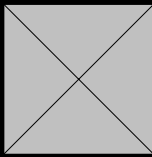


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DOI News

[Trump picks ex-oil lobbyist David Bernhardt for Interior secretary](#)

The Hill (Cama, Green)

President Trump is picking David Bernhardt, a former energy lobbyist, to be the Interior Department's next secretary. "I am pleased to announce that David Bernhardt, Acting Secretary of the Interior, will be nominated as Secretary of the Interior," Trump tweeted Monday. Bernhardt, whose past clients include oil companies and others with business before the Interior Department, will lead an agency that oversees about 500 million acres as well as the energy production on that land.

[Trump to nominate ex-energy lobbyist Bernhardt to head Interior](#)

Reuters (Gardner)

President Donald Trump said on Monday he would nominate David Bernhardt, a former energy lobbyist, to be secretary of the interior, the department that oversees U.S. public lands. Bernhardt, currently the acting secretary at the Interior Department, is widely expected to continue pushing the Trump administration's plan to boost domestic fossil fuels production by opening more U.S. public lands to drilling and mining.

Trump to Nominate David Bernhardt as Interior Secretary**Wall Street Journal (Leary, Puko)**

President Trump plans to nominate former energy lobbyist David Bernhardt as secretary of the interior, prompting criticism from Democrats and environmental advocacy groups who warn he will serve industry interests at the expense of environmental stewardship. "David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" Mr. Trump wrote Monday on Twitter. The nomination of Mr. Bernhardt, who currently serves in the role in an acting capacity, is subject to confirmation by the Senate, and Mr. Bernhardt's oil and gas ties are certain to come under scrutiny from Democrats. The Interior oversees about 500 million acres of public land.

Trump taps David Bernhardt to be Interior secretary**Politico (Lefebvre)**

President Donald Trump will nominate David Bernhardt to be the new Interior secretary. The announcement in a tweet from the president Monday ends a nearly two-month-long search for a permanent replacement for Ryan Zinke, who in early December announced his resignation amid multiple scandals and ethics investigations. Bernhardt, who was confirmed as Zinke's deputy in July 2017, has been acting Interior chief since the beginning of the year.

Trump Chooses David Bernhardt, a Former Oil Lobbyist, to Head the Interior Dept.**New York Times (Davenport)**

President Trump on Monday announced he would nominate David Bernhardt, a former oil lobbyist and current deputy chief of the Interior Department, to succeed Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who resigned amid allegations of ethical missteps. In a message on Twitter, Mr. Trump wrote, "David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!"

Trump To Nominate David Bernhardt As Permanent Interior Secretary**Huffington Post (D'Angelo)**

President Donald Trump on Monday announced he will nominate David Bernhardt as the 53rd secretary of the Department of the Interior. Bernhardt, a former fossil fuel lobbyist with a slew of potential conflicts of interests, has led the agency in an acting role since scandal-plagued

agency chief Ryan Zinke resigned early last month. "David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" Trump wrote in a Twitter post.

Trump nominates acting Interior secretary for permanent job

New York Post (Schwab)

President Trump announced Monday on Twitter that he was moving acting Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt into the gig full-time. "I am pleased to announce that David Bernhardt, Acting Secretary of the Interior, will be nominated as Secretary of the Interior. David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" Trump wrote.

Trump nominates former lobbyist David Bernhardt to be new Interior chief

Washington Examiner (Siciliano, Siegel)

President Trump announced Monday that his choice to serve as head of the Interior Department is David Bernhardt, a former lobbyist who has been leading the agency on an acting basis. "David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" Trump tweeted. A Trump administration official told the Washington Examiner that White House Acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney broke the news to Bernhardt with a phone call just before the president tweeted.

Trump nominates former oil and agriculture lobbyist David Bernhardt as new Interior secretary

USA Today (LeKing)

President Donald Trump announced on Twitter Monday that he will nominate acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt to the job permanently, saying he has done "a fantastic job from the day he arrived." Bernhardt has been serving temporarily since Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke departed the Trump Cabinet nearly two months ago under an ethics cloud. The Interior Department is a sprawling agency with some 70,000 employees that manages the country's natural resources on land and offshore, and oversees federal lands that collectively make up a fifth of the country.

President names David Bernhardt new Interior secretary

Indian Country Today (Trahant)

President Donald J. Trump announced the appointment of David Bernhardt Jr. as the secretary of the Interior. He replaces Ryan Zinke who resigned in December. The announcement was made via Twitter. Bernhardt is described by Think Progress as "a quintessential revolving-door figure in Washington." The liberal news site described a meeting with lobbyists in late 2017 with MGM Resorts International, who had opposed an effort by two tribes to build a casino in Connecticut.

Trump nominates David Bernhardt to serve as Interior secretary**Washington Times (Howell Jr.)**

President Trump has nominated acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt to take the job permanently, ending his search for someone to replace ousted secretary Ryan Zinke and giving his Cabinet a dose of stability. Mr. Bernhardt, a former energy lobbyist whose clients included oil companies, had been serving in an interim role since Mr. Zinke departed under an ethics cloud at the end of last year. "David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" the president tweeted Monday. Mr. Zinke, a former Navy SEAL and congressman, was nudged out amid a swirl of probes into high-priced travel on government planes and a land deal in his hometown of Whitefish, Montana, that involved the Zinke family and Halliburton Chairman David Lesar.

Trump Will Nominate David Bernhardt to Be DOI Secretary**Pacific Standard (Worby)**

President Donald Trump announced Monday via Twitter that he will nominate David Bernhardt for the position of Secretary of the Interior. Bernhardt has served as acting interior secretary since Ryan Zinke, who faced more than a dozen investigations into his conduct during his time as secretary, left office at the beginning of the year.

Rifle native Bernhardt to be nominated for Interior secretary**Grand Junction Daily Sentinel**

President Donald Trump on Monday announced he will nominate the Department of Interior's acting secretary, Rifle native David Bernhardt, to head the agency. "I am pleased to announce that David Bernhardt, Acting Secretary of the Interior, will be nominated as Secretary of the Interior. David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" Trump tweeted this afternoon. In response, Bernhardt tweeted: "It's a humbling privilege to be nominated to lead a Department whose mission I love, to accomplish the balanced, common sense vision of our President."

Trump Administration Drills Down on Alaska's Arctic Refuge**Revelator (Lydon)**

The Trump administration is barreling ahead with plans to drill for oil in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the largest refuge in the country and an area of global ecological importance.

As Many Expected, Acting Secretary David Bernhardt Is Nominated To Head Interior Department**Wyoming Public Media (Hegy)**

President Donald Trump took to Twitter to nominate David Bernhardt as the nation's next Interior Secretary. The former oil industry lobbyist and longtime government employee has been acting Secretary since Ryan Zinke stepped down last month amid questions about his ethics and conflicts of interest.

New Interior chief nominee calls agency's 'ethics challenges' an 'inherited' mess

The Hill (Green)

President Trump's new pick to head the Interior Department is blaming the agency's ethical pitfalls on a "mess" inherited by the Obama administration, according to an internal letter obtained by The Hill. In an internal letter sent to Interior staff Friday, David Bernhardt blamed Obama's former National Park's director and others for "an avalanche of ethical misconduct" and vowed to turn the agency around by strengthening its ethics program.

Bernhardt goes on the ethics offensive

E&E News (Doyle)

Acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt is blasting his Democratic predecessors and targeting a former National Park Service director as he touts improvements to the department's ethics bureaucracy. In a pointed and acutely timed missive to Interior's 70,000 employees, Bernhardt declared the department's "ethics infrastructure" had been "badly neglected for far too long." He pinned blame on the Obama administration. "Sadly, our organization's ethics challenges were part of a mess that we inherited," Bernhardt wrote in a departmentwide email on Friday. "The last decade of the Inspector General's reports read like an avalanche of ethical misconduct. No Bureau is exempt from criticism."

Bernhardt nomination reopens sharp debate

E&E News (Doyle)

President Trump's selection of acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt for the department's top job today drew reactions along predictable lines that foreshadowed the confirmation fight to come.

Trump never picked nominees for 150 Senate-confirmed positions

The Week

President Trump's executive branch is still very empty, and that's not just because a massive number of his nominees have resigned. We're two years into Trump's presidency, and nearly a quarter of the approximately 1,200 executive spots that require Senate confirmation are still sitting empty. The Washington Post and the Partnership for Public Service have been tracking about 700 of those positions, and found in an analysis published Monday that 275 of them are still unfilled.

'It's way too many': As vacancies pile up in Trump administration, senators grow

concerned**Washington Post (Eilperin, Dawsey, Kim)**

From the Justice Department to Veterans Affairs, vast swaths of the government have top positions filled by officials serving in an acting capacity — or no one at all. More than two years into Trump's term, the president has an acting chief of staff, attorney general, defense secretary, Office of Management and Budget director and Environmental Protection Agency chief. To deal with the number of vacancies in the upper ranks of departments, agencies have been relying on novel and legally questionable personnel moves that could leave the administration's policies open to court challenges.

'Pockets of problems' delayed employee pay**Greenwire (Hotakainen, Bogardus)**

The Interior Department said today that "isolated pockets of problems" prevented some of its employees from receiving their full back pay after the five-week partial government shutdown.

Interior mulls commercial-scale project on Nev. tribal lands**Greenwire (Streater)**

The Interior Department will conduct a detailed study of a proposed commercial-scale solar power project on the Moapa River Indian Reservation in southeast Nevada, continuing a recent Trump administration trend of advancing large renewables projects.

David Bernhardt's Nomination For Interior Secretary Quickly Criticized**National Parks Traveler (Repanshek)**

A flood of criticism greeted the nomination of David Bernhardt as Interior secretary, with concerns voiced that he will kowtow to the oil and gas industries at the expense of national parks and other public lands. Bernhardt has been acting secretary since Ryan Zinke resigned under pressure in December. His nomination was tweeted by President Trump on Monday.

Agency hit by brain drain, mass retirement**E&E News (Brugger)**

Last Monday morning, acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt greeted employees at the door after the 35-day government shutdown. "I saw a ton of smiles as people headed into work — your enthusiasm for resuming work and reconnecting with your colleagues is fantastic!" he tweeted later that morning. Bernhardt may need more than a smile and a joyous tweet to address looming challenges for the 70,000 employees who work for him.

Rep. TJ Cox releases statement on Secretary of the Interior nomination**KERO (TV) (Broderick)**

Rep. TJ Cox has released a statement on David Bernhardt's nomination as Secretary of the Interior. Cox was recently named to the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife. "The American people want government that is accountable to them, not special interests and Washington insiders. But instead of nominating someone to advocate on behalf of middle-class families and their priorities, the President has chosen yet another Cabinet nominee with a record of fighting for the biggest corporations – polluters and Big Oil. Our subcommittee will exercise aggressive oversight of the Department of the Interior to ensure that its policy decisions are in line with those of the American people and our communities."

Joe Manchin Signals Openness To Trump's Interior Nominee

Daily Caller (Bastash)

West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin took a different tone than many of his Democratic colleagues on news President Donald Trump nominated David Bernhardt to head the Interior Department. While prominent Democrats immediately came out against Bernhardt's nomination, Manchin stressed the Senate's "obligation to advise [and] consent on the President's nominees." Trump announced Bernhardt's nomination Monday.

NOIA applauds nomination of David Bernhardt as next Interior Secretary

World Oil

National Ocean Industries Association President Randall Luthi has issued the following statement regarding the nomination of David Bernhardt as secretary of the interior: "NOIA applauds the nomination of David Bernhardt to be the next secretary of the Department of the Interior (DOI). Having served as acting secretary since January, as deputy secretary since July of 2017, and formerly as solicitor, Bernhardt possesses an impressive depth of experience at the department and knowledge of interior issues. His selection as secretary will assure that important energy and conservation policies will not miss a beat in the transition.

ASPA drilling new wells on east side — this to fix 'salty' taste

Samoa News

The American Samoa Power Authority is drilling five new wells on the eastside of Tutuila to replace high chloride wells causing the "salty" taste in the water in this area. Chloride occurs naturally in groundwater sources. Elevated levels of chloride in a groundwater system can be attributed to various factors that include salt water intrusion due to a well's proximity to the ocean and natural underground salt deposits.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Navajo Nation Council Delegate advocates for proposed New Mexico MMIW task force

Indian Country Today

On February 1, Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Beclabito, Cove,

Gadi'i'áhi/To'Koi, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé ałnáoz't'I'í) joined New Mexico State Senator John Pinto (D – NM District 3) to honor Congresswoman Debra Haaland (D – NM 1st District) through a state proclamation as one of the first Native American women elected to Congress, and for her work in advocating for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, or MMIW.

Cherokee Nation Businesses subsidiary partnering with Department of Interior

Indian Country Today

Cherokee Nation System Solutions is partnering with the Department of Interior through a contract with its Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians. CNSS is working to improve the day-to-day operations at the agency's Trust Beneficiary Call Center. CNSS, a subsidiary of Cherokee Nation Businesses, is providing a wide range of automated and manual customer support services to respond to incoming inquiries and requests. The tribally owned company is helping improve TBCC's range of services by focusing on efficiency, accuracy, employee engagement, management approaches and industry best practices.

Fort Smith woman killed in crash on Crow Reservation

Great Falls Tribune (Rosenbaum)

A 41-year-old Fort Smith woman was killed early Sunday morning in a one-vehicle crash near St. Xavier on the Crow Reservation. According to the Montana Highway Patrol, the crash happened at 7:30 a.m. on Secondary Highway 313 in Big Horn County. The woman was southbound in a 2007 Dodge Dakota when she tried to negotiate a curve while traveling too fast for road conditions. The vehicle crossed the center line and ran off the left side of the road, going over an embankment and rolling.

Demolition Work Begins to Make Way for Elk Grove Casino After Years of Legal Challenges

Casino.org (Conneller)

On Friday, the Wilton Rancheria began the demolition of a "ghost mall" in Elk Grove, California — in preparation for the construction of its controversial \$400 million casino, in partnership with Boyd Gaming. On completion, the development will boast 110,000 square feet of gaming floor, a 302-room hotel tower, restaurants, a spa, and will be the closest casino to Sacramento. It will also house the area's largest convention space outside of downtown Sacramento.

Office of Insular and International Affairs

Bordallo: 'I will not be lobbying'

Guam Daily Post (Kerrigan)

Former Del. Madeleine Bordallo, the Leon Guerrero administration's newly appointed liaison

in Washington, D.C., said she will not be lobbying in Congress. "I work for the governor," she told The Guam Daily Post in a telephone interview from Washington. "I will not be contacting other members of Congress to lobby them for legislation relating to Guam," she said. She added that she knows as a former member of Congress, she cannot lobby current House members for at least one year. "I can make appointments for (the governor), but that's all," she said.

San Nicolas: War reparations checks withheld because of flaw known since May 2018

Guam Daily Post (Kerrigan)

A deficiency in the World War II Loyalty Recognition Act is preventing reparations checks from being mailed to the victims of the Japanese occupation of Guam during the war. "There is a structural deficiency in the law to enable the Treasury to cut the checks. The office knew about this since May of last year, as per Treasury, and said nothing," Del. Michael San Nicolas told The Guam Daily Post, referring to former Del. Madeleine Bordallo's office.

Public warned of rip currents, strong waves

Saipan Tribune

A small craft advisory is now in effect in the CNMI until 6am Thursday due to rough coastal waters on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. A high surf advisory is now in effect until early Tuesday morning along north facing reefs. Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, an east-northeast swell will continue affecting the Marianas. Moderate to fresh trade winds with strong gusts and combined seas of 8 to 11 feet were projected through last night, to slowly diminish through the night. The seas, however, were expected to continue to generate hazardous conditions for operators of small craft through Wednesday night. Conditions will then diminish below advisory levels by early Thursday morning.

Over 1,200 People Have Applied For Work With Bryan Administration; Some Cabinet Heads Will Be Announced Ahead Of Inauguration

VI Consortium

About 1,200 individuals have submitted their resumes in search of work with the incoming Bryan administration, Richard Motta, the transition team's press secretary told The Consortium this morning. He said because of this, members of the transition team have been painstakingly going through applications to assure that the most qualified are chosen. "Where they are at in the process is they got over 1,200 resumes, so they are really trying to be dutiful in how they screen," he said.

Masses of debris collected in CNMI following Yutu

Radio New Zealand

About 76,500 cubic metres of debris has been collected on the Northern Marianas island of

Saipan in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu. The Saipan Mayor's Office has been running the clean up of villages and streets six days a week in the aftermath of the storm, which hit the island and neighboring Tinian in October. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has brought in two burners to help speed up the disposal of green waste like leaves, tree branches and wood.

Bureau of Land Management

National Parks Reportedly Lost Out On Nearly \$11 Million During Shutdown

Daily Caller (Pearce)

The National Park Service (NPS) missed out on nearly \$11 million in revenue from park visitors during the 35-day partial government shutdown, The Hill reports. NPS officials completely or partially closed many national parks during the shutdown. Of the parks that remained open, maintenance and sanitation services were limited as employees were furloughed.

BLM Alaska axed pipeline regulatory positions — document

Energywire (Brugger)

A document obtained by E&E News reveals that the Bureau of Land Management's Alaska office eliminated positions that regulate the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System.

Agencies Rush to Get Ready for Wildfire Season Following Shutdown

KUAZ (Radio) (Gibson)

Federal firefighting agencies had to postpone trainings, prescribed burns and hiring during the shutdown, which may affect how prepared their firefighters are for wildfire season. Firefighters in the National Forest Service, National Parks Service and Bureau of Land Management will have to reschedule workshops they missed, prepare the land and the paperwork for prescribed burns that had to be cancelled, and rehire seasonal firefighters for wildfire season. They hope they can do it all before wildfire season hits Arizona.

BLM state offices resume lease sale preparations after shutdown

Oil & Gas Journal (Snow)

Several US Bureau of Land Management state offices resumed preparations for scheduled oil and gas lease sales soon after the 35-day federal government partial shutdown ended. Lease sales in Alaska, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Montana, and South Dakota are in various stages, but all are moving ahead, OGC has found. Perhaps the highest-profile upcoming federal onshore oil and gas lease sale will be for parcels on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's coastal plain. BLM scheduled public meetings in seven Alaska communities and one in Washington, DC, during February about the proposed lease sale's draft environmental impact statement, which it issued on Dec. 21, 2018. It also extended the public comment

period to Mar. 13.

Shutdown won't delay oil and gas sale in Wyoming, conservationists condemn 'rush'

KPVI (TV) (Beam)

Environmental groups are crying foul that oil and gas lease sales will continue despite lost time during the 35-day partial government shutdown. Federal officials in Wyoming say they are ready to move forward with two scheduled lease sales — including the first of four auctions that the agency is required to hold every year — having collected and reviewed public comments on whether these acres should be offered to industry. The first-quarter auction on March 19 and 20 will offer 140 parcels, totaling 148,909 acres of Wyoming land for development, including wildlife habitat that environmental groups argue should not be leased for development.

Missoula Search and Rescue crews braved bitter cold to locate snowmobilers

KULR (TV)

Missoula County Search and Rescue members, deputies from the Missoula County Sheriff's Office and members for the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management were called out late Sunday to search for two snowmobilers. The Missoula County Sheriff's Office posted on Facebook just after 9:00 p.m. Sunday that two snowmobilers were reported missing after they were separated from their group around 4:30 p.m. in the Lolo Hot Springs area. "Please keep these individuals and rescue personnel in your thoughts and prayers as they head out tonight," read the post.

