a “stepp[ed] up” US response to the crisis in CAR. In an executive order, President Obama declared a national emergency and “said a breakdown of law and order, widespread atrocities and forced use of child soldiers threatens security in the Central African Republic as well as in neighboring nations.”

CLAPPER ARRIVES IN SOUTH KOREA. [Yonhap](#) (5/14, 441) reports Director of National Intelligence James Clapper arrived in South Korea on Tuesday for discussions about “security issues, including North Korea’s nuclear programs.” A South Korea military source said the visit “is mainly to discuss the situation on the Korean Peninsula,” and the sides “are expected to exchange intelligence.”

North Korea Threatens To “Wipe Out” South Korea. The [AP](#) (5/14, Kim) reports North Korea threatened on Tuesday to “wipe out” South Korea in a “furious response” to South Korean Defense Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok saying the North is not a “real country and existed for the benefit of only one person.” North Korea’s National Defense Commission said the comments by the South were an “‘intolerable’ provocation that showed the South wants to take over the North.”

ATTACK ON TWO US EMBASSY EMPLOYEES IN SANA’A RAISES SECURITY CONCERNS. On [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (5/13, 554K), Mohammed Jamjoom reported on a recent “brazen attack in which al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula tried to kidnap two US Embassy employees,” noting that the two Americans were at a local barbershop in Sana’a “when gunmen attacked them. Had one of the Americans not been carrying a gun, they may not have survived.” The incident “is still raising questions. Why would US Embassy employees – more a target for terrorists than ever before in Yemen – break security protocol and venture out of their heavily secured compound for a haircut? Why would a simple State Department employee have a permit to carry a gun?” Jamjoom added that sources in Yemen are “are concerned that if it is revealed that these may have been CIA agents or special operations officers in

Yemen, that that could cause a lot more questions by the Yemenis and cause Americans in Yemen be more of a target."

ICC: LIBYA MUST HAND OVER GADHAFI'S SON. The [AP](#) (5/14) reports ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda told the UN Security Council Tuesday that Libya must surrender Moammar Gadhafi's son, Seif al-Islam, to the court, "despite its appeal of the handover and legal proceedings under way in Libya." Bensouda told the Council it was "a source of great concern" that Libya did not immediately hand over Seif al-Islam "as it was required to do following a ruling by pre-trial judges last year."

Jordanian Ambassador Freed By Libyan Kidnappers. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Sweis, Fahim, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports Jordan's ambassador to Libya, Fawaz al-Itan, was freed Tuesday after being kidnapped in Tripoli last month. According to Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh, Itan's captors "had ties" to Libyan Mohamed el-Dressi, "who was convicted in 2007 of plotting to blow up Jordan's main international airport," but "did not specify what those ties were."

CUBA TO RESUME SOME PASSPORT SERVICES IN WASHINGTON. [AFP](#) (5/14) reports the Cuban Interests Section in Washington said it will "begin renewing some citizens' expired passports" after halting services in February because it is "unable to find a US bank able to handle its finances." The consulate said it will resume renewing passports "that have expired or are about to expire" for people with trips to Cuba before Aug. 31.

SUDANESE COURT: WOMAN MUST RETURN TO ISLAM OR FACE DEATH PENALTY. [Reuters](#) (5/14) reports a Sudanese court threatened to sentence a woman to death unless she returns to Islam after converting to Christianity. Mariam Yahya Ibrahim was charged with apostasy and adultery, for marrying a Christian man. The court ordered Ibrahim to make a decision by Thursday in the first case of its kind in Sudan.

US BELIEVES THAI COUP IS UNLIKELY. The [AP](#) (5/14) reports senior Defense Department official Amy Searight said the US is "reasonably confident" the Thai military will not engage in a coup, although "analysts warned the nation's political crisis could trigger armed conflict." Searight said, "At this point in time we don't have reason to expect that the Thai military will change their current stance," which is to not intervene. The senior diplomat for Southeast Asia Scot Marciel said the crisis is "not something that foreigners can come in and magically fix. It has to be a Thai solution." Marciel added while the US does not have plans to intervene, the process of reaching a solution should be "constitutional and democratic."

URUGUAYAN PRISONER GAINS ACCESS TO US AMBASSADOR'S CELLPHONE MESSAGES. The [AP](#) (5/14) reports a prisoner in Uruguay "tapped into" Ambassador Julissa Reynoso's cellphone "and sent messages to some of her contacts in an attempt to commit a still undisclosed fraud." The prisoner gamed access to Reynoso's "voice mail password" and "voice messages." Uruguayan President Jose Mujica told Canal 10 TV that the prisoner "got access to some messages left by some of my friends. And he was able to...send certain messages from prison to some of my contacts."

KERRY TO VISIT CYPRUS AMID PEACE PUSH. [AFP](#) (5/14) reports Secretary of State Kerry is "planning to dip his toes into yet another of the world's intractable conflicts, announcing Tuesday he will visit Cyprus in the coming weeks." After talks in Washington with Cypriot Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides, Kerry "praised" the island's current Greek Cypriot leadership for trying to reach a "long sought-after resolution" and said the US is "very supportive" of UN-led peace talks. AFP notes Vice President Biden is to visit Cyprus later this month "as part of efforts to find ways to counter what Washington sees as Russia's destabilizing actions in Ukraine."

NYTIMES ANALYSIS: TUNISIAN PROTESTS ILLUSTRATE CITIZEN'S REMAINING FRUSTRATIONS. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Gall, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports "protests have idled the phosphate mines" in the Tunisian towns of Moularet and Redeyef for most of the past three years. The Times notes "citizens regularly block roads and burn tires," and police and government officials "are barely tolerated." According to the Times, the complaints have endured since the overthrow of former President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali in 2011 and "point to what many here see as the unfinished business of

their revolution, and...the failure to meet the aspirations of a youthful population." Protest leader Tarek Halimi said, "The revolution lost its way....because the demands were mainly social and economic."

COURT RULES GOOGLE MUST COMPLY WITH EU'S PRIVACY LAWS. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Kanter, Scott, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports the EU's high court ruled on Tuesday that "Google must grant users of its search engine a right to delete links themselves in some cases." The Times notes the European Court of Justice's decision "is a blow for Google, which has sought to avoid the obligation to remove links when requested by European users." The Times says that "by ruling that an Internet company...must comply with European privacy laws" in the EU, the court is "indicating that such companies must operate in a fundamentally different way" than they do in the US.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Timberg, Birnbaum, 4.22M) reports the ruling "startled America's tech industry" and "has potentially wide-ranging consequences." The court said Google's search engine does not serve a "journalistic purpose," but rather "processing personal data," and because "of the massive distribution power of the Internet," it threatens "fundamental rights to privacy." The case "grew from the frustrations of a Spanish man unhappy that searches of his name featured links to a tax problem from 1998," and focused on the legal question of "whether the public's right to know outweighed a private citizen's desire to leave behind unpleasant personal history," otherwise known in Europe as "the right to be forgotten."

The [AP](#) (5/14, Sterling) reports Google issued a statement saying, "This is a disappointing ruling for search engines and online publishers in general." The AP notes the court "provided little guidance on exactly how" to implement the ruling.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Robinson, Schechner, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports the court's ruling was unexpected, because it contradicted an earlier ruling that said search engines are not responsible for personal data that is found when a user is searching the Internet for information.

[USA Today](#) (5/14, Hjelmgaard, 5.82M) reports Trevor Hughes, of the International Association of Privacy Professionals, said the ruling is "groundbreaking," because, "Individuals now have the ability to...go in with a virtual black marker and redact their names."

NYTimes: Ruling Has Potential To Undermine Free Speech. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes the ruling "could undermine press freedoms and free speech," as it means Internet search companies "could be forced to remove links even if the information" is "accurate and lawful." The Times says while "the desire to allow individuals to erase data they no longer wish to disclose is understandable...lawmakers should not create a right so powerful" that it acts to "limit press freedoms or allow individuals to demand that lawful information...be hidden."

TURKISH COAL MINE EXPLOSION LEADS TO CONFUSION ABOUT HOW MANY KILLED. The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/13, story 3, 1:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, "Scores are dead after an explosion and fire" at a Syrian coal mine. CBS (Williams) added "the local mayor is saying tonight that 157 minors have died in this explosion, in this disaster," but "the Turkish government so far is saying only that 17 men have lost their lives...They're saying that around 200 miners are still trapped. Other people...put the figure at 400 or 600 and the reason for that confusion seems to be" the explosion "occurred during a change in shift at the mine."

AFPC's Berman: US Ties With Turkey Are "On The Downswing." In a [USA Today](#) (5/14, Berman, 5.82M) op-ed, the vice president of the American Foreign Policy Council, Ilan Berman argues that US ties with Turkey "are unmistakably on the downswing" because of issues that "promise to keep the once-vibrant relationship at a low ebb...for the foreseeable future." USA Today notes that America's "receding strategic footprint in the Middle East," a difference in opinion regarding the Syrian civil war, and Turkey's "uncertain role in NATO," all contribute to the worsening relationship.

FRIEDMAN: "NEW GLOBAL FORCE" EMERGING FOR LIBERTY, ECONOMIC JUSTICE. In a [New York Times](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) column, Thomas Friedman argues that "a new global

force” is being created. “The Square People,” according to Friedman, are “mostly young, aspiring to a higher standard of living and more liberty...connected to one another either by massing in squares or through virtual squares or both.”

MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER DEFENDS EFFORTS TO FIND MISSING PLANE. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak defends Malaysia's efforts to find Malaysia Airlines flight 370, arguing that while it did not do everything right, history will show Malaysia did its best under very difficult circumstances.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “Ordering Google To Forget.” The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that a ruling by the EU's high court that Google must allow users to delete links to personal information about themselves “could undermine press freedoms and free speech,” as it means Internet search companies “could be forced to remove links even if the information” is “accurate and lawful.” The Times says while “the desire to allow individuals to erase data they no longer wish to disclose is understandable...lawmakers should not create a right so powerful” that it acts to “limit press freedoms or allow individuals to demand that lawful information...be hidden.”

“A Call For Justice For Syrians” The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that a decision to “refer Syria to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for possible prosecution of war crimes,” will not end the civil war, but it “would underscore the world's revulsion at atrocities by both sides.” The Times says “there is ample justification for an investigation,” but “there is no reason to believe Russia....or China will back the referral.”

“Common Sense At The Library.”

WASHINGTON POST. “Rescue The Girls.” The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, 4.22M) editorializes that the “social media campaign in support” of the kidnapped children “is producing results.” The Post notes Nigeria “has been shamed into accepting” international help in the search and Boko Haram has “shifted from a vow to sell off the girls” to a “proposal to trade them for prisoners.” The Post says the US should use this incident to “alter Nigeria's self-defeating response” to Boko Haram.

“The Fannie-Freddie Status Quo.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, 4.22M) says that reducing the Federal role in the housing market “is not a radical free-market notion,” but in fact has enjoyed support from within the Obama Administration in the past. However, Watt's announcement is a “victory for defenders of the status quo.” The big winners, the Post says, “ironically, may be not the poor and the ‘underserved,’ but a group of giant hedge funds that snapped up millions of beaten-down Fannie and Freddie shares after the government bailout, and are now lobbying Congress — as well as suing in federal court — for a return to private ownership.” The Post says that the bailout of the GSEs will now “pave the way for a colossal windfall for bottom-feeding Wall Street types.”

“Protecting Abortion Access.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, 4.22M) approves of Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe's (D) move to “roll back absurd, baldly political rules imposed on the state's abortion clinics with the transparent purpose of forcing many of them to close.” The “maneuver may mean a reprieve for as many as half” of the 18 remaining clinics, which are “the only convenient option for thousands of women who seek abortions each year.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “Harry Reid's Senate Blockade.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an editorial blames Senate Majority Leader Reid for the demise of the Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency bill, and contends that his refusal to allow votes on amendments is attributable to his alliance with the White House. According to the Journal, the White House is fearful that centrist Democrats will join with Republicans to approve the Keystone project and roll back EPA regulations on coal plants.

“Pfizer And The Protectionists.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 5.51M)

editorializes that decisions regarding mergers should be left to shareholders and directors, who know the business, rather than governments and politicians.

“Michigan Union Collapse.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) notes that membership in Michigan’s SEIU Healthcare affiliate declined after state lawmakers passed a law excluding home-care workers from the state’s definition of public employees and opines that union membership in the state will similarly decline since Michigan’s passage of a right-to-work law in 2012.

The Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[US Backs Off Tight Mortgage Rules](#)
[EU Ruling On Google Could Tip Balance In Privacy Fight](#)
[Nigerian Militant Raises Profile Through Terror](#)
[Tech Firms’ Cash Piles Cool Fears of Meltdown](#)

New York Times:

[The 9/11 Story Told At Bedrock, Powerful As Punch To The Gut](#)
[Small Comfort As Parents See Girls On Video](#)
[European Court Lets Users Erase Records On Web](#)
[Girding For A Fight, McConnell Enlists His Wife](#)
[Ex-Israeli Leader Is Given 6 Years In Bribery Case](#)
[After Booker, Newark’s Voters Choose New Mayor And A New Path](#)

Washington Post:

[Gun Part, Sold Separately, Lets Some Get Around Laws](#)
[Ruling In E.U. May Roil The Web](#)
[A Heart-Rending Homecoming](#)
[Tea Party Aftertaste Is Bitter For Cantor](#)
[In Shift, A Reprieve For Fannie And Freddie](#)

Financial Times:

[Pfizer Admits Astra Deal Would Mean Cuts](#)
[Web Groups Set For Flood Of Data Requests](#)
[Bloomberg Ally Revives NY Olympic Pitch](#)
[US Prosecutors Push For \\$3.5bn BNP Fine](#)
[Goldman’s Twitter Banker Joins Hedge Fund](#)
[Clock Ticking On Google’s Driverless Cars](#)
[Frontier Markets Storm Ahead](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: MERS Virus; California Drought; Donald Sterling Scandal; Nigeria-Kidnapped Girls; Medal Of Honor; American Debt.

CBS: Stock Market Rally; Veterans Affairs Scandal; Air Traffic Disaster; Turkey-Coal Mine Disaster; West Virginia-Coal Mine Explosion; Nigeria-Kidnapped Girls; Donald Sterling; Tennessee-Free Community College Tuition Proposal; MERS Virus; Medal Of Honor.

NBC: MERS Virus; Severe Weather; Air Traffic; Donald Sterling Scandal; Nigeria-Kidnapped Girls; Ukraine Conflict; Former Israeli Leader Sentenced To Prison; Medal Of Honor; Political Attacks; Russian Economic Sanctions-ISS; Michigan Democratic Primary.

Story Lineup From This Morning’s Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Nebraska-Republican Primary Results; Turkey-Coal Mine Disaster; California-San Diego Wildfire; California-Heat Wave; Idaho-Same-Sex Marriage Ban;

CBS: California-San Diego Wildfire; California-Heat Wave; California-Santa Barbara Wildfire; Report-Winter Flight Cancellations; Chicago Airports Temporarily Shut Down; Donald Sterling Scandal; Idaho-Same-Sex Marriage Ban' Stock Market Rally.

FOX: California-San Diego Wildfire; California-Santa Barbara Wildfire; Pentagon-Chelsea Manning Relocation; MERS Virus; Sports-NBA Playoffs.

NPR: California-San Diego Wildfire; California-Santa Barbara Wildfire; Russian Economic Sanctions-ISS; Syria Diplomat Resigns; Vietnam-Violent Protests; Nebraska-Republican Primary Results; West Virginia-Democratic Primary Results; New Jersey-Newark Mayoral Election Results; Kentucky-Soldiers Pleads Guilty To Fraud; Turkey-Coal Mine Disaster.

Washington's Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; depart the White House en route Joint Base Andrews; arrives in New York; delivers remarks on Infrastructure; attends a DNC event; delivers remarks and answers questions at a DSCC Event.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Attends the Presidential Daily Briefing in the Oval Office; meets with President Ivo Josipovic of Croatia at the White House, closed press; travels to Cleveland, Ohio; delivers remarks on infrastructure investment at the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority Rail Complex.

US Senate: 9:30 a.m. — The Senate will convene and resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R.3474, the legislative vehicle for the Tax Extenders bill.

9:30 a.m. **RULES AND ADMINISTRATION** — Hearings to examine a collection, analysis and use of elections data, focusing on a measured approach to improving election administration.

http://www.rules.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=CommitteeHearings&ContentRecord_id=c17675b3-00a6-4ef4-9282-73682b7e703b&ContentType_id14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_id1983a2a8-4fc3-4062-a50e-7997351c154b Location: 301 Russell.

10 a.m. **APPROPRIATIONS** — Defense Subcommittee, "Defense Research and Innovation." Witnesses: Alan Shaffer, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, Department of Defense; Arati Prabhakar, PhD, Director, DARPA, Department of Defense; David Walker, PhD, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Science, Technology, and Engineering, U.S. Air Force; Rear Admiral Matthew L. Klunder, Chief of Naval Research, U.S. Navy; Mary Miller, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Army for Research and Technology, U.S. Army; Terry Rauch, PhD, Director, Medical Research for the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense.

<http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/event/defense-subcommittee-defense-research-and-innovation>
Location: 192 Dirksen.

10 a.m. **ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS** — Full Committee Hearing Entitled: "Nuclear Reactor Decommissioning: Stakeholder Views." Witnesses: Panel 1: Michael F. Weber, Deputy Executive Director for OperationsMaterials, Waste, Research, State, Tribal, and Compliance Programs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Don Mosier, Council Member, City of Del Mar, CA; Christopher Recchia, Commissioner, Vermont Public Service Department; Geoffrey H. Fettus, Senior Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council; Marvin S. Fertel, President & Chief Executive Officer, Nuclear Energy Institute. http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_id=9db54d8c-c13f-e2da-d153-defb9e6bee55&CFID127411300&CFTOKEN73295270

Location: 406 Dirksen.

10 a.m. **HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS** — Executive Session to consider legislation to expand access to high-quality early learning programs as well as the nomination of Jane Chu to serve as National Endowment for the Arts Chairperson. 1) S.____, the Strong Start for Americas Children Act. 2) Jane Chu, of Missouri, to serve as Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts. 3) Any additional nominations cleared for action. <http://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=65f69649-5056-a032->

5238-b5e6e49b1de5 Location: 430 Dirksen.

10 a.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Hearings to examine charting a path forward for the Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Standards Program. Witnesses: Panel I: Suzanne E. Spaulding, Under Secretary, National Protection and Programs Directorate, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; David M. Wulf, Director, Infrastructure Security Compliance Division, Office of Infrastructure Protection, National Protection and Programs Directorate, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Stephen L. Caldwell, Director, Homeland Security and Justice Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office. Panel II: Dana A. Shea, Ph.D., Specialist in Science and Technology Policy, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; Anna Fendley, MPH, Legislative Representative, United Steelworkers; Timothy J. Scott, Chief Security Officer, The Dow Chemical Company, Appearing on behalf of Dow and the American Chemistry Council. <http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/hearings/charting-a-path-forward-for-the-chemical-facilities-anti-terrorism-standards-program> Location: 342 Dirksen.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Hearing on The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program: Supporting Law Enforcement Officers When it Matters Most. Witnesses: Officer Ann Carrizales, City of Stafford Police Department, Stafford, TX; Chief Yousry A. Zakhary, President, International Association of Chiefs of Police, Alexandria, VA. <http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/the-bulletproof-vest-partnership-grant-program-supporting-law-enforcement-officers-when-it-matters-most> Location: 226 Dirksen.

11 a.m. PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS — Background briefing by the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations for their Thursday hearing, “Online Advertising and Hidden Hazards to Consumer Security and Data Privacy,” Contacts: Brian Rogers (McCain) 202-224-7130 Tara Andringa (Levin) 202-228-2685

2 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee, “Strengthening Oversight and Integrity of the Financial Markets: FY 2015 Resource Needs of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission.” Witnesses: Mary Jo White, Chairman, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission; Mark P. Wetjen, Acting Chairman, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission. <http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/event/fsgg-hearing-fy15-sec-and-cftc-budget-requests-0> Location: 138 Dirksen.

