

## Novartis Tried to Patent Hep C Virus, Rival Tells Court

By NICHOLAS IOVINO

A Chicago-based pharmaceutical company claims in court that Swiss drug giant Novartis “has sought to patent the hepatitis C virus, itself,” so that anyone who tries to study or cure the disease must license the Novartis patents.

## Senate Votes to Proceed With Debate on Gorsuch

By TIM RYAN

The Senate on Tuesday voted to proceed with debate on U.S. Circuit Judge Neil Gorsuch’s nomination to the Supreme Court, setting up a bitter partisan fight later this week. Lawmakers voted 55-44 on a motion to proceed to debate, with four Democrats joining the entire Republican caucus.

## Reporter Brings Lawsuit to Confirm Trump Surveillance

By BRITAIN EAKIN

A government accountability group and investigative journalist sued the Justice Department on Tuesday to get to the bottom of whether surveillance of President Donald Trump and his campaign staff had been authorized in the waning months of the Obama administration.

## Trump Signs Bill Blocking Online Privacy Rules

By BRANDI BUCHMAN

President Donald Trump on Monday signed a bill into law that opens the door to internet providers selling information about their customers’ browsing habits.

## Advocates Push to Protect Campus Free Speech

By TIM RYAN

Free speech advocates on Tuesday asked a House committee to consider legislation that would withhold federal money from public universities that don’t implement extensive free speech protections.

## Senate Told Cost of Planned Border Wall Still a Mystery

By BRANDI BUCHMAN

A Senate committee meeting on Tuesday to discuss President Donald Trump’s proposed wall along the U.S.-Mexico border heard much about eminent domain and the need to hire more border patrol staff, but achieved no clarity on what building the proposed wall itself might actually cost.

## Indiana’s Abortion Ultrasound Rule Blocked

By CHRIS RANDOLPH

A federal judge in Indiana granted a preliminary injunction to Planned Parenthood, temporarily blocking a state law forcing women to have an ultrasound at least 18 hours before having an abortion.

## Long Before Brexit, Geological Events Broke Britain's Tie to Europe



Britain’s vote to leave the European Union this past summer wasn’t the first time the British Isles have separated from the continent: 450,000 years ago, the land bridge that joined them was obliterated by chance geological events that severed their physical connection forever.

## Turkey Talks by Trump Cronies Draw Court’s Alarm

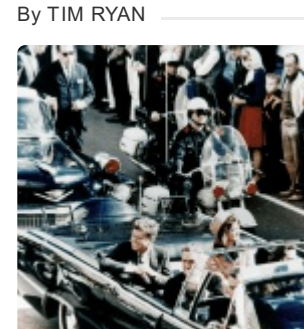
By ADAM KLASFELD



A federal judge vowed Tuesday to investigate whether two allies of President Donald Trump have a conflict of interest after they met with the leader of Turkey on behalf of a gold trader charged with laundering money for Iran.

## JFK Assassination Intrigue Swirls in DC

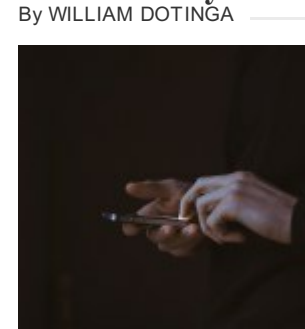
By TIM RYAN



The journalist behind Salon.com has brought a federal complaint to get records on the ex-CIA official at the center of congressional investigations into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

## Security Fears May Derail Iranian’s Plan for EU Study

By WILLIAM DOTINGA



An Iranian scientist with a grant to study information-technology security can be denied entry into Germany on public-security grounds, the European Court of Justice ruled Tuesday.

## App Makers Settle Privacy Class Action for \$5.3M

By NICHOLAS IOVINO



Twitter, Instagram and other app makers look likely to pay \$5.3 million to settle class action claims that they uploaded Apple device users’ personal data without their consent.

## Rights Groups Alarmed by Retreat on Police Reforms

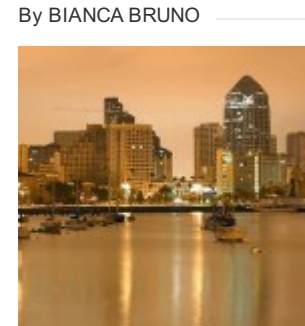
AP



Civil rights groups reacted with alarm Tuesday, while law enforcement organizations expressed relief, after the Trump administration signaled it may back out of federal agreements that compel several police departments around the U.S. to curb racial bias and excessive force.

## San Diego Considering Tourist Tax Hike

By BIANCA BRUNO



Undeterred by last year’s failed sales-tax ballot measure to build the now-Los Angeles Chargers a new stadium, San Diego’s mayor called for a special election to raise the city’s tourism tax to expand the convention center, fix San Diego’s crumbling roads and solve a growing homelessness problem.