Bill would freeze fracking permits during impact study

Santa Fe New Mexican (Moss)

When you're driving at night through Counselor, on U.S. 550, the horizon takes on a dusky illumination, almost like daylight, Samuel Sage said during a Monday news conference in Santa Fe. Bright light flares from natural gas being burned off as part of oil and gas production, which has become increasingly common in that area of northwestern New Mexico, particularly since 2013, said Sage, a member of the Navajo Nation's Counselor Chapter House. Sage was among several environmental advocates who gathered at the state Capitol in support of a bill that, if passed, would create a four-year moratorium on any new state permits for hydraulic fracturing — a type of deep horizontal drilling that injects high-pressured fluid below ground.

Oil and gas leases in Beaverhead, Madison counties on hold

Montana Standard (Dunlap)

Oil and gas leasing on 12,889 acres in Beaverhead and Madison counties has been deferred indefinitely, a Bureau of Land Management official said Monday. But that doesn't mean the leases are dead forever. Cornelia Hudson, BLM Dillon field office manager, said the agency

got so many negative public comments last month on the proposed oil and gas leases that the BLM deferred those parcels.

Protesters take over ANWR environmental scoping meeting

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner (McGroarty)

Activists pushing against oil development in the 1002 Coastal Plain area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge took over a public scoping meeting Monday evening that was initially supposed to go very differently. Unlike past public hearings, this meeting was organized in an open-house style, according to Joe Balash, the Department of the Interior's assistant secretary for Land and Minerals Management. Scientists stood near poster signage explaining the environmental impact statement draft process and two court stenographers sat behind a curtain to take testimony from members of the public.

Education, involvement key to Utah archaeological site protection

Daily Universe (Bigelow)

Utah archaeological sites have a "long history" of looting and vandalism, according to the Bureau of Land Management's 2017 accomplishment report. BYU experts say education and appropriate participation in archaeological experiences can go a long way in curbing damage to ancestral sites. BYU assistant history professor Brenden Rensink said educating the public on the importance of archaeological sites is a good starting point in preventing theft and other damages. BYU assistant archaeology professor Michael Searcy said he visits fourth-grade classes across Utah to teach about the state's history, which includes information on historical sites and monuments. Shawn Lambert, the public archaeologist for the Utah State Historic Preservation Office, said he and other public archaeologists primarily work with communities to increase awareness for historical sites.

Input sought on off road vehicle recreation

Red Bluff Daily News

The Bureau of Land Management's Redding Field Office is accepting public input on management needs and projects that would benefit off-highway vehicle recreation on public lands. The BLM will accept comments and suggestions at a public meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12 at the Redding Field Office, 6640 Lockheed Drive, Redding. Anyone interested can mail comments to the BLM at the above address, zip code 96002, or send them by email to szeffera@blm.gov. The BLM must receive comments by 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14. Staff at the field office will use public comments and suggestions to develop a preliminary grant application to the California State Parks, Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Federal Hearings On Vineyard Wind Return Feb. 11-15

North American Windpower (Lillian)

Following a delay due to the government shutdown, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has announced a new schedule for public hearings on Vineyard Wind's proposed project. The newly scheduled hearings will take place during the week of Feb. 11-15 in Massachusetts in Hyannis, New Bedford, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, as well as Narragansett, R.I.

BOEM updates public hearing dates for Vineyard Wind's proposed offshore project

Windpower Engineering & Development (Froese)

The United States' Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has announced a new schedule for public hearings to accept comments on the agency's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Vineyard Wind's proposed 800-MW wind farm to be constructed in federal waters south of Martha's Vineyard and approximately 34 miles south of the Cape Cod mainland. The will hearings take place during the week of February 11 to 15 in Hyannis, New Bedford, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Narragansett, RI. BOEM has reopened the public comment period for the Vineyard Wind DEIS. Comments should be submitted no later than February 22.

Vineyard Wind hearing rescheduled for Valentine's Day

Standard-Times (Barnes)

After more than a month's delay due to the government shutdown, a public hearing on the environmental effects of Vineyard Wind has been rescheduled for Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. The hearing in New Bedford is one of five across the region that will address environmental issues in Vineyard Wind's construction and operations plan. The U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is collecting public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement before the draft is finalized.

Vineyard Wind Files Emergency Motion to Stay ISO-NE Auction

RTO Insider (Kuser)

Vineyard Wind on Monday filed an emergency motion for FERC to stay ISO-NE's 13th Forward Capacity Auction, claiming it "will suffer irreparable injury" if it is not afforded renewable technology resource (RTR) status in the auction, which was scheduled to begin the same day the company submitted its request (ER19-570, ER19-444). Resources obtaining RTR status are exempted from the auction's minimum offer price rule (MOPR).

Stuttering outlook for Gulf of Mexico

Petroleum Engineer (Slaton, Abraham)

After a challenging 2018 that saw project momentum in the US Gulf of Mexico (GOM) falter amid weaker oil prices, the outlook for drilling activity in 2019 appears diminished. The November price declines could have a chilling effect on investment, amid rising project costs. It marks a contrast with the situation in early 2018, when oil prices were high and deep layoffs,

sustained cost-cutting, new technology, and optimisation had stripped the industry down to lean and mean. Sustained relief on commodity prices, which rose above \$60/bbl and even above \$70/bbl, was felt and welcomed. Also welcomed were changes in the US tax landscape. The December 2017 tax restructuring reduced corporate income tax rates and revised capital expenditures. Higher spending was expected to result from taking deductions for capex in the year they occur.

Fishermen Want More Time to Negotiate Over Wind

ecoRI (Faulkner)

Lanny Dellinger, a Newport, R.I.-based lobsterman and chairman of the Fishermen's Advisory Board, said fishermen are being rushed to accept a compensation offer for the harm they say will be caused by the Vineyard Wind offshore project. "It's like being pushed into the (real estate) closing without seeing the appraisal," Dellinger said. There's no doubt that the project developer is in a hurry. Vineyard Wind needs approval from the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) soon so that construction can begin on the 84-turbine project and qualify for a federal tax credit. Any changes to the layout of the project or the compensation offer will add weeks or months to the application process, and delay pending permits from Massachusetts.

South Carolina, feds spar on limits in seismic testing lawsuit

Brunswick News (Wolfe)

With at least three weeks of funding approved by Congress, lawyers for the federal government in civil cases got back to work, and that included responses to states' motions to intervene in a lawsuit in Charleston, S.C., federal court seeking to block offshore seismic testing. There are two motions — one by nine different states, including Massachusetts and Virginia, which call themselves commonwealths — and one by South Carolina, on its own. Attorneys for the federal defendants — the National Marine Fisheries Service, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Assistant Administrator of Fisheries Chris Oliver — wrote in their response that they and the nine states agree with the the conditions placed on the states allowing them to intervene as plaintiffs.

Bureau of Reclamation

'Close Is Not Done;' What's Next For Arizona's Drought Contingency Plan?

KJZZ 91.5 FM (Radio) (Brodie)

On Thursday, Gov. Doug Ducey signed Arizona's Drought Contingency Plan, hours ahead of a federally-imposed deadline. But the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation on Friday asked Colorado River states for input on potential water cutbacks the Interior Department could have to make, saying "close isn't done." To talk about what's next, John Fleck, director of the University of New Mexico Water Resources Program, joined The Show.

Beyond Drought: 7 states rebalance their Colorado River use as global warming dries the

region**Fence Post (Gulch)**

As major reservoirs shrink with the changing climate, seven states seek a sustainable future for the critical regional water source. The Colorado River watershed may be reaching a climate tipping point, drying under the influence of global warming to the point that states and tribes in the basin can no longer put off a day of reckoning about the water allocations that have been their lifeblood for the past century.

California Talks and Deadline Drama Cloud Arizona's Approval of Drought Plan**Phoenix New Times (Flaherty)**

The status of the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan remains uncertain because of players outside of Arizona, in spite of legislation signed by Governor Doug Ducey last week authorizing Arizona to join a seven-state drought plan for the Colorado River region. Contradicting Ducey's office, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation said Arizona and California did not finalize the plan by a January 31 deadline, so the federal government will prepare to intervene to prevent disaster on the river. Meanwhile, an influential irrigation district in California is negotiating past the deadline for more federal funding before the district's board formally approves the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP).

Joining 6 States, Arizona Agrees to Use Less Water From Colorado River**Tribune News Service (Davis)**

"Everyone will feel pain" was the mantra emanating from supporters of Arizona's drought plan for the Colorado River as it wound through the Legislature. It is true that under the plan, now embedded in state law, the major water users served by the \$4 billion Central Arizona Project -- cities, tribes and farms -- will all take a hit.

What's next for the parched Colorado? The latest on the West's drought drama.**Grist (Holthaus)**

A major deadline just passed without unanimous agreement among Western states over the future of the Colorado River, so the federal government is one step closer to stepping in on the dwindling river that provides water for 1-in-8 Americans. The path forward has become murkier for the drought-stricken region now in its 19th year of low water levels after a January 31 deadline failed to garner signed agreements from Arizona and California.

Deal or No Deal, Colorado River's Problems Roll on**Voice of San Diego (Rivard)**

For decades, Arizona and California have been fighting over how to share the Colorado River, which provides water to 40 million in the western United States and Mexico. Last week,

Arizona lawmakers rushed to bless a deal that changes how states share the river. The voluntary deal is supposed to prevent federal bureaucrats at the Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation from stepping in to ration the river. The deal is meant to do two things. States would forgo water to avoid a doomsday if a two-decade drought continues much longer. That's good for everyone.

Bureau of Reclamation still accepting suggestions to address low-water concerns at Lake Mead

KLAS (TV) (Jaramillo)

The rainy weather and snow that's been accumulating in southern Nevada this winter will help the water levels at Lake Mead, but the area still needs a lot more. Until we get more The Bureau of Reclamation is constantly monitoring and studying the levels. In the event that water elevation decreases below, 1,050-foot officials have developed a plan to address operational needs because due to the government shutdown, the public wasn't able to provide comment on the low water plan for Lake Mead, so an extension has been provided through Feb.15.

Fish and Wildlife Service

Researcher: Wash. could have far more wolves than we thought

Greenwire

The number of wolves in Washington state is likely much higher than previously thought, according to a University of Washington researcher who spent two years studying the animals using scat-sniffing dogs.

Rocky Mountain National Park investigating two cases of elk poaching

Loveland Reporter-Herald (Byars)

Rocky Mountain National Park rangers are investigating two instances of elk poaching in the park last September. According to a release, a large bull elk was found shot alongside Trail Ridge Road near Milner Pass on Sept. 12. The elk's head had been cut off, with the rest of the carcass left behind. Another large bull elk was found shot on Sept. 22 next to Trail Ridge Road near the Ute Crossing Trail, south of Forest Canyon Overlook.

Award Announced For Two Cases Of Bull Elk Poaching Along Trail Ridge Road

KCNC (TV)

Officials with the Rocky Mountain National Park announced a \$2,000 reward for information about two elk poaching cases from September of 2018. Park Rangers are hoping to find the person or people responsible for the crimes. They say on Sept. 12, rangers found a bull elk dead and decapitated alongside Trail Ridge Road near Milner Pass. They believe the deadly shooting happened either during the night of Sept. 11 or early that morning on Sept. 12.

Wildlife-Based Recreation Contributes \$1 Billion to Wyoming Economy

SweetwaterNOW

If you don't think wildlife recreation doesn't have an effect on the Cowboy State coffers, think again. Hunters, anglers and wildlife watchers in Wyoming contributed more than \$1 billion to Wyoming's economy during 2017, according to a new analysis by the University of Wyoming. It's a 2.3 percent increase from 2016 due to more people heading outdoors. "Wyoming has some of the best wildlife watching in the country, and the hunting and fishing opportunities here are sought after because of the high-quality wildlife, access and the outdoor experience with friends and family," said John Kennedy, acting Wyoming Game and Fish Department director. "We're glad to host everyone who chooses to enjoy Wyoming's wildlife."

Turtle-smuggling ex-journalist admits poaching thousands of protected terrapins from New Jersey marshes

Associated Press

A Pennsylvania man and former reporter has pleaded guilty to trafficking protected turtles. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania says David Sommers, 64, of Levittown, on Monday admitted to sending a package to Canada in 2014 containing 11 diamondback terrapin hatchlings. Sommers allegedly caught and sold the turtles in 2017 and sold them to to Canada three years later in a box that said a \$10 book was inside, the U.S. Attorney's Office has said.

NSSF says hunting participation on the decline, target shooting increasing

Guns.com

The National Shooting Sports Foundation said hunting participation is down while participation in target shooting is going up. The the gun industry trade association discussed the shift in a seminar titled Industry Data and New Shooter Recruitment held at SHOT Show in Las Vegas in late January. Speaking on the subject of participation and recruitment, NSSF Director of Research and Market Development Jim Curcuruto told a room packed with SHOT Show attendees ranging from media to manufacturers to gun shop owners that while hunting is on the decline, target shooting is now getting the attention of many gun owners.

Fish and Wildlife Service to host Great Backyard Bird Count

Inter-Mountain

Those participating will meet at 9 a.m. Feb. 16 at Glendale Park in Elkins. No experience is necessary; experienced birders will be on hand. Bring binoculars if you have them. There will be a few pairs to loan out, as well as some guidebooks. New to birding, or want to introduce birding to your kids? This is the perfect place to start.

Montana Resources says Butte comes first in getting water

Montana Standard (Dunlap)

Montana Resources wants Silver Lake water to help augment the stream in Silver Bow Creek. MR has been in negotiations with Butte-Silver Bow County for roughly a year and a half to reach an agreement that would provide Silver Lake water to the creek in the hot summer months when fish are most stressed and water flows suffer. Mark Thompson, MR vice president for environmental affairs, said the mine wants to put Butte first.

National Park Service**Lawmakers to examine NPS spending during shutdown****E&E News (Hotakainen)**

When the National Park Service used visitor fee revenues to keep sites open during the partial government shutdown, Rep. Betty McCollum immediately cried foul.

The National Parks' iconic typeface has never been digitized—until now**Fast Company (Schwab)**

If you've ever been to a National Park, chances are you've come across signage with the same distinctive lettering. The type, which features rounded edges carved into wood in all caps, has become an icon of the National Parks system. But it turns out that this text isn't an actual typeface, as information designer Jeremy Shellhorn discovered when he was working as designer-in-residence at Rocky Mountain National Park in 2013.

National Park Service lost millions during partial government shutdown**Federal News Network (White)**

It looks like the National Park Service lost between \$10 million and \$11 million during the partial government shutdown. The Hill reported an internal email sent to NPS staff suggesting it had a detrimental effect on worker morale. Attorneys are investigating if it was legal for the Interior Department to use recreation fees to pay for maintenance and trash collection.

Mountain Goat reduction plan open for comment**KIFI (TV)**

The National Park Service (NPS) is accepting public comments through February 15 on a plan to remove mountain goats from Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. NPS is considering three alternatives. The first would allow the current goat population to continue to be monitored with no active efforts to reduce it. The second would lethally remove them from the park using aerial and ground-based "techniques." The third option is capture and translocation in which lethal methods would be used to reduce mountain goat population.

Shrimp trawler breaks apart on Outer Banks in treacherous ‘Graveyard of the Atlantic’**Charlotte Observer (Price)**

The shrimp trawler Big John ran ashore and broke into countless pieces early Monday along North Carolina’s Outer Banks, adding another sunken hull to the so called “Graveyard of the Atlantic.” Photos show what’s left of the ship off Cape Point in the surf, and a wide debris field on the sand. The ship, based out of Wanchese, is believed to have overturned before sinking, said a press release from the National Park Service.

With more rain, ‘miracle’ wildflower blooms will blanket LA**Curbed (Chandler)**

November fires bring May flowers. In the wake of wildfires—followed by lots of rain—Los Angeles might be treated to an extraordinary display of wildflowers this spring. It’s too soon to predict whether there will be a super bloom as remarkable as the one that covered the region in 2017. But if the weather doesn’t get too hot and if rain continues to fall over the next couple of months, odds are favorable that a rainbow of blooms will carpet Southern California’s hillsides, mountains, and deserts. “We’re optimistic that it’s going to be a good one,” says Mark Mendelsohn, a National Park Service biologist stationed in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Park service awards \$613K to protect Summit Point land**Herald-Mail Media (Shea)**

The National Park Service recently awarded a \$613,930 grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program to help acquire 280 acres of Summit Point Battlefield, a significant Civil War site. "Some of the most defining moments in our nation’s history were decided by conflicts that played out on hallowed grounds like this battlefield," P. Daniel Smith, deputy director of the park service, said in a news release. "In partnership with local communities and the Public Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle, this grant will help preserve this battlefield for future generations."

Too much snow leaves families stranded at lodge near Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks**KMPH (TV) (Gonzalez)**

The latest storm system to hit the Central Valley and surrounding mountains is being blamed for leaving more than 100 people stranded at a lodge near Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks. "We came here to celebrate my husband's birthday," says Alejandra Arita, who traveled with her family from the San Fernando Valley to Montecito Sequoia Lodge on Friday. "He always wanted to experience the snow, activities in the snow."

Cape Hatteras National Seashore seeks volunteers for large beach cleanup in Frisco

WITN (TV)

Cape Hatteras National Seashore is seeking volunteers who would like to help National Park Service staff clear a large debris field that was left Monday morning by the Big John shrimp trawler wreckage. The beach cleanup will take place Tuesday, February 5, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Individuals interested in volunteering should meet National Park Service staff at the entrance to off-road vehicle (ORV) ramp 49 in Frisco.

U.S. Geological Survey**Northern California's Cascadia Subduction Zone Hit by 11 Earthquakes Over Weekend****Newsweek (Georgiou)**

Over the weekend, nearly a dozen earthquakes struck within a relatively small region just off the coast of Northern California, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The 11 quakes ranged in magnitude between 2.9 and 4.5 on the Richter scale. Tremors from 3.0 up to 3.9 are considered “minor”—although they can often be felt—whereas quakes that measure between 4.0 and 4.9 are classified as “light” on the scale. The first of the quakes occurred beneath the ocean, around 11 miles west of Petrolia, a small community of about 500 people located in Humboldt County. It struck at 4:30 p.m. PT on Friday with a magnitude of 2.9, at a depth of 4.5 miles.

USGS: Over a dozen earthquakes rattle North Coast since Friday**KRCR (TV) (Papanek)**

Over a dozen earthquakes above a 2.5 magnitude have rattled the North Coast since Friday, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. On Feb. 1 at around 4:30 p.m. a 2.9 magnitude earthquake struck 11 miles off the coast of Petrolia, according to the USGS. Then, about 11 hours later, on Feb. 2 just before 3 a.m., a 4.3 magnitude earthquake hit about 7 miles off the coast. Less than 30 minutes later, a 3.2 magnitude hit in the same area, 8 miles off the coast of Petrolia.

3.6 evening quake strikes near Anchorage**KTVA (TV)**

A minor earthquake struck near Anchorage Monday evening, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The 3.6 temblor struck at 6:15 p.m. Monday, based on USGS data. It was focused 9.6 miles north-northwest of Anchorage, at a depth of 20.3 miles. At least a dozen responses from people in the area reported feeling the quake, according to the USGS.

Bill aims to stop chronic wasting disease**Feedstuffs**

Bipartisan legislation aimed at combating the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) within

the deer population was recently reintroduced by Rep. Ralph Abraham (R., La.). The bill, H.R. 837, calls for the secretaries of agriculture and interior to partner with the National Academies of Science to study and identify the ways CWD is transmitted among wild, captive and farmed cervids (deer, caribou, elk and moose).

