

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

GOP concerns on Trump, Comey pose threat to their agenda

WASHINGTON — Several Republican senators are questioning the timing of President Donald Trump's firing of FBI Director James Comey. But even as the issue emerges as a potential distraction from the GOP's legislative agenda, most are dismissing Democratic calls for a special counsel, and their hand-wringing looks unlikely to lead to any concrete action.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., moved swiftly to reject Democrats' demands for a special prosecutor to investigate Russian meddling in the 2016 election and ties with the Trump campaign. Such an appointment "could only serve to impede the current work being done" by the Senate intelligence committee and the FBI itself, McConnell said.

Democrats argued that an independent, outside inquiry led by a special prosecutor was a necessary next step, given Trump's decision to oust Comey in the midst of the FBI's Russia investigation. The firing came not long after Comey had requested additional resources for the investigation, according to U.S. officials, although the Justice Department disputed that.

"All we are seeking is some assurance that the subject of this investigation is not able to influence it or, God forbid, quash it," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

But Senate intelligence committee Chairman Richard Burr, R-N.C., insisted that his panel has "got the jurisdictional responsibility to investigate this. We are going to do that."

Environmentalists triumph as Senate upholds drilling rule

WASHINGTON — Environmentalists notched a rare win in the Republican-led Senate on Wednesday as a GOP effort to reverse an Obama-era rule restricting harmful methane emissions unexpectedly failed.

The 51-49 vote against the repeal measure was a blow to the fossil-fuel industry and groups linked to the conservative Koch Brothers, which had waged a public campaign to overturn the Interior Department rule.

The rule, finalized in November, would force energy companies to capture methane that's burned off or "flared" at drilling sites because it earns less money than oil. An estimated \$330 million a year in methane — the component of natural gas — is wasted through leaks or intentional releases, enough to power about 5 million homes a year.

The Interior Department said in a statement Wednesday that the rule imposes significant burdens on energy production and they would review it.

The vote marked the first time that the Republican-led Congress has rejected a bid to overturn a rule imposed by President Barack Obama using the previously obscure Congressional Review Act.

Senate intelligence panel subpoenas Flynn documents

WASHINGTON — The Senate intelligence committee subpoenaed former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn for documents related to the panel's investigation into Russia's election meddling.

Sen. Richard Burr, the Republican chairman, and Sen. Mark Warner, the committee's Democratic vice chairman, issued a joint statement saying the panel decided to issue the subpoena after Flynn, through his lawyer, declined to cooperate with an April 28 request to turn over the documents.

Flynn and other associates of President Donald Trump have received similar requests from the committee for information and documents over the past few weeks.

Copies of request letters sent to longtime Trump associate Roger Stone and former Trump foreign policy adviser Carter Page were shared with The Associated Press. Those letters, which were nearly identical, sought emails, text messages, letters, phone records or any other relevant information they have about meetings or contacts that they or any other individual affiliated with the Trump campaign had with Russian officials or representatives of Russian business interests. They also ask for information about any financial or real estate holdings related to Russia, including any since divested or sold.

Stone, Page, Flynn and former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort all received similar requests for information, a person familiar with the Senate investigation said. That person spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the details of the investigation.



AP Photo/Mark Thiessen

A few hundred people chanted slogans and made speeches to protest the presence of U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in Fairbanks, Alaska, on Wednesday. High-level officials from the world's eight Arctic nations, including Tillerson, will meet in Alaska amid concerns about the future of the sensitive region after President Trump called for more oil drilling and development.

Officials from Arctic nations meet amid drilling concerns

FAIRBANKS, Alaska — High-level officials from the world's eight Arctic nations will meet in Alaska amid concerns about the future of the sensitive region after President Donald Trump called for more oil drilling and development.

Among those expected to attend the meeting of the Arctic Council beginning today in Fairbanks are U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who met Wednesday with Trump and Tillerson in Washington.

No formal discussions were set in Alaska but key issues such as climate change, development and drilling will provide a backdrop as the chairmanship of the council passes from the U.S. to Finland. "We are unsure what the Trump administration thinks about the Arctic region in general, about the Arctic Council in particular and about its role," said Victoria Herrmann, president of The Arctic Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based group that provides research to shape Arctic policy.