## Teachers Fight for the Right to Get Sick

By VICTORIA PRIESKOP

In a class action resounding in politics, a veteran teacher sued New Mexico, claiming it punishes teachers for taking more than three sick days per year, though they earn nine sick days a year under their contracts.

## 7th Circ. Rules Civil Rights Act Covers LGBT Bias

By AP

A federal appeals court in Chicago on Tuesday ruled that the 1964 Civil Rights Act also protects LGBT employees from workplace discrimination, the first time a federal appellate court has come to that conclusion.

## Class of Home-Sharers Can Sue Santa Monica

By DONI DE BENEDECTIS

A federal judge rejected a constitutional attack on a Santa Monica ordinance that bans most Airbnb-style short-term vacation rentals, but allowed frustrated homeowners to continue their class action against the city’ under California’s sweeping Coastal Act.

## Death-Penalty Stance Draws Out Florida Governor

By ALEX PIGKETT

Florida Gov. Rick Scott has removed a prominent state attorney from all death penalty cases after she vowed not to pursue capital punishment in the future.

## Divide on Sanctuary Cities Roils Massachusetts

By ZACK HUFFMAN

As sanctuary cities spread across Massachusetts, the threatened loss of federal funding has caused pressure to mount for lawmakers considering a bill that would take the movement statewide.

## U.S. Economy Trade Deficit Declined Sharply in February

By DAN MCCUE

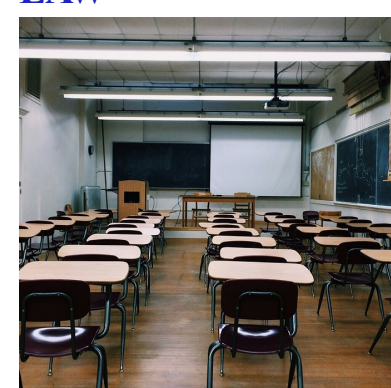
The U.S. trade deficit, the difference between the nation’s imports and exports, declined sharply in February as imports from China fell by a record amount and American exports rose for a third straight month.

## Ninth Circuit OKs Drugs for Terror-Threat Suspect

By RYAN BORGHERS

The Ninth Circuit has ruled that a schizophrenic former Transportation Security Administration agent who was arrested for calling in false terror threats to Los Angeles International Airport will receive psychotropic drugs to make him competent to stand trial.

### LAW



#### Suit Over Academic Boycott of Israel Advances

By BRITAIN EAKIN

A federal judge has advanced claims by members of the American Studies Association over the group’s backing of an academic boycott of Israel.

#### Signature-Gatherer Sued Over Campaign Funds

By JAMIE HENNEMAN

The Washington state attorney general has sued a well-known initiative promoter and signature-gatherer on claims he funneled campaign funds to his personal accounts and evaded full campaign disclosures.

#### Religious-Freedom Law Debated in Fifth Circuit

By ERIK DE LA GARZA

The Fifth Circuit heard arguments Monday afternoon about a Mississippi law that would let government employees, service providers and business owners cite their own religious beliefs to deny services to gay couples.

#### Government Rests in First Nevada Bundy Trial

By MIKE HEUER

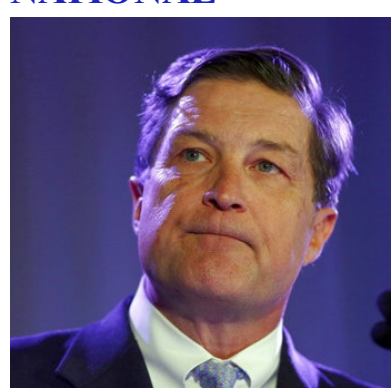
The federal government on Monday rested its case against six co-defendants accused of endangering and extorting Bureau of Land Management staff during an armed standoff at Cliven Bundy’s ranch in Nevada.

#### SCOTUS Picks Up Circuit Split Over Habeas Help

By CAMERON LINGFORD

A Texas death-row inmate whose mental illness wasn’t explored by his trial attorney persuaded the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday to hear arguments he was wrongly denied resources to vet his ineffective-counsel claims.

### NATIONAL



#### Richmond Fed Head Resigns, Admits Improper Discussions

AP

Jeffrey Lacker, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, announced Tuesday that he was resigning effective immediately after acknowledging improper discussions with a financial analyst that later became the subject of a lengthy investigation into leaks at the Fed.

#### Judge Halts Shutdown of Kentucky’s Only Abortion Clinic

By JEFF D. GORMAN

Kentucky’s last remaining abortion clinic won a temporary restraining order from a federal judge in its fight to stay open, after state officials suddenly claimed it was out of compliance with regulations.

#### Professor Seeks Proof of U.S. Influence on Al-Jazeera

By LORRAINE BAILEY

A Northwestern professor sued the State Department, demanding that it respond to her requests for documents about its purported aim of influencing Al-Jazeera’s coverage of the U.S. and its wars in the Middle East via American university satellite campuses.