Weekend rains bring flooding to Oak Creek, Verde River (with videos)

Camp Verde Bugle

February has always been the month for floods in the Verde Valley and this weekend was no exception. This past weekend's rains saw Oak Creek swell to nearly 7,000 cubic feet per second and the Verde River in Clarkdale saw its flow rise to more than 4,500 cfs. By 10 a.m. Monday, the Verde river had risen to about 10,000 cfs.

Why charismatic, introduced species are so difficult to manage

Phys.org

Introduced and invasive species can present big problems, particularly when those species are charismatic, finds a recently published paper in the Ecological Society of America's journal *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. People tend to have a more favorable view of species that are large; do not bite, crawl, or squirm; are not oily or slimy; or are culturally valued. Some introduced species, like zebra mussels, tend to be reviled by the public, and people willingly adhere to strict management policies.

US Geological Survey delegation to visit Uzbekistan for co-op discussion

AzerNews

A delegation of the US Geological Survey (USGS) will visit Uzbekistan on February 4-7, Trend reports via Uzbek media. The representatives of USGS agreed on that with the leadership Uzbek State Committee on Geology during negotiations that were held in the framework of implementation of agreements reached during the visit of US Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross to Uzbekistan in October 2018. The sides thoroughly exchanged views on building up mutually beneficial cooperation in areas defined by the Uzbek-US intergovernmental Agreement on scientific and technical cooperation of 2012.

Opinion

Editorial: Trump's acting administration

San Francisco Chronicle (Editorial Board)

From a chaotic post-election transition to an unprecedented shutdown, President Trump's indifference to the workings of the government he was elected to run has been unmistakable. Among the most dangerous symptoms of this carelessness is his failure to field any semblance of a stable senior staff. The administration's constant purging of prominent members has been the most visible facet of its personnel problems, having left half a dozen Cabinet-level officials

— more than a quarter of them — serving in an acting capacity: the attorney general, defense secretary, interior secretary, Environmental Protection Agency administrator, chief of staff and Office of Management and Budget director. But a new analysis shows that the ranks beneath these officials are even more ragged.

Guest opinion: D.C. versus Idaho's plan to save the sage grouse

Idaho Press-Tribune (Otter)

It is a great Idaho tradition to complain that the federal government in Washington, D.C., never listens to the people of the Gem State. In the case of the greater sage grouse, President Trump and his team at the Department of the Interior heard our message and are finally making things right for the species and for Idahoans. This journey began with an invitation by former Obama administration Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Fish and Wildlife Service Director Don Ashe to participate in developing state-based sage grouse management plans in order to foil litigation by environmentalists to list the bird under the Endangered Species Act. It was suggested to me and other Western governors that if we developed our plans cooperatively with the federal government, we would have the chance to balance the economic needs of our states with what was need to conserve the species.

Other Opinions: We must stop the political do-over on the Twin Metals mine

Detroit Lakes (Halter)

I remember the day the Mount Polley mine failed. Mount Polley is a copper and gold mine in British Columbia, and on Aug. 4, 2014, a tailings basin dam catastrophically failed. Four short days later, the nearly 1,000-acre tailings basin was largely empty, having released 26 million cubic yards of water, silt and toxic tailings into nearby lakes and rivers.

Yellowstone wolves should be off limits to hunting

Bozeman Daily Chronicle (Strong)

A new bill introduced in the Montana Senate (SB 185) would close areas along the northern border of Yellowstone National Park to wolf hunting and trapping. The bill speaks to a decades-long debate over whether some level of protection should exist for wolves that primarily live within the park but occasionally wander into Montana. SB 185 would effectively close two “wolf management units” adjacent to the northern boundary of the park. Under current hunting and trapping regulations, only a total of four wolves can be killed in these two areas.

Top National News

Trump to Call for Bipartisanship as He Threatens to Declare Emergency

Wall Street Journal (Ballhaus)

President Trump in Tuesday’s State of the Union is expected to issue a plea for national unity

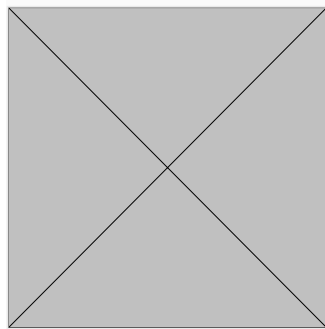
at a moment of deep partisan divisions, with the Democratic-controlled House and the White House at an impasse over spending priorities while Mr. Trump threatens to do an end-run around both chambers of Congress to pay for a wall on the southern U.S. border. Mr. Trump's call for bipartisanship will be a contrast with his recent assertions that bipartisan efforts to reach a deal on border security are a "waste of time." Last week, he said there was a "good chance" he would declare a national emergency over immigration, in which he would attempt to divert funds from elsewhere in the administration to pay for a border wall without congressional approval. The move would face immediate court challenges.

Puerto Rico Wins Approval of \$18 Billion Bond Restructuring

Wall Street Journal (Scurria)

Puerto Rico won court approval Monday for a restructuring deal that wipes out one-third of its \$18 billion in sales-tax bond debt, a milestone in its quest to fix its broken finances. U.S. District Judge Laura Taylor Swain confirmed a debt adjustment plan covering the revenue bonds known as Cofinas, marking the largest renegotiation yet of the U.S. territory's bond and pension obligations. The write-downs imposed on the Cofina bonds, first issued as rescue financing in 2007, will save the island government \$17 billion in interest and principal payments over the coming decades as it tries to reverse a decade of economic decline and out-migration.

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2/10-14	Society for Range Management	Society for Range Management
3/20	ACORE	Renewable Energy Policy Forum



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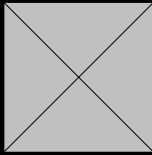
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DOI News

[Trump picks ex-oil lobbyist David Bernhardt for Interior secretary](#)

The Hill (Cama, Green)

President Trump is picking David Bernhardt, a former energy lobbyist, to be the Interior Department's next secretary. "I am pleased to announce that David Bernhardt, Acting Secretary of the Interior, will be nominated as Secretary of the Interior," Trump tweeted Monday. Bernhardt, whose past clients include oil companies and others with business before the Interior Department, will lead an agency that oversees about 500 million acres as well as the energy production on that land.

[Trump to nominate ex-energy lobbyist Bernhardt to head Interior](#)

Reuters (Gardner)

President Donald Trump said on Monday he would nominate David Bernhardt, a former energy lobbyist, to be secretary of the interior, the department that oversees U.S. public lands. Bernhardt, currently the acting secretary at the Interior Department, is widely expected to continue pushing the Trump administration's plan to boost domestic fossil fuels production by opening more U.S. public lands to drilling and mining.

Trump to Nominate David Bernhardt as Interior Secretary**Wall Street Journal (Leary, Puko)**

President Trump plans to nominate former energy lobbyist David Bernhardt as secretary of the interior, prompting criticism from Democrats and environmental advocacy groups who warn he will serve industry interests at the expense of environmental stewardship. "David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" Mr. Trump wrote Monday on Twitter. The nomination of Mr. Bernhardt, who currently serves in the role in an acting capacity, is subject to confirmation by the Senate, and Mr. Bernhardt's oil and gas ties are certain to come under scrutiny from Democrats. The Interior oversees about 500 million acres of public land.

Trump taps David Bernhardt to be Interior secretary**Politico (Lefebvre)**

President Donald Trump will nominate David Bernhardt to be the new Interior secretary. The announcement in a tweet from the president Monday ends a nearly two-month-long search for a permanent replacement for Ryan Zinke, who in early December announced his resignation amid multiple scandals and ethics investigations. Bernhardt, who was confirmed as Zinke's deputy in July 2017, has been acting Interior chief since the beginning of the year.

Trump Chooses David Bernhardt, a Former Oil Lobbyist, to Head the Interior Dept.**New York Times (Davenport)**

President Trump on Monday announced he would nominate David Bernhardt, a former oil lobbyist and current deputy chief of the Interior Department, to succeed Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who resigned amid allegations of ethical missteps. In a message on Twitter, Mr. Trump wrote, "David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!"

Trump To Nominate David Bernhardt As Permanent Interior Secretary**Huffington Post (D'Angelo)**

President Donald Trump on Monday announced he will nominate David Bernhardt as the 53rd secretary of the Department of the Interior. Bernhardt, a former fossil fuel lobbyist with a slew of potential conflicts of interests, has led the agency in an acting role since scandal-plagued

agency chief Ryan Zinke resigned early last month. "David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" Trump wrote in a Twitter post.

Trump nominates acting Interior secretary for permanent job

New York Post (Schwab)

President Trump announced Monday on Twitter that he was moving acting Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt into the gig full-time. "I am pleased to announce that David Bernhardt, Acting Secretary of the Interior, will be nominated as Secretary of the Interior. David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" Trump wrote.

Trump nominates former lobbyist David Bernhardt to be new Interior chief

Washington Examiner (Siciliano, Siegel)

President Trump announced Monday that his choice to serve as head of the Interior Department is David Bernhardt, a former lobbyist who has been leading the agency on an acting basis. "David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" Trump tweeted. A Trump administration official told the Washington Examiner that White House Acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney broke the news to Bernhardt with a phone call just before the president tweeted.

Trump nominates former oil and agriculture lobbyist David Bernhardt as new Interior secretary

USA Today (LeKing)

President Donald Trump announced on Twitter Monday that he will nominate acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt to the job permanently, saying he has done "a fantastic job from the day he arrived." Bernhardt has been serving temporarily since Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke departed the Trump Cabinet nearly two months ago under an ethics cloud. The Interior Department is a sprawling agency with some 70,000 employees that manages the country's natural resources on land and offshore, and oversees federal lands that collectively make up a fifth of the country.

President names David Bernhardt new Interior secretary

Indian Country Today (Trahant)

President Donald J. Trump announced the appointment of David Bernhardt Jr. as the secretary of the Interior. He replaces Ryan Zinke who resigned in December. The announcement was made via Twitter. Bernhardt is described by Think Progress as "a quintessential revolving-door figure in Washington." The liberal news site described a meeting with lobbyists in late 2017 with MGM Resorts International, who had opposed an effort by two tribes to build a casino in Connecticut.

Trump nominates David Bernhardt to serve as Interior secretary**Washington Times (Howell Jr.)**

President Trump has nominated acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt to take the job permanently, ending his search for someone to replace ousted secretary Ryan Zinke and giving his Cabinet a dose of stability. Mr. Bernhardt, a former energy lobbyist whose clients included oil companies, had been serving in an interim role since Mr. Zinke departed under an ethics cloud at the end of last year. "David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" the president tweeted Monday. Mr. Zinke, a former Navy SEAL and congressman, was nudged out amid a swirl of probes into high-priced travel on government planes and a land deal in his hometown of Whitefish, Montana, that involved the Zinke family and Halliburton Chairman David Lesar.

Trump Will Nominate David Bernhardt to Be DOI Secretary**Pacific Standard (Worby)**

President Donald Trump announced Monday via Twitter that he will nominate David Bernhardt for the position of Secretary of the Interior. Bernhardt has served as acting interior secretary since Ryan Zinke, who faced more than a dozen investigations into his conduct during his time as secretary, left office at the beginning of the year.

Rifle native Bernhardt to be nominated for Interior secretary**Grand Junction Daily Sentinel**

President Donald Trump on Monday announced he will nominate the Department of Interior's acting secretary, Rifle native David Bernhardt, to head the agency. "I am pleased to announce that David Bernhardt, Acting Secretary of the Interior, will be nominated as Secretary of the Interior. David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" Trump tweeted this afternoon. In response, Bernhardt tweeted: "It's a humbling privilege to be nominated to lead a Department whose mission I love, to accomplish the balanced, common sense vision of our President."

Trump Administration Drills Down on Alaska's Arctic Refuge**Revelator (Lydon)**

The Trump administration is barreling ahead with plans to drill for oil in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the largest refuge in the country and an area of global ecological importance.

As Many Expected, Acting Secretary David Bernhardt Is Nominated To Head Interior Department**Wyoming Public Media (Hegy)**

President Donald Trump took to Twitter to nominate David Bernhardt as the nation's next Interior Secretary. The former oil industry lobbyist and longtime government employee has been acting Secretary since Ryan Zinke stepped down last month amid questions about his ethics and conflicts of interest.

New Interior chief nominee calls agency's 'ethics challenges' an 'inherited' mess

The Hill (Green)

President Trump's new pick to head the Interior Department is blaming the agency's ethical pitfalls on a "mess" inherited by the Obama administration, according to an internal letter obtained by The Hill. In an internal letter sent to Interior staff Friday, David Bernhardt blamed Obama's former National Park's director and others for "an avalanche of ethical misconduct" and vowed to turn the agency around by strengthening its ethics program.

Bernhardt goes on the ethics offensive

E&E News (Doyle)

Acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt is blasting his Democratic predecessors and targeting a former National Park Service director as he touts improvements to the department's ethics bureaucracy. In a pointed and acutely timed missive to Interior's 70,000 employees, Bernhardt declared the department's "ethics infrastructure" had been "badly neglected for far too long." He pinned blame on the Obama administration. "Sadly, our organization's ethics challenges were part of a mess that we inherited," Bernhardt wrote in a departmentwide email on Friday. "The last decade of the Inspector General's reports read like an avalanche of ethical misconduct. No Bureau is exempt from criticism."

Bernhardt nomination reopens sharp debate

E&E News (Doyle)

President Trump's selection of acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt for the department's top job today drew reactions along predictable lines that foreshadowed the confirmation fight to come.

Trump never picked nominees for 150 Senate-confirmed positions

The Week

President Trump's executive branch is still very empty, and that's not just because a massive number of his nominees have resigned. We're two years into Trump's presidency, and nearly a quarter of the approximately 1,200 executive spots that require Senate confirmation are still sitting empty. The Washington Post and the Partnership for Public Service have been tracking about 700 of those positions, and found in an analysis published Monday that 275 of them are still unfilled.

'It's way too many': As vacancies pile up in Trump administration, senators grow

concerned**Washington Post (Eilperin, Dawsey, Kim)**

From the Justice Department to Veterans Affairs, vast swaths of the government have top positions filled by officials serving in an acting capacity — or no one at all. More than two years into Trump's term, the president has an acting chief of staff, attorney general, defense secretary, Office of Management and Budget director and Environmental Protection Agency chief. To deal with the number of vacancies in the upper ranks of departments, agencies have been relying on novel and legally questionable personnel moves that could leave the administration's policies open to court challenges.

'Pockets of problems' delayed employee pay**Greenwire (Hotakainen, Bogardus)**

The Interior Department said today that "isolated pockets of problems" prevented some of its employees from receiving their full back pay after the five-week partial government shutdown.

Interior mulls commercial-scale project on Nev. tribal lands**Greenwire (Streater)**

The Interior Department will conduct a detailed study of a proposed commercial-scale solar power project on the Moapa River Indian Reservation in southeast Nevada, continuing a recent Trump administration trend of advancing large renewables projects.

David Bernhardt's Nomination For Interior Secretary Quickly Criticized**National Parks Traveler (Repanshek)**

A flood of criticism greeted the nomination of David Bernhardt as Interior secretary, with concerns voiced that he will kowtow to the oil and gas industries at the expense of national parks and other public lands. Bernhardt has been acting secretary since Ryan Zinke resigned under pressure in December. His nomination was tweeted by President Trump on Monday.

Agency hit by brain drain, mass retirement**E&E News (Brugger)**

Last Monday morning, acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt greeted employees at the door after the 35-day government shutdown. "I saw a ton of smiles as people headed into work — your enthusiasm for resuming work and reconnecting with your colleagues is fantastic!" he tweeted later that morning. Bernhardt may need more than a smile and a joyous tweet to address looming challenges for the 70,000 employees who work for him.

Rep. TJ Cox releases statement on Secretary of the Interior nomination**KERO (TV) (Broderick)**

Rep. TJ Cox has released a statement on David Bernhardt's nomination as Secretary of the Interior. Cox was recently named to the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife. "The American people want government that is accountable to them, not special interests and Washington insiders. But instead of nominating someone to advocate on behalf of middle-class families and their priorities, the President has chosen yet another Cabinet nominee with a record of fighting for the biggest corporations – polluters and Big Oil. Our subcommittee will exercise aggressive oversight of the Department of the Interior to ensure that its policy decisions are in line with those of the American people and our communities."

Joe Manchin Signals Openness To Trump's Interior Nominee

Daily Caller (Bastash)

West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin took a different tone than many of his Democratic colleagues on news President Donald Trump nominated David Bernhardt to head the Interior Department. While prominent Democrats immediately came out against Bernhardt's nomination, Manchin stressed the Senate's "obligation to advise [and] consent on the President's nominees." Trump announced Bernhardt's nomination Monday.

NOIA applauds nomination of David Bernhardt as next Interior Secretary

World Oil

National Ocean Industries Association President Randall Luthi has issued the following statement regarding the nomination of David Bernhardt as secretary of the interior: "NOIA applauds the nomination of David Bernhardt to be the next secretary of the Department of the Interior (DOI). Having served as acting secretary since January, as deputy secretary since July of 2017, and formerly as solicitor, Bernhardt possesses an impressive depth of experience at the department and knowledge of interior issues. His selection as secretary will assure that important energy and conservation policies will not miss a beat in the transition.

ASPA drilling new wells on east side — this to fix 'salty' taste

Samoa News

The American Samoa Power Authority is drilling five new wells on the eastside of Tutuila to replace high chloride wells causing the "salty" taste in the water in this area. Chloride occurs naturally in groundwater sources. Elevated levels of chloride in a groundwater system can be attributed to various factors that include salt water intrusion due to a well's proximity to the ocean and natural underground salt deposits.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Navajo Nation Council Delegate advocates for proposed New Mexico MMIW task force

Indian Country Today

On February 1, Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Beclabito, Cove,

Gadi'i'áhi/To'Koi, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé ałnáoz't'I'í) joined New Mexico State Senator John Pinto (D – NM District 3) to honor Congresswoman Debra Haaland (D – NM 1st District) through a state proclamation as one of the first Native American women elected to Congress, and for her work in advocating for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, or MMIW.

Cherokee Nation Businesses subsidiary partnering with Department of Interior

Indian Country Today

Cherokee Nation System Solutions is partnering with the Department of Interior through a contract with its Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians. CNSS is working to improve the day-to-day operations at the agency's Trust Beneficiary Call Center. CNSS, a subsidiary of Cherokee Nation Businesses, is providing a wide range of automated and manual customer support services to respond to incoming inquiries and requests. The tribally owned company is helping improve TBCC's range of services by focusing on efficiency, accuracy, employee engagement, management approaches and industry best practices.

Fort Smith woman killed in crash on Crow Reservation

Great Falls Tribune (Rosenbaum)

A 41-year-old Fort Smith woman was killed early Sunday morning in a one-vehicle crash near St. Xavier on the Crow Reservation. According to the Montana Highway Patrol, the crash happened at 7:30 a.m. on Secondary Highway 313 in Big Horn County. The woman was southbound in a 2007 Dodge Dakota when she tried to negotiate a curve while traveling too fast for road conditions. The vehicle crossed the center line and ran off the left side of the road, going over an embankment and rolling.

Demolition Work Begins to Make Way for Elk Grove Casino After Years of Legal Challenges

Casino.org (Conneller)

On Friday, the Wilton Rancheria began the demolition of a "ghost mall" in Elk Grove, California — in preparation for the construction of its controversial \$400 million casino, in partnership with Boyd Gaming. On completion, the development will boast 110,000 square feet of gaming floor, a 302-room hotel tower, restaurants, a spa, and will be the closest casino to Sacramento. It will also house the area's largest convention space outside of downtown Sacramento.