The Arctic Council is an advisory body that promotes cooperation among member nations and indigenous groups. Its focus is sustainable development and environmental protection of the Arctic.

Saudis paid for US veteran trips against 9/11 lawsuit law

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — After Congress passed a new law allowing Sept. 11 victims' families to sue Saudi Arabia in U.S. courts, opponents mounted an expensive political campaign, including paying American military veterans to visit Capitol Hill and warn lawmakers about what they said could be unintended consequences.

What few people knew, including some of the recruited veter-

ans themselves, was that Saudi Arabia's government was largely paying for the effort, worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. Despite a World War II-era U.S. law requiring lobbyists to immediately reveal payments from foreign governments or political parties, some of the campaign's organizers failed to notify the Justice Department about the Saudi kingdom's role until months afterward, with no legal consequences.

Even now, some opponents of the law, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, still won't say to whom or how many exactly they paid thousands of dollars each to influence state and federal elected officials on behalf of Saudi Arabia, stymieing public knowledge about the scale of foreign influence on the push to overturn the legislation.

The chief lobbyist for the Saudi Embassy in Washington said it encouraged its subcontractors to be as transparent as possible. But the campaign and the allegations surrounding it show what can happen when the often-murky world of lobbying intersects with emotive American issues like patriotism, protecting U.S. troops and the memory of Sept. 11. It also highlights how federal laws governing disclosures of foreign influence in American politics are only as strong as they're enforced.

"If the purpose of the statute is to make a public record about how foreign sovereigns are spending money to influence U.S. policy, it's not clear how the Justice Department's relatively lax enforcement of the statute furthers that goal," said Stephen Vladeck, a law professor and national security law expert at the University of Texas.

VA aims to end veteran homelessness, says it'll take years

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The new Veterans Affairs chief shares the goal set by former President Barack Obama's administration of ending homelessness among veterans, but says it'll take longer than his predecessor predicted.

Reducing the number of homeless veterans nationwide from roughly 40,000 to 10,000 or 15,000 is an "achievable goal" for President Donald Trump's administration, VA Secretary David Shulkin told The Associated Press during a visit to Rhode Island on Friday.

"This is a continuous problem of people finding themselves in economically difficult situations and then being out on the street or going from shelter to shelter," Shulkin said.

Homelessness among veterans has been effectively ended in Virginia, Connecticut and Delaware and in more than 40 communities. The outgoing head of the VA, Robert McDonald, said in January that "we should be there" nationwide within a couple of years.

Shulkin, who formerly was VA undersecretary of health under Obama, said on Friday, "We're still looking at a multi-year process."

In Iraq's Mosul, many survivors face future as amputees

QARAOOSH, Iraq — The young Iraqi woman remembers the night she lost her leg.

Wihad Ahmed and her family had hunkered down in their house in western Mosul, hoping to wait out the nearly constant shelling as fighting raged between Islamic State militants and advancing Iraqi government forces.

But after mortar shells destroyed the homes of their next-door neighbors, the 27-year-old and her relatives decided to flee. With four other families, they left in the middle of the night on April 1. Before they reached Iraqi lines, a bomb went off, wounding Ahmed's right leg so badly that it had to be amputated above the knee.

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, she is one of at least 625 people from Mosul who have lost an arm or a leg as the nearly seven-month-old battle for the city. Like others, she is struggling to come to terms with her injuries and the future she faces as an amputee.