#### Trump Tells CEOs He’ll Only Back Shovel-Ready Infrastructure

AP

With legislation overhauling taxes and health care on an uncertain path, President Donald Trump returned to the familiar. Trump brought 52 business leaders from New York City to the White House Tuesday to talk about another favorite campaign issue — infrastructure and economic growth.

#### California Senate OKs 2 Pro-Immigrant Bills

By NICK CHMILL

Rebuking President Donald Trump’s “false and cynical portrayal” of undocumented immigrants, California lawmakers on Monday advanced bills that would fund legal help for people fighting deportation and block law enforcement agencies from cooperating with federal immigration agents.

### REGIONAL



#### OC Cabbies May Have Competition Case Against Uber

By MARIA DINZIO

An Orange County taxi company can move ahead with its claim that Uber unfairly competes with authentic taxis by skirting local cab regulations, a federal judge ruled.

#### Justice Dept. Seeks Pause on Agreement with Baltimore Police

AP

The Justice Department has asked a federal judge for more time to “review and assess” a proposed agreement to overhaul the Baltimore police department, saying it needed to determine how it might conflict with the crime-fighting agenda of new Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

#### NCAA to Return to North Carolina After Law Change

By DAN MCCUE

The NCAA said Tuesday that it will once again consider North Carolina as a possible site for its championship events after state lawmakers clawed back a controversial anti-transgender law.

#### Teens Say Principal Abused Them as Girls

By KARIINA BROWN

Two teenage girls claimed in a \$20 million lawsuit Monday that their elementary school principal sexually abused them in his office years ago.

#### Accused Murderer Removed From Court Hearing

By DAVID LEE

An Oklahoma man accused of beheading a co-worker and nearly beheading a second at a food processing plant was subdued by deputies and removed from court Monday for causing a disturbance during a competency hearing.

### INTERNATIONAL



#### Russia Sanctions Steady in Trump’s Hands, EU Says

By BRITAIN EAKIN

A senior EU official told the Senate on Tuesday that he sees no signs the Trump administration is planning to let Russia skate on its activities in Ukraine.

#### EU Retail Sales Post Slight Gains in February

By WILLIAM DOTINGA

Retail sales in the European Union rose 0.7 percent in February, marking two months of increases following a disappointing Christmas shopping season, Eurostat reported Tuesday.

#### Spain Seizes Property Worth \$735M Linked to Assad’s Uncle

AP

Spanish police investigating a money laundering case involving former Syrian vice president Rifaat Assad — the exiled uncle of Syria’s current leader — raided properties and blocked dozens of bank accounts belonging or linked to him and his relatives on Tuesday.

#### French Candidate Fillion: Govt Manipulating Presidential Race

AP

French conservative candidate Francois Fillion is denouncing what he calls the Socialist government’s “manipulations” that he says are designed to eliminate him from the presidential race.

#### Flood-Stricken City in Colombia Mourns as Death Toll Climbs

AP

The survivors of the deadly flood that washed through this city in southern Colombia were burying their loved ones Monday after authorities began to release the remains recovered from a disaster that has shaken the country.

### In Brief

#### Uber Stabbing

A Chicago woman claims in state court that she was stabbed in the face with a knife by a fellow UberPOOL passenger when she got into the backseat of her shared ride.

#### Auto Class Action

Faulty door-lock assemblies prevent Ford Edge and Flex drivers from locking any doors and pose a significant safety risk for those models as well as the Lincoln MKT and MKX, a class claims in Detroit federal court.

#### Gasoline Spill

The government filed a federal lawsuit seeking to fine Sunoco Pipeline LP \$1,100 per barrel for a 2012 pipeline rupture in Ohio that spilled 1,950 barrels of gasoline, contaminating nearby shorelines and waterways.

#### Church Bankruptcy

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, Montana declared bankruptcy, listing assets of \$20.8 million, liabilities of \$14.8 million and debts to 72 abuse claimants.

#### Suing Anthem

Houston Metro Ortho and Spine Surgery Center accuses Anthem-Blue Cross in a federal complaint of underpaying their claims to the tune of \$21.4 million.

#### Rent-A-Center

Directors made false and misleading statements about Rent-A-Center while its share price dropped from \$40 in 2015 to \$8, shareholders claim in a federal derivative complaint.

#### Dog Toys

A federal class action claims Dynamic Pet Products and Frick’s Meat Products Real Ham Bone for Dogs splinters into shards that can cause severe internal injuries in pets.

## Nightly Brief

Top CNS stories for today including the U.S. Senate voting to proceed with debate on U.S. Circuit Judge Neil Gorsuch’s nomination to the Supreme Court; a Chicago-based pharmaceutical company claims Swiss drug giant Novartis sought corner the market on hepatitis C drug; California lawmakers advance bills to fund legal help for people fighting deportation and block law enforcement agencies from cooperating with federal immigration officials, and more.

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