Office of Insular and International Affairs

Bordallo: 'I will not be lobbying'

Guam Daily Post (Kerrigan)

Former Del. Madeleine Bordallo, the Leon Guerrero administration's newly appointed liaison

in Washington, D.C., said she will not be lobbying in Congress. "I work for the governor," she told The Guam Daily Post in a telephone interview from Washington. "I will not be contacting other members of Congress to lobby them for legislation relating to Guam," she said. She added that she knows as a former member of Congress, she cannot lobby current House members for at least one year. "I can make appointments for (the governor), but that's all," she said.

San Nicolas: War reparations checks withheld because of flaw known since May 2018

Guam Daily Post (Kerrigan)

A deficiency in the World War II Loyalty Recognition Act is preventing reparations checks from being mailed to the victims of the Japanese occupation of Guam during the war. "There is a structural deficiency in the law to enable the Treasury to cut the checks. The office knew about this since May of last year, as per Treasury, and said nothing," Del. Michael San Nicolas told The Guam Daily Post, referring to former Del. Madeleine Bordallo's office.

Public warned of rip currents, strong waves

Saipan Tribune

A small craft advisory is now in effect in the CNMI until 6am Thursday due to rough coastal waters on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. A high surf advisory is now in effect until early Tuesday morning along north facing reefs. Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, an east-northeast swell will continue affecting the Marianas. Moderate to fresh trade winds with strong gusts and combined seas of 8 to 11 feet were projected through last night, to slowly diminish through the night. The seas, however, were expected to continue to generate hazardous conditions for operators of small craft through Wednesday night. Conditions will then diminish below advisory levels by early Thursday morning.

Over 1,200 People Have Applied For Work With Bryan Administration; Some Cabinet Heads Will Be Announced Ahead Of Inauguration

VI Consortium

About 1,200 individuals have submitted their resumes in search of work with the incoming Bryan administration, Richard Motta, the transition team's press secretary told The Consortium this morning. He said because of this, members of the transition team have been painstakingly going through applications to assure that the most qualified are chosen. "Where they are at in the process is they got over 1,200 resumes, so they are really trying to be dutiful in how they screen," he said.

Masses of debris collected in CNMI following Yutu

Radio New Zealand

About 76,500 cubic metres of debris has been collected on the Northern Marianas island of

Saipan in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu. The Saipan Mayor's Office has been running the clean up of villages and streets six days a week in the aftermath of the storm, which hit the island and neighboring Tinian in October. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has brought in two burners to help speed up the disposal of green waste like leaves, tree branches and wood.

Bureau of Land Management

National Parks Reportedly Lost Out On Nearly \$11 Million During Shutdown

Daily Caller (Pearce)

The National Park Service (NPS) missed out on nearly \$11 million in revenue from park visitors during the 35-day partial government shutdown, The Hill reports. NPS officials completely or partially closed many national parks during the shutdown. Of the parks that remained open, maintenance and sanitation services were limited as employees were furloughed.

BLM Alaska axed pipeline regulatory positions — document

Energywire (Brugger)

A document obtained by E&E News reveals that the Bureau of Land Management's Alaska office eliminated positions that regulate the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System.

Agencies Rush to Get Ready for Wildfire Season Following Shutdown

KUAZ (Radio) (Gibson)

Federal firefighting agencies had to postpone trainings, prescribed burns and hiring during the shutdown, which may affect how prepared their firefighters are for wildfire season. Firefighters in the National Forest Service, National Parks Service and Bureau of Land Management will have to reschedule workshops they missed, prepare the land and the paperwork for prescribed burns that had to be cancelled, and rehire seasonal firefighters for wildfire season. They hope they can do it all before wildfire season hits Arizona.

BLM state offices resume lease sale preparations after shutdown

Oil & Gas Journal (Snow)

Several US Bureau of Land Management state offices resumed preparations for scheduled oil and gas lease sales soon after the 35-day federal government partial shutdown ended. Lease sales in Alaska, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Montana, and South Dakota are in various stages, but all are moving ahead, OGC has found. Perhaps the highest-profile upcoming federal onshore oil and gas lease sale will be for parcels on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's coastal plain. BLM scheduled public meetings in seven Alaska communities and one in Washington, DC, during February about the proposed lease sale's draft environmental impact statement, which it issued on Dec. 21, 2018. It also extended the public comment

period to Mar. 13.

Shutdown won't delay oil and gas sale in Wyoming, conservationists condemn 'rush'

KPVI (TV) (Beam)

Environmental groups are crying foul that oil and gas lease sales will continue despite lost time during the 35-day partial government shutdown. Federal officials in Wyoming say they are ready to move forward with two scheduled lease sales — including the first of four auctions that the agency is required to hold every year — having collected and reviewed public comments on whether these acres should be offered to industry. The first-quarter auction on March 19 and 20 will offer 140 parcels, totaling 148,909 acres of Wyoming land for development, including wildlife habitat that environmental groups argue should not be leased for development.

Missoula Search and Rescue crews braved bitter cold to locate snowmobilers

KULR (TV)

Missoula County Search and Rescue members, deputies from the Missoula County Sheriff's Office and members for the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management were called out late Sunday to search for two snowmobilers. The Missoula County Sheriff's Office posted on Facebook just after 9:00 p.m. Sunday that two snowmobilers were reported missing after they were separated from their group around 4:30 p.m. in the Lolo Hot Springs area. "Please keep these individuals and rescue personnel in your thoughts and prayers as they head out tonight," read the post.

Bill would freeze fracking permits during impact study

Santa Fe New Mexican (Moss)

When you're driving at night through Counselor, on U.S. 550, the horizon takes on a dusky illumination, almost like daylight, Samuel Sage said during a Monday news conference in Santa Fe. Bright light flares from natural gas being burned off as part of oil and gas production, which has become increasingly common in that area of northwestern New Mexico, particularly since 2013, said Sage, a member of the Navajo Nation's Counselor Chapter House. Sage was among several environmental advocates who gathered at the state Capitol in support of a bill that, if passed, would create a four-year moratorium on any new state permits for hydraulic fracturing — a type of deep horizontal drilling that injects high-pressured fluid below ground.

Oil and gas leases in Beaverhead, Madison counties on hold

Montana Standard (Dunlap)

Oil and gas leasing on 12,889 acres in Beaverhead and Madison counties has been deferred indefinitely, a Bureau of Land Management official said Monday. But that doesn't mean the leases are dead forever. Cornelia Hudson, BLM Dillon field office manager, said the agency

got so many negative public comments last month on the proposed oil and gas leases that the BLM deferred those parcels.

Protesters take over ANWR environmental scoping meeting

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner (McGroarty)

Activists pushing against oil development in the 1002 Coastal Plain area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge took over a public scoping meeting Monday evening that was initially supposed to go very differently. Unlike past public hearings, this meeting was organized in an open-house style, according to Joe Balash, the Department of the Interior's assistant secretary for Land and Minerals Management. Scientists stood near poster signage explaining the environmental impact statement draft process and two court stenographers sat behind a curtain to take testimony from members of the public.

Education, involvement key to Utah archaeological site protection

Daily Universe (Bigelow)

Utah archaeological sites have a "long history" of looting and vandalism, according to the Bureau of Land Management's 2017 accomplishment report. BYU experts say education and appropriate participation in archaeological experiences can go a long way in curbing damage to ancestral sites. BYU assistant history professor Brenden Rensink said educating the public on the importance of archaeological sites is a good starting point in preventing theft and other damages. BYU assistant archaeology professor Michael Searcy said he visits fourth-grade classes across Utah to teach about the state's history, which includes information on historical sites and monuments. Shawn Lambert, the public archaeologist for the Utah State Historic Preservation Office, said he and other public archaeologists primarily work with communities to increase awareness for historical sites.

Input sought on off road vehicle recreation

Red Bluff Daily News

The Bureau of Land Management's Redding Field Office is accepting public input on management needs and projects that would benefit off-highway vehicle recreation on public lands. The BLM will accept comments and suggestions at a public meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12 at the Redding Field Office, 6640 Lockheed Drive, Redding. Anyone interested can mail comments to the BLM at the above address, zip code 96002, or send them by email to szeffera@blm.gov. The BLM must receive comments by 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14. Staff at the field office will use public comments and suggestions to develop a preliminary grant application to the California State Parks, Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Federal Hearings On Vineyard Wind Return Feb. 11-15

North American Windpower (Lillian)

Following a delay due to the government shutdown, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has announced a new schedule for public hearings on Vineyard Wind's proposed project. The newly scheduled hearings will take place during the week of Feb. 11-15 in Massachusetts in Hyannis, New Bedford, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, as well as Narragansett, R.I.

BOEM updates public hearing dates for Vineyard Wind's proposed offshore project

Windpower Engineering & Development (Froese)

The United States' Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has announced a new schedule for public hearings to accept comments on the agency's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Vineyard Wind's proposed 800-MW wind farm to be constructed in federal waters south of Martha's Vineyard and approximately 34 miles south of the Cape Cod mainland. The will hearings take place during the week of February 11 to 15 in Hyannis, New Bedford, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Narragansett, RI. BOEM has reopened the public comment period for the Vineyard Wind DEIS. Comments should be submitted no later than February 22.

Vineyard Wind hearing rescheduled for Valentine's Day

Standard-Times (Barnes)

After more than a month's delay due to the government shutdown, a public hearing on the environmental effects of Vineyard Wind has been rescheduled for Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. The hearing in New Bedford is one of five across the region that will address environmental issues in Vineyard Wind's construction and operations plan. The U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is collecting public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement before the draft is finalized.

Vineyard Wind Files Emergency Motion to Stay ISO-NE Auction

RTO Insider (Kuser)

Vineyard Wind on Monday filed an emergency motion for FERC to stay ISO-NE's 13th Forward Capacity Auction, claiming it "will suffer irreparable injury" if it is not afforded renewable technology resource (RTR) status in the auction, which was scheduled to begin the same day the company submitted its request (ER19-570, ER19-444). Resources obtaining RTR status are exempted from the auction's minimum offer price rule (MOPR).

Stuttering outlook for Gulf of Mexico

Petroleum Engineer (Slaton, Abraham)

After a challenging 2018 that saw project momentum in the US Gulf of Mexico (GOM) falter amid weaker oil prices, the outlook for drilling activity in 2019 appears diminished. The November price declines could have a chilling effect on investment, amid rising project costs. It marks a contrast with the situation in early 2018, when oil prices were high and deep layoffs,

sustained cost-cutting, new technology, and optimisation had stripped the industry down to lean and mean. Sustained relief on commodity prices, which rose above \$60/bbl and even above \$70/bbl, was felt and welcomed. Also welcomed were changes in the US tax landscape. The December 2017 tax restructuring reduced corporate income tax rates and revised capital expenditures. Higher spending was expected to result from taking deductions for capex in the year they occur.

Fishermen Want More Time to Negotiate Over Wind

ecoRI (Faulkner)

Lanny Dellinger, a Newport, R.I.-based lobsterman and chairman of the Fishermen's Advisory Board, said fishermen are being rushed to accept a compensation offer for the harm they say will be caused by the Vineyard Wind offshore project. "It's like being pushed into the (real estate) closing without seeing the appraisal," Dellinger said. There's no doubt that the project developer is in a hurry. Vineyard Wind needs approval from the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) soon so that construction can begin on the 84-turbine project and qualify for a federal tax credit. Any changes to the layout of the project or the compensation offer will add weeks or months to the application process, and delay pending permits from Massachusetts.

South Carolina, feds spar on limits in seismic testing lawsuit

Brunswick News (Wolfe)

With at least three weeks of funding approved by Congress, lawyers for the federal government in civil cases got back to work, and that included responses to states' motions to intervene in a lawsuit in Charleston, S.C., federal court seeking to block offshore seismic testing. There are two motions — one by nine different states, including Massachusetts and Virginia, which call themselves commonwealths — and one by South Carolina, on its own. Attorneys for the federal defendants — the National Marine Fisheries Service, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Assistant Administrator of Fisheries Chris Oliver — wrote in their response that they and the nine states agree with the the conditions placed on the states allowing them to intervene as plaintiffs.

Bureau of Reclamation

'Close Is Not Done;' What's Next For Arizona's Drought Contingency Plan?

KJZZ 91.5 FM (Radio) (Brodie)

On Thursday, Gov. Doug Ducey signed Arizona's Drought Contingency Plan, hours ahead of a federally-imposed deadline. But the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation on Friday asked Colorado River states for input on potential water cutbacks the Interior Department could have to make, saying "close isn't done." To talk about what's next, John Fleck, director of the University of New Mexico Water Resources Program, joined The Show.

Beyond Drought: 7 states rebalance their Colorado River use as global warming dries the

region**Fence Post (Gulch)**

As major reservoirs shrink with the changing climate, seven states seek a sustainable future for the critical regional water source. The Colorado River watershed may be reaching a climate tipping point, drying under the influence of global warming to the point that states and tribes in the basin can no longer put off a day of reckoning about the water allocations that have been their lifeblood for the past century.

California Talks and Deadline Drama Cloud Arizona's Approval of Drought Plan**Phoenix New Times (Flaherty)**

The status of the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan remains uncertain because of players outside of Arizona, in spite of legislation signed by Governor Doug Ducey last week authorizing Arizona to join a seven-state drought plan for the Colorado River region. Contradicting Ducey's office, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation said Arizona and California did not finalize the plan by a January 31 deadline, so the federal government will prepare to intervene to prevent disaster on the river. Meanwhile, an influential irrigation district in California is negotiating past the deadline for more federal funding before the district's board formally approves the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP).

Joining 6 States, Arizona Agrees to Use Less Water From Colorado River**Tribune News Service (Davis)**

"Everyone will feel pain" was the mantra emanating from supporters of Arizona's drought plan for the Colorado River as it wound through the Legislature. It is true that under the plan, now embedded in state law, the major water users served by the \$4 billion Central Arizona Project -- cities, tribes and farms -- will all take a hit.

What's next for the parched Colorado? The latest on the West's drought drama.**Grist (Holthaus)**

A major deadline just passed without unanimous agreement among Western states over the future of the Colorado River, so the federal government is one step closer to stepping in on the dwindling river that provides water for 1-in-8 Americans. The path forward has become murkier for the drought-stricken region now in its 19th year of low water levels after a January 31 deadline failed to garner signed agreements from Arizona and California.

Deal or No Deal, Colorado River's Problems Roll on**Voice of San Diego (Rivard)**

For decades, Arizona and California have been fighting over how to share the Colorado River, which provides water to 40 million in the western United States and Mexico. Last week,

Arizona lawmakers rushed to bless a deal that changes how states share the river. The voluntary deal is supposed to prevent federal bureaucrats at the Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation from stepping in to ration the river. The deal is meant to do two things. States would forgo water to avoid a doomsday if a two-decade drought continues much longer. That's good for everyone.

Bureau of Reclamation still accepting suggestions to address low-water concerns at Lake Mead

KLAS (TV) (Jaramillo)

The rainy weather and snow that's been accumulating in southern Nevada this winter will help the water levels at Lake Mead, but the area still needs a lot more. Until we get more The Bureau of Reclamation is constantly monitoring and studying the levels. In the event that water elevation decreases below, 1,050-foot officials have developed a plan to address operational needs because due to the government shutdown, the public wasn't able to provide comment on the low water plan for Lake Mead, so an extension has been provided through Feb.15.

Fish and Wildlife Service

Researcher: Wash. could have far more wolves than we thought

Greenwire

The number of wolves in Washington state is likely much higher than previously thought, according to a University of Washington researcher who spent two years studying the animals using scat-sniffing dogs.

Rocky Mountain National Park investigating two cases of elk poaching

Loveland Reporter-Herald (Byars)

Rocky Mountain National Park rangers are investigating two instances of elk poaching in the park last September. According to a release, a large bull elk was found shot alongside Trail Ridge Road near Milner Pass on Sept. 12. The elk's head had been cut off, with the rest of the carcass left behind. Another large bull elk was found shot on Sept. 22 next to Trail Ridge Road near the Ute Crossing Trail, south of Forest Canyon Overlook.

Award Announced For Two Cases Of Bull Elk Poaching Along Trail Ridge Road

KCNC (TV)

Officials with the Rocky Mountain National Park announced a \$2,000 reward for information about two elk poaching cases from September of 2018. Park Rangers are hoping to find the person or people responsible for the crimes. They say on Sept. 12, rangers found a bull elk dead and decapitated alongside Trail Ridge Road near Milner Pass. They believe the deadly shooting happened either during the night of Sept. 11 or early that morning on Sept. 12.

Wildlife-Based Recreation Contributes \$1 Billion to Wyoming Economy

SweetwaterNOW

If you don't think wildlife recreation doesn't have an effect on the Cowboy State coffers, think again. Hunters, anglers and wildlife watchers in Wyoming contributed more than \$1 billion to Wyoming's economy during 2017, according to a new analysis by the University of Wyoming. It's a 2.3 percent increase from 2016 due to more people heading outdoors. "Wyoming has some of the best wildlife watching in the country, and the hunting and fishing opportunities here are sought after because of the high-quality wildlife, access and the outdoor experience with friends and family," said John Kennedy, acting Wyoming Game and Fish Department director. "We're glad to host everyone who chooses to enjoy Wyoming's wildlife."

Turtle-smuggling ex-journalist admits poaching thousands of protected terrapins from New Jersey marshes

Associated Press

A Pennsylvania man and former reporter has pleaded guilty to trafficking protected turtles. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania says David Sommers, 64, of Levittown, on Monday admitted to sending a package to Canada in 2014 containing 11 diamondback terrapin hatchlings. Sommers allegedly caught and sold the turtles in 2017 and sold them to to Canada three years later in a box that said a \$10 book was inside, the U.S. Attorney's Office has said.

NSSF says hunting participation on the decline, target shooting increasing

Guns.com

The National Shooting Sports Foundation said hunting participation is down while participation in target shooting is going up. The the gun industry trade association discussed the shift in a seminar titled Industry Data and New Shooter Recruitment held at SHOT Show in Las Vegas in late January. Speaking on the subject of participation and recruitment, NSSF Director of Research and Market Development Jim Curcuruto told a room packed with SHOT Show attendees ranging from media to manufacturers to gun shop owners that while hunting is on the decline, target shooting is now getting the attention of many gun owners.

Fish and Wildlife Service to host Great Backyard Bird Count

Inter-Mountain

Those participating will meet at 9 a.m. Feb. 16 at Glendale Park in Elkins. No experience is necessary; experienced birders will be on hand. Bring binoculars if you have them. There will be a few pairs to loan out, as well as some guidebooks. New to birding, or want to introduce birding to your kids? This is the perfect place to start.

Montana Resources says Butte comes first in getting water

Montana Standard (Dunlap)

Montana Resources wants Silver Lake water to help augment the stream in Silver Bow Creek. MR has been in negotiations with Butte-Silver Bow County for roughly a year and a half to reach an agreement that would provide Silver Lake water to the creek in the hot summer months when fish are most stressed and water flows suffer. Mark Thompson, MR vice president for environmental affairs, said the mine wants to put Butte first.

National Park Service**Lawmakers to examine NPS spending during shutdown****E&E News (Hotakainen)**

When the National Park Service used visitor fee revenues to keep sites open during the partial government shutdown, Rep. Betty McCollum immediately cried foul.