2:15 p.m. FINANCE — Hearings to examine the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell, of West Virginia, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services. <http://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=db65b16f-5056-a032-52ae-4e20f0977c07> Location: 216 Hart.

2:30 p.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — Full Committee, “Promoting the Well-Being and Academic Success of College Athletes.” Location: 253 Russell.

2:30 p.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia hearing on The Role of Mitigation in Reducing Federal Expenditures for Disaster Response. Witnesses: David Miller, Associate Administrator, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Christopher Currie, Director, Emergency Management and National Preparedness Issues, Government Accountability Office; Chad Berginnis, Executive Director, Association of State Floodplain Managers; Robert Detlefson, Vice President of Public Policy, National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies. <http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/emdc/hearings/the-role-of-mitigation-in-reducing-federal-expenditures-for-disaster-response> Location: 342 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. INDIAN AFFAIRS — An oversight hearing to examine wildfires and forest management, focusing on how prevention is preservation. Witnesses: Panel 1: Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs-U.S. Department of the Interior; James Hubbard, Deputy Chief – State and Private Forestry, Forest Service-U.S. Department of Agriculture. Panel 2: Danny Breuninger Sr., President-Mescalero

Apache Nation, Mescalero, NM; Philip Rigdon, President-Intertribal Timber Council, Portland, OR; Jonathan Brooks, Tribal Forest Manager-White Mountain Apache Tribe, White River, AZ; Dr. Adrian Leighton, Chair, Natural Resources Department-Salish Kootenai College, Pablo, MT.
<http://www.indian.senate.gov/hearing/oversight-hearing-wildfires-and-forest-management-prevention-preservation> Location: 628 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. SENATE DRUG CAUCUS — Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control hearing on prescription drug abuse and the role it plays in the increased use of heroin in the United States, as well as how the federal government can help reduce opioid abuse. Speakers: Michael Botticelli, acting director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy; Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse; Dr. H. Westley Clark, director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; Joseph Rannazzisi, deputy assistant administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration; Dr. Andrew Kolodny, chief medical officer of Phoenix House, a nonprofit drug rehabilitation organization. Location: 192 Dirksen.

10 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Nominations: Panel One Nominees: Mark Sobel of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a term of two years; Sunil Sabharwal of California, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a term of two years. Panel Two Nominees: Matthew T. McGuire of the District of Columbia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years; Mileydi Guilarte of the District of Columbia, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank. <http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/nominations/051414> Location: 419 Dirksen.

US House: May 12 – 16. — The House is in District work period for the week.

Other: May 12 – 14. AJC GLOBAL FORUM — The AJC Global Forum is a significant international platform that has been addressed by many presidents, foreign ministers, Members of Congress, and leading public figures. Speaker will include Hillary Clinton. <http://www.cvent.com/events/ajc-global-forum-2014/event-summary-b9bc036a00bc43dca76cf3a7f767225c.aspx?msourceGloFo040114> 10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Closing Plenary Featuring The Honorable John Baird, Foreign Minister of Canada; Hillary Rodham Clinton, Former Secretary of State. Location: Grand Hyatt Washington, D.C., 1000 H Street, NW.

PETERSON FOUNDATION FISCAL SUMMIT — 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. The Peter G. Peterson Foundation will convene the 2014 Fiscal Summit: Our Economic Future at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, DC. Participants include: President Bill Clinton; New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie; House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi; (2p.m.) Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee; Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH); Alan Greenspan, Former Chairman of the Federal Reserve; Erskine Bowles, President Emeritus of the University of North Carolina and Co-Chair of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.
http://www.fiscalsummit.org/?_cldee=c3N0aXBpY2V2aWNAcGdwZi5vcmc%3d Location: 1301 Constitution Avenue NW.

AEI – SEN. CORNYN — 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. The consequences of inaction: A conversation with Sen. John Cornyn. <http://aei.org/events/2014/05/14/the-consequences-of-inaction/> Location: AEI, Twelfth Floor, 1150 Seventeenth Street, NW.

DHS AWARD FOR VALOR — 9:30 a.m. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson will present the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Award for Valor to employees who have “performed courageously in a dangerous or life-threatening situation to protect another’s life or to save significant assets or infrastructure from harm”. Credentialed media planning to attend must RSVP with their social security number, date of birth, country of citizenship, current city/state of residence and gender to Amanda.degroff@hq.dhs.gov by 5:00 PM EDT May 9, 2014. Location: South Court Auditorium, Eisenhower Executive Office Building, 1650 Pennsylvania Ave., NW.

WFPG – SUSAN RICE — 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. National Security Advisor Susan Rice to speak on “Major National Security Challenges Facing the US” at the Women’s Foreign Policy Group Luncheon. Susan

Rice, U.S. National Security Advisor will have a conversation with Judy Woodruff, Co-Anchor and Managing Editor, PBS NewsHour. Media planning on attending the event should register with Jennifer Schrock or Patricia Ellis at programs@wfpg.org, or call (202) 429-2692. Location: The Mayflower Renaissance Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC (Pre-set time for cameras: 11:00 a.m. from 17th Street loading dock entrance.)

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WHITE HOUSE *NEWS SUMMARY*

PRODUCED FOR THE OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY BULLETININTELLIGENCE.COM/WHITEHOUSE

TO: THE PRESIDENT AND SENIOR WHITE HOUSE STAFF

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2014 5:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S EDITION

Leading The News

Obama: House Must Pass Immigration Reform Within Months.... 3
RCP Average Has Obama Job Approval At 44.6%..... 5

Ukraine News

Biden's Son Joins Ukrainian Gas Producer..... 5
As Germany Seeks Talks, Six Ukrainian Soldiers Killed By Pro-Russian Separatists..... 5
Satellite Images Show Russian Troops Did Not Pull Back From Border..... 6
Russia Says It Will End Cooperation On Space Station Beyond 2020..... 6
Sanctions Against Russia Could Hurt US Companies..... 6
Cruz To Visit Ukraine..... 6

Healthcare News

More Federal Dollars Went To Creating State Health Exchanges Than HealthCare.gov..... 6
Insurers Say Patient Choice Can't Be A Priority Under ACA..... 7
"Woodwork Effect" Resulted In More Medicaid Enrollments In Non-Expansion States..... 7
Senate Republicans Push For Vote On Medical Device Tax Repeal..... 7
Jindal Notes Hillary Clinton's 1993 Objections To Individual Mandate..... 7
More Than 90 Arrested For Medicare Fraud..... 7
Report: US Is One Of Three Nations That Does Not Provide Paid Maternity Leave..... 8
Officials Move To Prevent Spread Of MERS In US..... 8

NSA News

Senators Question Administration Statements On Warrantless NSA Surveillance..... 8
NSA Case Could Mean "Redemption" For Klayman..... 9

Syria News

Obama, Jarba Discuss Additional US Aid For Opposition..... 9
Brahimi Resigns As UN Envoy To Syria..... 9
France: Syria Launched As Many As 14 Chemical Attacks In Recent Months..... 9
Report: Syrian Troops Targeting Medical Workers..... 10
Malinowski's Comments On Rwanda Draw Attention To Syrian Crisis..... 10
Homs Residents Returning After Rebels Withdrawal..... 10

Aid Agencies Cannot Accommodate Number Of Refugees In Lebanon..... 10
Ignatius: Syrian Civil War Boosting Dangerous Terrorist Group..... 10

AfPak News

Dobbins: US, Allies Will Continue "Significant" Presence In Afghanistan..... 10
Former Soldier Awarded Medal Of Honor For Actions In Afghanistan..... 10
Afghan Taliban Appoints New Military Commander..... 11
Journalist Describes His Experience Covering Afghan Landslides..... 11
Sixty-Eight Pakistani Lawyers Charged With Blasphemy..... 11

Iraq News

Bombings In Shiite Areas Of Baghdad Kill 28..... 11
Father Of Slain Soldier Urges Iraqi Judge To Prosecute Insurgent..... 11

Detainee Issues News

Islamic Cleric Tells Jury He Admired Bin Laden..... 11
Judge To Consider Moving Trial For Three Of Tsarnaev's Friends..... 12

Terrorism News

National September 11 Memorial And Museum To Be Dedicated This Week..... 12

Other National News

Obama To Push For Increased Infrastructure Spending Today..... 12
Senate Votes 96-3 To Begin Debate On Tax Extenders Package..... 12
Administration Moving Ahead With Plans To Spend Billions On Energy Efficiency..... 13
Miller Urges Obama To Establish Commission To Probe VA Hospitals..... 13
Democrats Criticize Obama Judicial Nominee's Legislative Record..... 13
Reid Says Senate Will Vote Soon On Nominee Who Wrote Obama Drone Policy..... 14
WPost Fact Checker: Obama Overstated Number Of GOP Filibusters Since 2007..... 14
NBC's Todd On Benghazi: "All The Questions Have Been

Answered.....	14
Watt Announces GSEs Will Continue In Current Role.....	14
Moniz Considering End To Crude Oil Export Ban.....	15
Retail Sales Up Slightly In April; Household Debt Up In First Quarter.....	15
Up Slightly, Dow, S&P Again Hit Records.....	15
Sallie Mae Reaches Settlement With DOJ, FDIC.....	16
Citing Effect On Minorities, Activists Challenge School Closings Nationwide.....	16
Reuters Analysis: Net Neutrality Proposal Likely To Set Off Serious Battle.....	16
Federal Employees Don't Lose Positions Despite Misconduct.....	16
McConnell, Graham Push Abortion Restriction Legislation.....	17
Senate Republicans Not Swayed By Romney's Argument For Minimum Wage Hike.....	17
US Chamber Leading Surge In "Dark Money" Spending In Congressional Races.....	17
AFP Analysis: Despite Equality Push, Poor Kentuckians Oppose President.....	17
In "Win" For Tea Party, Sasse Victorious In Nebraska's GOP Senate Primary.....	17
Cantor's Primary Opponent Gaining Attention.....	18
Cotton-Commissioned Poll Shows Him Leading Pryor 42%- 40%.....	18
McConnell's Wife Expected To Play Key Role In Husband's Reelection Race.....	18
Aiken Declared Winner In NC2 Democratic Primary.....	18
Election Official Rules Conyers Failed To Qualify For MI13 Primary Ballot.....	18
Colorado's Polis Drawing Fire For Anti-Fracking Efforts.....	19
Baraka Elected Mayor Of Newark.....	19
Rove Gets Bipartisan Pushback Over His Speculation On Hillary Clinton's Health.....	19
Rubio Calls For Access To Federal Retirement Plan For More Americans.....	20
Rubio Accepts Climate Change, Rejects Legislative Fixes.....	20
Christie Spokesman Says He Was Blindsided By Lane Closure Revelations.....	20
Appeals Panel Appears Split Over Virginia Same-Sex Marriage Ban.....	21
Judge Strikes Down Idaho's Same-Sex Marriage Ban.....	21
Fifth Circuit Stays Execution Of Texas Inmate.....	21
Unfinished Receivers Become Focus Of Latest Gun Debate.....	22
Next GM Senate Hearing Expected After Company Completes Investigation.....	22
Poll Finds Little Support For Emanuel Or His Property Tax Hike.	22
Protests Of Commencement Speakers Raising Free Speech Concerns.....	22
Military Taking On Just One-Fifth Of Applicants.....	22
California Faces Extreme Fire Danger Amid High Winds, Drought, Heat Wave.....	22
Inmate Says Jackson Doing A "Fastidious Job" Scrubbing Toilets In Prison.....	22
Bonamici Introduces Bill To Cut Agency Reports.....	23
Sterling Comments On Johnson, AIDS Seen As Compounding	

His Problems.....	23
Dick, Lynne Cheney Launch Tour To Promote Book On Madison.....	23
Dowd: Boehner On Fundraising Tour To Protect GOP Majority.	23
WSJournal: Michigan Union Membership Likely To Decline With Right-To-Work Law.....	23
WSJournal: Allow Merger Decisions To Be Based On Business Interests.....	23

International News

US Begins Drone Flights As Nigeria Signals Openness To Negotiations With Boko Haram.....	24
Kerry Remains Hopeful For Middle East Peace Deal.....	25
US, Iranians Warn Of Challenges Ahead As Nuclear Talks Resume.....	25
Hagel Arrives In Saudi Arabia For Talks On Iran, Syria.....	25
Kerry, New Report Link Climate Change And National Security.	25
China Criticizes US, Kerry For Role In South China Sea Conflict.....	26
US Sanctions Five Former CAR Officials.....	26
Clapper Arrives In South Korea.....	26
Attack On Two US Embassy Employees In Sana'a Raises Security Concerns.....	26
ICC: Libya Must Hand Over Gadhafi's Son.....	27
Cuba To Resume Some Passport Services In Washington.....	27
Sudanese Court: Woman Must Return To Islam Or Face Death Penalty.....	27
US Believes Thai Coup Is Unlikely.....	27
Uruguayan Prisoner Gains Access To US Ambassador's Cellphone Messages.....	27
Kerry To Visit Cyprus Amid Peace Push.....	27
NYTimes Analysis: Tunisian Protests Illustrate Citizen's Remaining Frustrations.....	27
Court Rules Google Must Comply With EU's Privacy Laws.....	27
Turkish Coal Mine Explosion Leads To Confusion About How Many Killed.....	28
Friedman: "New Global Force" Emerging For Liberty, Economic Justice.....	28
Malaysian Prime Minister Defends Efforts To Find Missing Plane.....	28

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.....	28
Washington Post.....	29
Wall Street Journal.....	29

The Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.....	29
---	----

Washington's Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.....	30
-----------------------------------	----

Editor's Note

Here are a few reminders of how to get the maximum benefit from the White House News Summary. A fully interactive copy of the Summary, and full searchable

archives of past editions, can be found at BulletinIntelligence.com/WhiteHouse.

When reading the MS Word or Acrobat documents on your computer screen, the headlines in the table of contents are directly linked to the corresponding story in the document by clicking on the page number.

When reading the summary, you can access most of the

original full-text stories referenced in our write-ups by clicking on the link. Many of the mentions from television news stories in the Summary are linked directly to an audio/video clip of the complete story as it aired.

Finally, readership of the White House News Summary is limited to official White House employees only and is not to be shared with others.

LEADING THE NEWS

Obama: House Must Pass Immigration Reform Within Months.

President Obama's remarks to an audience of law enforcement officials on Tuesday at the White House on the need to reform the country's immigration system received remarkably little national media coverage. None of the three network newscasts covered the story, nor was it a topic of discussion on any of the most-watched prime-time cable news programs Tuesday night. Notably, Fox News did not devote any attention to the President's arguments for passing comprehensive immigration reform, but both [Fox News' Special Report](#) (5/13, 2.15M) and [Fox News' The Kelly File](#) (5/14, 1.33M) reported on newly released statistics showing that in 2013, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement released 36,000 convicted criminals living in the US illegally back into the general public, including murderers and rapists.

The [AP](#) (5/14) reports that the President "says there's a two- to three-month window for an immigration overhaul to pass Congress this year before the midterm elections take over." The AP also notes that on Tuesday, the President said Speaker Boehner is among those Republicans who support comprehensive immigration reform, but "a handful of House Republicans are blocking it."

However, [USA Today](#) (5/14, Jackson, 5.82M) reports that on Tuesday, Boehner spokesman Michael Steel said "it is impossible to make progress" on immigration reform "until the American people...have faith that the president himself will actually enforce the law as written." The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/14, Swan, 566K) points out that Boehner himself has said that "the biggest impediment we have in moving immigration reform is that the American people don't trust the president to enforce or implement the law that we may or may not pass."

On [MSNBC's Now With Alex Wagner](#) (5/14, 437K), Alex Wagner said the President "did his best to put immigration reform on the front burner, huddling with over 40 law enforcement leaders at the White House in hopes of putting pressure on Congress to do something – anything – this summer." Wagner added that "the fate of the nation's 11 million undocumented residents sits largely in the hands of"

Boehner, and on Tuesday, the President "gave him a shoutout" although, according to Wagner, "a rhetorical nod from the Democratic President may not be exactly what he's looking for."

Under the headline, "Obama: Small Window To Get Immigration Reform Done This Year," [Reuters](#) (5/14) reports that the President said, "We've got this narrow window. The closer we get to the midterm elections, the harder it is to get things done around here. ... We've got maybe a window...of two, three months to get the ball rolling in the House of Representatives." Reuters notes that the President went on to say, "To their credit, I think Speaker Boehner and some of the other leaders there do believe that immigration reform's the right thing, but they've got to have a political space that allows them to get ahead and get it through their caucus and get it done."

The [Huffington Post](#) (5/13, Foley, 11.54M) reports that "the 40-plus law enforcement officials" who met with the President on Tuesday "were broadly supportive of reform, and Obama asked them to keep pressure on House Republicans to enact a bill." According to the Huffington Post, the President "said in remarks to the group that he was aware of the tension over police taking on immigration tasks."

[Roll Call](#) (5/13, Dennis, 76K) reports that on Tuesday, the President estimated that "about 80 percent of the unauthorized immigrants had been in the United States for more than a decade and are 'woven into the fabric of our society.'" [The Hill](#) (5/13, Sink, Berman, 237K) says the President "tailored his remarks to the audience, arguing that having to focus on immigration enforcement was stopping police from 'chasing gang bangers and going after violent criminals.'"

According to [Politico](#) (5/13, Kim, 73K), President Obama's "comments reflect a sense on and off Capitol Hill that lawmakers could still act on immigration reform this year, but that it's dead unless that happens before the August recess." Politico says the President "has previously emphasized the truncated timeframe – for instance, at a Cinco de Mayo reception earlier this month, he urged reformers to mobilize 'over the next two months' – but Tuesday's comments appear to be the firmest yet on a

deadline." Politico also notes that on Monday, Boehner "said both Democrats and Republicans were 'getting closer on the policy side in terms of how to deal with' immigration and that he was still committed to reform."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Meckler, Sparshott, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that in regards to the House Republican leadership, the President said, "They've got to have a political space that allows them to go ahead and get it through their caucus."

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/14, Keane, 4.91M) reported that on Tuesday, the President "urg[ed] police officials to join with evangelical Christians and businesses to pressure House Republicans" to pass immigration reform legislation. Bloomberg says the President made the case that "evangelical groups...are a 'powerful voice' that can be combined with business groups and companies such as Microsoft Corp. and Caterpillar Inc. to prod House Republicans to pass a bill that the Senate already approved."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/14, Parsons, 3.46M) notes that on Tuesday, the President "signaled...that he is open to compromise on immigration reform, saying he is not 'hell-bent' on getting everything from the Senate immigration bill into the version that finally hits his desk." However, the Times reports that the President did say that reform legislation "must hew to some 'core principles,' including some sort of 'pathway to citizenship' for immigrants in the country illegally."

According to the [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Boyer, 455K), "prospects appear dim for the Republican-led House to take up the Senate bill in the time remaining this year before November's elections." In a piece for the [Daily Caller](#) (5/13, 408K), Neil Munro says the President's "call to end the enforcement of immigration law came during a staged event at the White House," which was intended to "stimulate his supporters' declining interest in the largely defunct and unpopular 18-month campaign to sharply increase the inflow of immigrants and guest-workers."

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (5/14, Burr, 470K) reports former Salt Lake County Sheriff Aaron Kennard, who serves as executive director of the National Sheriffs Association, said on Tuesday: "We in law enforcement believe very strongly that it's time a comprehensive immigration-reform bill is put forward." According to the Tribune, Kennard also said the National Sheriffs Association "wants secure borders."

Reform Proponents Urge White House To Resist Using Executive Actions To Slow Deportations. Under the headline, "Slowing Deportations Could Hurt Chances For House Immigration Action," the [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/14, Bennett, Parsons, 3.46M) reports that as the President mulls using executive actions to further limit deportations, some supporters of comprehensive immigration reform "are quietly urging the White House to slow that effort down, warning that ordering changes without congressional approval could spook House Republicans." According to the Times, Alfonso Aguilar, who served in the Bush Administration and is now executive

director of the Latino Partnership for Conservative Principles, warns that "a White House move to scale back deportations would unite House Republicans in opposition and end the push for reform." Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), among the most prominent House Republican supporters of the Senate's comprehensive immigration reform, is quoted as saying, "The last thing we need is for the president to be doing things that can be interpreted as selectively enforcing the law."