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THE DAILY ASTORIAN **TV LISTINGS** Evening listings THURSDAY

THURSDAY EVENING												MAY 11	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Grey's Anatomy "True Colors" (N)	Scandal "Head Games" (N)	The Catch "The Mockingbird" (SF) (N)	KATU News at 11 (35) Jimmy Kimmel				
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	Grey's Anatomy "True Colors" (N)	Scandal "Head Games" (N)	The Catch "The Mockingbird" (SF) (N)	KOMO 4 News (35) Jimmy Kimmel				
4	KING	(5) NBC Nightly News	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Genes"	Chicago Med "Love Hurts" (SF) (N)	The Blacklist "The Debt Collector" (N)	KING 5 News (35) Tonight Show				
5	KOIN	(6) KOIN 6 News at 6	CBS Evening News	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Big Bang (SF) (N)	Big Bang Theory	Mom (SF) (N)	Life Pieces (SF) (N)	The Amazing Race	KOIN 6 News @ 11 (35) Colbert		
6	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News	CBS Evening News	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	Big Bang (SF) (N)	Big Bang Theory	Mom (SF) (N)	Life Pieces (SF) (N)	The Amazing Race	KIRO News (35) Colbert		
7	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m.		Live at 7	Inside Edition	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Genes"	Chicago Med "Love Hurts" (SF) (N)	The Blacklist "The Debt Collector" (N)	KGW News at 11 (35) Tonight Show				
8	KRCW	(3) Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Modern Family	Modern Family	Supernatural (N)	Riverdale (N)	KGW News at 10	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Met Your Mother		
9	KOPB	(10) Born to Explore	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour		Oregon Art Beat	Oregon Guide	The Inspector Lynley Mysteries "Payment in Blood"	Hinterland 1/2 (N)		(15) Hinterland Pt. 2 of 2 (N)		
10	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News		Family Feud	Family Feud	MasterChef "Pop-Up Restaurant" (N)	Brooklyn 99 1/2	Brooklyn 99 2/2	10 O'Clock News		11 O'Clock News	2 Broke Girls	
11	KPDQ	(5) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's 8 O'Clock News on PDX-TV	FOX 12's 9 O'Clock News on PDX-TV	Family Guy	Family Guy	American Dad	Cleveland Show		
12	KCPQ	(13) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	MasterChef "Pop-Up Restaurant" (N)	Brooklyn 99 1/2	Brooklyn 99 2/2	Q13 News at 10		Q13 News	The Simpsons	
13	TBS	(20) Seinfeld Pt. 1 of 2	Seinfeld Pt. 2 of 2	Seinfeld Pt. 1 of 2	Seinfeld Pt. 2 of 2	Seinfeld Pt. 1 of 2	Seinfeld Pt. 2 of 2	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan (N)	
14	KZJN	(22) Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Last Man Standng	Last Man Standng	Modern Family	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Friends	Friends Pt. 2 of 2	
15	ESPN2	(30) We the Fans/ Soldier		Baseball Tonight (L)		SportsCenter	SportsCenter	Jalen & Jacoby (N)	E:60 Pictures	NBA Basketball Playoffs			
16	NICK	(31) Henry Danger	Henry Danger	The Thundermans	The Thundermans	★ Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (09) Voices of Maile Flanagan, Eunice Cho.	Full House	Full House	Friends Pt. 1 of 2	Friends	Friends Pt. 2 of 2		
17	DISN	(32) Bunk'd	Bizaardvark	K.C. Undercover	(35) Bizaardvark	Stuck in Middle	Good Luck Charlie	K.C. Undercover	Liv Maddie Cali	Bunk'd	Tangled-Series	Jessie	