The National Parks' iconic typeface has never been digitized—until now**Fast Company (Schwab)**

If you've ever been to a National Park, chances are you've come across signage with the same distinctive lettering. The type, which features rounded edges carved into wood in all caps, has become an icon of the National Parks system. But it turns out that this text isn't an actual typeface, as information designer Jeremy Shellhorn discovered when he was working as designer-in-residence at Rocky Mountain National Park in 2013.

National Park Service lost millions during partial government shutdown**Federal News Network (White)**

It looks like the National Park Service lost between \$10 million and \$11 million during the partial government shutdown. The Hill reported an internal email sent to NPS staff suggesting it had a detrimental effect on worker morale. Attorneys are investigating if it was legal for the Interior Department to use recreation fees to pay for maintenance and trash collection.

Mountain Goat reduction plan open for comment**KIFI (TV)**

The National Park Service (NPS) is accepting public comments through February 15 on a plan to remove mountain goats from Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. NPS is considering three alternatives. The first would allow the current goat population to continue to be monitored with no active efforts to reduce it. The second would lethally remove them from the park using aerial and ground-based "techniques." The third option is capture and translocation in which lethal methods would be used to reduce mountain goat population.

Shrimp trawler breaks apart on Outer Banks in treacherous ‘Graveyard of the Atlantic’**Charlotte Observer (Price)**

The shrimp trawler Big John ran ashore and broke into countless pieces early Monday along North Carolina’s Outer Banks, adding another sunken hull to the so called “Graveyard of the Atlantic.” Photos show what’s left of the ship off Cape Point in the surf, and a wide debris field on the sand. The ship, based out of Wanchese, is believed to have overturned before sinking, said a press release from the National Park Service.

With more rain, ‘miracle’ wildflower blooms will blanket LA**Curbed (Chandler)**

November fires bring May flowers. In the wake of wildfires—followed by lots of rain—Los Angeles might be treated to an extraordinary display of wildflowers this spring. It’s too soon to predict whether there will be a super bloom as remarkable as the one that covered the region in 2017. But if the weather doesn’t get too hot and if rain continues to fall over the next couple of months, odds are favorable that a rainbow of blooms will carpet Southern California’s hillsides, mountains, and deserts. “We’re optimistic that it’s going to be a good one,” says Mark Mendelsohn, a National Park Service biologist stationed in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Park service awards \$613K to protect Summit Point land**Herald-Mail Media (Shea)**

The National Park Service recently awarded a \$613,930 grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program to help acquire 280 acres of Summit Point Battlefield, a significant Civil War site. "Some of the most defining moments in our nation’s history were decided by conflicts that played out on hallowed grounds like this battlefield," P. Daniel Smith, deputy director of the park service, said in a news release. "In partnership with local communities and the Public Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle, this grant will help preserve this battlefield for future generations."

Too much snow leaves families stranded at lodge near Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks**KMPH (TV) (Gonzalez)**

The latest storm system to hit the Central Valley and surrounding mountains is being blamed for leaving more than 100 people stranded at a lodge near Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks. "We came here to celebrate my husband's birthday," says Alejandra Arita, who traveled with her family from the San Fernando Valley to Montecito Sequoia Lodge on Friday. "He always wanted to experience the snow, activities in the snow."

Cape Hatteras National Seashore seeks volunteers for large beach cleanup in Frisco

WITN (TV)

Cape Hatteras National Seashore is seeking volunteers who would like to help National Park Service staff clear a large debris field that was left Monday morning by the Big John shrimp trawler wreckage. The beach cleanup will take place Tuesday, February 5, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Individuals interested in volunteering should meet National Park Service staff at the entrance to off-road vehicle (ORV) ramp 49 in Frisco.

U.S. Geological Survey**Northern California's Cascadia Subduction Zone Hit by 11 Earthquakes Over Weekend****Newsweek (Georgiou)**

Over the weekend, nearly a dozen earthquakes struck within a relatively small region just off the coast of Northern California, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The 11 quakes ranged in magnitude between 2.9 and 4.5 on the Richter scale. Tremors from 3.0 up to 3.9 are considered “minor”—although they can often be felt—whereas quakes that measure between 4.0 and 4.9 are classified as “light” on the scale. The first of the quakes occurred beneath the ocean, around 11 miles west of Petrolia, a small community of about 500 people located in Humboldt County. It struck at 4:30 p.m. PT on Friday with a magnitude of 2.9, at a depth of 4.5 miles.

USGS: Over a dozen earthquakes rattle North Coast since Friday**KRCR (TV) (Papanek)**

Over a dozen earthquakes above a 2.5 magnitude have rattled the North Coast since Friday, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. On Feb. 1 at around 4:30 p.m. a 2.9 magnitude earthquake struck 11 miles off the coast of Petrolia, according to the USGS. Then, about 11 hours later, on Feb. 2 just before 3 a.m., a 4.3 magnitude earthquake hit about 7 miles off the coast. Less than 30 minutes later, a 3.2 magnitude hit in the same area, 8 miles off the coast of Petrolia.

3.6 evening quake strikes near Anchorage**KTVA (TV)**

A minor earthquake struck near Anchorage Monday evening, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The 3.6 temblor struck at 6:15 p.m. Monday, based on USGS data. It was focused 9.6 miles north-northwest of Anchorage, at a depth of 20.3 miles. At least a dozen responses from people in the area reported feeling the quake, according to the USGS.

Bill aims to stop chronic wasting disease**Feedstuffs**

Bipartisan legislation aimed at combating the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) within

the deer population was recently reintroduced by Rep. Ralph Abraham (R., La.). The bill, H.R. 837, calls for the secretaries of agriculture and interior to partner with the National Academies of Science to study and identify the ways CWD is transmitted among wild, captive and farmed cervids (deer, caribou, elk and moose).

Weekend rains bring flooding to Oak Creek, Verde River (with videos)

Camp Verde Bugle

February has always been the month for floods in the Verde Valley and this weekend was no exception. This past weekend's rains saw Oak Creek swell to nearly 7,000 cubic feet per second and the Verde River in Clarkdale saw its flow rise to more than 4,500 cfs. By 10 a.m. Monday, the Verde river had risen to about 10,000 cfs.

Why charismatic, introduced species are so difficult to manage

Phys.org

Introduced and invasive species can present big problems, particularly when those species are charismatic, finds a recently published paper in the Ecological Society of America's journal *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. People tend to have a more favorable view of species that are large; do not bite, crawl, or squirm; are not oily or slimy; or are culturally valued. Some introduced species, like zebra mussels, tend to be reviled by the public, and people willingly adhere to strict management policies.

US Geological Survey delegation to visit Uzbekistan for co-op discussion

AzerNews

A delegation of the US Geological Survey (USGS) will visit Uzbekistan on February 4-7, Trend reports via Uzbek media. The representatives of USGS agreed on that with the leadership Uzbek State Committee on Geology during negotiations that were held in the framework of implementation of agreements reached during the visit of US Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross to Uzbekistan in October 2018. The sides thoroughly exchanged views on building up mutually beneficial cooperation in areas defined by the Uzbek-US intergovernmental Agreement on scientific and technical cooperation of 2012.

Opinion

Editorial: Trump's acting administration

San Francisco Chronicle (Editorial Board)

From a chaotic post-election transition to an unprecedented shutdown, President Trump's indifference to the workings of the government he was elected to run has been unmistakable. Among the most dangerous symptoms of this carelessness is his failure to field any semblance of a stable senior staff. The administration's constant purging of prominent members has been the most visible facet of its personnel problems, having left half a dozen Cabinet-level officials

— more than a quarter of them — serving in an acting capacity: the attorney general, defense secretary, interior secretary, Environmental Protection Agency administrator, chief of staff and Office of Management and Budget director. But a new analysis shows that the ranks beneath these officials are even more ragged.

Guest opinion: D.C. versus Idaho's plan to save the sage grouse

Idaho Press-Tribune (Otter)

It is a great Idaho tradition to complain that the federal government in Washington, D.C., never listens to the people of the Gem State. In the case of the greater sage grouse, President Trump and his team at the Department of the Interior heard our message and are finally making things right for the species and for Idahoans. This journey began with an invitation by former Obama administration Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Fish and Wildlife Service Director Don Ashe to participate in developing state-based sage grouse management plans in order to foil litigation by environmentalists to list the bird under the Endangered Species Act. It was suggested to me and other Western governors that if we developed our plans cooperatively with the federal government, we would have the chance to balance the economic needs of our states with what was need to conserve the species.

Other Opinions: We must stop the political do-over on the Twin Metals mine

Detroit Lakes (Halter)

I remember the day the Mount Polley mine failed. Mount Polley is a copper and gold mine in British Columbia, and on Aug. 4, 2014, a tailings basin dam catastrophically failed. Four short days later, the nearly 1,000-acre tailings basin was largely empty, having released 26 million cubic yards of water, silt and toxic tailings into nearby lakes and rivers.

Yellowstone wolves should be off limits to hunting

Bozeman Daily Chronicle (Strong)

A new bill introduced in the Montana Senate (SB 185) would close areas along the northern border of Yellowstone National Park to wolf hunting and trapping. The bill speaks to a decades-long debate over whether some level of protection should exist for wolves that primarily live within the park but occasionally wander into Montana. SB 185 would effectively close two “wolf management units” adjacent to the northern boundary of the park. Under current hunting and trapping regulations, only a total of four wolves can be killed in these two areas.

Top National News

Trump to Call for Bipartisanship as He Threatens to Declare Emergency

Wall Street Journal (Ballhaus)

President Trump in Tuesday’s State of the Union is expected to issue a plea for national unity

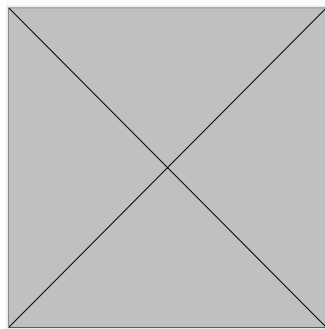
at a moment of deep partisan divisions, with the Democratic-controlled House and the White House at an impasse over spending priorities while Mr. Trump threatens to do an end-run around both chambers of Congress to pay for a wall on the southern U.S. border. Mr. Trump's call for bipartisanship will be a contrast with his recent assertions that bipartisan efforts to reach a deal on border security are a "waste of time." Last week, he said there was a "good chance" he would declare a national emergency over immigration, in which he would attempt to divert funds from elsewhere in the administration to pay for a border wall without congressional approval. The move would face immediate court challenges.

Puerto Rico Wins Approval of \$18 Billion Bond Restructuring

Wall Street Journal (Scurria)

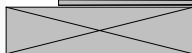
Puerto Rico won court approval Monday for a restructuring deal that wipes out one-third of its \$18 billion in sales-tax bond debt, a milestone in its quest to fix its broken finances. U.S. District Judge Laura Taylor Swain confirmed a debt adjustment plan covering the revenue bonds known as Cofinas, marking the largest renegotiation yet of the U.S. territory's bond and pension obligations. The write-downs imposed on the Cofina bonds, first issued as rescue financing in 2007, will save the island government \$17 billion in interest and principal payments over the coming decades as it tries to reverse a decade of economic decline and out-migration.

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2/10-14	Society for Range Management	Society for Range Management
3/20	ACORE	Renewable Energy Policy Forum



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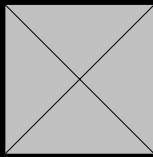
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DOI News

[Trump picks ex-oil lobbyist David Bernhardt for Interior secretary](#)

The Hill (Cama, Green)

President Trump is picking David Bernhardt, a former energy lobbyist, to be the Interior Department's next secretary. "I am pleased to announce that David Bernhardt, Acting Secretary of the Interior, will be nominated as Secretary of the Interior," Trump tweeted Monday. Bernhardt, whose past clients include oil companies and others with business before the Interior Department, will lead an agency that oversees about 500 million acres as well as the energy production on that land.

[Trump to nominate ex-energy lobbyist Bernhardt to head Interior](#)

Reuters (Gardner)

President Donald Trump said on Monday he would nominate David Bernhardt, a former energy lobbyist, to be secretary of the interior, the department that oversees U.S. public lands. Bernhardt, currently the acting secretary at the Interior Department, is widely expected to continue pushing the Trump administration's plan to boost domestic fossil fuels production by opening more U.S. public lands to drilling and mining.

Trump to Nominate David Bernhardt as Interior Secretary**Wall Street Journal (Leary, Puko)**

President Trump plans to nominate former energy lobbyist David Bernhardt as secretary of the interior, prompting criticism from Democrats and environmental advocacy groups who warn he will serve industry interests at the expense of environmental stewardship. "David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" Mr. Trump wrote Monday on Twitter. The nomination of Mr. Bernhardt, who currently serves in the role in an acting capacity, is subject to confirmation by the Senate, and Mr. Bernhardt's oil and gas ties are certain to come under scrutiny from Democrats. The Interior oversees about 500 million acres of public land.

Trump taps David Bernhardt to be Interior secretary**Politico (Lefebvre)**

President Donald Trump will nominate David Bernhardt to be the new Interior secretary. The announcement in a tweet from the president Monday ends a nearly two-month-long search for a permanent replacement for Ryan Zinke, who in early December announced his resignation amid multiple scandals and ethics investigations. Bernhardt, who was confirmed as Zinke's deputy in July 2017, has been acting Interior chief since the beginning of the year.

Trump Chooses David Bernhardt, a Former Oil Lobbyist, to Head the Interior Dept.**New York Times (Davenport)**

President Trump on Monday announced he would nominate David Bernhardt, a former oil lobbyist and current deputy chief of the Interior Department, to succeed Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who resigned amid allegations of ethical missteps. In a message on Twitter, Mr. Trump wrote, "David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!"

Trump To Nominate David Bernhardt As Permanent Interior Secretary**Huffington Post (D'Angelo)**

President Donald Trump on Monday announced he will nominate David Bernhardt as the 53rd secretary of the Department of the Interior. Bernhardt, a former fossil fuel lobbyist with a slew of potential conflicts of interests, has led the agency in an acting role since scandal-plagued

agency chief Ryan Zinke resigned early last month. "David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" Trump wrote in a Twitter post.

Trump nominates acting Interior secretary for permanent job

New York Post (Schwab)

President Trump announced Monday on Twitter that he was moving acting Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt into the gig full-time. "I am pleased to announce that David Bernhardt, Acting Secretary of the Interior, will be nominated as Secretary of the Interior. David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" Trump wrote.

Trump nominates former lobbyist David Bernhardt to be new Interior chief

Washington Examiner (Siciliano, Siegel)

President Trump announced Monday that his choice to serve as head of the Interior Department is David Bernhardt, a former lobbyist who has been leading the agency on an acting basis. "David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" Trump tweeted. A Trump administration official told the Washington Examiner that White House Acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney broke the news to Bernhardt with a phone call just before the president tweeted.

Trump nominates former oil and agriculture lobbyist David Bernhardt as new Interior secretary

USA Today (LeKing)

President Donald Trump announced on Twitter Monday that he will nominate acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt to the job permanently, saying he has done "a fantastic job from the day he arrived." Bernhardt has been serving temporarily since Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke departed the Trump Cabinet nearly two months ago under an ethics cloud. The Interior Department is a sprawling agency with some 70,000 employees that manages the country's natural resources on land and offshore, and oversees federal lands that collectively make up a fifth of the country.

President names David Bernhardt new Interior secretary

Indian Country Today (Trahant)

President Donald J. Trump announced the appointment of David Bernhardt Jr. as the secretary of the Interior. He replaces Ryan Zinke who resigned in December. The announcement was made via Twitter. Bernhardt is described by Think Progress as "a quintessential revolving-door figure in Washington." The liberal news site described a meeting with lobbyists in late 2017 with MGM Resorts International, who had opposed an effort by two tribes to build a casino in Connecticut.

Trump nominates David Bernhardt to serve as Interior secretary**Washington Times (Howell Jr.)**

President Trump has nominated acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt to take the job permanently, ending his search for someone to replace ousted secretary Ryan Zinke and giving his Cabinet a dose of stability. Mr. Bernhardt, a former energy lobbyist whose clients included oil companies, had been serving in an interim role since Mr. Zinke departed under an ethics cloud at the end of last year. "David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" the president tweeted Monday. Mr. Zinke, a former Navy SEAL and congressman, was nudged out amid a swirl of probes into high-priced travel on government planes and a land deal in his hometown of Whitefish, Montana, that involved the Zinke family and Halliburton Chairman David Lesar.

Trump Will Nominate David Bernhardt to Be DOI Secretary**Pacific Standard (Worby)**

President Donald Trump announced Monday via Twitter that he will nominate David Bernhardt for the position of Secretary of the Interior. Bernhardt has served as acting interior secretary since Ryan Zinke, who faced more than a dozen investigations into his conduct during his time as secretary, left office at the beginning of the year.

Rifle native Bernhardt to be nominated for Interior secretary**Grand Junction Daily Sentinel**

President Donald Trump on Monday announced he will nominate the Department of Interior's acting secretary, Rifle native David Bernhardt, to head the agency. "I am pleased to announce that David Bernhardt, Acting Secretary of the Interior, will be nominated as Secretary of the Interior. David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" Trump tweeted this afternoon. In response, Bernhardt tweeted: "It's a humbling privilege to be nominated to lead a Department whose mission I love, to accomplish the balanced, common sense vision of our President."

Trump Administration Drills Down on Alaska's Arctic Refuge**Revelator (Lydon)**

The Trump administration is barreling ahead with plans to drill for oil in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the largest refuge in the country and an area of global ecological importance.

As Many Expected, Acting Secretary David Bernhardt Is Nominated To Head Interior Department**Wyoming Public Media (Hegy)**

President Donald Trump took to Twitter to nominate David Bernhardt as the nation's next Interior Secretary. The former oil industry lobbyist and longtime government employee has been acting Secretary since Ryan Zinke stepped down last month amid questions about his ethics and conflicts of interest.

New Interior chief nominee calls agency's 'ethics challenges' an 'inherited' mess

The Hill (Green)

President Trump's new pick to head the Interior Department is blaming the agency's ethical pitfalls on a "mess" inherited by the Obama administration, according to an internal letter obtained by The Hill. In an internal letter sent to Interior staff Friday, David Bernhardt blamed Obama's former National Park's director and others for "an avalanche of ethical misconduct" and vowed to turn the agency around by strengthening its ethics program.

Bernhardt goes on the ethics offensive

E&E News (Doyle)

Acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt is blasting his Democratic predecessors and targeting a former National Park Service director as he touts improvements to the department's ethics bureaucracy. In a pointed and acutely timed missive to Interior's 70,000 employees, Bernhardt declared the department's "ethics infrastructure" had been "badly neglected for far too long." He pinned blame on the Obama administration. "Sadly, our organization's ethics challenges were part of a mess that we inherited," Bernhardt wrote in a departmentwide email on Friday. "The last decade of the Inspector General's reports read like an avalanche of ethical misconduct. No Bureau is exempt from criticism."

Bernhardt nomination reopens sharp debate

E&E News (Doyle)

President Trump's selection of acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt for the department's top job today drew reactions along predictable lines that foreshadowed the confirmation fight to come.

Trump never picked nominees for 150 Senate-confirmed positions

The Week

President Trump's executive branch is still very empty, and that's not just because a massive number of his nominees have resigned. We're two years into Trump's presidency, and nearly a quarter of the approximately 1,200 executive spots that require Senate confirmation are still sitting empty. The Washington Post and the Partnership for Public Service have been tracking about 700 of those positions, and found in an analysis published Monday that 275 of them are still unfilled.