The [AP](#) (5/14) reports that on Tuesday some "immigrant youth activists" urged "Senate Democrats...to demand that" the President "halt to most deportations of people living in the US illegally." The AP reports that Sen. Bob Menendez has "called on the administration...to 'take action today' to ease deportations," and Adam Bozzi, a spokesman for Sen. Michael Bennet, said, "If the House continues to drag its feet, we encourage the administration to pursue its efforts to prevent these innocent families from being ripped apart."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/14, Parsons, 3.46M) says the Administration is currently "press[ing] forward with a full review of its deportation practices" although "senior advisors to the president say they aren't planning to make major changes through the use of his administrative powers."

However, the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/14, Swan, 566K) notes that the AP recently reported that DHS Secretary Johnson "has been considering allowing immigrants living in the US illegally to remain in the country as long as they do not have serious criminal records." According to the Monitor, "evidence suggests the Obama administration has already been turning a blind eye to undocumented immigrants who do not have a criminal history."

DHS Plans To Overhaul Program That Assists Local Police In Enforcing Immigration Laws. The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Nakamura, 4.22M) reports that some police chiefs who met with DHS Secretary Johnson at the White House on Tuesday say the Administration "is likely to overhaul" Secure Communities, "a program that allows the federal government to partner with local law enforcement agencies to identify undocumented immigrants for deportation." According to the Post, "Immigrant advocates complain that the program has improperly targeted undocumented immigrants who are arrested for relatively minor violations." Austin, Texas police chief Art Acevedo, who says he is "not interested" in enforcing Federal immigration laws, said that after meeting with Johnson, "The sense I got is that we are going to see a reboot of Secure Communities, and once that comes out, you'll see a singular focus in state and local counties on violent criminals."

ICE Admits Releasing 36,000 Convicted Criminals Living In The US Illegally In 2013. [Fox News' Special Report](#) (5/13, 2.15M) did not cover the President's Tuesday remarks on immigration reform, but Bret Baier did note a "new report [that] says the Obama Administration released over 36,000 convicted criminals last year – including

murderers and rapists – while they were awaiting the outcome of deportation proceedings.”

Likewise, [Fox News' The Kelly File](#) (5/14, 1.33M) did not mention the President's appearance on Tuesday, but devoted a full segment to ICE's decision to release violent criminals who are in the US illegally, including 193 with “homicide convictions” and 426 with “sexual assault convictions.” Host Shannon Bream noted that “ICE isn't denying” that they released the criminals back in to the general public. Former Justice Department official J. Christian Adams warned that “many” of the foreign nationals with criminal convictions will never be re-apprehended. Adams added, “Think about it – 50 murderers were released by discretionary decisions of the Obama Administration” in 2013.

The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Boyer, 455K) notes that the Administration's own “statistics...showed that US Immigration and Customs Enforcement released people who had amassed more than 15,000 drunken-driving convictions, 1,317 domestic violence convictions and even four that the statistics listed as ‘treason, sabotage.’” The Times adds that “there were also convictions for homicide,” including “one classified as ‘homicide-willful kill-public official-gun.’”

Grassley: DHS Allowed Supporter Of Terrorism To Enter The US. The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Kredo, 455K) republishes a piece from the [Washington Free Beacon](#) in which it was reported that Sen. Charles Grassley revealed that the Department of Homeland Security “secretly assembled a terrorist ‘hands off’ list that permitted individuals with terrorist ties unfettered entrance into the United States.” According to the Beacon, “emails – sent between US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) – reveal a row over the admittance of one alleged Muslim Brotherhood official tied to Hamas, Hezbollah, and other terror groups.” The Beacon reported that “while the individual in question is not named in the heavily redacted emails...the person referenced is Jamal Badawi, a Canadian Islamist leader who has praised suicide bombing and is close to Hamas and Hezbollah.”

RCP Average Has Obama Job Approval At 44.6%. The [RealClearPolitics](#) average of recent polling on President Obama's job approval has it at 44.6%, and his disapproval at 51.6%. Approval is up 0.3 percentage points since yesterday; disapproval is down by 0.1.

The latest [Gallup](#) daily tracking poll of 1,500 adults (5/10-5/12) shows Obama with a 46% approval rating and 49% disapproval. [Rasmussen's](#) automated survey of 1,500 likely voters (5/9-5/12) finds Obama's approval at 50%, with 49% disapproving of his performance.

UKRAINE NEWS:

Biden's Son Joins Ukrainian Gas Producer.

[Politico](#) (5/13, Mccalmont, 73K) reports Vice President Biden's son, Hunter Biden, is “joining Ukraine's largest private gas producer,” Burisma Holdings. Hunter Biden will “be in charge of the legal unit,” according to the company, providing “support for Burisma Holdings ‘among international organizations.’” Hunter Biden said the company's “track record of innovations and industry leadership in the field of natural gas means that it can be a strong driver of a strong economy in Ukraine.”

The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Chasmar, 455K) reports White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said Hunter Biden's new position “does not reflect an endorsement by the administration.”

[Reuters](#) (5/14, Rampton) reports Vice President Biden's spokeswoman, Kendra Barkoff, said he “does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement” with Burisma.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Sonne, Grimaldi, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports Hunter Biden is a close friend of Secretary Kerry's stepson. The Journal notes the hiring comes a few weeks after Devon Archer, a college roommate of Kerry's stepson, Christopher Heinz, joined the company's board in a role that involves helping the firm attract US investors. Heinz also has ties to one of Kerry's previous presidential campaigns.

As Germany Seeks Talks, Six Ukrainian Soldiers Killed By Pro-Russian Separatists.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (5/13, story 5, 0:20, Williams, 7.86M) reported briefly that six Ukrainian soldiers “were killed in an ambush when they came under attack by pro-Russian forces outside a village in the region of Donetsk.”

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Kunkle, Denyer, 4.22M) reports that attack came as German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier sought to “jump-start talks” between Kiev and the separatists “as part of a European bid to resolve the crisis.” But Tuesday's renewed fighting “suggested that the protagonists in the conflict were still talking past each other.”

The [AP](#) (5/14, Vasilyeva) reports Steinmeier's trip is part of an OSCE “road map for settling Ukraine's crisis,” but Ukrainian officials “sounded skeptical Tuesday about the OSCE plan.” Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk “thanked” the OSCE, but “said Ukraine has drawn up its own ‘road map’ for ending the crisis and noted the people of his country should settle the issue themselves.”

And the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Troianovski, Marson, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that there were no signs that talks would begin between the two sides on Wednesday as planned.

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Smale, Cowell, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says Steinmeier's visit "came as the battle lines seemed to harden" between Kiev and the separatists.

Satellite Images Show Russian Troops Did Not Pull Back From Border. [Reuters](#) (5/14, Croft) reports the US released new satellite images on Tuesday which shows Russian troops are still near the Ukrainian border. Reuters notes the images contradict Russian President Vladimir Putin's statements last week that indicated Russian troops were pulling back. NATO spokesman Col. Martin Downie said Russia "continues to have 40,000 high readiness troops massed" on the border and "another 25,000 troops in Crimea." Downie added the troops were present "to intimidate Ukraine's government and they could be used for an invasion."

Russia Says It Will End Cooperation On Space Station Beyond 2020. [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/13, story 9, 0:35, Williams, 7.86M) reported briefly that Russia announced Tuesday that "it would keep US astronauts off the International Space Station after the year 2020. The problem is the Russians are the only way to get there. The Americans hitch a ride on the Soyuz spacecraft."

[Reuters](#) (5/13) reports Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitri Rogozin said his country will reject the US request to continue the station's operations beyond 2020. "We are very concerned about continuing to develop high-tech projects with such an unreliable partner as the United States, which politicizes everything," Rogozin said.

The [AP](#) (5/14) reports Rogozin added that Russia has "would like to redirect the resources now used for manned spaceflight to other space projects." According to Rogozin, the Russian section of the space station "can exist independently of the American one, but the American segment cannot exist on its own without the Russian one." Rogozin also said that Russia "will act pragmatically and will not place any impediments for work on the ISS."

Russia Threatens To Halt Sale Of Rocket Engines To US. Bret Baier reported on [FOX News' Special Report](#) (5/13, 2.15M) that Russia is also "threatening to withhold Russian engines used to launch American military satellites into space." Russia "continues to profit from the sale of those engines," but Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitri Rogozin "says he will pull the plug unless the US stops using them for military purposes," according to Fox.

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/14, Ratnam, Meyer, 2.76M) notes Russian-made RD-180 rocket engines are used by United Launch Alliance LLC, the "sole supplier of rocket launches" for the Pentagon. But the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Oustroukh, Cameron, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says the US government currently has a two-year supply of the

engines, but the Pentagon has begun to search for domestic alternatives.

Sanctions Against Russia Could Hurt US Companies. The [Washington Times](#) (5/13, Taylor, 455K) reports while the White House "claims it can use economic sanctions to punish" Russia's actions in Ukraine, analysts say the "strategy has quickly run into problems" and "too aggressive a move" by the US "could result in blowback on major American companies with close ties" to Russia. The Times says the Administration is "walking a tightrope between America's corporate and national interests" by sanctioning Russians who head companies "with ties to US corporate giants." A future decision to sanction "entire sectors" of Russia's economy could force those companies to "swallow sudden and serious losses."

Cruz To Visit Ukraine. The [AP](#) (5/14) reports Sen. Ted Cruz "will visit Ukraine this month" and meet protest leaders that "forced out the country's pro-Russian president." Cruz will also visit other Eastern European countries and Israel on the trip "that could be seen as an attempt to build his foreign policy credentials." The trip is "sponsored by Secure America Now, a conservative foreign policy group," and Cruz is the "only lawmaker on the trip," according to the Senator's office. Cruz said Ukraine "is facing an enormous threat from Russia...I have particular responsibility to assess firsthand the current and future military threats" facing allies.

HEALTHCARE NEWS:

More Federal Dollars Went To Creating State Health Exchanges Than HealthCare.gov. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/14, Trumbull, 566K) reported on the problems with some state-run health insurance exchanges, noting that they "have emerged as costly technological messes, unable to function smoothly." By one account, more taxpayer money "went to setting up individual exchanges for 14 states and the District of Columbia than for the federal Healthcare.gov." According to Jay Angoff, a health policy expert at the law firm Mehri & Skalet in Washington, Federal funds "used to set up the 15 stand-alone exchanges totals \$3.9 billion, compared with \$3.5 billion to build 'federally facilitated marketplaces' for the 36 states that didn't set up their own exchanges." The Monitor noted that after receiving hundreds of millions of Federal dollars, both Oregon and Massachusetts have decided to scrap their websites, and it is possible "that other states among the 14 that created their own websites under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including Maryland, will also ditch their trouble-ridden websites."

Employees Of St. Louis ACA Contractor Paid To Do Nothing. The [Daily Caller](#) (5/13, Treacher, 408K) featured a story from KMOV in St. Louis on an ACA contractor

responsible for processing paper applications for health insurance under the ACA. From the KMOV story, "The main thing is that the data entry side does not have hardly any work to do. They're told to sit at their computers and hit the refresh button every ten minutes. No more than every ten minutes. They're monitored. To hopefully look for an application. They're [sic] goals are set to process two applications per month and some people are not even able to do that."

Insurers Say Patient Choice Can't Be A Priority Under ACA. The [Daily Caller](#) (5/13, Hurtubise, 408K) reported that health insurers now admit that under the ACA, "patient choice can no longer be a priority for Americans." According to the Daily Caller, health insurers' costs are rising, and if they "are going to keep prices at a manageable level, narrow networks are one of their only options." Cancer centers "have been a primary casualty of narrow networks." An analysis by the AP found that "just four of the 19 top comprehensive cancer centers are covered by all Obamacare exchange plans in their states." The Daily Caller noted that these "limited choices were clearly not part of the promise President Barack Obama made when selling his health care law."

"Woodwork Effect" Resulted In More Medicaid Enrollments In Non-Expansion States. [McClatchy](#) (5/13, Pugh, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that an analysis by Avalere Health has found that 17 states which "chose not to expand eligibility for Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act ended up with more program beneficiaries – partly because of all the hoopla surrounding the health law." Between October and March, more than 500,000 people in those states signed up for Medicaid coverage "even though they were already eligible for the program but were not previously enrolled." McClatchy notes that the sign-ups took place as the Administration and supporters "were engaged in a massive public outreach and education campaign that resulted in 8 million Americans purchasing a marketplace health plan." Those 17 states saw increased enrollments due to the "woodwork effect," which refers to eligible residents who "came out of the woodwork" to sign up.

The [AP](#) (5/14) notes that these states "could be getting billions of dollars more from the federal government if they had expanded eligibility for their Medicaid programs."

Senate Republicans Push For Vote On Medical Device Tax Repeal. [The Hill](#) (5/13, Becker, 237K) reported that Senate Republicans on Tuesday called for a vote to kill the ACA's tax on medical devices "as part of a broader package to revive tax breaks that expired at the end of last year." However, it is "unclear if Republicans have the leverage to win a vote on the medical device tax," because

the larger tax package "is popular with members of both parties." The Hill noted that Republicans expressed confidence that they "have the support to roll back the medical device tax if it hit the floor, given that 79 senators backed a nonbinding repeal measure last year," but they "stopped short of saying they would oppose the tax package without the medical device vote."

[Roll Call](#) (5/13, Lesniewski, Sanchez, Subscription Publication, 76K) reported that Sen. Orrin Hatch, ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, "said he heard from some Democrats that [Senate Majority Leader] Reid was likely to block consideration of a device amendment." Roll Call noted that Reid "has long supported the tax, even in the face of opposition from a number of members of his caucus."

Jindal Notes Hillary Clinton's 1993 Objections To Individual Mandate. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, in a piece for [Politico Magazine](#) (5/13, 633K), notes that in 1993, then First Lady Hillary Clinton "testified publicly that if Congress were to pass legislation with an individual mandate to purchase insurance, 'we worry that the numbers of people who currently are insured through their employment will decrease because there will no longer be any reason for many employers' to offer coverage, when individuals can receive government subsidies instead.'" According to Jindal, "It is a well-known fact that Clinton came to strenuously support an individual health insurance mandate in her 2008 primary campaign," but "less well-remembered...is that Clinton considered an employer mandate – not an individual mandate – the best way to achieve 'universal coverage' in her health care task force's ill-fated 1993 proposal."

More Than 90 Arrested For Medicare Fraud. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/14, Richey, 566K) reports that the Justice Department on Tuesday charged more than 90 people as part of "a nationwide crackdown against what investigators said was massive fraud in federally administered health-care programs." The defendants, which include 27 medical professionals, including 16 physicians, "were charged with submitting more than \$260 million in fraudulent claims to the Medicare system." Acting Assistant Attorney General David O'Neil said in a statement, "The fraud was rampant, it was brazen, and it permeated every part of the Medicare system. ... The crimes charged represent the face of health care fraud today – doctors billing for services that were never rendered, supply companies providing motorized wheelchairs that were never needed, recruiters paying kickbacks to get Medicare billing numbers of patients."

[McClatchy](#) (5/13, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that this was the Medicare Fraud Strike Force's seventh enforcement action. Since its inception in 2007, the Strike Force has "prosecuted 1,900 people in nine locations on charges that they bilked the government for almost \$6 billion." Attorney General **Holder** said of Tuesday's action,

"Department of Justice will not tolerate these activities. ... And we will continue working alongside the Department of Health and Human Services – as well as federal, state and local partners – to use every appropriate tool and available resource to find, stop and punish those who seek to take advantage of their fellow citizens."

The [Miami Herald](#) (5/14, Weaver, 822K) reports that in South Florida, there were "50 suspects busted over two days on charges of trying to steal almost \$66 million from" Medicare. The South Florida arrests "accounted for the majority of Medicare fraud suspects busted in a coordinated nationwide take-down."

Report: US Is One Of Three Nations That Does Not Provide Paid Maternity Leave.

[McClatchy](#) (5/14, Zarocostas, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that a new UN study says the US is one of only three nations in the world, and the only in the West "that does not provide some kind of monetary payment to new mothers who've taken maternity leave from their jobs." According to the report from the International Labor Organization, the other two nations are "Oman, an absolute monarchy in the Persian Gulf; and Papua New Guinea, a South Pacific nation where the US State Department says violence against women is so common that 60 percent of men in a UN study acknowledged having committed a rape." The report notes that the other 182 nations surveyed "provide either a Social Security-like government payment to women who've recently given birth or adopted a child or require employers to continue at least a percentage of the worker's pay."

Officials Move To Prevent Spread Of MERS In US.

The confirmation of two cases of the potentially fatal MERS virus in the US was covered by all three network news broadcasts Tuesday evening, and was the lead on two of them. [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/13, lead story, 2:30, Williams, 7.86M) reported that while public health officials "have been down playing the threat," the Federal government on Tuesday "stepped up its efforts to keep it out of this country." A health advisory has been posted "at all US major airports alerting travelers to the Middle East and trying to prevent its spread." NBC's chief medical editor Dr. Nancy Snyderman added that the White House responded to concerns about the virus's appearance in the US. White House Press Secretary Jay Carney: "The President has been briefed on this development. The CDC is taking the current situation very seriously and is working in close coordination with local health authorities."

[ABC World New](#) (5/13, lead story, 2:25, Osunsami)s (5/13, lead story, 2:25, Osunsami) reported in its lead story that "health officials are trying to track down more than 500 passengers from at least 20 states," who shared a May 1 flight with the Florida patient. Two healthcare workers who

treated the patient "are already showing symptoms. One is hospitalized with what looks like pneumonia."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/13, story 6, 0:20, Pelley, 5.08M) reported 21 workers at two Orlando hospitals who came into contact with the patient "are being monitored for symptoms" of the disease, which is "fatal in 30 percent of cases."

NSA NEWS:

Senators Question Administration Statements On Warrantless NSA Surveillance.

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Savage, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Sens. Mark Udall and Ron Wyden on Tuesday accused the Administration of "seeking to 'ignore or justify' statements it made to the Supreme Court about warrantless surveillance by the National Security Agency, contributing to what they called a 'culture of misinformation' by the executive branch." In a letter to Solicitor General Donald B. Verrilli Jr., Udall and Wyden "maintained that the Justice Department was not being forthright about what they portrayed as factual misrepresentations to the Supreme Court in 2012." Their letter "was a response to a letter that the Justice Department sent them in December defending its conduct in the surveillance case." A spokesman said that the Justice Department "was reviewing the senators' letter and declined to comment further."

NSA Case Could Mean "Redemption" For Klayman.

The [Washington Post Magazine](#) (5/11, Montgomery) examined Judicial Watch founder Larry Klayman's "landmark challenge of the National Security Agency's program of collecting records of domestic telephone calls," noting that after Klayman's "relevance faded" in the early 2000s, Judge Richard J. Leon's "scathing 68-page preliminary opinion" on his NSA case "blasted open a path to redemption for Larry Klayman." Leon wrote that the "technology of the NSA's phone records program is 'almost-Orwellian,'" and "its use such an apparent violation of the Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable search and seizure that...Klayman would ultimately prevail." While Leon "stayed his ruling so the government could appeal," if "things continue to break his way, Klayman finds himself on the threshold of scoring one of the most monumental rebukes of government overreach in American history."

SYRIA NEWS:

Obama, Jarba Discuss Additional US Aid For Opposition.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, DeYoung, 4.22M) reports President Obama met Tuesday at the White House the Syrian opposition leader Ahmad al-Jarba, who "said they had laid the groundwork for more substantive US

assistance." While the Administration "continued to resist opposition entreaties to supply surface-to-air missiles," Jarba adviser Oubai Shahbandar said, "We've made significant headway and laid the pillars for much more significant discussions."

[Reuters](#) (5/14) reports that in a statement, the White House said Obama "welcomed the coalition's leadership and constructive approach to dialogue, and encouraged the coalition to further its vision for an inclusive government that represents all of the people of Syria."

Brahimi Resigns As UN Envoy To Syria.

[McClatchy](#) (5/13, Allam, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon on Tuesday "announced the resignation of special envoy" to Syria Lakhdar Brahimi. Ban indicated the international community is "hopelessly divided" on a political solution to the crisis, saying, "I regret that the parties, and especially the government, have proven so reluctant to take advantage of that opportunity" to end the war.