18	FAM	(34) (5:30) ★★ My Best Friend's Wedding (97) Julia Roberts.		★★ Burlesque (2010, Drama) Christina Aguilera, Alan Cumming, Cher.		★★★ Sherlock Holmes (2009, Adventure) Jude Law, Rachel McAdams, Robert Downey Jr.	Amer. Race "Baltimore Rising" (P) (N)	Race "Muslim is the New Black" (N)	Pretty Little Liars "Power Play"		The 700 Club		
19	FMC	(35) (4:15) Noah (14, Drama) Russell Crowe.	(05) ★★ 47 Ronin	(2013, Action) Hiroyuki Sanada, Tadanobu Asano, Keanu Reeves.	(25) FXM Presents	★★ 47 Ronin (2013, Action) Hiroyuki Sanada, Tadanobu Asano, Keanu Reeves.	(50) FXM Presents						
20	TBS	(20) Seinfeld Pt. 1 of 2	Seinfeld Pt. 2 of 2	Seinfeld Pt. 1 of 2	Seinfeld Pt. 2 of 2	Seinfeld Pt. 1 of 2	Seinfeld Pt. 2 of 2	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan (N)	
21	KZJN	(22) Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Last Man Standng	Last Man Standng	Modern Family	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Friends	Friends Pt. 2 of 2	
22	ESPN	(5:00) NBA Basketball Playoffs (L)		NBA Basketball Playoffs (L)		SportsCenter	SportsCenter	Jalen & Jacoby (N)	E:60 Pictures	NBA Basketball Playoffs			
23	ESPN2	(30) We the Fans/ Soldier		Baseball Tonight (L)		SportsCenter	SportsCenter	Jalen & Jacoby (N)	E:60 Pictures	NBA Basketball Playoffs			
24	NICK	(31) Henry Danger	Henry Danger	The Thundermans	The Thundermans	★ Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (09) Voices of Maile Flanagan, Eunice Cho.	Full House	Full House	Friends Pt. 1 of 2	Friends	Friends Pt. 2 of 2		
25	DISN	(32) Bunk'd	Bizaardvark	K.C. Undercover	(35) Bizaardvark	Stuck in Middle	Good Luck Charlie	K.C. Undercover	Liv Maddie Cali	Bunk'd	Tangled-Series	Jessie	
26	FAM	(34) (5:30) ★★ My Best Friend's Wedding (97) Julia Roberts.		★★ Burlesque (2010, Drama) Christina Aguilera, Alan Cumming, Cher.		★★★ Sherlock Holmes (2009, Adventure) Jude Law, Rachel McAdams, Robert Downey Jr.	Amer. Race "Baltimore Rising" (P) (N)	Race "Muslim is the New Black" (N)	Pretty Little Liars "Power Play"		The 700 Club		
27	FMC	(35) (4:15) Noah (14, Drama) Russell Crowe.	(05) ★★ 47 Ronin	(2013, Action) Hiroyuki Sanada, Tadanobu Asano, Keanu Reeves.	(25) FXM Presents	★★ 47 Ronin (2013, Action) Hiroyuki Sanada, Tadanobu Asano, Keanu Reeves.	(50) FXM Presents						
28	LIFE	(36) Married at First Sight "Weddings"	Married1stSight	"The Wedding Night"	Married1stSight	(45) Married (N)	Married1stSight	"Honeymoons" 2/2 (N)	(15) Married Sight Second	"Take Me or Leave Me" (N)	(45) Married		
29	ROOT	(38) (4:00) MLB Baseball Seattle vs Toronto (L)	Post-game	MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Toronto Blue Jays Site: Rogers Centre -- Toronto, Ont.					Post-game	Softball 360 (N)	NCAA Softball		
30	FS1	(39) (5:00) UFC UFC 203		MLB Whiparound (L)		Speak for Yourself		Skip and Shannon: Undisputed Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day.					
31	COKE	(43) Movie	★★★ The Longest Yard (2005, Comedy) Chris Rock, Burt Reynolds, Adam Sandler.			Lip Sync Battle	Lip Sync Battle	Lip Sync Battle (N)	Lip Sync Battle	Joe Dirt (2001, Comedy) David Spade.			
32	SP1	(44) (1:15) Futurama	(50) South Park	Major Boobage" (25) South Park		South Park	South Park	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	The Daily Show (N) Pres. Show (N)			
33	HIST	(45) Swamp People "Brutus the Cannibal"	Swamp People	"Time's Running Out"	Swamp: Blood	"Racing Sundown" (N)	Swamp People	"The Hunt Ends" (N)		(35) Swamp People	"The Hunt Ends"		
34	A&E	(46) The First 48	The First 48	"Stray Shot"	The First 48	"Deadly Premonition"	60 Days In (SF) (N)						