'It's way too many': As vacancies pile up in Trump administration, senators grow

concerned**Washington Post (Eilperin, Dawsey, Kim)**

From the Justice Department to Veterans Affairs, vast swaths of the government have top positions filled by officials serving in an acting capacity — or no one at all. More than two years into Trump's term, the president has an acting chief of staff, attorney general, defense secretary, Office of Management and Budget director and Environmental Protection Agency chief. To deal with the number of vacancies in the upper ranks of departments, agencies have been relying on novel and legally questionable personnel moves that could leave the administration's policies open to court challenges.

'Pockets of problems' delayed employee pay**Greenwire (Hotakainen, Bogardus)**

The Interior Department said today that "isolated pockets of problems" prevented some of its employees from receiving their full back pay after the five-week partial government shutdown.

Interior mulls commercial-scale project on Nev. tribal lands**Greenwire (Streater)**

The Interior Department will conduct a detailed study of a proposed commercial-scale solar power project on the Moapa River Indian Reservation in southeast Nevada, continuing a recent Trump administration trend of advancing large renewables projects.

David Bernhardt's Nomination For Interior Secretary Quickly Criticized**National Parks Traveler (Repanshek)**

A flood of criticism greeted the nomination of David Bernhardt as Interior secretary, with concerns voiced that he will kowtow to the oil and gas industries at the expense of national parks and other public lands. Bernhardt has been acting secretary since Ryan Zinke resigned under pressure in December. His nomination was tweeted by President Trump on Monday.

Agency hit by brain drain, mass retirement**E&E News (Brugger)**

Last Monday morning, acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt greeted employees at the door after the 35-day government shutdown. "I saw a ton of smiles as people headed into work — your enthusiasm for resuming work and reconnecting with your colleagues is fantastic!" he tweeted later that morning. Bernhardt may need more than a smile and a joyous tweet to address looming challenges for the 70,000 employees who work for him.

Rep. TJ Cox releases statement on Secretary of the Interior nomination**KERO (TV) (Broderick)**

Rep. TJ Cox has released a statement on David Bernhardt's nomination as Secretary of the Interior. Cox was recently named to the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife. "The American people want government that is accountable to them, not special interests and Washington insiders. But instead of nominating someone to advocate on behalf of middle-class families and their priorities, the President has chosen yet another Cabinet nominee with a record of fighting for the biggest corporations – polluters and Big Oil. Our subcommittee will exercise aggressive oversight of the Department of the Interior to ensure that its policy decisions are in line with those of the American people and our communities."

Joe Manchin Signals Openness To Trump's Interior Nominee

Daily Caller (Bastash)

West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin took a different tone than many of his Democratic colleagues on news President Donald Trump nominated David Bernhardt to head the Interior Department. While prominent Democrats immediately came out against Bernhardt's nomination, Manchin stressed the Senate's "obligation to advise [and] consent on the President's nominees." Trump announced Bernhardt's nomination Monday.

NOIA applauds nomination of David Bernhardt as next Interior Secretary

World Oil

National Ocean Industries Association President Randall Luthi has issued the following statement regarding the nomination of David Bernhardt as secretary of the interior: "NOIA applauds the nomination of David Bernhardt to be the next secretary of the Department of the Interior (DOI). Having served as acting secretary since January, as deputy secretary since July of 2017, and formerly as solicitor, Bernhardt possesses an impressive depth of experience at the department and knowledge of interior issues. His selection as secretary will assure that important energy and conservation policies will not miss a beat in the transition.

ASPA drilling new wells on east side — this to fix 'salty' taste

Samoa News

The American Samoa Power Authority is drilling five new wells on the eastside of Tutuila to replace high chloride wells causing the "salty" taste in the water in this area. Chloride occurs naturally in groundwater sources. Elevated levels of chloride in a groundwater system can be attributed to various factors that include salt water intrusion due to a well's proximity to the ocean and natural underground salt deposits.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Navajo Nation Council Delegate advocates for proposed New Mexico MMIW task force

Indian Country Today

On February 1, Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Beclabito, Cove,

Gadi'i'áhi/To'Koi, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé ałnáoz't'I'í) joined New Mexico State Senator John Pinto (D – NM District 3) to honor Congresswoman Debra Haaland (D – NM 1st District) through a state proclamation as one of the first Native American women elected to Congress, and for her work in advocating for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, or MMIW.

Cherokee Nation Businesses subsidiary partnering with Department of Interior

Indian Country Today

Cherokee Nation System Solutions is partnering with the Department of Interior through a contract with its Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians. CNSS is working to improve the day-to-day operations at the agency's Trust Beneficiary Call Center. CNSS, a subsidiary of Cherokee Nation Businesses, is providing a wide range of automated and manual customer support services to respond to incoming inquiries and requests. The tribally owned company is helping improve TBCC's range of services by focusing on efficiency, accuracy, employee engagement, management approaches and industry best practices.

Fort Smith woman killed in crash on Crow Reservation

Great Falls Tribune (Rosenbaum)

A 41-year-old Fort Smith woman was killed early Sunday morning in a one-vehicle crash near St. Xavier on the Crow Reservation. According to the Montana Highway Patrol, the crash happened at 7:30 a.m. on Secondary Highway 313 in Big Horn County. The woman was southbound in a 2007 Dodge Dakota when she tried to negotiate a curve while traveling too fast for road conditions. The vehicle crossed the center line and ran off the left side of the road, going over an embankment and rolling.

Demolition Work Begins to Make Way for Elk Grove Casino After Years of Legal Challenges

Casino.org (Conneller)

On Friday, the Wilton Rancheria began the demolition of a "ghost mall" in Elk Grove, California — in preparation for the construction of its controversial \$400 million casino, in partnership with Boyd Gaming. On completion, the development will boast 110,000 square feet of gaming floor, a 302-room hotel tower, restaurants, a spa, and will be the closest casino to Sacramento. It will also house the area's largest convention space outside of downtown Sacramento.

Office of Insular and International Affairs

Bordallo: 'I will not be lobbying'

Guam Daily Post (Kerrigan)

Former Del. Madeleine Bordallo, the Leon Guerrero administration's newly appointed liaison

in Washington, D.C., said she will not be lobbying in Congress. "I work for the governor," she told The Guam Daily Post in a telephone interview from Washington. "I will not be contacting other members of Congress to lobby them for legislation relating to Guam," she said. She added that she knows as a former member of Congress, she cannot lobby current House members for at least one year. "I can make appointments for (the governor), but that's all," she said.

San Nicolas: War reparations checks withheld because of flaw known since May 2018

Guam Daily Post (Kerrigan)

A deficiency in the World War II Loyalty Recognition Act is preventing reparations checks from being mailed to the victims of the Japanese occupation of Guam during the war. "There is a structural deficiency in the law to enable the Treasury to cut the checks. The office knew about this since May of last year, as per Treasury, and said nothing," Del. Michael San Nicolas told The Guam Daily Post, referring to former Del. Madeleine Bordallo's office.

Public warned of rip currents, strong waves

Saipan Tribune

A small craft advisory is now in effect in the CNMI until 6am Thursday due to rough coastal waters on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. A high surf advisory is now in effect until early Tuesday morning along north facing reefs. Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, an east-northeast swell will continue affecting the Marianas. Moderate to fresh trade winds with strong gusts and combined seas of 8 to 11 feet were projected through last night, to slowly diminish through the night. The seas, however, were expected to continue to generate hazardous conditions for operators of small craft through Wednesday night. Conditions will then diminish below advisory levels by early Thursday morning.

Over 1,200 People Have Applied For Work With Bryan Administration; Some Cabinet Heads Will Be Announced Ahead Of Inauguration

VI Consortium

About 1,200 individuals have submitted their resumes in search of work with the incoming Bryan administration, Richard Motta, the transition team's press secretary told The Consortium this morning. He said because of this, members of the transition team have been painstakingly going through applications to assure that the most qualified are chosen. "Where they are at in the process is they got over 1,200 resumes, so they are really trying to be dutiful in how they screen," he said.

Masses of debris collected in CNMI following Yutu

Radio New Zealand

About 76,500 cubic metres of debris has been collected on the Northern Marianas island of

Saipan in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu. The Saipan Mayor's Office has been running the clean up of villages and streets six days a week in the aftermath of the storm, which hit the island and neighboring Tinian in October. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has brought in two burners to help speed up the disposal of green waste like leaves, tree branches and wood.

Bureau of Land Management

National Parks Reportedly Lost Out On Nearly \$11 Million During Shutdown

Daily Caller (Pearce)

The National Park Service (NPS) missed out on nearly \$11 million in revenue from park visitors during the 35-day partial government shutdown, The Hill reports. NPS officials completely or partially closed many national parks during the shutdown. Of the parks that remained open, maintenance and sanitation services were limited as employees were furloughed.

BLM Alaska axed pipeline regulatory positions — document

Energywire (Brugger)

A document obtained by E&E News reveals that the Bureau of Land Management's Alaska office eliminated positions that regulate the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System.

Agencies Rush to Get Ready for Wildfire Season Following Shutdown

KUAZ (Radio) (Gibson)

Federal firefighting agencies had to postpone trainings, prescribed burns and hiring during the shutdown, which may affect how prepared their firefighters are for wildfire season. Firefighters in the National Forest Service, National Parks Service and Bureau of Land Management will have to reschedule workshops they missed, prepare the land and the paperwork for prescribed burns that had to be cancelled, and rehire seasonal firefighters for wildfire season. They hope they can do it all before wildfire season hits Arizona.

BLM state offices resume lease sale preparations after shutdown

Oil & Gas Journal (Snow)

Several US Bureau of Land Management state offices resumed preparations for scheduled oil and gas lease sales soon after the 35-day federal government partial shutdown ended. Lease sales in Alaska, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Montana, and South Dakota are in various stages, but all are moving ahead, OGC has found. Perhaps the highest-profile upcoming federal onshore oil and gas lease sale will be for parcels on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's coastal plain. BLM scheduled public meetings in seven Alaska communities and one in Washington, DC, during February about the proposed lease sale's draft environmental impact statement, which it issued on Dec. 21, 2018. It also extended the public comment

period to Mar. 13.

Shutdown won't delay oil and gas sale in Wyoming, conservationists condemn 'rush'

KPVI (TV) (Beam)

Environmental groups are crying foul that oil and gas lease sales will continue despite lost time during the 35-day partial government shutdown. Federal officials in Wyoming say they are ready to move forward with two scheduled lease sales — including the first of four auctions that the agency is required to hold every year — having collected and reviewed public comments on whether these acres should be offered to industry. The first-quarter auction on March 19 and 20 will offer 140 parcels, totaling 148,909 acres of Wyoming land for development, including wildlife habitat that environmental groups argue should not be leased for development.

Missoula Search and Rescue crews braved bitter cold to locate snowmobilers

KULR (TV)

Missoula County Search and Rescue members, deputies from the Missoula County Sheriff's Office and members for the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management were called out late Sunday to search for two snowmobilers. The Missoula County Sheriff's Office posted on Facebook just after 9:00 p.m. Sunday that two snowmobilers were reported missing after they were separated from their group around 4:30 p.m. in the Lolo Hot Springs area. "Please keep these individuals and rescue personnel in your thoughts and prayers as they head out tonight," read the post.

Bill would freeze fracking permits during impact study

Santa Fe New Mexican (Moss)

When you're driving at night through Counselor, on U.S. 550, the horizon takes on a dusky illumination, almost like daylight, Samuel Sage said during a Monday news conference in Santa Fe. Bright light flares from natural gas being burned off as part of oil and gas production, which has become increasingly common in that area of northwestern New Mexico, particularly since 2013, said Sage, a member of the Navajo Nation's Counselor Chapter House. Sage was among several environmental advocates who gathered at the state Capitol in support of a bill that, if passed, would create a four-year moratorium on any new state permits for hydraulic fracturing — a type of deep horizontal drilling that injects high-pressured fluid below ground.

Oil and gas leases in Beaverhead, Madison counties on hold

Montana Standard (Dunlap)

Oil and gas leasing on 12,889 acres in Beaverhead and Madison counties has been deferred indefinitely, a Bureau of Land Management official said Monday. But that doesn't mean the leases are dead forever. Cornelia Hudson, BLM Dillon field office manager, said the agency

got so many negative public comments last month on the proposed oil and gas leases that the BLM deferred those parcels.

Protesters take over ANWR environmental scoping meeting

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner (McGroarty)

Activists pushing against oil development in the 1002 Coastal Plain area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge took over a public scoping meeting Monday evening that was initially supposed to go very differently. Unlike past public hearings, this meeting was organized in an open-house style, according to Joe Balash, the Department of the Interior's assistant secretary for Land and Minerals Management. Scientists stood near poster signage explaining the environmental impact statement draft process and two court stenographers sat behind a curtain to take testimony from members of the public.

Education, involvement key to Utah archaeological site protection

Daily Universe (Bigelow)

Utah archaeological sites have a "long history" of looting and vandalism, according to the Bureau of Land Management's 2017 accomplishment report. BYU experts say education and appropriate participation in archaeological experiences can go a long way in curbing damage to ancestral sites. BYU assistant history professor Brenden Rensink said educating the public on the importance of archaeological sites is a good starting point in preventing theft and other damages. BYU assistant archaeology professor Michael Searcy said he visits fourth-grade classes across Utah to teach about the state's history, which includes information on historical sites and monuments. Shawn Lambert, the public archaeologist for the Utah State Historic Preservation Office, said he and other public archaeologists primarily work with communities to increase awareness for historical sites.

Input sought on off road vehicle recreation

Red Bluff Daily News

The Bureau of Land Management's Redding Field Office is accepting public input on management needs and projects that would benefit off-highway vehicle recreation on public lands. The BLM will accept comments and suggestions at a public meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12 at the Redding Field Office, 6640 Lockheed Drive, Redding. Anyone interested can mail comments to the BLM at the above address, zip code 96002, or send them by email to szeffera@blm.gov. The BLM must receive comments by 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14. Staff at the field office will use public comments and suggestions to develop a preliminary grant application to the California State Parks, Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Federal Hearings On Vineyard Wind Return Feb. 11-15

North American Windpower (Lillian)

Following a delay due to the government shutdown, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has announced a new schedule for public hearings on Vineyard Wind's proposed project. The newly scheduled hearings will take place during the week of Feb. 11-15 in Massachusetts in Hyannis, New Bedford, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, as well as Narragansett, R.I.

BOEM updates public hearing dates for Vineyard Wind's proposed offshore project

Windpower Engineering & Development (Froese)

The United States' Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has announced a new schedule for public hearings to accept comments on the agency's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Vineyard Wind's proposed 800-MW wind farm to be constructed in federal waters south of Martha's Vineyard and approximately 34 miles south of the Cape Cod mainland. The will hearings take place during the week of February 11 to 15 in Hyannis, New Bedford, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Narragansett, RI. BOEM has reopened the public comment period for the Vineyard Wind DEIS. Comments should be submitted no later than February 22.

Vineyard Wind hearing rescheduled for Valentine's Day

Standard-Times (Barnes)

After more than a month's delay due to the government shutdown, a public hearing on the environmental effects of Vineyard Wind has been rescheduled for Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. The hearing in New Bedford is one of five across the region that will address environmental issues in Vineyard Wind's construction and operations plan. The U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is collecting public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement before the draft is finalized.

Vineyard Wind Files Emergency Motion to Stay ISO-NE Auction

RTO Insider (Kuser)

Vineyard Wind on Monday filed an emergency motion for FERC to stay ISO-NE's 13th Forward Capacity Auction, claiming it "will suffer irreparable injury" if it is not afforded renewable technology resource (RTR) status in the auction, which was scheduled to begin the same day the company submitted its request (ER19-570, ER19-444). Resources obtaining RTR status are exempted from the auction's minimum offer price rule (MOPR).

Stuttering outlook for Gulf of Mexico

Petroleum Engineer (Slaton, Abraham)

After a challenging 2018 that saw project momentum in the US Gulf of Mexico (GOM) falter amid weaker oil prices, the outlook for drilling activity in 2019 appears diminished. The November price declines could have a chilling effect on investment, amid rising project costs. It marks a contrast with the situation in early 2018, when oil prices were high and deep layoffs,

sustained cost-cutting, new technology, and optimisation had stripped the industry down to lean and mean. Sustained relief on commodity prices, which rose above \$60/bbl and even above \$70/bbl, was felt and welcomed. Also welcomed were changes in the US tax landscape. The December 2017 tax restructuring reduced corporate income tax rates and revised capital expenditures. Higher spending was expected to result from taking deductions for capex in the year they occur.

Fishermen Want More Time to Negotiate Over Wind

ecoRI (Faulkner)

Lanny Dellinger, a Newport, R.I.-based lobsterman and chairman of the Fishermen's Advisory Board, said fishermen are being rushed to accept a compensation offer for the harm they say will be caused by the Vineyard Wind offshore project. "It's like being pushed into the (real estate) closing without seeing the appraisal," Dellinger said. There's no doubt that the project developer is in a hurry. Vineyard Wind needs approval from the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) soon so that construction can begin on the 84-turbine project and qualify for a federal tax credit. Any changes to the layout of the project or the compensation offer will add weeks or months to the application process, and delay pending permits from Massachusetts.

South Carolina, feds spar on limits in seismic testing lawsuit

Brunswick News (Wolfe)

With at least three weeks of funding approved by Congress, lawyers for the federal government in civil cases got back to work, and that included responses to states' motions to intervene in a lawsuit in Charleston, S.C., federal court seeking to block offshore seismic testing. There are two motions — one by nine different states, including Massachusetts and Virginia, which call themselves commonwealths — and one by South Carolina, on its own. Attorneys for the federal defendants — the National Marine Fisheries Service, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Assistant Administrator of Fisheries Chris Oliver — wrote in their response that they and the nine states agree with the the conditions placed on the states allowing them to intervene as plaintiffs.

Bureau of Reclamation

'Close Is Not Done;' What's Next For Arizona's Drought Contingency Plan?

KJZZ 91.5 FM (Radio) (Brodie)

On Thursday, Gov. Doug Ducey signed Arizona's Drought Contingency Plan, hours ahead of a federally-imposed deadline. But the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation on Friday asked Colorado River states for input on potential water cutbacks the Interior Department could have to make, saying "close isn't done." To talk about what's next, John Fleck, director of the University of New Mexico Water Resources Program, joined The Show.

Beyond Drought: 7 states rebalance their Colorado River use as global warming dries the

region**Fence Post (Gulch)**

As major reservoirs shrink with the changing climate, seven states seek a sustainable future for the critical regional water source. The Colorado River watershed may be reaching a climate tipping point, drying under the influence of global warming to the point that states and tribes in the basin can no longer put off a day of reckoning about the water allocations that have been their lifeblood for the past century.

California Talks and Deadline Drama Cloud Arizona's Approval of Drought Plan**Phoenix New Times (Flaherty)**

The status of the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan remains uncertain because of players outside of Arizona, in spite of legislation signed by Governor Doug Ducey last week authorizing Arizona to join a seven-state drought plan for the Colorado River region. Contradicting Ducey's office, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation said Arizona and California did not finalize the plan by a January 31 deadline, so the federal government will prepare to intervene to prevent disaster on the river. Meanwhile, an influential irrigation district in California is negotiating past the deadline for more federal funding before the district's board formally approves the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP).

Joining 6 States, Arizona Agrees to Use Less Water From Colorado River**Tribune News Service (Davis)**

"Everyone will feel pain" was the mantra emanating from supporters of Arizona's drought plan for the Colorado River as it wound through the Legislature. It is true that under the plan, now embedded in state law, the major water users served by the \$4 billion Central Arizona Project -- cities, tribes and farms -- will all take a hit.