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Sengupta, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports Ban said the failure of Security Council members to "coax allies on the ground into the conflict" was a significant reason for Brahimi's resignation. Ban said Brahimi's efforts "have not received support" from the Council, representing "a failure of all of us."

The [AP](#) (5/14) reports a successor for Brahimi has not been chosen yet, according to Ban, who said he will "take time to find 'the right person.'" According to the AP, diplomats have said candidates include: former Tunisian Foreign Minister Kamel Morjane, former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, former UN envoy Michael Williams from Britain, and former Spanish NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana.

[Reuters](#) (5/14, Nichols) reports Brahimi's last day in the position will be May 31. Brahimi said, "It's very sad that I leave this position and leave Syria behind in such a bad state."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Lauria, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports Brahimi said that he is "sure the crisis will end." Brahimi added, "Everybody who has responsibility and influence in the situation," should ask the question "how many more dead? How much more destruction...before Syria becomes the Syria we have known."

[AFP](#) (5/14, Viollaz, Revise) reports Brahimi "coaxed" Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Syria's "fractious opposition to attend peace talks," but "negotiations broke down after only two rounds amid bitter recriminations." The war "slipped into a fourth year with an estimated 150,000 dead and millions of refugees," according to AFP.

France: Syria Launched As Many As 14 Chemical Attacks In Recent Months.

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Gordon, Cowell, Subscription Publication,

9.65M) reports French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius on Tuesday accused Syria's government of "carrying out attacks using chemical agents, especially chlorine, as many as 14 times in recent months." Fabius, who met with Secretary Kerry earlier in the day, said he "regretted that" the US "decided against using force to enforce its 'red line'" following the Syrian regime's use of chemical weapons on Aug. 21. Fabius added that France was willing to use force as "part of an American-led coalition, but did not want to act alone."

[Reuters](#) (5/14, Wroughton) reports Fabius said samples from the attacks are being examined to confirm the use of chemical weapons. "What it shows is that (the) Bashar al-Assad regime...continues to be able to produce chemical weapons and to use them," Fabius said.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/14, Abdulrahim, 3.46M) reports Nadim Houry, of Human Rights Watch, said the chemical attacks are "one more reason for the U.N. Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court."

NYTimes: Referring Syria To ICC Will Reinforce Condemnation Of Atrocities. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that a decision to "refer Syria to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for possible prosecution of war crimes," will not end the civil war, but it "would underscore the world's revulsion at atrocities by both sides." The Times says "there is ample justification for an investigation," but "there is no reason to believe Russia...or China will back the referral."

Report: Syrian Troops Targeting Medical Workers.

According to the [New York Times](#) (5/14, Gladstone, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), a report from advocacy group Physicians for Human Rights says Syrian forces "have systematically attacked doctors and other medical workers in rebel-held areas and are responsible for 90 percent" of assaults on the country's healthcare facilities. The group's executive director, Donna McKay, said, "Syria is among the worst examples of targeting medical care as a weapon of war."

Malinowski's Comments On Rwanda Draw Attention To Syrian Crisis.

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Landler, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports Assistant Secretary of State Tom Malinowski's comments about Rwanda at his swearing in on Tuesday prompted comparisons to the Administration's handling of the Syrian crisis. Malinowski, who previously served as a speechwriter for Secretary of State Warren Christopher, said he thought at the time that the US actions related to Rwanda "probably won't satisfy" the next generation's questions about efforts made to stop the genocide. The Times notes, in his previous role as a human-rights activist, Malinowski urged the White House to do more in the Syrian crisis, and his former

colleagues indicated Secretary Kerry “has encouraged him to speak out.”

Homs Residents Returning After Rebels Withdrawal. The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Morris, 4.22M) reports “displaced residents” of Homs are returning home following last week’s agreement between rebels and the government which led to the anti-government fighters leaving the city. The Post notes the Syrian flag “is expected to be raised above” the city on Wednesday, as part of a “government ceremony” of the regime’s “major step in its attempt to secure central Syria.”

Aid Agencies Cannot Accommodate Number Of Refugees In Lebanon. The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Hlavaty, 455K) reports “Lebanon has more refugees” in need of aid “than international agencies can accommodate, and the situation worsens daily” as the Syrian civil war continues. Refugees now make up “one-third of Lebanon’s” population, putting a strain on “finances and resources” of the country. UN spokeswoman Dana Sleiman said, “The latest numbers are that 70 percent of refugees in Lebanon are very vulnerable, which leaves 30 percent not receiving aid. For assistance, I am only talking about food, hygiene and baby kits.”

Ignatius: Syrian Civil War Boosting Dangerous Terrorist Group. In a [Washington Post](#) (5/14, 4.22M) column, David Ignatius argues the Syrian war has “spawned a terrorist group so extreme” that even Al Qaeda “rejected” it. Ignatius says the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) “is now establishing a safe haven” in the city of Raqqa, which “could soon be used to attack foreign targets.”

AFPAK NEWS:

Dobbins: US, Allies Will Continue “Significant” Presence In Afghanistan. [AFP](#) (5/14) reports special representative James Dobbins said the coalition military presence in Afghanistan will be “significant” despite the drawdown. While speaking to journalists in Tokyo, Dobbins said he hopes a decision is made “in the next month or two on the exact size of (the remaining) contingent.” Dobbins added the US and its allies “will be prepared for a continuing advisory mission, much smaller numbers” than today, but still capable of “improv[ing] the quality of the Afghan security forces.”

Former Soldier Awarded Medal Of Honor For Actions In Afghanistan. [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/13, story 7, 2:10, Williams, 7.86M) reported that after years of bureaucratic delays, the President on Tuesday awarded the Medal of Honor to Army Specialist Kyle White, “whose

combat actions in Afghanistan were the definition of courage and sacrifice.” NBC (Mikaszewski) added that on a “rugged mountain pass in eastern Afghanistan,” White’s platoon “came under heavy fire in an enemy ambush.” After being wounded himself, White “repeatedly exposed himself to intense enemy fire in an effort to save” other wounded members of his platoon. [ABC World News](#) (5/13, story 5, 0:30, Sawyer) and the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/13, story 10, 3:05, Pelley, 5.08M) ran similar reports on the awarding of the medal to White.

[USA Today](#) (5/14, Jackson, 5.82M) reports that although White was “wounded and knocked unconscious at one point,” he “treated comrades for injuries and radioed for help to evacuate survivors, some of whom attended Tuesday’s ceremony in the East Room.” USA Today notes that in awarding the medal, the President said, “Today, we pay tribute to a soldier who embodies the courage of his generation.”

[McClatchy](#) (5/13, Ordonez, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that the President said, “Kyle, members of Chosen Company, you did your duty, and now it’s time for America to do ours. ... After more than a decade of war, to welcome you home with the support and the benefits and opportunities that you’ve earned. You make us proud, and you motivate all of us to be the best we can be.”

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Jaffe, Wilson, 4.22M) reports that White said the medal “gives him a chance to tell the story of the five soldiers and one Marine who died in a largely unknown battle in one of the most isolated places on earth.” White said, “Finally our story can be told and recognized. ... It was just a number at the bottom of the ticker on a news channel. But these guys were the best of us. I’ll always say that because that’s what I believe. It is important their names are known.”

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Joachim, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) notes that White is the “14th recipient of the Medal of Honor for service in either Afghanistan or Iraq.”

Afghan Taliban Appoints New Military Commander. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Trofimov, Totakhil, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that Afghan officials say the Afghan Taliban has appointed Ibrahim Sadat, who was released from Pakistani custody earlier this year, as its new military commander.

Journalist Describes His Experience Covering Afghan Landslides. In a post for the [New York Times](#)’ (5/14, 9.65M) “At War” blog, Ali Latifi described his experience covering the back-to-back landslides which struck the Afghan village of Abi Barik. Latifi noted that on the plateau above the village there was “an odd sense of inertia,” as people “circled from one location to another while stacks of tents and blankets sat unused.” Latifi noted the frustration “as people who had lost everything could only stare at supplies

that were collecting dust under the blaring sun." He added that while the plateau "was awash with sound...the site itself was silent," as a "community of hundreds of homes, dozens of shops, thousands of animals and seven mosques was buried." Latifi added that the "real tragedy" of the disaster is that "the story of the land and the people who had made a home here had been silenced."

Sixty-Eight Pakistani Lawyers Charged With Blasphemy. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Masood, Walsh, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that in a case that highlights "growing intolerance in Pakistan," police in Punjab Province said Tuesday that they have "filed blasphemy charges against a group of 68 lawyers at the instigation of a Sunni extremist leader." The charges stem from a May 7 incident in which "dozens of lawyers, mostly from the country's Shiite minority, staged a street protest against a senior police official, Umar Daraz," who they say "had detained and beaten a lawyer after arguing with him." During the protest, the lawyers referred to Daraz "by his first name," which he shares with Umar Farooq, "a revered historical figure in Islam who was a companion of the Prophet Muhammad in seventh-century Arabia." The leader of Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat, Maulana Muhammad Ahmed Ludhianvi, "claimed the lawyers were shouting and insulting the name of the religious figure, not the police officer" and "one of his associates lodged a formal blasphemy complaint" against them.

IRAQ NEWS:

Bombings In Shiite Areas Of Baghdad Kill 28.

The [AP](#) (5/14) reports that 28 people were killed Tuesday in a "wave of car bombings in mainly Shiite areas of Baghdad." The attacks occurred "as Iraqi Shiites were celebrating the birthday of Imam Ali, the cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad and Shiite Islam's most sacred martyr." Although no group "claimed responsibility for the attacks," they "bore the hallmarks of al-Qaida-inspired Sunni militants who consider Shiites to be 'infidels.'"

In its report on the bombings, the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Yacoub, 4.22M) reports that "at least 34 people" were killed in the "show of force meant to intimidate the majority Shiites as they celebrated what is meant to be a joyous holiday for their sect."

Father Of Slain Soldier Urges Iraqi Judge To Prosecute Insurgent. The [AP](#) (5/14) reports that Keith Maupin of Cincinnati, who is the father of a US soldier "whose remains were found near Baghdad in 2008 says he urged an Iraqi judge at a hearing to fully prosecute the insurgent accused of killing his son." Maupin "participated by video teleconference from the Pentagon in the case of a man in

Iraqi custody," who US officials say "confessed to the killing of Sgt. Matt Maupin, who was kidnapped near Baghdad in 2004."

DETAINEE ISSUES NEWS:

Islamic Cleric Tells Jury He Admired Bin Laden. [Bloomberg News](#) (5/14, Hurtado, 2.76M) reports that Abu Hamza al-Masri, the Muslim cleric on trial in New York City for supporting the al Qaeda network, told a Federal jury "of his admiration for Osama bin Laden and said the World Trade Center was blown up by the U.S. government." Assistant US Attorney John Cronan on Tuesday questioned Abu Hamza "about statements he made in media interviews as well as recorded speeches and sermons, expounding his views while preaching in the 1990s at the Finsbury Park Mosque in London." Cronan asked Abu Hamza "if he ever said in a television interview that he endorsed bin Laden and that he loved him for his achievements after 1993, adding: 'Sheikh bin Laden is not a normal person, he's an example for all mujahedeen, for his past experience, goals and achievements.'" and Abu Hamza agreed that he had made those statements.

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Weiser, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Abu Hamza, also known as Mostafa Kamel Mostafa, "turned combative and defensive" under "a prosecutor's rigorous cross-examination," and "even tried to pose his own questions to the prosecutor, accusing him of taking his statements out of context and telling him at one point to 'try to concentrate.'" US District Judge Katherine Forrest told him at one point, "Mr. Mostafa, we do need to obey the rules of cross-examination, all right? Don't make speeches."

Judge To Consider Moving Trial For Three Of Tsarnaev's Friends.

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Seelye, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports from Boston that US District Judge Douglas P. Woodlock on Tuesday "said he wanted to try to find juries in Boston for the trials of three friends of" Boston Marathon bombing defendant Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, but he indicated "that if impartial jurors could not be found here, he might seek a jury from Springfield, Mass., about 90 miles west." The three friends are charged with trying to cover up for Tsarnaev "after the authorities released photographs of him and his brother, Tamerlan, to the public." Judge Woodlock "ordered the three to face trial separately and set a trial date of June 30 for Azamat Tazhayakov, Sept. 8 for Dias Kadyrbayev and Sept. 29 for Robel Phillipos."

TERRORISM NEWS:

National September 11 Memorial And Museum To Be Dedicated This Week.

[USA Today](#) (5/14, Rick, Hampson, 5.82M) reports that the National September 11 Memorial and Museum will be dedicated in New York on Thursday. The museum's "monumental artifacts" include "a staircase that channeled the imperiled to safety; a column that refused to yield when others around it fell; a wall that held back the flood; and the cross that materialized in the midst of chaos."

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Cotter, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that the President will attend the dedication of the museum. The Times describes the museum as "emotionally overwhelming, particularly...for New Yorkers who were in the city on that apocalyptic September day and the paranoia-fraught weeks that followed, but almost as certainly for the estimated two billion people around the globe who followed the horror unfolding on television, radio and the Internet." The museum will open to the public next Wednesday.

OTHER NATIONAL NEWS:

Obama To Push For Increased Infrastructure Spending Today.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Halsey, 4.22M) reports that on Monday, Sens. Barbara Boxer and David Vitter "released without comment" a "long-awaited bipartisan" transportation spending bill, which is "pegged at around the current level of \$52 billion a year, with an allowance for inflation." According to the Post, "the bill was reassuring to state and local transportation officials who feared their federal funds might be delayed or reduced by mid-summer." The Post notes that the bill "landed in the middle of what advocacy groups have dubbed 'infrastructure week,' a concerted effort to draw...attention to declining national systems said to need \$3.6 trillion in restoration by 2020." The Post notes that on Wednesday, President Obama will "visit New York's Tappan Zee Bridge" as part of his "latest foray to underscore the infrastructure issue."

Senate Votes 96-3 To Begin Debate On Tax Extenders Package.

The [AP](#) (5/14) reports that on Tuesday, "a bill to renew more than 50 expired tax breaks...cleared a key hurdle in the Senate," which is "giving hope to millions of taxpayers who would otherwise be hit with unwelcome tax increases next spring," but "other hurdles remain." According to the AP, "The package includes a business tax credit for research and development and a sales tax deduction for individuals who live in states without an income tax," along with "a generous tax credit for using...renewable energy sources to produce electricity, and

several provisions that allow businesses to write off capital investments more quickly." The AP says "the tax breaks enjoy broad bipartisan support," but "some Republican senators want the opportunity to" add amendments, including "the repeal of a medical device tax that helps fund" the Affordable Care Act, and "it's not clear whether" Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid will "allow amendments."

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says that when the Senate "vot[ed] 96-3 to take up a package of business tax breaks without offering any way to pay for them," they were "shrugg[ing] off the deficit concerns that were once an animating force" in Congress. According to the Times, "the procedural vote presaged final passage as early as this week and followed the House's overwhelming approval last week of legislation that would...raise the deficit by \$156 billion over the next 10 years." The Times notes that "62 House Democrats joined virtually every Republican in ignoring President Obama's veto threat because of the deficit implications."

Administration Moving Ahead With Plans To Spend Billions On Energy Efficiency.

[USA Today](#) (5/14, Koch, 5.82M) reports that following the Senate's "failure to approve a bipartisan energy efficiency bill," the Administration is "expanding its push to boost the efficiency of appliances, outdoor lights and the buildings of corporate giants." USA Today notes that last week, the President "announced the Department of Energy will work to develop stricter building codes" that "require 8.5% less energy." USA Today adds that "the federal government will spend an extra \$2 billion on upgrades to its buildings over the next three years."

GOP Senators, WSJournal Urge Reid To Allow Vote On Keystone XL Pipeline. [Bloomberg News](#) (5/13, Snyder, 2.76M), in an article on the energy-efficiency legislation sponsored by Sen. Rob Portman and Jeanne Shaheen that effectively died in the Senate on Monday, says "deep divisions on issues unrelated to the bill – such as the Keystone XL pipeline and regulations on the coal industry – doomed it," which Bloomberg says "underscores that even legislation with broad support faces an uphill fight as both parties eye midterm elections that will determine control of Congress."

[The Hill](#) (5/13, Barron-lopez, 237K) reported that on Tuesday, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said Majority Leader Harry Reid "can schedule a vote on the Keystone pipeline at any time," and noted that Reid "has several members that would like to have that vote." The Hill adds that Sen. Lisa Murkowski, "a co-sponsor of the energy efficiency bill that died Monday, echoed McConnell's sentiments," saying, "Sen. Reid's decision to deny Republicans the ability to offer a handful of energy-related amendments was a sad milestone in the downward spiral of

the Senate, but it doesn't mean we can't have a vote on the Keystone XL pipeline."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an editorial titled, "Harry Reid's Senate Blockade," blames Reid for the demise of the Shaheen-Portman bill, and contends that his refusal to allow votes on amendments is attributable to his alliance with the White House. According to the Journal, the White House is fearful that centrist Democrats will join with Republicans to approve the Keystone project and roll back EPA regulations on coal plants.

Meanwhile, in an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Anderson, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) titled, "Stopping Keystone Ensures More Railroad Tank-Car Spills," Terry Anderson, president of the Property and Environment Research Center, makes the case that construction of the Keystone XL pipeline would decrease the oil industry's reliance on trains to transport crude and therefore reduce the number of spills that occur when those trains derail.

Miller Urges Obama To Establish Commission To Probe VA Hospitals. [USA Today](#) (5/14, Zoroya, 5.82M) reports that Rep. Jeff Miller, the chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, has sent a letter to President Obama urging him to "set up a special, bipartisan commission to investigate accumulating allegations of health care delays at VA hospitals." According to USA Today, Miller "said an independent commission was necessary 'to thoroughly investigate veteran access issues, patient harm and preventable deaths as a result of delays in care across the VA health care system.'"

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/13, story 2, 3:00, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported that the VA "is under fire over allegations that administrators in Phoenix kept a secret waiting list to hide delays in patient care," and, according to Pelley, CBS "has discovered the same practice may be happening at another VA hospital," this one in Chicago.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Hicks, 4.22M) reports that VA Secretary Shinseki will testify Thursday before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee and senators are "poised to question him about VA health clinics allegedly covering up treatment delays." The Post says that senators are likely to "challenge Shinseki over the amount of time he took to order the preservation of electronic and paper evidence related to the purported treatment delays."

The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Chasmar, 455K) reports that Sen. Bernie Sanders, who chairs the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, has decried what he describes as a "concerted effort to undermine the VA" driven by the "Koch Brothers and others, who want to radically change the nature of society, and either make major cuts in all of these institutions, or maybe do away with them entirely."

Democrats Criticize Obama Judicial Nominee's Legislative Record. The [Washington Post](#) (5/14,

O'Keefe, 4.22M) reports that on Tuesday, Senate Democrats opposed to the nomination of Michael Boggs, "a Georgia state judge tapped by [President] Obama to serve on a U.S. district court in Georgia," "sharply questioned" Boggs "about his previous statements, votes and court decisions related to abortion rights, gay rights and civil rights." According to the Post, the White House "has stood by Boggs despite strong opposition from a handful of Democratic senators, members of the Congressional Black Caucus, civil rights leaders, NARAL Pro-Choice America and gay rights groups." The Post reports that "as a state senator from 2000 to 2004, Boggs, a conservative Democrat, supported keeping the Confederate emblem on the Georgia state flag; supported establishing a...license plate that helped fund antiabortion groups; opposed same-sex marriage; and supported a law that would require parents to accompany their daughters to abortion clinics if the daughter is younger than 18."

The [Huffington Post](#) (5/13, Bendery, 11.54M) reported that Sen. Dianne Feinstein "flat-out told Boggs she wasn't sure she could support him...given his past votes, despite his assurances that he would follow legal precedent if confirmed as a federal judge." The Huffington Post also reports that Sen. Al Franken "said he felt misled by a private conversation he had with Boggs about his votes for keeping the Confederate insignia on the state flag," while Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid "declined to back Boggs in a news conference with reporters," saying, "I'm not going to make a decision on Boggs until the committee acts on it."