35	TLC	(47) N J By Design "East Meets West"	My 600-lb Life	"June's Story"	My 600-lb Life	"Dottie and June"	Dottie's weight loss journey is in danger. (N)	Skin "Melissa I., Jessica and Matt" (N)	600 Life: Supersized "Dottie and June"	Naked and Afraid "Melt Down Under"			
36	DISC	(48) Naked and Afraid "Unhinged"	Naked "Curse of the Swamp"		Naked and Afraid	"The Amazon: Part 2"	Naked and Afraid XL: Pop-Up Edition	Naked and Afraid "Part 3" 3/3 (N)	Ultimate Rivals: Cat v. Dog	Africa's Deadliest "Ganglands"			
37	NGEO	(49) Africa's Deadliest "Ambush Hunters"	Africa's Deadliest	"Lethal Weapons"	Africa's Deadliest	"Killer Tactics"	Battle for the Pride	Ultimate Rivals: Cat v. Dog	Africa's Deadliest "Ganglands"	Con Air (1997, Action) Nicolas Cage.			
38	TNT	(50) Bones "The Santa in the Slush"	★★★ Law Abiding Citizen	(09, Cri) Gerard Butler, Colm Meaney, Jamie Foxx.	Amer. Race	"Baltimore Rising" (P) (N)	Race "Muslim is the New Black" (N)	Con Air (1997, Action) Nicolas Cage.	Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows				
39	AMC	(51) (5:30) ★★ Lethal Weapon 2 (1989, Action) Danny Glover, Joe Pesci, Mel Gibson.		★★★ Sherlock Holmes (2009, Adventure) Jude Law, Rachel McAdams, Robert Downey Jr.		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Smoked"	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Community Policing"	Inside the FBI: New "The New FBI" (N)	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Liberties"				
40	USA	(52) Law & Order: S.V.U. "Bang"	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Delinquent"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Smoked"	Chopped "Something Dumpling"	Chopped "Jump For Bok Choy"	Beat Bobby Play	Beat Bobby Play	Beat Bobby Play	Beat Bobby Play		
41	FOOD	(53) Chopped "An Egg Up"	Chopped "Oodles of Noodles"		Chopped "Something Dumpling"	Chopped "Jump For Bok Choy"	FlipFloVegas (N)	Flip or Flop	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters	
42	HGTV	(54) Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	FlipFloVegas (N)	Flip or Flop	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters	
43	FX	(56) (4:30) Transformers: Age of Extinction (14) Nicola Peltz, Mark Wahlberg.		★★★ The Maze Runner (2014, Sci-Fi) Thomas Brodie-Sangster, Will Poulter, Dylan O'Brien.		Soundtracks "Hurricane Katrina"	Anderson Cooper 360						
44	CNN	(57) Anderson Cooper 360		Soundtracks "Hurricane Katrina" (N)	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	Soundtracks "Hurricane Katrina"	Anderson Cooper 360				
45	FNC	(58) The Five	Hannity	Tucker Carlson Tonight		The Five		Hannity	Tucker Carlson Tonight				
46	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank	Shark Tank			Shark Tank		Shark Tank					
47	BRAV	(63) (5:30) Then Now	Andy Cohen's Then and Now	Housewives Atl.	"Reunion Part 3" 3/4	Housewives Atl.	"Reunion Part 4" 4/4	Housewives Potomac	"Messy Games"	Unprotected	WatchWhat (N)	Southern Charm	
48	TCM	(64) (5:00) Rodan (57)	★★ The Black Scorpion (57) Carlos Rivas, Richard Denning.	(15) ★★ The Deadly Mantis (57) Donald Randolph, Craig Stevens, William Hopper.		★★★ The Monster That Challenged the World	Tim Holt.	Movie					
49	SYFY	(65) (5:00) ★★ The Da Vinci Code (06, Drama) Audrey Tautou, Jean Reno, Tom Hanks.	★★ Armageddon (1998, Adventure) Liv Tyler, Ben Affleck, Bruce Willis.			(05) The Core (03, Sci-Fi) Hilary Swank.							
50	RFD	(62) SF Machinery	Small Town (N)	Where the Fast Lane Ends (15, Fam) Mac Davis, Scott Reeves, Christopher Knight.	Market Journal	GA Farm Monitor	SF Machinery	Small Town	Time Life Library				