What's next for the parched Colorado? The latest on the West's drought drama.**Grist (Holthaus)**

A major deadline just passed without unanimous agreement among Western states over the future of the Colorado River, so the federal government is one step closer to stepping in on the dwindling river that provides water for 1-in-8 Americans. The path forward has become murkier for the drought-stricken region now in its 19th year of low water levels after a January 31 deadline failed to garner signed agreements from Arizona and California.

Deal or No Deal, Colorado River's Problems Roll on**Voice of San Diego (Rivard)**

For decades, Arizona and California have been fighting over how to share the Colorado River, which provides water to 40 million in the western United States and Mexico. Last week,

Arizona lawmakers rushed to bless a deal that changes how states share the river. The voluntary deal is supposed to prevent federal bureaucrats at the Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation from stepping in to ration the river. The deal is meant to do two things. States would forgo water to avoid a doomsday if a two-decade drought continues much longer. That's good for everyone.

Bureau of Reclamation still accepting suggestions to address low-water concerns at Lake Mead

KLAS (TV) (Jaramillo)

The rainy weather and snow that's been accumulating in southern Nevada this winter will help the water levels at Lake Mead, but the area still needs a lot more. Until we get more The Bureau of Reclamation is constantly monitoring and studying the levels. In the event that water elevation decreases below, 1,050-foot officials have developed a plan to address operational needs because due to the government shutdown, the public wasn't able to provide comment on the low water plan for Lake Mead, so an extension has been provided through Feb.15.

Fish and Wildlife Service

Researcher: Wash. could have far more wolves than we thought

Greenwire

The number of wolves in Washington state is likely much higher than previously thought, according to a University of Washington researcher who spent two years studying the animals using scat-sniffing dogs.

Rocky Mountain National Park investigating two cases of elk poaching

Loveland Reporter-Herald (Byars)

Rocky Mountain National Park rangers are investigating two instances of elk poaching in the park last September. According to a release, a large bull elk was found shot alongside Trail Ridge Road near Milner Pass on Sept. 12. The elk's head had been cut off, with the rest of the carcass left behind. Another large bull elk was found shot on Sept. 22 next to Trail Ridge Road near the Ute Crossing Trail, south of Forest Canyon Overlook.

Award Announced For Two Cases Of Bull Elk Poaching Along Trail Ridge Road

KCNC (TV)

Officials with the Rocky Mountain National Park announced a \$2,000 reward for information about two elk poaching cases from September of 2018. Park Rangers are hoping to find the person or people responsible for the crimes. They say on Sept. 12, rangers found a bull elk dead and decapitated alongside Trail Ridge Road near Milner Pass. They believe the deadly shooting happened either during the night of Sept. 11 or early that morning on Sept. 12.

Wildlife-Based Recreation Contributes \$1 Billion to Wyoming Economy

SweetwaterNOW

If you don't think wildlife recreation doesn't have an effect on the Cowboy State coffers, think again. Hunters, anglers and wildlife watchers in Wyoming contributed more than \$1 billion to Wyoming's economy during 2017, according to a new analysis by the University of Wyoming. It's a 2.3 percent increase from 2016 due to more people heading outdoors. "Wyoming has some of the best wildlife watching in the country, and the hunting and fishing opportunities here are sought after because of the high-quality wildlife, access and the outdoor experience with friends and family," said John Kennedy, acting Wyoming Game and Fish Department director. "We're glad to host everyone who chooses to enjoy Wyoming's wildlife."

Turtle-smuggling ex-journalist admits poaching thousands of protected terrapins from New Jersey marshes

Associated Press

A Pennsylvania man and former reporter has pleaded guilty to trafficking protected turtles. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania says David Sommers, 64, of Levittown, on Monday admitted to sending a package to Canada in 2014 containing 11 diamondback terrapin hatchlings. Sommers allegedly caught and sold the turtles in 2017 and sold them to to Canada three years later in a box that said a \$10 book was inside, the U.S. Attorney's Office has said.

NSSF says hunting participation on the decline, target shooting increasing

Guns.com

The National Shooting Sports Foundation said hunting participation is down while participation in target shooting is going up. The the gun industry trade association discussed the shift in a seminar titled Industry Data and New Shooter Recruitment held at SHOT Show in Las Vegas in late January. Speaking on the subject of participation and recruitment, NSSF Director of Research and Market Development Jim Curcuruto told a room packed with SHOT Show attendees ranging from media to manufacturers to gun shop owners that while hunting is on the decline, target shooting is now getting the attention of many gun owners.

Fish and Wildlife Service to host Great Backyard Bird Count

Inter-Mountain

Those participating will meet at 9 a.m. Feb. 16 at Glendale Park in Elkins. No experience is necessary; experienced birders will be on hand. Bring binoculars if you have them. There will be a few pairs to loan out, as well as some guidebooks. New to birding, or want to introduce birding to your kids? This is the perfect place to start.

Montana Resources says Butte comes first in getting water

Montana Standard (Dunlap)

Montana Resources wants Silver Lake water to help augment the stream in Silver Bow Creek. MR has been in negotiations with Butte-Silver Bow County for roughly a year and a half to reach an agreement that would provide Silver Lake water to the creek in the hot summer months when fish are most stressed and water flows suffer. Mark Thompson, MR vice president for environmental affairs, said the mine wants to put Butte first.

National Park Service**Lawmakers to examine NPS spending during shutdown****E&E News (Hotakainen)**

When the National Park Service used visitor fee revenues to keep sites open during the partial government shutdown, Rep. Betty McCollum immediately cried foul.

The National Parks' iconic typeface has never been digitized—until now**Fast Company (Schwab)**

If you've ever been to a National Park, chances are you've come across signage with the same distinctive lettering. The type, which features rounded edges carved into wood in all caps, has become an icon of the National Parks system. But it turns out that this text isn't an actual typeface, as information designer Jeremy Shellhorn discovered when he was working as designer-in-residence at Rocky Mountain National Park in 2013.

National Park Service lost millions during partial government shutdown**Federal News Network (White)**

It looks like the National Park Service lost between \$10 million and \$11 million during the partial government shutdown. The Hill reported an internal email sent to NPS staff suggesting it had a detrimental effect on worker morale. Attorneys are investigating if it was legal for the Interior Department to use recreation fees to pay for maintenance and trash collection.

Mountain Goat reduction plan open for comment**KIFI (TV)**

The National Park Service (NPS) is accepting public comments through February 15 on a plan to remove mountain goats from Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. NPS is considering three alternatives. The first would allow the current goat population to continue to be monitored with no active efforts to reduce it. The second would lethally remove them from the park using aerial and ground-based "techniques." The third option is capture and translocation in which lethal methods would be used to reduce mountain goat population.

Shrimp trawler breaks apart on Outer Banks in treacherous ‘Graveyard of the Atlantic’**Charlotte Observer (Price)**

The shrimp trawler Big John ran ashore and broke into countless pieces early Monday along North Carolina’s Outer Banks, adding another sunken hull to the so called “Graveyard of the Atlantic.” Photos show what’s left of the ship off Cape Point in the surf, and a wide debris field on the sand. The ship, based out of Wanchese, is believed to have overturned before sinking, said a press release from the National Park Service.

With more rain, ‘miracle’ wildflower blooms will blanket LA**Curbed (Chandler)**

November fires bring May flowers. In the wake of wildfires—followed by lots of rain—Los Angeles might be treated to an extraordinary display of wildflowers this spring. It’s too soon to predict whether there will be a super bloom as remarkable as the one that covered the region in 2017. But if the weather doesn’t get too hot and if rain continues to fall over the next couple of months, odds are favorable that a rainbow of blooms will carpet Southern California’s hillsides, mountains, and deserts. “We’re optimistic that it’s going to be a good one,” says Mark Mendelsohn, a National Park Service biologist stationed in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Park service awards \$613K to protect Summit Point land**Herald-Mail Media (Shea)**

The National Park Service recently awarded a \$613,930 grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program to help acquire 280 acres of Summit Point Battlefield, a significant Civil War site. "Some of the most defining moments in our nation’s history were decided by conflicts that played out on hallowed grounds like this battlefield," P. Daniel Smith, deputy director of the park service, said in a news release. "In partnership with local communities and the Public Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle, this grant will help preserve this battlefield for future generations."

Too much snow leaves families stranded at lodge near Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks**KMPH (TV) (Gonzalez)**

The latest storm system to hit the Central Valley and surrounding mountains is being blamed for leaving more than 100 people stranded at a lodge near Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks. "We came here to celebrate my husband's birthday," says Alejandra Arita, who traveled with her family from the San Fernando Valley to Montecito Sequoia Lodge on Friday. "He always wanted to experience the snow, activities in the snow."

Cape Hatteras National Seashore seeks volunteers for large beach cleanup in Frisco

WITN (TV)

Cape Hatteras National Seashore is seeking volunteers who would like to help National Park Service staff clear a large debris field that was left Monday morning by the Big John shrimp trawler wreckage. The beach cleanup will take place Tuesday, February 5, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Individuals interested in volunteering should meet National Park Service staff at the entrance to off-road vehicle (ORV) ramp 49 in Frisco.

U.S. Geological Survey**Northern California's Cascadia Subduction Zone Hit by 11 Earthquakes Over Weekend****Newsweek (Georgiou)**

Over the weekend, nearly a dozen earthquakes struck within a relatively small region just off the coast of Northern California, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The 11 quakes ranged in magnitude between 2.9 and 4.5 on the Richter scale. Tremors from 3.0 up to 3.9 are considered “minor”—although they can often be felt—whereas quakes that measure between 4.0 and 4.9 are classified as “light” on the scale. The first of the quakes occurred beneath the ocean, around 11 miles west of Petrolia, a small community of about 500 people located in Humboldt County. It struck at 4:30 p.m. PT on Friday with a magnitude of 2.9, at a depth of 4.5 miles.

USGS: Over a dozen earthquakes rattle North Coast since Friday**KRCR (TV) (Papanek)**

Over a dozen earthquakes above a 2.5 magnitude have rattled the North Coast since Friday, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. On Feb. 1 at around 4:30 p.m. a 2.9 magnitude earthquake struck 11 miles off the coast of Petrolia, according to the USGS. Then, about 11 hours later, on Feb. 2 just before 3 a.m., a 4.3 magnitude earthquake hit about 7 miles off the coast. Less than 30 minutes later, a 3.2 magnitude hit in the same area, 8 miles off the coast of Petrolia.

3.6 evening quake strikes near Anchorage**KTVA (TV)**

A minor earthquake struck near Anchorage Monday evening, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The 3.6 temblor struck at 6:15 p.m. Monday, based on USGS data. It was focused 9.6 miles north-northwest of Anchorage, at a depth of 20.3 miles. At least a dozen responses from people in the area reported feeling the quake, according to the USGS.

Bill aims to stop chronic wasting disease**Feedstuffs**

Bipartisan legislation aimed at combating the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) within

the deer population was recently reintroduced by Rep. Ralph Abraham (R., La.). The bill, H.R. 837, calls for the secretaries of agriculture and interior to partner with the National Academies of Science to study and identify the ways CWD is transmitted among wild, captive and farmed cervids (deer, caribou, elk and moose).

Weekend rains bring flooding to Oak Creek, Verde River (with videos)

Camp Verde Bugle

February has always been the month for floods in the Verde Valley and this weekend was no exception. This past weekend's rains saw Oak Creek swell to nearly 7,000 cubic feet per second and the Verde River in Clarkdale saw its flow rise to more than 4,500 cfs. By 10 a.m. Monday, the Verde river had risen to about 10,000 cfs.

Why charismatic, introduced species are so difficult to manage

Phys.org

Introduced and invasive species can present big problems, particularly when those species are charismatic, finds a recently published paper in the Ecological Society of America's journal *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. People tend to have a more favorable view of species that are large; do not bite, crawl, or squirm; are not oily or slimy; or are culturally valued. Some introduced species, like zebra mussels, tend to be reviled by the public, and people willingly adhere to strict management policies.

US Geological Survey delegation to visit Uzbekistan for co-op discussion

AzerNews

A delegation of the US Geological Survey (USGS) will visit Uzbekistan on February 4-7, Trend reports via Uzbek media. The representatives of USGS agreed on that with the leadership Uzbek State Committee on Geology during negotiations that were held in the framework of implementation of agreements reached during the visit of US Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross to Uzbekistan in October 2018. The sides thoroughly exchanged views on building up mutually beneficial cooperation in areas defined by the Uzbek-US intergovernmental Agreement on scientific and technical cooperation of 2012.

Opinion

Editorial: Trump's acting administration

San Francisco Chronicle (Editorial Board)

From a chaotic post-election transition to an unprecedented shutdown, President Trump's indifference to the workings of the government he was elected to run has been unmistakable. Among the most dangerous symptoms of this carelessness is his failure to field any semblance of a stable senior staff. The administration's constant purging of prominent members has been the most visible facet of its personnel problems, having left half a dozen Cabinet-level officials

— more than a quarter of them — serving in an acting capacity: the attorney general, defense secretary, interior secretary, Environmental Protection Agency administrator, chief of staff and Office of Management and Budget director. But a new analysis shows that the ranks beneath these officials are even more ragged.

Guest opinion: D.C. versus Idaho's plan to save the sage grouse

Idaho Press-Tribune (Otter)

It is a great Idaho tradition to complain that the federal government in Washington, D.C., never listens to the people of the Gem State. In the case of the greater sage grouse, President Trump and his team at the Department of the Interior heard our message and are finally making things right for the species and for Idahoans. This journey began with an invitation by former Obama administration Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Fish and Wildlife Service Director Don Ashe to participate in developing state-based sage grouse management plans in order to foil litigation by environmentalists to list the bird under the Endangered Species Act. It was suggested to me and other Western governors that if we developed our plans cooperatively with the federal government, we would have the chance to balance the economic needs of our states with what was need to conserve the species.

Other Opinions: We must stop the political do-over on the Twin Metals mine

Detroit Lakes (Halter)

I remember the day the Mount Polley mine failed. Mount Polley is a copper and gold mine in British Columbia, and on Aug. 4, 2014, a tailings basin dam catastrophically failed. Four short days later, the nearly 1,000-acre tailings basin was largely empty, having released 26 million cubic yards of water, silt and toxic tailings into nearby lakes and rivers.

Yellowstone wolves should be off limits to hunting

Bozeman Daily Chronicle (Strong)

A new bill introduced in the Montana Senate (SB 185) would close areas along the northern border of Yellowstone National Park to wolf hunting and trapping. The bill speaks to a decades-long debate over whether some level of protection should exist for wolves that primarily live within the park but occasionally wander into Montana. SB 185 would effectively close two “wolf management units” adjacent to the northern boundary of the park. Under current hunting and trapping regulations, only a total of four wolves can be killed in these two areas.

Top National News

Trump to Call for Bipartisanship as He Threatens to Declare Emergency

Wall Street Journal (Ballhaus)

President Trump in Tuesday’s State of the Union is expected to issue a plea for national unity

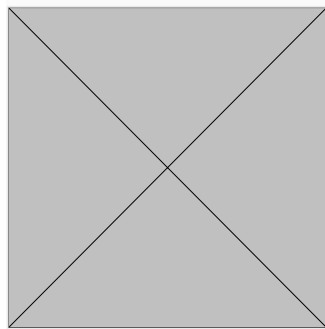
at a moment of deep partisan divisions, with the Democratic-controlled House and the White House at an impasse over spending priorities while Mr. Trump threatens to do an end-run around both chambers of Congress to pay for a wall on the southern U.S. border. Mr. Trump's call for bipartisanship will be a contrast with his recent assertions that bipartisan efforts to reach a deal on border security are a "waste of time." Last week, he said there was a "good chance" he would declare a national emergency over immigration, in which he would attempt to divert funds from elsewhere in the administration to pay for a border wall without congressional approval. The move would face immediate court challenges.

Puerto Rico Wins Approval of \$18 Billion Bond Restructuring

Wall Street Journal (Scurria)

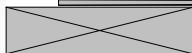
Puerto Rico won court approval Monday for a restructuring deal that wipes out one-third of its \$18 billion in sales-tax bond debt, a milestone in its quest to fix its broken finances. U.S. District Judge Laura Taylor Swain confirmed a debt adjustment plan covering the revenue bonds known as Cofinas, marking the largest renegotiation yet of the U.S. territory's bond and pension obligations. The write-downs imposed on the Cofina bonds, first issued as rescue financing in 2007, will save the island government \$17 billion in interest and principal payments over the coming decades as it tries to reverse a decade of economic decline and out-migration.

Date	Host	Title
2/10-14	Society for Range Management	Society for Range Management
3/20	ACORE	Renewable Energy Policy Forum



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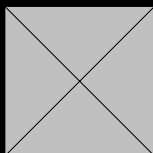
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[Beyond Drought: 7 states rebalance their Colorado River use as global warming dries the region](#)

[California Talks and Deadline Drama Cloud Arizona's Approval of Drought Plan](#)

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[What's next for the parched Colorado? The latest on the West's drought drama.](#)

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DOI News

[Trump picks ex-oil lobbyist David Bernhardt for Interior secretary](#)

The Hill (Cama, Green)

President Trump is picking David Bernhardt, a former energy lobbyist, to be the Interior Department's next secretary. "I am pleased to announce that David Bernhardt, Acting Secretary of the Interior, will be nominated as Secretary of the Interior," Trump tweeted Monday. Bernhardt, whose past clients include oil companies and others with business before the Interior Department, will lead an agency that oversees about 500 million acres as well as the energy production on that land.

[Trump to nominate ex-energy lobbyist Bernhardt to head Interior](#)

Reuters (Gardner)

President Donald Trump said on Monday he would nominate David Bernhardt, a former energy lobbyist, to be secretary of the interior, the department that oversees U.S. public lands. Bernhardt, currently the acting secretary at the Interior Department, is widely expected to continue pushing the Trump administration's plan to boost domestic fossil fuels production by opening more U.S. public lands to drilling and mining.

Trump to Nominate David Bernhardt as Interior Secretary**Wall Street Journal (Leary, Puko)**

President Trump plans to nominate former energy lobbyist David Bernhardt as secretary of the interior, prompting criticism from Democrats and environmental advocacy groups who warn he will serve industry interests at the expense of environmental stewardship. "David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" Mr. Trump wrote Monday on Twitter. The nomination of Mr. Bernhardt, who currently serves in the role in an acting capacity, is subject to confirmation by the Senate, and Mr. Bernhardt's oil and gas ties are certain to come under scrutiny from Democrats. The Interior oversees about 500 million acres of public land.

Trump taps David Bernhardt to be Interior secretary**Politico (Lefebvre)**

President Donald Trump will nominate David Bernhardt to be the new Interior secretary. The announcement in a tweet from the president Monday ends a nearly two-month-long search for a permanent replacement for Ryan Zinke, who in early December announced his resignation amid multiple scandals and ethics investigations. Bernhardt, who was confirmed as Zinke's deputy in July 2017, has been acting Interior chief since the beginning of the year.

Trump Chooses David Bernhardt, a Former Oil Lobbyist, to Head the Interior Dept.**New York Times (Davenport)**

President Trump on Monday announced he would nominate David Bernhardt, a former oil lobbyist and current deputy chief of the Interior Department, to succeed Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who resigned amid allegations of ethical missteps. In a message on Twitter, Mr. Trump wrote, "David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!"