According to [Roll Call](#) (5/13, Sanchez, Subscription Publication, 76K), Boggs' nomination "was part of a larger deal between the White House and the two Georgia senators in order to get more important, higher-level circuit court judges confirmed in the state."

[The Hill](#) (5/13, Lillis, 237K) reports that Sens. Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson "both spoke Tuesday in support of all seven of those nominees, and the Republicans on the Judiciary Committee appear poised to back the whole slate." The Hill reports that also on Tuesday, White House press secretary Jay Carney said, "Based on Judge Boggs's 10-year track record as a state trial and appellate court judge, the president believes he is qualified for the federal bench."

The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Dinan, Boyer, 455K) reports that "black Democratic leaders in Congress have criticized...Boggs' nomination and questioned why the Senate hearing was held while the House was on a weeklong recess."

Reid Says Senate Will Vote Soon On Nominee Who Wrote Obama Drone Policy. [Roll Call](#) (5/13, Lesniewski, 76K) reports that on Tuesday, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid indicated that "senators could soon face a vote on Harvard Law Professor David J. Barron," who is "the author of legal opinions backing the Obama administration's drone policy...to be a federal appeals court judge." Roll Call

notes that Sen. Rand Paul “has contested the continued secrecy surrounding the legal justification for targeted killing of American citizens using drones.”

WPost Fact Checker: Obama Overstated Number Of GOP Filibusters Since 2007.

In his “In The Loop” column for the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Kamen, Itkowitz, 4.22M), A Kamen notes that Glenn Kessler, the Post’s “resident fact checker” gave President Obama “four Pinocchios” after he claimed last week that “since 2007, Republicans have filibustered ‘500 pieces of legislation that would help the middle class.’” Kamen adds that, according to Kessler, “the correct number – generously including nominations as well as ‘pieces of legislation’ – is about 133 ‘successful’ filibusters since 2007.”

NBC’s Todd On Benghazi: “All The Questions Have Been Answered.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (5/14, Fung, 11.54M) reported that on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) on Tuesday, NBC political director Chuck Todd said that in regards to the 2012 Benghazi terrorist attacks “all the questions have been answered.” Todd added, “There’s just some people that don’t like the answers, that wish the answers were somehow more conspiratorial, I guess.”

Portman: Senate Should Have Its Own Select Committee On Benghazi. Sen. Rob Portman, appearing on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (5/13, 2.15M), advocated the establishment of a Senate select committee to investigate the Benghazi terrorist attacks that would work with the House’s select committee. Portman said, “I would prefer it to be bicameral, in other words, have a House and Senate committee working together.” Portman added, “Frankly, it’s in the Administration’s interests to do it more quickly than have it be closer to a 2016 election.”

WTimes Profile: Gowdy Enjoys Bipartisan Respect In Congress. According to the [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Sherfinski, 455K), “Republicans and Democrats alike say” Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC) “is the right man to head the special congressional investigation into Benghazi, a job that could springboard him into positions such as attorney general or service in a Republican presidential administration.” The Times adds that colleagues “also say the forthright former prosecutor isn’t likely to cut corners on the investigation to score political points or raise his profile.”

Watt Announces GSEs Will Continue In Current Role.

Media reports are casting the announcement by Federal Housing Finance Agency head Mel Watt that the GSEs will expand their role in the mortgage markets as a major change in policy by the Administration. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Lowrey, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Watt, head of the FHFA, which oversees Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, on Tuesday “announced policies that would maintain the mortgage giants’ role in parts

of the housing market, spur more home lending and aid distressed homeowners.” The Times says that the announcement “is a significant shift in strategy for the mortgage financiers.” Speaking at the Brookings Institution, **Watt** said, “Our overriding objective is to ensure that there is broad liquidity in the housing finance market and to do so in a way that is safe and sound.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/14, Puzzanghera, 3.46M) reports that Watt’s move comes as “the housing market showing signs of slowing,” and he “doesn’t want the giant mortgage financing firms to start reducing the federal government’s outsized role in helping borrowers get home loans.” By keeping the pair of GSEs “on course,” Watt “essentially announced a major shift in direction for the bailed-out companies, one that ensures they will keep playing the main role in housing finance for the foreseeable future.”

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Elboghdady, 4.22M) reports that Watt “said that his job is to make sure the mortgage market is working smoothly until Congress decides what to do next” with Fannie and Freddie. The Post says that several bills “propose gradually dismantling the companies and shifting mortgage lending risks away from taxpayers to the private sector.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Timiraos, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) says that the move could boost the stuttering housing recovery. The Journal also says that the move could result in the GSEs retaining prominence in the mortgage market despite support in Congress for winding them down.

[USA Today](#) (5/14, Korte, 5.82M) reports that Watt’s proposal will “not reduce the size of mortgages Fannie and Freddie will back” as expected. Watt said that the change “came after the agency heard ‘concerns about how such a reduction could adversely impact the health of the current housing finance market.’” In addition, the GSEs “will back loans even when a borrower misses two mortgage payments in the first three years.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (5/14, Gongloff, 11.54M) says that the Federal government “is about to make it easier for you to get a mortgage,” as Watt has told the two GSEs “to make more credit available to home-buyers, instead of retreating from the mortgage market as they have been doing since the financial crisis.” As part of that effort, Watt “ordered Fannie and Freddie to give banks more protection against the risk of being forced to buy back mortgages that go bad,” which could make banks “more willing to lend to riskier borrowers.”

WPost Criticizes Move, Senate Inaction On GSE Reform.

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, 4.22M) says that reducing the Federal role in the housing market “is not a radical free-market notion,” but in fact has enjoyed support from within the Obama Administration in the past. However, Watt’s announcement is a “victory for defenders of the status quo.” The big winners, the Post says, “ironically, may be not the poor and the ‘underserved,’ but a group of

giant hedge funds that snapped up millions of beaten-down Fannie and Freddie shares after the government bailout, and are now lobbying Congress — as well as suing in federal court — for a return to private ownership.” The Post says that the bailout of the GSEs will now “pave the way for a colossal windfall for bottom-feeding Wall Street types.”

Rising Home Prices Limiting Properties Available To Middle Class. [USA Today](#) (5/14, Davidson, Hoyer, 5.82M) reports that according to a new study from real estate research firm Trulia, “rising home prices and stagnant incomes are pushing homeownership beyond the reach of middle-class Americans in more cities.” The study found that in “20 of the 100 largest metro areas, a majority of homes on the market are not affordable for middle-income buyers,” up from only 10 metro areas in 2013.

Moniz Considering End To Crude Oil Export Ban. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Nam, Kent, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that Energy Secretary Moniz said on Tuesday that his department is considering easing the ban on crude oil exports. At a media briefing on Tuesday, **Moniz** said, “The issue of crude oil exports is under consideration. ... A driver for this consideration is that the nature of the oil we’re producing may not be well matched to our current refinery capacity.”

Retail Sales Up Slightly In April; Household Debt Up In First Quarter. [Reuters](#) (5/13, Reuters) reports that retail sales rose just 0.1 percent in April, according to data released Tuesday by the Department of Commerce. That’s well below the 1.5 percent increase in March, and a disappointment, as economists expected an increase of 0.4 percent. Reuters says that the data is dampening hopes that growth would accelerate in the 2nd quarter after a very weak 1st quarter.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Shah, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), meanwhile, reports that household debt rose \$129 billion in the 1st quarter to \$11.65 trillion, according to data released on Tuesday by the New York Fed. The increase was driven by a \$116 billion increase in mortgage debt. The Journal says that the report suggests that consumer spending remains weak, as credit card debt fell \$24 billion to \$659 billion.

[ABC World News](#) (5/13, story 6, 2:40, Sawyer) reported that the average US family “owes \$109,000 if you include mortgage car loans student loans and credit cards.” Saying, “Imagine being able to climb out of that credit hole for good,” ABC (Janis) suggests ways for families to reduce their debt, such as ending the use of credit cards and avoiding late fees at all costs.

Up Slightly, Dow, S&P Again Hit Records. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Kilgore, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that both the Dow Jones Industrial Average

and the S&P 500 hit new records on Tuesday, driven by better-than-expected corporate earnings. The Dow rose 19.97 points to 16715.44, while the S&P 500 was up 0.80 points to 1897.45. Meanwhile, the Nasdaq Composite Index fell 13.69 points to 4130.17.

In its lead story, the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/13, lead story, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that “they were dancing on the street today to a couple of new records,” as the Dow hits its fourth record close of the year. CBS (Mason) says that “retail sales barely rose in April, a disappointing sign, but even bad news hasn’t been able to derail this rally.” CBS (Mason) adds, “Is it a bubble? Price to earnings ratios haven’t been this tie since 2010, but with momentum this strong, some traders, say, this rally could go on for a while yet.”

WSJournal Analysis: Tech Crash Not Imminent. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Ovide, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that concerns have grown in recent months that another meltdown in tech stocks may be in the offing, but an analysis of tech firms by the paper found that, unlike during the 2000 crash, the firms have significant cash reserves to carry them forward.

Sallie Mae Reaches Settlement With DOJ, FDIC. The [AP](#) (5/14) reports that student loan provider Sallie Mae and its loan servicing unit, now known as Navient, “has reached a \$60 million settlement with the Justice Department to resolve allegations that it charged members of the military excessive interest rates on their student loans,” the Federal government announced on Tuesday. In addition, the FDIC “also announced a \$30 million settlement arising from allegations that the company maximized consumer late fees.”

[Politico](#) (5/13, Grasgreen, Shah, 73K) reports that the DOJ “estimates that about 60,000 servicemembers will split the \$60 million.” The FDIC, Politico says, “announced a separate \$37 million settlement with Sallie Mae Bank and Navient Solutions, Inc., over deceptive lending practices and violations of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.”

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Bernard, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that the DOJ “said on Tuesday that beginning in 2005, the companies failed to cap interest on loans to military personnel at 6 percent — a ceiling they are entitled to as part of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.” In addition, the DOJ “asserted that the companies improperly obtained default judgments against service members.”

[USA Today](#) (5/14, Johnson, 5.82M) reports that Attorney General Eric Holder said, “This alleged overcharging appears to have been the rule, rather than the exception. According to an audit, excessive rates were charged to 93% of active-duty servicemembers who had loans owned or serviced by Sallie Mae.” The DOJ settlement “awaits approval by a federal judge in Delaware.”

Tennessee Promises Free Community College Tuition To All High School Graduates. The [CBS Evening](#)

[News](#) (5/13, story 8, 2:15, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that Tennessee's governor has signed a law "that promises free community college tuition to every high school graduate in the state." CBS (Arenas) added that the law "will use \$34 million dollars a year from lottery funds" to cover tuition for a two-year degree. While one-third of Tennesseans have a college degree, Gov. Bill Haslam "wants to raise that to 55 percent."

Citing Effect On Minorities, Activists Challenge School Closings Nationwide. The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Layton, 4.22M) reports that community activists filed three Federal civil rights complaints on Tuesday, arguing that "school closures in cities across the country disproportionately affect African American students," challenging school closures in Newark, New Orleans and Chicago and calling on the Obama Administration "to halt similar efforts elsewhere." The complaints, sent to the Justice Department and the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights, allege that "students of color from Newark, Chicago and New Orleans have been disproportionately affected by school closures and charter-school expansions." Newark has closed 13 public schools since 2009, and in Chicago, 111 schools have closed since 2001, while in New Orleans, "all the traditional public schools except five have shut down since 2003." The District of Columbia has closed 39 traditional public schools since 2008, according to the Post.

Sixty Years Later, SCOTUS Desegregation Ruling Called A Success. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Thernstrom, Thernstrom, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), Stephan Thernstrom, a history professor at Harvard University, and Abigail Thernstrom, an adjunct scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, write that on the upcoming 60th anniversary of the Supreme Court's ruling in Brown v. Board of Education, American schools have been fully desegregated, the existence of schools with heavy minority populations notwithstanding.

Reuters Analysis: Net Neutrality Proposal Likely To Set Off Serious Battle. [Reuters](#) (5/14, Selyukh) reports that FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler's decision to press ahead with new net neutrality rules is likely to set off a lengthy battle pitting Republicans and broadband providers, who oppose the rules, against a number of tech companies and consumer advocates on the others. The rules will formally be presented on Thursday, and Wheeler is still looking to win over the two Democrats on the five-member committees.

Federal Employees Don't Lose Positions Despite Misconduct. The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, McElhatton, 455K) reports on cases of flagrant acts of misconduct on the job by Federal employees, who held onto their jobs despite their actions. The Times says that Federal employees "have come under scrutiny as reports of time and

attendance fraud have mount." The Times focuses on problems at HUD, listing several examples.

Administration Bringing Back Cash Awards For SES Members. In its "Federal Diary" section, the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Davidson, 4.22M) reports that after a year's hiatus, an "awards program for senior level federal executives is stirring again." The Presidential Rank Awards was ended due to the sequestration cuts, but the Administration is now bringing them back. Members of the Senior Executive Service "and their counterparts in scientific fields are eligible for the awards," which can range from 20% to 35% of the individuals salary. The Post says that while the awards "have provided large monetary prizes, potentially more than \$63,000, the savings generated by the honored executives have been much greater."

McConnell, Graham Push Abortion Restriction Legislation. [The Hill](#) (5/14, Bolton, 237K) reports Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and Sen. Lindsey Graham (R), "who are both facing primaries in the next month, on Tuesday called for legislation banning abortion after 20 weeks." In a press conference, the pair called on Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to schedule a vote on the legislation. Graham said that worldwide, only seven nations, including the US, allow elective abortions "at the 20-week period and beyond. My goal is to make sure when this is over, there are six."

WPost Approves Of McAuliffe Move To Roll Back Abortion Clinic Regulations. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, 4.22M) approves of Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe's (D) move to "roll back absurd, baldly political rules imposed on the state's abortion clinics with the transparent purpose of forcing many of them to close." The "maneuver may mean a reprieve for as many as half" of the 18 remaining clinics, which are "the only convenient option for thousands of women who seek abortions each year."

Senate Republicans Not Swayed By Romney's Argument For Minimum Wage Hike. [Politico](#) (5/14, Everett, Kim, 73K) reports that "Senate Republicans of nearly all stripes are opposed to raising the hourly minimum wage to \$10.10 as Democrats demand," and "recent public calls for a smaller increase by a trio of 2012 contenders" – Mitt Romney, Tim Pawlenty and Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania – "have done nothing to make them budge." According to Politico, Romney, Santorum and Pawlenty argue that "by refusing to publicly advocate a minimum wage increase, congressional Republicans are ceding the national dialogue to Democrats on an issue that consistently draws majority support in polls."

US Chamber Leading Surge In "Dark Money" Spending In Congressional Races. [USA Today](#) (5/14, Schouten, 5.82M) reports that political spending by groups not required to disclose their donors, so-called "dark

money," "has ballooned to nearly five times the rate of the last election cycle — already topping \$23 million this week, new figures provided to USA TODAY show." The US Chamber of Commerce "accounts for nearly \$12.2 million," according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

AFP Analysis: Despite Equality Push, Poor Kentuckians Oppose President. [AFP](#) (5/14,

Couronne) reports that poor residents of Kentucky generally oppose President Obama, "who has made the fight against economic inequality one of his battle cries." A major reason, AFP says, is the President's opposition to the coal industry, a mainstay among the poorer parts of the state. Another motivation is their socially conservative views.

In "Win" For Tea Party, Sasse Victorious In Nebraska's GOP Senate Primary. [Midland](#)

University President Ben Sasse (R), a former Bush Administration official, on Tuesday easily [won](#) Nebraska's GOP Senate primary, and now will be heavily favored over attorney David Domina (D), the Democratic nominee, in the general election to succeed retiring Sen. Mike Johanns (R). Sasse won nearly 50% of the vote in the primary, easily outpacing banker Sid Dinsdale (R), state Treasurer Shane Osborn (R), and attorney Bart McLeay.

Sasse's convincing victory is described in reports this morning as a win for the Tea Party. The [AP](#) (5/14), for example, reports, "The tea party scored a win" with Sasse's capturing of the GOP nomination. Sasse was backed by several "outside conservative groups, Sarah Palin and Sen. Ted Cruz," while Osborn, who finished in third, one point behind Dinsdale, was supported by "allies of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky."

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/13, McCormick, 4.91M) reports, "The Tea Party scored a victory in" Tuesday's contest, "a win that groups tied to the limited-government movement are banking will boost momentum heading into the heart of the 2014 nomination calendar." The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Martin, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Tuesday's outcome provides "a much-needed victory for" GOP "anti-establishment forces, whose candidate lost in last week's North Carolina Senate primary" and "are also expected to come up short next week in primaries in Georgia and Kentucky."

The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Dinan, 455K) says that Tuesday's result delivered "a win to insurgent conservative groups who said it served as a rebuke to GOP power brokers in Washington." Running on "a campaign message firmly opposing Obamacare and vowing to fight against the Washington establishment," Sasse far outpaced Osborn, "who had the backing of Washington establishment groups," and Dinsdale.

Under the headline "Tea Party Gets A Win With Ben Sasse In Nebraska GOP Primary," [The Hill](#) (5/14, Jaffe,

237K) reported on its website that Sasse's victory gave "national conservative groups a much-needed win as they work to overcome early disappointments this cycle." Sasse was backed by, among others, "the Senate Conservatives Fund and the Club for Growth," as well as FreedomWorks, which had initially endorsed Osborn, but later withdrew its support after it was revealed that an organization with links to McConnell was financing ads attacking Sasse.

[Politico](#) (5/13, Parti, 73K) reported that Sasse's win gives "conservative groups a victory in year that isn't otherwise looking too promising for tea party candidates." On its website, the [Washington Post](#) (5/13, Sullivan, 4.22M) reported that Sasse's win gives "the national tea party groups that backed him a much-needed victory." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Epstein, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) offers similar coverage of Sasse's win.

Cantor's Primary Opponent Gaining Attention.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Portnoy, Costa, 4.22M) reports that "tea party activist" David Brat may be gaining traction in his primary challenge to VA7 Rep. Eric Cantor (R), the House Majority Leader. Brat "is gaining national attention as a potential threat to Cantor's hold on his solidly Republican, suburban Richmond district," including support "some big-name conservatives." While "most Republicans" believe that Cantor is "safe," the "prospect of a competitive and bruising challenge to the second-ranking Republican in Congress is embarrassing to Cantor — and is rattling GOP leaders at a time when the party is trying to unify its divided ranks."

Cotton-Commissioned Poll Shows Him Leading Pryor 42%-40%.

On its website, [Roll Call](#) (5/13, Levinson, Subscription Publication, 76K) reported that an OnMessage Inc. (R) survey of 600 Arkansas likely voters, taken May 6-8, shows AR4 Rep. Tom Cotton (R) Leading Arkansas Sen. Mark Pryor (D) 42%-40%. The survey, which was commissioned by Cotton's campaign, "comes after an NBC/Marist poll released Monday" showed Pryor leading the Congressman 51%-40%

McConnell's Wife Expected To Play Key Role In Husband's Reelection Race.

With Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) expected to beat back a primary challenge from businessman Matt Bevin (R), and then face Kentucky Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes (D) in this fall's general election, the [New York Times](#) (5/14, Horowitz, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says that the senator is likely to rely heavily on campaign help from his wife, ex-Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, in his bid for another term. The Times says that Chao, who helped McConnell's "effort to neutralize" Bevin, "will be more crucial than ever as he turns to face a well-funded female candidate for the first time in his Senate career." McConnell aide Josh Holmes said that Chao "would be a key surrogate in ads and at speaking

events.” Holmes is quoted as saying that this would particularly be the case should Grimes seek “to paint a picture of Mitch McConnell as having some kind of a blind spot for women’s issues.”

Aiken Declared Winner In NC2 Democratic Primary. [Politico](#) (5/13, Parti, 73K) reported that former “American Idol” contestant Clay Aiken (D) on Tuesday “was declared the winner” in the close NC2 House Democratic primary contest, one day after the sudden death of his leading opponent, ex-North Carolina Commerce Keith Crisco (D). Aiken led Crisco “by fewer than 400 votes,” with outstanding ballots to be counted. In the final tally, Aiken wound up with “40.86 percent of the vote, while Crisco received 39.49 percent.” Crisco, 71, “died Monday after suffering from injuries from a fall.” In the general election, Aiken will face NC2 Rep. Renee Ellmers (R), who “is favored to keep the seat.”

Election Official Rules Conyers Failed To Qualify For MI13 Primary Ballot. Yesterday in Michigan, a Wayne County official ruled that veteran MI13 Rep. John Conyers failed to submit enough valid petitions to qualify for the Democratic primary ballot. Reports indicate that short of a successful appeal, Conyers’ only hopes of returning to Congress next year appears to be a write-in candidacy. [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/13, story 10, 0:40, Williams, 7.86M) reported that Conyers “may have to leave Congress because of a screw-up.” The Democrat “is being kept off the ballot in the primary because of invalid signatures on a petition.”

The [Detroit News](#) (5/14, Nichols, Schultz, 643K) reports that Wayne County Clerk Cathy Garrett, a Democrat, on Tuesday said that Conyers “does not have enough signatures to remain on the Aug. 5 ballot,” a ruling “that puts his half-century career in Congress at risk.” Garrett’s decision “confirms a staff investigation released Friday that found Conyers had 592 signatures — 408 less than the 1,000 required by state law.” Over “640 signatures” were ruled invalid, “after a challenge by primary opponent the Rev. Horace Sheffield of Detroit resulted in a clerk office staff’s finding that the petition circulators were not registered voters as required by state law.”

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (5/14, Walker, Gray, 1.02M) reports that Conyers, who is planning “to file an appeal with the state office,” could be facing “a write-in campaign.” The Free Press added that, among the reasons some of Conyers’ signatures were ruled invalid, included “petition signers not being registered to vote or not being residents of 13th District, a signature being improperly dated or having a bad address.”

The [AP](#) (5/14) quotes Garrett as saying of her ruling, “It is a very unfortunate circumstance that an issue with a circulator of a petition would disqualify the signature of valid registered voter. However, I am bound by the current laws and statutes of the state of Michigan that set forth very

specific and narrow instructions regarding candidate petitions.”

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Bosman, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that state Sen. Bert Johnson (D), “who is running Mr. Conyers’s campaign,” told the Times on Tuesday “that the campaign was prepared to take legal action to ensure” the Congressman’s “name would end up on the ballot.” Meanwhile, the American Civil Liberties Union has “filed a lawsuit in federal court arguing that it is unconstitutional to require that signature collectors for campaigns be registered voters.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Dolan, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) also reports briefly on Conyers’ plight.

Colorado’s Polis Drawing Fire For Anti-Fracking Efforts. The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Richardson, 455K) reports that Democratic Rep. Jared Polis “has become something of a persona non grata among top Colorado Democrats for funding an anti-fracking initiative.” In addition, the Log Cabin Republicans, a gay rights group, is targeting Polis, “the first openly gay man to be elected to Congress,” over the issue in a new ad. Polis originally jumped into the fight by opposing three wells near his vacation property, and he is now “providing the financial muscle behind Coloradans for Local Control, which has proposed 15 initiatives for the Nov. 4 ballot, including an environmental bill of rights.”

Baraka Elected Mayor Of Newark. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Chen, Zernike, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Councilman Ras Baraka (D) on Tuesday “was elected mayor of Newark.” Baraka’s win over law professor Shavar Jeffries (D), says the Times signals “a likely shift in the direction that New Jersey’s largest city had embarked upon for most of the last decade.” Luis Quintana (D), who had been serving as the interim mayor, did not run for a full term. He replaced Cory Booker (D), who won last year’s special election to succeed the late Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D). In defeating Jeffries, who “enjoyed a sizable financial advantage thanks to outside groups, Mr. Baraka relied on his family’s name and fervent union support, while tapping into misgivings about” Booker, who wasn’t able to “erase lingering suspicions among some of Newark’s power brokers that he was an outsider.”

Rove Gets Bipartisan Pushback Over His Speculation On Hillary Clinton’s Health. Karl Rove’s speculation last week on former Secretary of State Clinton’s health, in particular his reported suggestion that she may have “brain damage” as a result of a December 2012 fall — something Rove denies having said — generated a great deal of coverage on Tuesday, and nearly all of it was extremely critical of Rove’s judgment in broaching the topic.

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/13, story 8, 2:45, Williams, 7.86M), Brian Williams described Rove's remarks as "some very nasty politics" and "a very personal attack." Williams noted that Newt Gingrich called Rove's public speculation about Clinton's health "the type of thing that weakens the fabric of our democracy." Chuck Todd went on to note that while the [New York Post](#) (5/12, Smith, 2.77M) initially reported that Rove "went there, using the highly charged phrase 'brain-damage' during a paid speech," on Tuesday, Rove "disputed that account." Rove was shown saying, "I didn't say she had 'brain-damage.' She had a serious health episode. This will be an issue in the 2016 race whether she likes it or not." Todd went on to report that, "privately, many Republicans admit if [Clinton] runs, she will win," so they "hope...going nasty early convinces her not to" actually mount a campaign.

The [AP](#) (5/14) reports that in December 2012, Clinton, then serving as secretary of state, "fell ill with a stomach bug...after returning from a trip to Europe." According to the AP, Clinton "cancel[led] a planned visit to North Africa and the Middle East," and then "while at home, she fainted and fell and suffered a concussion." The AP goes on to report that "during a follow up examination...doctors discovered a blood clot in a vein that runs between the skull and the brain," but Clinton was "released after a brief hospitalization."

[McClatchy](#) (5/13, Douglas, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that while the New York Post reported that Rove claimed Clinton spent "thirty days in the hospital," Clinton "actually only spent three days in the hospital after the fall."

[Politico](#) (5/13, Topaz, 73K) reported that in an appearance on Fox News Tuesday, Rove "said his main point was that [Clinton's] health will invariably come up on the campaign trail if she chooses to run for the Democratic nomination in 2016." Politico also reports that Rove "accused Clinton's team of keeping quiet on the issue, saying 'she's hidden a lot of this.'"

[Reuters](#) (5/13, Holland) reports that when asked about Rove's comments on Tuesday, White House press secretary Jay Carney said, "Here's what I would say about cognitive capacity, which is that 'Dr. Rove' might've been the last person in America on election night to recognize and acknowledge that the president had won re-election, including the state of Ohio, so we'll leave it at that."

[Politico](#) (5/13, Mccalmont, 73K) reported that on Tuesday, Newt Gingrich said he is "deeply offended" by Rove's "comments questioning whether Hillary Clinton suffered a brain injury." According to Politico, Gingrich "called on Rove to apologize and stop discussing Clinton's health." The [Huffington Post](#) (5/13, Reilly, 11.54M) reported that on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) on Tuesday, former White House Communications Director Nicolle Wallace, "who worked with Rove in the George W. Bush administration, called Rove's comments 'off the wall.'" Wallace is quoted as saying, "This was a deliberate strategy on his part to raise her health as an

issue and, I think in his view, a legitimate line of questioning ahead of the next campaign."

Jonathan Allen, in an article for [Bloomberg News](#) (5/13, 2.76M), reports that "since Clinton resigned from the State Department in February 2013, her aides have declined to respond to most Republican attacks," but "the difference between Rove's comments and...others...is that health problems could disqualify a presidential candidate in the minds of voters." According to Allen, "For that reason, Clinton had to respond quickly and forcefully."

Karen Tumulty, in an analysis for the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, 4.22M), notes that if elected president in 2016, Clinton "would be 69, only a little younger than Ronald Reagan when he won his first term in 1980." Tumulty also reports that "the injury that Clinton suffered has been the subject of speculation by both her friends and her enemies." Tumulty points out that in October of 1992, "New York Times medical writer Lawrence K. Altman noted that...Bill Clinton had been 'less forthcoming about his health than any Presidential nominee in the last 20 years.'"

Cathleen Decker, in a piece for the [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/14, 3.46M), says Rove's remarks were "a joint assault on the minds of voters and the heart of the would-be White House contender, and it probably worked, at least minimally, by injecting into the conversation something no one had been talking about, and spreading a negative assertion without any proof."

[Politico](#) (5/13, Levine, 73K) reported that neurologist Alexander Dromerick "said there was no outward sign the former secretary of State had any permanent injury from her 2012 health problems."

Rubio Calls For Access To Federal Retirement Plan For More Americans.

[McClatchy](#) (5/13, Adams, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports that in the latest in a series of policy speeches, potential 2016 candidate Sen. Marco Rubio (R) "proposed allowing many Americans the option of enrolling in the retirement plan for government workers." Rubio said on Tuesday that the Thrift Savings Plan "is one of the most efficient savings plans in America. It charges fees which are a fraction of those in most private defined-contribution plans, allowing beneficiaries to save more." Rubio's move is driven by "concern that large percentages of Americans have no savings and no access to a retirement plan."

[Reuters](#) (5/14, Debenedetti) reports Rubio said, "I believe the American dream my parents lived is still possible. But among too many of our people, there is now a nagging sense that achieving it has become more difficult than ever. Financial security has faded for millions Americans, and with it the hope of a stable and secure retirement." Rubio made his announcement at the National Press Club, and adds that the speech is part of an effort to develop his policy priorities.

Rubio Accepts Climate Change, Rejects Legislative Fixes.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Lowery, 4.22M) reports that on Tuesday, Sen. Marco Rubio “acknowledged” that climate change “exists but questioned whether current legislative proposals could stop it.” On Sunday, Rubio “attracted attention with controversial comments about the environment.” On Tuesday, he said that “although climate change is a reality, he doesn’t see a solution in existing legislative proposals.” Rubio said, “Headlines notwithstanding, of course the climate is changing. The climate is always changing and that is a measurable that you can see. There is climate change.” He added, “The issue is whether there is legislative proposals before us that can do anything about it. What I have said and what I disagree with is the notion that if we pass cap and trade, it will stop this from happening.”

In her column for the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, 4.22M), Ruth Marcus writes that by questioning whether humans are responsible for global climate change on Sunday, Rubio undermined “his other assertion, to ABC’s Jonathan Karl: that he is prepared to be president.” Marcus portrays the move as an effort to position himself for the GOP presidential primaries.

Christie Spokesman Says He Was Blindsided By Lane Closure Revelations.

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Zernike, Santora, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that Michael Drewniak, the chief spokesman for New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R), on Tuesday testified “that he was misled about why lanes leading to the George Washington Bridge were closed last September and was ‘shocked and disoriented’ when he learned that the motive appeared to be political vengeance.” Drewniak, testifying before a state legislative committee investigating the matter, “said that neither the governor nor any of his closest advisers in his office were involved in the lane closings.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Haddon, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that Drewniak said, “The conduct, callousness and cavalier attitude expressed in them was like nothing I’ve witnessed in my entire working lifetime, and certainly not in this administration.”

[Reuters](#) (5/14, Cavaliere) reports that Drewniak told the panel that Port Authority official David Wildstein, a Christie appointee, told him that the lane closures were tied to a legitimate traffic study.

In an earlier preview, [Bloomberg News](#) (5/14, Dopp, 2.76M) reports that before the hearing, panel co-chair Loretta Weinberg (D) said, “We are not going in there with any preconceived notions other than learning the timing, what he did and when they learned about” the closings.

Christie Facing Difficult Decision On Ammo Restriction Bill. The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Chumley, 455K) reports that Christie “will face a difficult decision in the

coming days over an ammunition restriction bill that’s nearly found its way to his desk.” The Times says that the pressure from gun-rights activists and gun-control proponents “could very well hang the fate of his White House aspirations.” The legislation, which reduces the allowed capacity for ammo magazines to 10 rounds from the current 15, has cleared the state Senate and is now heading to the state House, “where support is strong.”

Appeals Panel Appears Split Over Virginia Same-Sex Marriage Ban.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Barnes, 4.22M) reports from Richmond, VA that Virginia’s ban on same-sex marriage and civil unions “got an emotional hearing” before a three-judge panel of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday, “even as one of the judges described the court’s deliberations as a likely ‘way station’ on a journey to the Supreme Court.” The Post notes that two judges “with distinctly different views” on the issue “dominated questioning at the hearing on whether Virginia has a right to ban same-sex unions or whether marriage is a fundamental right protected by the constitution that must be offered regardless of sexual orientation.” The judges are “reviewing a February decision of a Norfolk federal district judge that Virginia’s comprehensive ban – it also bars recognition of same-sex marriages performed in states where it is legal and any legal arrangement that resembles marriage – violates constitutional guarantees of equal protection and due process.”

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Eckholm, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that in “sharp exchanges,” the judges “appeared to be divided on the issues in what legal experts consider a crucial case that could propel the marriage question to the Supreme Court in the coming year. ‘Is this a constitutional issue of magnitude or a democratic issue that can be decided by the states?’ asked the presiding judge, Paul V. Niemeyer, in one of several comments that seemed to suggest support for Virginia’s restrictive law.” Judge Roger L. Gregory “gave strong indications of support for equal treatment of gay and lesbian couples,” and as attorneys “defended Virginia’s restrictions as a reasonable attempt to foster procreation and child welfare, Judge Gregory pressed them, asking ‘Do same-sex couples have children? Do you think that child wants less of the dignity of marriage than any other child?’” The Times adds that Judge Henry F. Floyd, “who spoke relatively little, might provide the decisive vote,” but his “few questions” suggest “support for overturning Virginia’s ban.”

The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Sherfinski, 455K) reports that Judge Niemeyer, “whose questioning was predominately aimed at attorneys supporting dismissal of the ban, at one point said that for argument’s sake he didn’t think it was useful to compare same-sex marriage to a traditional family unit ‘that has been recognized throughout history.’ ‘To mix the two is to play with the language, I think,’ he said. ‘I think we have a brand new relationship we have to look at.’” Judge

Gregory, "who took the opposite tack from Judge Niemeyer and engaged state attorneys defending the ban, asked during the proceedings whether sexual orientation precludes a person from the same right to marry as prisoners or 90-year-old couples with little chance of producing offspring."

[Reuters](#) (5/14, Robertson) reports that two same-sex couples, one male and one female, brought the initial challenge to the state's ban.

Judge Strikes Down Idaho's Same-Sex Marriage Ban.

The [AP](#) (5/14) reports from Boise, ID that US Magistrate Judge Candy Dale ruled on Tuesday evening that Idaho's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. Judge Dale wrote in the ruling that Idaho's laws "banning same-sex marriage unconstitutionally deny gay and lesbian citizens of their fundamental right to marry," saying that marriage "works a fundamental change on the lives of all who experience it, and holds immense personal and spiritual significance." She ruled that Idaho's laws "wrongly stigmatize gay and lesbian couples and relegate their families to second-class status without sufficient reason."

Fifth Circuit Stays Execution Of Texas Inmate.

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Fernandez, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports from Huntsville, TX that the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans on Tuesday "granted a Texas inmate's request for a stay of execution hours before he was scheduled to die." The court granted the request from attorneys for Robert James Campbell, 41, "on the grounds that his execution be stopped because of intellectual disability." Campbell's attorneys "said that new information uncovered in state files showed that he had an intellectual disability and was ineligible for execution," arguing that state officials "withheld the results of two I.Q. tests" given to Campbell, "a 68 when he was a child and a 71 shortly after he arrived on death row at the age of 19." The Supreme Court has banned the execution "of those whom the law refers to as mentally retarded, and has said that an I.Q. score of 'approximately 70' indicates retardation."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Berman, 4.22M) reports that the court's opinion said, "Because of the unique circumstances of this case, Campbell and his attorneys have not had a fair opportunity to develop Campbell's claim of ineligibility for the death penalty. In light of the evidence we have been shown, we believe that Campbell must be given such an opportunity." Campbell was sentenced to death in 1992 for murdering Alexandra Rendon, a 20-year-old bank teller, in 1991.

Unfinished Receivers Become Focus Of Latest Gun Debate.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/13, Horwitz, 4.22M) reports that John Zawahri was prevented from buying a firearm in California several years ago, so instead purchased an "unfinished receiver," and used that to build an

assault rifle himself, which he then took on a killing spree. The Post says that such receivers are "unregulated and have become readily available for purchase online and at some gun stores." BATFE officials "view the spread of the receivers as an effort to get around strict gun-control laws, particularly in California," but "also acknowledge that they have no idea how many of the components have been made and sold."

Next GM Senate Hearing Expected After Company Completes Investigation.

[Reuters](#) (5/14) reports that the next round of hearings on GM's delayed ignition recalls will likely come after the company completes its internal probe, according to a Senate aide. The investigation is expected to be completed later this month. A House aide said that it has not yet set a date for its next hearing.

Poll Finds Little Support For Emanuel Or His Property Tax Hike.

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (5/14, Spielman, 1.1M) reports that Chicago aldermen say winning City Council approval for a \$350 million property tax increase has become "infinitely more difficult" for Mayor Rah Emanuel in the wake of a Sun-Times poll showing that only one percent of Chicagoans support the tax increase "as a solution to the city's pension crisis," and Emanuel's has the support of "a mere 29 percent support of likely Chicago voters." The Sun-Times notes that the poll gives aldermen "a tangible reason to fear political fall-out from a property tax increase," and "fewer reasons to fear retribution" from the mayor.

Protests Of Commencement Speakers Raising Free Speech Concerns.

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/14, Paulson, 566K) reports that decisions by both IMF director Christine Lagarde and Robert Birgeneau, former head of the University of California, Berkeley, "to withdraw as planned commencement speakers are only the latest in a rash of controversies this commencement season." Other high-profile figures have also either been "disinvited from speaking or withdrew in the face of significant student protest." It is a "trend that some believe is growing, and that many observers worry is shifting college campuses away from being a free marketplace of ideas."

Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (5/14, Pérez-Peña, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that on Tuesday, Haverford College "joined a growing list of schools to lose commencement speakers to protests from the left," when Birgeneau "withdrew from this weekend's event." The Times adds that "some students and faculty members" objected "to the invitation to Mr. Birgeneau to speak and receive an honorary degree because, under him, the University of California police used batons to break up an Occupy protest in 2011."

Military Taking On Just One-Fifth Of Applicants.

The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Ernst, 455K) reports that today, the US military "is only taking 20 percent of the applicants who walk into their local recruiter's office intent on enlisting in the armed services." The Army "hopes to hit 57,000 recruits for active duty this year. It's on pace to do just that, even while applying a stricter set of standards as it pertains to physical fitness, appearance (i.e., tattoos), intelligence test results and an applicant's criminal history." The "tough environment for potential recruits" is mainly due to "troop reductions in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the Pentagon's plans to cut the size of the active duty Army."

California Faces Extreme Fire Danger Amid High Winds, Drought, Heat Wave.

[ABC World News](#) (5/13, story 2, 1:40, Sawyer) reported that Californians are "under a red flag warning about the drought, low humidity and the wind and a choking heat wave." ABC (Vega) added that amid "extremely dry conditions, triple digit temperature and heavy winds, California is bracing for danger." With winds "expected to reach 50 mph," red flag warnings are "in effect for more than 15 million people."

Inmate Says Jackson Doing A "Fastidious Job" Scrubbing Toilets In Prison.

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (5/14, 1.1M) reported that an inmate who served time with former Rep. Jesse Jackson, says in a letter that the former lawmaker "is doing a 'fastidious job' scrubbing toilets, showers, and sinks." The inmate, former Pennsylvania attorney John Karoly, wrote, "He's doing a fastidious job — a toothbrush doing wonders on a clogged drain. ... I later learn the inmate considers this a part of his personal penance. ... But no matter how hard he scrubs, he later tells me that it doesn't wipe his slate clean. He has embarrassed himself, his family name, and all those who counted on him to be different. Like the rest of us, he yearns for the forgiveness that has eluded him."

Bonamici Introduces Bill To Cut Agency Reports.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Fahrenthold, 4.22M) reports that Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D) "has introduced a bill to fix a problem that Congress itself created — an expensive pileup of written reports from federal agencies, many of them unnecessary and unread." Her bill, which she wrote after reading about the problem in Sunday's Washington Post, would, every five years, "get rid of almost all the reports and start over."

Sterling Comments On Johnson, AIDS Seen As Compounding His Problems.

All three network news broadcasts covered LA Clippers owner's comments during an interview with CNN, in which he lashed out at Magic Johnson.

All three were in agreement that Sterling's comments only served to make his situation worse.

[ABC World News](#) (5/13, story 3, 1:50, Sawyer) reported that LA Clippers owner Donald Sterling "compounded his racist comments with a random assault on Magic Johnson." ABC (Smith) added that Johnson "was one of the first to call for the NBA to ban Sterling after his racist rant." On Monday, "Sterling was on CNN lashing out at the basketball legend." Sterling: "What kind of guy goes over to every city and has sex with every girl and catches HIV? Is that someone we want to respect and tell our kids about? I say he should be ashamed of himself. ... What has he done? Can you tell me? Big Magic Johnson. What has he done? He's got AIDS. Did he do any business? Did he help anybody in south LA?" ABC added that Johnson "seemed outraged at Sterling's claim he's done nothing to help people." Johnson: "My whole life is dedicated to urban America, so I just wish he knew the facts when he's talking."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/13, story 7, 1:50, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that Sterling "may have made things worse" with the interview. CBS (Tracy) added that while Johnson "said he'd rather focus on the play-offs than Donald Sterling's comments," he "did directly respond to Sterling's allegations that Magic Johnson has not helped black Americans." Johnson: "My whole life is devoted to urban youth so, you know, I just wish he knew the facts when he's talking but he's a man who's upset and he's reaching. ... He's trying to find something he can grab on to, to help him save his team, and it's not going to happen. And, again, I'm going to pray for the man because even if I see him today, I'm going to say hello to — hello to Donald, and his wife as well. I'm not a guy who holds grudges and all that. Yes, am I upset, of course. But at the same time, I'm a God-fearing man. I'm going to pray for him and hope things work out for him."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (5/13, story 3, 2:50, Williams, 7.86M) reported that as Sterling tries "desperately" to "hang on to his team," his comments about Johnson and AIDS have him "in more trouble." Meanwhile, his wife is "speaking out in a new interview...reacting to her husband's comments." NBC (Guthrie) added that in the "puzzling" interview, Sterling "dug the hole deeper," offering "extended criticism of NBA legend Magic Johnson." Sterling's estranged wife Shelly said of the interview, "He's not the man I know or I knew. There's something wrong. ... I really think personally he has dementia because I can't believe anybody would answer questions like that."

Dick, Lynne Cheney Launch Tour To Promote Book On Madison.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Roberts, 4.22M) reports that former Vice President Dick Cheney and his wife Lynne kicked off a tour to promote Mrs. Cheney's new book on James Madison with an event at the American Enterprise Institute. The Cheneys are "scheduled to

appear together at several book signings, including at the Nixon and Reagan presidential libraries, next week."

Dowd: Boehner On Fundraising Tour To Protect GOP Majority. In her column for the [New York Times](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 9.65M), Maureen Dowd writes that House Speaker Boehner is on a fundraising tour "to ensure that Republicans keep the House in November and he keeps his job." Describing Boehner as the "G.O.P.'s Dean Martin," Dowd notes some of the jokes offered by the Speaker during a golf outing with donors.

WSJournal: Michigan Union Membership Likely To Decline With Right-To-Work Law. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) notes that membership in Michigan's SEIU Healthcare affiliate declined after state lawmakers passed a law excluding home-care workers from the state's definition of public employees and opines that union membership in the state will similarly decline since Michigan's passage of a right-to-work law in 2012.

WSJournal: Allow Merger Decisions To Be Based On Business Interests. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) editorializes that decisions regarding mergers should be left to shareholders and directors, who know the business, rather than governments and politicians.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

US Begins Drone Flights As Nigeria Signals Openness To Negotiations With Boko Haram. [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/13, story 4, 2:15, Williams, 7.86M) reported that a "US military Global Hawk drone flew its first surveillance mission over Nigeria today in the search for hundreds of kidnapped school girls." Also Tuesday, the Nigerian government said that it "might negotiate with the terrorists."

Hamish MacDonald reported on [ABC World News](#) (5/13, story 4, 1:35, Sawyer) that US forces "are peering down tonight from surveillance craft," examining "a remote and rugged area the size of New England, in search of the missing girls. The plane is equipped with powerful cameras that give real time images of the ground as far away as 35,000 feet." The plane "can also monitor phone calls below. Tonight, ABC News has learned a long-range US drone has also joined the search."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/13, story 2:20, Pelley, 5.08M), Debora Patta also reported on the US drone flight and noted that the Nigerian government "appears to be changing its minds on negotiating with Boko Haram. Yesterday, they said they wouldn't talk. Today, the minister of

special duties said they might. Exchanging the girls for Boko Haram prisoners seems to be a possible bargaining chip."

The [AP](#) (5/14, Adigun, Umar) too says a "Nigerian government official" said "all options" are on the table, including negotiations or "a possible military operation with foreign help." Meanwhile, Africom Commander Gen. David Rodriguez was in Abuja on Tuesday for talks with officials at the US Embassy.

Minister of Special Duties Tanimu Turaki told [Reuters](#) (5/14, Onuah) by telephone, "The window of negotiation is still open."

But the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Gearan, 4.22M) reports the White House yesterday voiced its "opposition to any offer of ransom or other concessions." Press Secretary Jay Carney said, "We, as a matter of policy, deny kidnappers the benefits of their criminal acts, and that includes ransoms or other concessions." He acknowledged, however, that the Nigerian government is leading the search effort.

In a report titled "Doubts Emerge On Pace Of Nigerian Search," the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Vogt, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that officials in the Nigerian state of Borno where the girls were taken said Tuesday that no troops have arrived yet to search the Sambisa Forest, where Boko Haram is widely believed to be hiding them.

Sen. John McCain, [McClatchy](#) (5/14, Douglas, Subscription Publication, 23K) reports, said Tuesday that the US should send troops to rescue the girls, "even if it means doing so without permission from the Nigerian government." Said the senator, "I wouldn't be waiting for some kind of permission from some guy named Goodluck Jonathan."

On its front page this morning, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, A1, Hinshaw, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) profiles Boko Haram's leader, Abubakar Shekau, who it says had become Africa's most notorious terrorist.

First Lady's "Headline-Grabbing" Condemnation Of Nigerian Kidnappings Noted. [Politico](#) (5/13, Epstein, 73K) reports that the Administration's "most headline-grabbing public condemnation" of the kidnapping of Nigerian school girls came from First Lady Michelle Obama. Politico notes the involvement by the First Lady is "unusual," because she "selects her causes carefully" and has "never waded into a truly heated, foreign policy issue before," and sourced indicated the "decision to act was her own." Politico says "if the saga ends in tragedy," the First Lady's involvement could "have attracted more attention to another instance" when President Obama "failed to stop" human rights violations.

Jon Stewart Blasts Limbaugh's Reaction To Social Media Campaign. [Politico](#) (5/13, Topaz, 73K) reports Comedy Central's Jon Stewart "criticized" Rush Limbaugh for "his dismissal of the social media campaign that has expressed outrage" at the kidnappings. During the past week, Limbaugh "has railed against the Twitter campaign," and "singled out" the First Lady's photo holding a sign that read #BringBackOurGirls as "pathetic." Stewart said "hashtag

activism...cannot force a crazy person to do something, but it can shame a less crazy person into not doing nothing."

Milbank: Conservatives Seek To Blame Hillary Clinton. In a [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Milbank, 4.22M) column, Dana Milbank argues that "conservatives have reached the firm conclusion that Hillary Clinton is to blame" for the kidnappings, but "all they have to do now is fill in the details." Milbank says the push to blame Clinton is "worth examining, because it shows how a scandal is born."

WPost, USA Today Weigh In On Nigerian Girls. The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, 4.22M) editorializes that the "social media campaign in support" of the kidnapped children "is producing results." The Post notes Nigeria "has been shamed into accepting" international help in the search and Boko Haram has "shifted from a vow to sell off the girls" to a "proposal to trade them for prisoners." The Post says the US should use this incident to "alter Nigeria's self-defeating response" to Boko Haram.

USA Today (5/14, Board, 5.82M) editorializes that "educating girls is one of the least expensive and most effective ways to change" a country, but "in parts of the world this is seen not as progress but as a problem." USA Today says "educated girls become more independent and less subservient," making them a threat to "violent, ultraconservative religious groups." According to USA Today, the "war on terrorism will ultimately have to be won one schoolgirl's mind at a time."

Kerry Remains Hopeful For Middle East Peace Deal. In an interview Tuesday with the [Boston Globe](#) (5/14, Viser, 1.62M), Secretary of State Kerry "said...he holds out hope that peace talks can be revived between the Israelis and Palestinians." Said Kerry, "There's always hope. There's always hope. In the Middle East, the efforts to make peace don't end. They take a different shape or they take a different form." During talks Thursday in London with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Kerry "said he was not planning to make any specific offer, and he would not detail what he will ask of the Palestinian leader." Asked whether talks could continue if Abbas forms a unity government with Hamas, Kerry said Hamas would have to take steps, such as renouncing violence and recognizing Israel's right to exist.

Palestinians Begin Talks On Forming Unity Government. [Reuters](#) (5/14, Al-Mughrabi), meanwhile, reports that officials from Fatah and Hamas met in Gaza on Tuesday to discuss the formation of a unity government.

Survey: 26% Of Adults Worldwide Hold Anti-Semitic Views. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Gladstone, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that a survey by the Anti-Defamation League found that 26 percent "of all adults worldwide harbor anti-Semitic attitudes and nearly half have never heard of the Holocaust." the League described the survey as an "unprecedented and sobering" global assessment of "the level and intensity of hostility toward

Jews." According to the survey, the "highest concentration of anti-Semitic attitudes was found in the Middle East and North Africa...led by the West Bank and Gaza, where 93 percent of respondents held such views, followed by Iraq at 92 percent, Yemen at 88 percent and Algeria at 87 percent."

Former Israeli Prime Minister Olmert Sentenced To Prison. [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/13, story 6, 0:35, Williams, 7.86M) reported that former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert "was sentenced to six years today for accepting bribes in a real estate scam before he became prime minister. At sentencing today in Israel the judge said quote, 'A public servant who accepts bribes is akin to a traitor.'"

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Eglash, 4.22M) reports the charges were the result of actions when Olmert was mayor of Jerusalem. The Post notes this is the "first time such a high-level Israeli official has been found guilty of a breach-of-trust crime." Israeli President Shimon Peres said, "This is a sad day for me personally. But this is the legal process which is custom in democratic states."

US, Iranians Warn Of Challenges Ahead As Nuclear Talks Resume. [AFP](#) (5/14, Sturdee) reports US and Iranian officials in Vienna for a fourth round of nuclear talks "cautioned Tuesday that there was still hard work to be done before a final deal can be reached." Arriving in Vienna for talks, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said "a lot of effort" was still needed. A "senior US official" too said that the talks would be "very, very difficult." The official added, "There are a range of complicated issues to address and we do not know if Iran will be able to make the tough decisions they must to assure the world that they will not obtain a nuclear weapon and that their program is for entirely peaceful purposes."

[Reuters](#) (5/14, Charbonneau, Dahl) notes that officials will begin drafting a final agreement this week.

Hagel Arrives In Saudi Arabia For Talks On Iran, Syria. [AFP](#) (5/14) reports Defense Secretary Hagel arrived Tuesday in Saudi Arabia, the first stop on a "regional tour focusing on Iran's nuclear program and Syria's civil war." In addition to talks with Saudi officials, Hagel will also attend a Gulf Cooperation Council defense ministers meeting before traveling to Jordan and Israel.

Also noting Hagel's arrival in Saudi Arabia, the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Sly, Londoño, 4.22M) reports the kingdom said yesterday that it has invited Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to visit Riyadh, "breaking the ice in one of the most hostile relationships in the Middle East." Speaking to reporters, Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal "said the kingdom was ready to host...Zarif 'anytime he sees fit' and indicated that Riyadh is willing to open negotiations" with Tehran "to make the region as safe as possible." Speaking to reporters in Washington, Secretary of State **Kerry** said the

US "played no role in the Saudi invitation," but that "we encourage it, we welcome it."

Kerry, New Report Link Climate Change And National Security.

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports that a study released Tuesday by the Center for Naval Analyses Military Advisory Board warned that the "accelerating rate of climate change poses a severe risk to national security and acts as a catalyst for global political conflict." In an interview, Secretary of State Kerry, who is expected to deliver a "major" speech this summer of the topic, "signaled that the report's findings would influence American foreign policy." Said **Kerry**, "Tribes are killing each other over water today. Think of what happens if you have massive dislocation, or the drying up of the waters of the Nile, of the major rivers in China and India. The intelligence community takes it seriously, and it's translated into action." He also said the Administration is "going to try to lay out to people legitimate options for action that are not bank-breaking or negative."

China Criticizes US, Kerry For Role In South China Sea Conflict.

[Reuters](#) (5/14) reports China responded on Tuesday to Secretary of State Kerry's characterization of its moves in the South China Sea as "provocative," by blaming the US for the rising tensions in the disputed territory. The Chinese Foreign Ministry said other parties, rather than China, are taking provocative actions and the US is encouraging the actions. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said, "We hope the US side can carefully reflect...what kind of role do they actually want to play?" Hua said China urges Kerry to "objectively and fairly" examine the issue and "act and speak cautiously."

In a separate story, [Reuters](#) (5/14, Mogato) reports the Philippines on Wednesday accused China of claiming land on a reef in the disputed Spratly Islands, with the intent of building an airstrip. Reuters notes it would be the first airstrip built by China on any of the land it occupies on the islands. Philippine Foreign Ministry spokesman Charles Jose said China began initial preparations for the project.

Kerry, Lew Expected To Participate In China Talks.

[AFP](#) (5/14) reports China and the US "will hold annual strategic talks" in July, according to US officials. The sixth US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue will occur in Beijing. Secretary of State Kerry and Treasury Secretary Lew are "expected to attend." In a statement, the Treasury Department said the talks will focus on a "wide range" of areas of "immediate and long-term economic and strategic interest."

Lew Pushes China To Let Market Determine Exchange Rate. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Perlez, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports Treasury Secretary Lew "pushed China on Tuesday to let market forces decide its exchange rate," and also asked China not to help Russia

circumvent sanctions over their actions in Ukraine. In comments to Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang, **Lew** said a market-controlled rate "will help provide for more balanced domestic growth, and global trade." **Lew** said he discussed with China "the impact our sanctions are having and the importance that they are not offset by others' coming in."

Report Shows Negative Quarter For Chinese Manufacturing, Property.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Maginer, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports newly released data indicates a negative first quarter of the year for Chinese manufacturing and property. The Journal notes home sales decreased, leading to an impact on manufacturing and retail.

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Bradsher, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports "prices are falling" for Chinese apartments, the "volume of deals is drying up," and "developers are pulling back." The Times notes "housing starts plummeted 25 percent in April from a year ago." The impact of the decreasing real estate market has "broad consequences for the country's economy and possibly its politics," according to the Times.

US Sanctions Five Former CAR Officials.

[Reuters](#) (5/14, Rampton) reports the US on Tuesday imposed sanctions on former Central African Republic President François Bozizé and four other former officials tied to violence and human rights abuses in the country. Also among those sanctioned was former interim president Michel Djotodia. [AFP](#) (5/14) reports in addition to Bozize and Djotodia, the US targeted "the leader of the anti-Balaka militia, Levy Yakete; the Seleka militia's number two Nourredine Adam; and Abdoulaye Miskine, also of the Seleka."

The [AP](#) (5/14) says the move signals a "stepp[ed] up" US response to the crisis in CAR. In an executive order, President Obama declared a national emergency and "said a breakdown of law and order, widespread atrocities and forced use of child soldiers threatens security in the Central African Republic as well as in neighboring nations."

Clapper Arrives In South Korea.

[Yonhap](#) (5/14, 441) reports Director of National Intelligence James Clapper arrived in South Korea on Tuesday for discussions about "security issues, including North Korea's nuclear programs." A South Korea military source said the visit "is mainly to discuss the situation on the Korean Peninsula," and the sides "are expected to exchange intelligence."

North Korea Threatens To "Wipe Out" South Korea.

The [AP](#) (5/14, Kim) reports North Korea threatened on Tuesday to "wipe out" South Korea in a "furious response" to South Korean Defense Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok saying the North is not a "real country and existed for the benefit of only one person." North Korea's National Defense Commission said the comments by the South were an

“intolerable” provocation that showed the South wants to take over the North.”

Attack On Two US Embassy Employees In Sana’a Raises Security Concerns. On [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (5/13, 554K), Mohammed Jamjoom reported on a recent “brazen attack in which al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula tried to kidnap two US Embassy employees,” noting that the two Americans were at a local barbershop in Sana’a “when gunmen attacked them. Had one of the Americans not been carrying a gun, they may not have survived.” The incident “is still raising questions. Why would US Embassy employees – more a target for terrorists than ever before in Yemen – break security protocol and venture out of their heavily secured compound for a haircut? Why would a simple State Department employee have a permit to carry a gun?” Jamjoom added that sources in Yemen are “are concerned that if it is revealed that these may have been CIA agents or special operations officers in Yemen, that that could cause a lot more questions by the Yemenis and cause Americans in Yemen be more of a target.”

ICC: Libya Must Hand Over Gadhafi’s Son. The [AP](#) (5/14) reports ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda told the UN Security Council Tuesday that Libya must surrender Moammar Gadhafi’s son, Seif al-Islam, to the court, “despite its appeal of the handover and legal proceedings under way in Libya.” Bensouda told the Council it was “a source of great concern” that Libya did not immediately hand over Seif al-Islam “as it was required to do following a ruling by pre-trial judges last year.”

Jordanian Ambassador Freed By Libyan Kidnappers. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Sweis, Fahim, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports Jordan’s ambassador to Libya, Fawaz al-Itan, was freed Tuesday after being kidnapped in Tripoli last month. According to Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh, Itan’s captors “had ties” to Libyan Mohamed el-Dressi, “who was convicted in 2007 of plotting to blow up Jordan’s main international airport,” but “did not specify what those ties were.”

Cuba To Resume Some Passport Services In Washington. [AFP](#) (5/14) reports the Cuban Interests Section in Washington said it will “begin renewing some citizens’ expired passports” after halting services in February because it is “unable to find a US bank able to handle its finances.” The consulate said it will resume renewing passports “that have expired or are about to expire” for people with trips to Cuba before Aug. 31.

Sudanese Court: Woman Must Return To Islam Or Face Death Penalty. [Reuters](#) (5/14) reports a Sudanese court threatened to sentence a woman to death unless she returns to Islam after converting to Christianity.

Mariam Yahya Ibrahim was charged with apostasy and adultery, for marrying a Christian man. The court ordered Ibrahim to make a decision by Thursday in the first case of its kind in Sudan.

US Believes Thai Coup Is Unlikely. The [AP](#) (5/14) reports senior Defense Department official Amy Searight said the US is “reasonably confident” the Thai military will not engage in a coup, although “analysts warned the nation’s political crisis could trigger armed conflict.” Searight said, “At this point in time we don’t have reason to expect that the Thai military will change their current stance,” which is to not intervene. The senior diplomat for Southeast Asia Scot Marciel said the crisis is “not something that foreigners can come in and magically fix. It has to be a Thai solution.” Marciel added while the US does not have plans to intervene, the process of reaching a solution should be “constitutional and democratic.”

Uruguayan Prisoner Gains Access To US Ambassador’s Cellphone Messages. The [AP](#) (5/14) reports a prisoner in Uruguay “tapped into” Ambassador Julissa Reynoso’s cellphone “and sent messages to some of her contacts in an attempt to commit a still undisclosed fraud.” The prisoner gained access to Reynoso’s “voice mail password” and “voice messages.” Uruguayan President Jose Mujica told Canal 10 TV that the prisoner “got access to some messages left by some of my friends. And he was able to...send certain messages from prison to some of my contacts.”

Kerry To Visit Cyprus Amid Peace Push. [AFP](#) (5/14) reports Secretary of State Kerry is “planning to dip his toes into yet another of the world’s intractable conflicts, announcing Tuesday he will visit Cyprus in the coming weeks.” After talks in Washington with Cypriot Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides, Kerry “praised” the island’s current Greek Cypriot leadership for trying to reach a “long sought-after resolution” and said the US is “very supportive” of UN-led peace talks. AFP notes Vice President Biden is to visit Cyprus later this month “as part of efforts to find ways to counter what Washington sees as Russia’s destabilizing actions in Ukraine.”

NYTimes Analysis: Tunisian Protests Illustrate Citizen’s Remaining Frustrations. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Gall, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports “protests have idled the phosphate mines” in the Tunisian towns of Moularet and Redeyef for most of the past three years. The Times notes “citizens regularly block roads and burn tires,” and police and government officials “are barely tolerated.” According to the Times, the complaints have endured since the overthrow of former President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali in 2011 and “point to what many here see as

the unfinished business of their revolution, and...the failure to meet the aspirations of a youthful population." Protest leader Tarek Halimi said, "The revolution lost its way....because the demands were mainly social and economic."

Court Rules Google Must Comply With EU's Privacy Laws. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Kanter, Scott, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) reports the EU's high court ruled on Tuesday that "Google must grant users of its search engine a right to delete links themselves in some cases." The Times notes the European Court of Justice's decision "is a blow for Google, which has sought to avoid the obligation to remove links when requested by European users." The Times says that "by ruling that an Internet company...must comply with European privacy laws" in the EU, the court is "indicating that such companies must operate in a fundamentally different way" than they do in the US.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Timberg, Birnbaum, 4.22M) reports the ruling "startled America's tech industry" and "has potentially wide-ranging consequences." The court said Google's search engine does not serve a "journalistic purpose," but rather "processing personal data," and because "of the massive distribution power of the Internet," it threatens "fundamental rights to privacy." The case "grew from the frustrations of a Spanish man unhappy that searches of his name featured links to a tax problem from 1998," and focused on the legal question of "whether the public's right to know outweighed a private citizen's desire to leave behind unpleasant personal history," otherwise known in Europe as "the right to be forgotten."

The [AP](#) (5/14, Sterling) reports Google issued a statement saying, "This is a disappointing ruling for search engines and online publishers in general." The AP notes the court "provided little guidance on exactly how" to implement the ruling.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Robinson, Schechner, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports the court's ruling was unexpected, because it contradicted an earlier ruling that said search engines are not responsible for personal data that is found when a user is searching the Internet for information.

[USA Today](#) (5/14, Hjelmgaard, 5.82M) reports Trevor Hughes, of the International Association of Privacy Professionals, said the ruling is "groundbreaking," because, "Individuals now have the ability to...go in with a virtual black marker and redact their names."

NYTimes: Ruling Has Potential To Undermine Free Speech. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes the ruling "could undermine press freedoms and free speech," as it means Internet search companies "could be forced to remove links even if the information" is "accurate and lawful." The Times says while "the desire to allow individuals to erase data they no longer wish to disclose is understandable...lawmakers should not create a right so powerful" that it acts to "limit press freedoms

or allow individuals to demand that lawful information...be hidden."

Turkish Coal Mine Explosion Leads To Confusion About How Many Killed. The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/13, story 3, 1:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, "Scores are dead after an explosion and fire" at a Syrian coal mine. CBS (Williams) added "the local mayor is saying tonight that 157 minors have died in this explosion, in this disaster," but "the Turkish government so far is saying only that 17 men have lost their lives...They're saying that around 200 miners are still trapped. Other people...put the figure at 400 or 600 and the reason for that confusion seems to be" the explosion "occurred during a change in shift at the mine."

AFPC's Berman: US Ties With Turkey Are "On The Downswing." In a [USA Today](#) (5/14, Berman, 5.82M) op-ed, the vice president of the American Foreign Policy Council, Ilan Berman argues that US ties with Turkey "are unmistakably on the downswing" because of issues that "promise to keep the once-vibrant relationship at a low ebb...for the foreseeable future." USA Today notes that America's "receding strategic footprint in the Middle East," a difference in opinion regarding the Syrian civil war, and Turkey's "uncertain role in NATO," all contribute to the worsening relationship.

Friedman: "New Global Force" Emerging For Liberty, Economic Justice. In a [New York Times](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) column, Thomas Friedman argues that "a new global force" is being created. "The Square People," according to Friedman, are "mostly young, aspiring to a higher standard of living and more liberty...connected to one another either by massing in squares or through virtual squares or both."

Malaysian Prime Minister Defends Efforts To Find Missing Plane. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak defends Malaysia's efforts to find Malaysia Airlines flight 370, arguing that while it did not do everything right, history will show Malaysia did its best under very difficult circumstances.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

New York Times. "Ordering Google To Forget." The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that a ruling by the EU's high court that Google must allow users to delete links to personal information about themselves "could undermine press freedoms and free speech," as it means Internet search companies "could be forced to remove links even if the information" is "accurate and lawful." The Times says while "the desire to allow

individuals to erase data they no longer wish to disclose is understandable...lawmakers should not create a right so powerful" that it acts to "limit press freedoms or allow individuals to demand that lawful information...be hidden."

"A Call For Justice For Syrians" The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) editorializes that a decision to "refer Syria to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for possible prosecution of war crimes," will not end the civil war, but it "would underscore the world's revulsion at atrocities by both sides." The Times says "there is ample justification for an investigation," but "there is no reason to believe Russia...or China will back the referral."

"Common Sense At The Library."

Washington Post. **"Rescue The Girls."** The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, 4.22M) editorializes that the "social media campaign in support" of the kidnapped children "is producing results." The Post notes Nigeria "has been shamed into accepting" international help in the search and Boko Haram has "shifted from a vow to sell off the girls" to a "proposal to trade them for prisoners." The Post says the US should use this incident to "alter Nigeria's self-defeating response" to Boko Haram.

"The Fannie-Freddie Status Quo." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, 4.22M) says that reducing the Federal role in the housing market "is not a radical free-market notion," but in fact has enjoyed support from within the Obama Administration in the past. However, Watt's announcement is a "victory for defenders of the status quo." The big winners, the Post says, "ironically, may be not the poor and the 'underserved,' but a group of giant hedge funds that snapped up millions of beaten-down Fannie and Freddie shares after the government bailout, and are now lobbying Congress — as well as suing in federal court — for a return to private ownership." The Post says that the bailout of the GSEs will now "pave the way for a colossal windfall for bottom-feeding Wall Street types."

"Protecting Abortion Access." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, 4.22M) approves of Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe's (D) move to "roll back absurd, baldly political rules imposed on the state's abortion clinics with the transparent purpose of forcing many of them to close." The "maneuver may mean a reprieve for as many as half" of the 18 remaining clinics, which are "the only convenient option for thousands of women who seek abortions each year."

Wall Street Journal. **"Harry Reid's Senate Blockade."** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 5.51M), in an editorial blames Senate Majority Leader Reid for the demise of the Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency bill, and contends that his refusal to allow votes on amendments is attributable to his alliance with the White House. According to the Journal, the White House is fearful that centrist

Democrats will join with Republicans to approve the Keystone project and roll back EPA regulations on coal plants.

"Pfizer And The Protectionists." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) editorializes that decisions regarding mergers should be left to shareholders and directors, who know the business, rather than governments and politicians.

"Michigan Union Collapse." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) notes that membership in Michigan's SEIU Healthcare affiliate declined after state lawmakers passed a law excluding home-care workers from the state's definition of public employees and opines that union membership in the state will similarly decline since Michigan's passage of a right-to-work law in 2012.

THE BIG PICTURE:

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WALL STREET JOURNAL:

[US Backs Off Tight Mortgage Rules](#)

[EU Ruling On Google Could Tip Balance In Privacy Fight](#)

[Nigerian Militant Raises Profile Through Terror](#)

[Tech Firms' Cash Piles Cool Fears of Meltdown](#)

NEW YORK TIMES:

[The 9/11 Story Told At Bedrock, Powerful As Punch To The Gut](#)

[Small Comfort As Parents See Girls On Video](#)

[European Court Lets Users Erase Records On Web](#)

[Girding For A Fight, McConnell Enlists His Wife](#)

[Ex-Israel Leader Is Given 6 Years In Bribery Case](#)

[After Booker, Newark's Voters Choose New Mayor And A New Path](#)

WASHINGTON POST:

[Gun Part, Sold Separately, Lets Some Get Around Laws](#)

[Ruling In E.U. May Roil The Web](#)

[A Heart-Rending Homecoming](#)

[Tea Party Aftertaste Is Bitter For Cantor](#)

[In Shift, A Reprieve For Fannie And Freddie](#)

FINANCIAL TIMES:

[Pfizer Admits Astra Deal Would Mean Cuts](#)

[Web Groups Set For Flood Of Data Requests](#)

[Bloomberg Ally Revives NY Olympic Pitch](#)

[US Prosecutors Push For \\$3.5bn BNP Fine](#)

[Goldman's Twitter Banker Joins Hedge Fund](#)

[Clock Ticking On Google's Driverless Cars](#)

[Frontier Markets Storm Ahead](#)

STORY LINEUP FROM LAST NIGHT'S NETWORK NEWS:

ABC: MERS Virus; California Drought; Donald Sterling Scandal; Nigeria-Kidnapped Girls; Medal Of Honor; American Debt.

CBS: Stock Market Rally; Veterans Affairs Scandal; Air Traffic Disaster; Turkey-Coal Mine Disaster; West Virginia-Coal Mine Explosion; Nigeria-Kidnapped Girls; Donald Sterling; Tennessee-Free Community College Tuition Proposal; MERS Virus; Medal Of Honor.

NBC: MERS Virus; Severe Weather; Air Traffic; Donald Sterling Scandal; Nigeria-Kidnapped Girls; Ukraine Conflict; Former Israeli Leader Sentenced To Prison; Medal Of Honor; Political Attacks; Russian Economic Sanctions-ISS; Michigan Democratic Primary.

STORY LINEUP FROM THIS MORNING'S RADIO NEWS

BROADCASTS:

ABC: Nebraska-Republican Primary Results; Turkey-Coal Mine Disaster; California-San Diego Wildfire; California-Heat Wave; Idaho-Same-Sex Marriage Ban;

CBS: California-San Diego Wildfire; California-Heat Wave; California-Santa Barbara Wildfire; Report-Winter Flight Cancellations; Chicago Airports Temporarily Shut Down; Donald Sterling Scandal; Idaho-Same-Sex Marriage Ban; Stock Market Rally.

FOX: California-San Diego Wildfire; California-Santa Barbara Wildfire; Pentagon-Chelsea Manning Relocation; MERS Virus; Sports-NBA Playoffs.

NPR: California-San Diego Wildfire; California-Santa Barbara Wildfire; Russian Economic Sanctions-ISS; Syria Diplomat Resigns; Vietnam-Violent Protests; Nebraska-Republican Primary Results; West Virginia-Democratic Primary Results; New Jersey-Newark Mayoral Election Results; Kentucky-Soldiers Pleads Guilty To Fraud; Turkey-Coal Mine Disaster.

WASHINGTON'S SCHEDULE:

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; depart the White House en route Joint Base Andrews; arrives in New York; delivers remarks on Infrastructure; attends a DNC event; delivers remarks and answers questions at a DSCC Event.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Attends the Presidential Daily Briefing in the Oval Office; meets with President Ivo Josipovic of Croatia at the White House, closed press; travels to Cleveland, Ohio; delivers remarks on infrastructure investment at the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority Rail Complex.

US Senate: 9:30 a.m. — The Senate will convene and resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R.3474, the legislative vehicle for the Tax Extenders bill.

9:30 a.m. **RULES AND ADMINISTRATION** — Hearings to examine a collection, analysis and use of elections data, focusing on a measured approach to improving election administration.

http://www.rules.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=CommitteeHearings&ContentRecord_id=c17675b3-00a6-4ef4-9282-73682b7e703b&ContentType_id14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_id1983a2a8-4fc3-4062-a50e-7997351c154b Location: 301 Russell.

10 a.m. **APPROPRIATIONS** — Defense Subcommittee, "Defense Research and Innovation." Witnesses: Alan Shaffer, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, Department of Defense; Arati Prabhakar, PhD, Director, DARPA, Department of Defense; David Walker, PhD, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Science, Technology, and Engineering, U.S. Air Force; Rear Admiral Matthew L. Klunder, Chief of Naval Research, U.S. Navy; Mary Miller, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Army for Research and Technology, U.S. Army; Terry Rauch, PhD, Director, Medical Research for the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense.
<http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/event/defense-subcommittee-defense-research-and-innovation> Location: 192 Dirksen.

10 a.m. **ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS** — Full Committee Hearing Entitled: "Nuclear Reactor Decommissioning: Stakeholder Views." Witnesses: Panel 1: Michael F. Weber, Deputy Executive Director for OperationsMaterials, Waste, Research, State, Tribal, and Compliance Programs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Don Mosier, Council Member, City of Del Mar, CA; Christopher Recchia, Commissioner, Vermont Public Service Department; Geoffrey H. Fettus, Senior Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council; Marvin S. Fertel, President & Chief Executive Officer, Nuclear Energy Institute.
http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_id=9db54d8c-c13f-e2da-d153-defb9e6bee55&CFID127411300&CFTOKEN73295270 Location: 406 Dirksen.

10 a.m. **HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS** — Executive Session to consider legislation to expand access to high-quality early learning programs as well as the nomination of Jane Chu to serve as National Endowment for the Arts Chairperson. 1) S.____, the Strong Start for Americas Children Act. 2) Jane Chu, of Missouri, to serve as Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts. 3) Any additional nominations cleared for action.
<http://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=65f69649-5056-a032-5238-b5e6e49b1de5> Location: 430 Dirksen.

10 a.m. **HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS** — Hearings to examine charting a path forward for the Chemical Facilities Anti-

Terrorism Standards Program. Witnesses: Panel I: Suzanne E. Spaulding, Under Secretary, National Protection and Programs Directorate, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; David M. Wulf, Director, Infrastructure Security Compliance Division, Office of Infrastructure Protection, National Protection and Programs Directorate, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Stephen L. Caldwell, Director, Homeland Security and Justice Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office. Panel II: Dana A. Shea, Ph.D., Specialist in Science and Technology Policy, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; Anna Fendley, MPH, Legislative Representative, United Steelworkers; Timothy J. Scott, Chief Security Officer, The Dow Chemical Company, Appearing on behalf of Dow and the American Chemistry Council. <http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/hearings/charting-a-path-forward-for-the-chemical-facilities-anti-terrorism-standards-program> Location: 342 Dirksen.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — Hearing on The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program: Supporting Law Enforcement Officers When it Matters Most. Witnesses: Officer Ann Carrizales, City of Stafford Police Department, Stafford, TX; Chief Yousry A. Zakhary, President, International Association of Chiefs of Police, Alexandria, VA. <http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/the-bulletproof-vest-partnership-grant-program-supporting-law-enforcement-officers-when-it-matters-most> Location: 226 Dirksen.

11 a.m. PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS — Background briefing by the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations for their Thursday hearing, "Online Advertising and Hidden Hazards to Consumer Security and Data Privacy," Contacts: Brian Rogers (McCain) 202-224-7130 Tara Andringa (Levin) 202-228-2685

2 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee, "Strengthening Oversight and Integrity of the Financial Markets: FY 2015 Resource Needs of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission." Witnesses: Mary Jo White, Chairman, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission; Mark P. Wetjen, Acting Chairman, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission. <http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/event/fsgg-hearing-fy15-sec-and-cftc-budget-requests-0> Location: 138 Dirksen.

2:15 p.m. FINANCE — Hearings to examine the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell, of West Virginia, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services. <http://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=db65b16f-5056-a032-52ae-4e20f0977c07> Location: 216 Hart.

2:30 p.m. COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION — Full Committee, "Promoting the Well-Being and Academic Success of College Athletes." Location: 253 Russell.

2:30 p.m. HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia hearing on The Role of Mitigation in Reducing Federal Expenditures for Disaster Response. Witnesses: David Miller, Associate Administrator, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Christopher Currie, Director, Emergency Management and National Preparedness Issues, Government Accountability Office; Chad Berginnis, Executive Director, Association of State Floodplain Managers; Robert Detlefson, Vice President of Public Policy, National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies. <http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/emdc/hearings/the-role-of-mitigation-in-reducing-federal-expenditures-for-disaster-response> Location: 342 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. INDIAN AFFAIRS — An oversight hearing to examine wildfires and forest management, focusing on how prevention is preservation. Witnesses: Panel 1: Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary — Indian Affairs-U.S. Department of the Interior; James Hubbard, Deputy Chief — State and Private Forestry, Forest Service-U.S. Department of Agriculture. Panel 2: Danny Breuninger Sr., President-Mescalero Apache Nation, Mescalero, NM; Philip Rigdon, President-Intertribal Timber Council, Portland, OR; Jonathan Brooks, Tribal Forest Manager-White Mountain Apache Tribe, White River, AZ; Dr. Adrian Leighton, Chair, Natural Resources Department-Salish Kootenai College, Pablo, MT. <http://www.indian.senate.gov/hearing/oversight-hearing-wildfires-and-forest-management-prevention-preservation> Location: 628 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. SENATE DRUG CAUCUS — Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control hearing on the prescription drug abuse and the role it plays in the increased use of heroin in the United States, as well as how the federal government can help reduce opioid abuse. Speakers: Michael Botticelli, acting director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy; Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse; Dr. H. Westley Clark, director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; Joseph Rannazzisi, deputy assistant administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration; Dr. Andrew Kolodny, chief medical officer of Phoenix House, a nonprofit drug rehabilitation organization. Location: 192 Dirksen.

10 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Nominations: Panel One Nominees: Mark Sobel of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a term of two years; Sunil Sabharwal of California, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a term of two years. Panel Two Nominees: Matthew T. McGuire of the District of Columbia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for

Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years; Mileydi Guilarte of the District of Columbia, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank.

<http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/nominations/051414>
Location: 419 Dirksen.

US House: May 12 – 16. — The House is in District work period for the week.

Other: May 12 – 14. AJC GLOBAL FORUM — The AJC Global Forum is a significant international platform that has been addressed by many presidents, foreign ministers, Members of Congress, and leading public figures. Speaker will include Hillary Clinton. <http://www.cvent.com/events/ajc-global-forum-2014/event-summary-b9bc036a00bc43dca76cf3a7f767225c.aspx?msourceGloFo040114> 10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Closing Plenary Featuring The Honorable John Baird, Foreign Minister of Canada; Hillary Rodham Clinton, Former Secretary of State. Location: Grand Hyatt Washington, D.C., 1000 H Street, NW.

PETERSON FOUNDATION FISCAL SUMMIT — 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. The Peter G. Peterson Foundation will convene the 2014 Fiscal Summit: Our Economic Future at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, DC. Participants include: President Bill Clinton; New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie; House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi; (2p.m.) Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee; Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH); Alan Greenspan, Former Chairman of the Federal Reserve; Erskine Bowles, President Emeritus of the University of North Carolina and Co-Chair of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. http://www.fiscalsummit.org/?_cldee=c3N0aXBpY2V2aWNAcGdwZi5vcmc%3d Location: 1301 Constitution Avenue NW.

AEI – SEN. CORNYN — 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. The consequences of inaction: A conversation with Sen. John Cornyn. <http://aei.org/events/2014/05/14/the-consequences-of-inaction/> Location: AEI, Twelfth Floor, 1150 Seventeenth Street, NW.

DHS AWARD FOR VALOR — 9:30 a.m. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson will present the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Award for Valor to employees who have “performed courageously in a dangerous or life-threatening situation to protect another’s life or to save significant assets or infrastructure from harm”. Credentialed media planning to attend must RSVP with their social security number, date of birth, country of citizenship, current city/state of residence and gender to Amanda.degroff@hq.dhs.gov by 5:00 PM EDT May 9, 2014. Location: South Court Auditorium, Eisenhower Executive Office Building, 1650 Pennsylvania Ave., NW.

WFPG – SUSAN RICE — 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. National Security Advisor Susan Rice to speak on “Major National Security Challenges Facing the US” at the Women’s Foreign Policy Group Luncheon. Susan Rice, U.S. National Security

Advisor will have a conversation with Judy Woodruff, Co-Anchor and Managing Editor, PBS NewsHour. Media planning on attending the event should register with Jennifer Schrock or Patricia Ellis at programs@wfp.org, or call (202) 429-2692. Location: The Mayflower Renaissance Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC (Pre-set time for cameras: 11:00 a.m. from 17th Street loading dock entrance.)

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