Trump To Nominate David Bernhardt As Permanent Interior Secretary**Huffington Post (D'Angelo)**

President Donald Trump on Monday announced he will nominate David Bernhardt as the 53rd secretary of the Department of the Interior. Bernhardt, a former fossil fuel lobbyist with a slew of potential conflicts of interests, has led the agency in an acting role since scandal-plagued

agency chief Ryan Zinke resigned early last month. "David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" Trump wrote in a Twitter post.

Trump nominates acting Interior secretary for permanent job

New York Post (Schwab)

President Trump announced Monday on Twitter that he was moving acting Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt into the gig full-time. "I am pleased to announce that David Bernhardt, Acting Secretary of the Interior, will be nominated as Secretary of the Interior. David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" Trump wrote.

Trump nominates former lobbyist David Bernhardt to be new Interior chief

Washington Examiner (Siciliano, Siegel)

President Trump announced Monday that his choice to serve as head of the Interior Department is David Bernhardt, a former lobbyist who has been leading the agency on an acting basis. "David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" Trump tweeted. A Trump administration official told the Washington Examiner that White House Acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney broke the news to Bernhardt with a phone call just before the president tweeted.

Trump nominates former oil and agriculture lobbyist David Bernhardt as new Interior secretary

USA Today (LeKing)

President Donald Trump announced on Twitter Monday that he will nominate acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt to the job permanently, saying he has done "a fantastic job from the day he arrived." Bernhardt has been serving temporarily since Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke departed the Trump Cabinet nearly two months ago under an ethics cloud. The Interior Department is a sprawling agency with some 70,000 employees that manages the country's natural resources on land and offshore, and oversees federal lands that collectively make up a fifth of the country.

President names David Bernhardt new Interior secretary

Indian Country Today (Trahant)

President Donald J. Trump announced the appointment of David Bernhardt Jr. as the secretary of the Interior. He replaces Ryan Zinke who resigned in December. The announcement was made via Twitter. Bernhardt is described by Think Progress as "a quintessential revolving-door figure in Washington." The liberal news site described a meeting with lobbyists in late 2017 with MGM Resorts International, who had opposed an effort by two tribes to build a casino in Connecticut.

Trump nominates David Bernhardt to serve as Interior secretary**Washington Times (Howell Jr.)**

President Trump has nominated acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt to take the job permanently, ending his search for someone to replace ousted secretary Ryan Zinke and giving his Cabinet a dose of stability. Mr. Bernhardt, a former energy lobbyist whose clients included oil companies, had been serving in an interim role since Mr. Zinke departed under an ethics cloud at the end of last year. "David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" the president tweeted Monday. Mr. Zinke, a former Navy SEAL and congressman, was nudged out amid a swirl of probes into high-priced travel on government planes and a land deal in his hometown of Whitefish, Montana, that involved the Zinke family and Halliburton Chairman David Lesar.

Trump Will Nominate David Bernhardt to Be DOI Secretary**Pacific Standard (Worby)**

President Donald Trump announced Monday via Twitter that he will nominate David Bernhardt for the position of Secretary of the Interior. Bernhardt has served as acting interior secretary since Ryan Zinke, who faced more than a dozen investigations into his conduct during his time as secretary, left office at the beginning of the year.

Rifle native Bernhardt to be nominated for Interior secretary**Grand Junction Daily Sentinel**

President Donald Trump on Monday announced he will nominate the Department of Interior's acting secretary, Rifle native David Bernhardt, to head the agency. "I am pleased to announce that David Bernhardt, Acting Secretary of the Interior, will be nominated as Secretary of the Interior. David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!" Trump tweeted this afternoon. In response, Bernhardt tweeted: "It's a humbling privilege to be nominated to lead a Department whose mission I love, to accomplish the balanced, common sense vision of our President."

Trump Administration Drills Down on Alaska's Arctic Refuge**Revelator (Lydon)**

The Trump administration is barreling ahead with plans to drill for oil in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the largest refuge in the country and an area of global ecological importance.

As Many Expected, Acting Secretary David Bernhardt Is Nominated To Head Interior Department**Wyoming Public Media (Hegy)**

President Donald Trump took to Twitter to nominate David Bernhardt as the nation's next Interior Secretary. The former oil industry lobbyist and longtime government employee has been acting Secretary since Ryan Zinke stepped down last month amid questions about his ethics and conflicts of interest.

New Interior chief nominee calls agency's 'ethics challenges' an 'inherited' mess

The Hill (Green)

President Trump's new pick to head the Interior Department is blaming the agency's ethical pitfalls on a "mess" inherited by the Obama administration, according to an internal letter obtained by The Hill. In an internal letter sent to Interior staff Friday, David Bernhardt blamed Obama's former National Park's director and others for "an avalanche of ethical misconduct" and vowed to turn the agency around by strengthening its ethics program.

Bernhardt goes on the ethics offensive

E&E News (Doyle)

Acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt is blasting his Democratic predecessors and targeting a former National Park Service director as he touts improvements to the department's ethics bureaucracy. In a pointed and acutely timed missive to Interior's 70,000 employees, Bernhardt declared the department's "ethics infrastructure" had been "badly neglected for far too long." He pinned blame on the Obama administration. "Sadly, our organization's ethics challenges were part of a mess that we inherited," Bernhardt wrote in a departmentwide email on Friday. "The last decade of the Inspector General's reports read like an avalanche of ethical misconduct. No Bureau is exempt from criticism."

Bernhardt nomination reopens sharp debate

E&E News (Doyle)

President Trump's selection of acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt for the department's top job today drew reactions along predictable lines that foreshadowed the confirmation fight to come.

Trump never picked nominees for 150 Senate-confirmed positions

The Week

President Trump's executive branch is still very empty, and that's not just because a massive number of his nominees have resigned. We're two years into Trump's presidency, and nearly a quarter of the approximately 1,200 executive spots that require Senate confirmation are still sitting empty. The Washington Post and the Partnership for Public Service have been tracking about 700 of those positions, and found in an analysis published Monday that 275 of them are still unfilled.

'It's way too many': As vacancies pile up in Trump administration, senators grow

concerned**Washington Post (Eilperin, Dawsey, Kim)**

From the Justice Department to Veterans Affairs, vast swaths of the government have top positions filled by officials serving in an acting capacity — or no one at all. More than two years into Trump's term, the president has an acting chief of staff, attorney general, defense secretary, Office of Management and Budget director and Environmental Protection Agency chief. To deal with the number of vacancies in the upper ranks of departments, agencies have been relying on novel and legally questionable personnel moves that could leave the administration's policies open to court challenges.

'Pockets of problems' delayed employee pay**Greenwire (Hotakainen, Bogardus)**

The Interior Department said today that "isolated pockets of problems" prevented some of its employees from receiving their full back pay after the five-week partial government shutdown.

Interior mulls commercial-scale project on Nev. tribal lands**Greenwire (Streater)**

The Interior Department will conduct a detailed study of a proposed commercial-scale solar power project on the Moapa River Indian Reservation in southeast Nevada, continuing a recent Trump administration trend of advancing large renewables projects.

David Bernhardt's Nomination For Interior Secretary Quickly Criticized**National Parks Traveler (Repanshek)**

A flood of criticism greeted the nomination of David Bernhardt as Interior secretary, with concerns voiced that he will kowtow to the oil and gas industries at the expense of national parks and other public lands. Bernhardt has been acting secretary since Ryan Zinke resigned under pressure in December. His nomination was tweeted by President Trump on Monday.

Agency hit by brain drain, mass retirement**E&E News (Brugger)**

Last Monday morning, acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt greeted employees at the door after the 35-day government shutdown. "I saw a ton of smiles as people headed into work — your enthusiasm for resuming work and reconnecting with your colleagues is fantastic!" he tweeted later that morning. Bernhardt may need more than a smile and a joyous tweet to address looming challenges for the 70,000 employees who work for him.

Rep. TJ Cox releases statement on Secretary of the Interior nomination**KERO (TV) (Broderick)**

Rep. TJ Cox has released a statement on David Bernhardt's nomination as Secretary of the Interior. Cox was recently named to the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife. "The American people want government that is accountable to them, not special interests and Washington insiders. But instead of nominating someone to advocate on behalf of middle-class families and their priorities, the President has chosen yet another Cabinet nominee with a record of fighting for the biggest corporations – polluters and Big Oil. Our subcommittee will exercise aggressive oversight of the Department of the Interior to ensure that its policy decisions are in line with those of the American people and our communities."

Joe Manchin Signals Openness To Trump's Interior Nominee

Daily Caller (Bastash)

West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin took a different tone than many of his Democratic colleagues on news President Donald Trump nominated David Bernhardt to head the Interior Department. While prominent Democrats immediately came out against Bernhardt's nomination, Manchin stressed the Senate's "obligation to advise [and] consent on the President's nominees." Trump announced Bernhardt's nomination Monday.

NOIA applauds nomination of David Bernhardt as next Interior Secretary

World Oil

National Ocean Industries Association President Randall Luthi has issued the following statement regarding the nomination of David Bernhardt as secretary of the interior: "NOIA applauds the nomination of David Bernhardt to be the next secretary of the Department of the Interior (DOI). Having served as acting secretary since January, as deputy secretary since July of 2017, and formerly as solicitor, Bernhardt possesses an impressive depth of experience at the department and knowledge of interior issues. His selection as secretary will assure that important energy and conservation policies will not miss a beat in the transition.

ASPA drilling new wells on east side — this to fix 'salty' taste

Samoa News

The American Samoa Power Authority is drilling five new wells on the eastside of Tutuila to replace high chloride wells causing the "salty" taste in the water in this area. Chloride occurs naturally in groundwater sources. Elevated levels of chloride in a groundwater system can be attributed to various factors that include salt water intrusion due to a well's proximity to the ocean and natural underground salt deposits.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Navajo Nation Council Delegate advocates for proposed New Mexico MMIW task force

Indian Country Today

On February 1, Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Beclabito, Cove,

Gadi'i'áhi/To'Koi, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé ałnáoz't'I'í) joined New Mexico State Senator John Pinto (D – NM District 3) to honor Congresswoman Debra Haaland (D – NM 1st District) through a state proclamation as one of the first Native American women elected to Congress, and for her work in advocating for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, or MMIW.

Cherokee Nation Businesses subsidiary partnering with Department of Interior

Indian Country Today

Cherokee Nation System Solutions is partnering with the Department of Interior through a contract with its Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians. CNSS is working to improve the day-to-day operations at the agency's Trust Beneficiary Call Center. CNSS, a subsidiary of Cherokee Nation Businesses, is providing a wide range of automated and manual customer support services to respond to incoming inquiries and requests. The tribally owned company is helping improve TBCC's range of services by focusing on efficiency, accuracy, employee engagement, management approaches and industry best practices.

Fort Smith woman killed in crash on Crow Reservation

Great Falls Tribune (Rosenbaum)

A 41-year-old Fort Smith woman was killed early Sunday morning in a one-vehicle crash near St. Xavier on the Crow Reservation. According to the Montana Highway Patrol, the crash happened at 7:30 a.m. on Secondary Highway 313 in Big Horn County. The woman was southbound in a 2007 Dodge Dakota when she tried to negotiate a curve while traveling too fast for road conditions. The vehicle crossed the center line and ran off the left side of the road, going over an embankment and rolling.

Demolition Work Begins to Make Way for Elk Grove Casino After Years of Legal Challenges

Casino.org (Conneller)

On Friday, the Wilton Rancheria began the demolition of a "ghost mall" in Elk Grove, California — in preparation for the construction of its controversial \$400 million casino, in partnership with Boyd Gaming. On completion, the development will boast 110,000 square feet of gaming floor, a 302-room hotel tower, restaurants, a spa, and will be the closest casino to Sacramento. It will also house the area's largest convention space outside of downtown Sacramento.

Office of Insular and International Affairs

Bordallo: 'I will not be lobbying'

Guam Daily Post (Kerrigan)

Former Del. Madeleine Bordallo, the Leon Guerrero administration's newly appointed liaison

in Washington, D.C., said she will not be lobbying in Congress. "I work for the governor," she told The Guam Daily Post in a telephone interview from Washington. "I will not be contacting other members of Congress to lobby them for legislation relating to Guam," she said. She added that she knows as a former member of Congress, she cannot lobby current House members for at least one year. "I can make appointments for (the governor), but that's all," she said.

San Nicolas: War reparations checks withheld because of flaw known since May 2018

Guam Daily Post (Kerrigan)

A deficiency in the World War II Loyalty Recognition Act is preventing reparations checks from being mailed to the victims of the Japanese occupation of Guam during the war. "There is a structural deficiency in the law to enable the Treasury to cut the checks. The office knew about this since May of last year, as per Treasury, and said nothing," Del. Michael San Nicolas told The Guam Daily Post, referring to former Del. Madeleine Bordallo's office.

Public warned of rip currents, strong waves

Saipan Tribune

A small craft advisory is now in effect in the CNMI until 6am Thursday due to rough coastal waters on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. A high surf advisory is now in effect until early Tuesday morning along north facing reefs. Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, an east-northeast swell will continue affecting the Marianas. Moderate to fresh trade winds with strong gusts and combined seas of 8 to 11 feet were projected through last night, to slowly diminish through the night. The seas, however, were expected to continue to generate hazardous conditions for operators of small craft through Wednesday night. Conditions will then diminish below advisory levels by early Thursday morning.

Over 1,200 People Have Applied For Work With Bryan Administration; Some Cabinet Heads Will Be Announced Ahead Of Inauguration

VI Consortium

About 1,200 individuals have submitted their resumes in search of work with the incoming Bryan administration, Richard Motta, the transition team's press secretary told The Consortium this morning. He said because of this, members of the transition team have been painstakingly going through applications to assure that the most qualified are chosen. "Where they are at in the process is they got over 1,200 resumes, so they are really trying to be dutiful in how they screen," he said.

Masses of debris collected in CNMI following Yutu

Radio New Zealand

About 76,500 cubic metres of debris has been collected on the Northern Marianas island of

Saipan in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu. The Saipan Mayor's Office has been running the clean up of villages and streets six days a week in the aftermath of the storm, which hit the island and neighboring Tinian in October. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has brought in two burners to help speed up the disposal of green waste like leaves, tree branches and wood.

Bureau of Land Management

National Parks Reportedly Lost Out On Nearly \$11 Million During Shutdown

Daily Caller (Pearce)

The National Park Service (NPS) missed out on nearly \$11 million in revenue from park visitors during the 35-day partial government shutdown, The Hill reports. NPS officials completely or partially closed many national parks during the shutdown. Of the parks that remained open, maintenance and sanitation services were limited as employees were furloughed.

BLM Alaska axed pipeline regulatory positions — document

Energywire (Brugger)

A document obtained by E&E News reveals that the Bureau of Land Management's Alaska office eliminated positions that regulate the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System.

Agencies Rush to Get Ready for Wildfire Season Following Shutdown

KUAZ (Radio) (Gibson)

Federal firefighting agencies had to postpone trainings, prescribed burns and hiring during the shutdown, which may affect how prepared their firefighters are for wildfire season. Firefighters in the National Forest Service, National Parks Service and Bureau of Land Management will have to reschedule workshops they missed, prepare the land and the paperwork for prescribed burns that had to be cancelled, and rehire seasonal firefighters for wildfire season. They hope they can do it all before wildfire season hits Arizona.

BLM state offices resume lease sale preparations after shutdown

Oil & Gas Journal (Snow)

Several US Bureau of Land Management state offices resumed preparations for scheduled oil and gas lease sales soon after the 35-day federal government partial shutdown ended. Lease sales in Alaska, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Montana, and South Dakota are in various stages, but all are moving ahead, OGC has found. Perhaps the highest-profile upcoming federal onshore oil and gas lease sale will be for parcels on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's coastal plain. BLM scheduled public meetings in seven Alaska communities and one in Washington, DC, during February about the proposed lease sale's draft environmental impact statement, which it issued on Dec. 21, 2018. It also extended the public comment

period to Mar. 13.

Shutdown won't delay oil and gas sale in Wyoming, conservationists condemn 'rush'

KPVI (TV) (Beam)

Environmental groups are crying foul that oil and gas lease sales will continue despite lost time during the 35-day partial government shutdown. Federal officials in Wyoming say they are ready to move forward with two scheduled lease sales — including the first of four auctions that the agency is required to hold every year — having collected and reviewed public comments on whether these acres should be offered to industry. The first-quarter auction on March 19 and 20 will offer 140 parcels, totaling 148,909 acres of Wyoming land for development, including wildlife habitat that environmental groups argue should not be leased for development.

Missoula Search and Rescue crews braved bitter cold to locate snowmobilers

KULR (TV)

Missoula County Search and Rescue members, deputies from the Missoula County Sheriff's Office and members for the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management were called out late Sunday to search for two snowmobilers. The Missoula County Sheriff's Office posted on Facebook just after 9:00 p.m. Sunday that two snowmobilers were reported missing after they were separated from their group around 4:30 p.m. in the Lolo Hot Springs area. "Please keep these individuals and rescue personnel in your thoughts and prayers as they head out tonight," read the post.

Bill would freeze fracking permits during impact study

Santa Fe New Mexican (Moss)

When you're driving at night through Counselor, on U.S. 550, the horizon takes on a dusky illumination, almost like daylight, Samuel Sage said during a Monday news conference in Santa Fe. Bright light flares from natural gas being burned off as part of oil and gas production, which has become increasingly common in that area of northwestern New Mexico, particularly since 2013, said Sage, a member of the Navajo Nation's Counselor Chapter House. Sage was among several environmental advocates who gathered at the state Capitol in support of a bill that, if passed, would create a four-year moratorium on any new state permits for hydraulic fracturing — a type of deep horizontal drilling that injects high-pressured fluid below ground.

Oil and gas leases in Beaverhead, Madison counties on hold

Montana Standard (Dunlap)

Oil and gas leasing on 12,889 acres in Beaverhead and Madison counties has been deferred indefinitely, a Bureau of Land Management official said Monday. But that doesn't mean the leases are dead forever. Cornelia Hudson, BLM Dillon field office manager, said the agency

got so many negative public comments last month on the proposed oil and gas leases that the BLM deferred those parcels.

Protesters take over ANWR environmental scoping meeting

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner (McGroarty)

Activists pushing against oil development in the 1002 Coastal Plain area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge took over a public scoping meeting Monday evening that was initially supposed to go very differently. Unlike past public hearings, this meeting was organized in an open-house style, according to Joe Balash, the Department of the Interior's assistant secretary for Land and Minerals Management. Scientists stood near poster signage explaining the environmental impact statement draft process and two court stenographers sat behind a curtain to take testimony from members of the public.

Education, involvement key to Utah archaeological site protection

Daily Universe (Bigelow)

Utah archaeological sites have a "long history" of looting and vandalism, according to the Bureau of Land Management's 2017 accomplishment report. BYU experts say education and appropriate participation in archaeological experiences can go a long way in curbing damage to ancestral sites. BYU assistant history professor Brenden Rensink said educating the public on the importance of archaeological sites is a good starting point in preventing theft and other damages. BYU assistant archaeology professor Michael Searcy said he visits fourth-grade classes across Utah to teach about the state's history, which includes information on historical sites and monuments. Shawn Lambert, the public archaeologist for the Utah State Historic Preservation Office, said he and other public archaeologists primarily work with communities to increase awareness for historical sites.

Input sought on off road vehicle recreation

Red Bluff Daily News

The Bureau of Land Management's Redding Field Office is accepting public input on management needs and projects that would benefit off-highway vehicle recreation on public lands. The BLM will accept comments and suggestions at a public meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12 at the Redding Field Office, 6640 Lockheed Drive, Redding. Anyone interested can mail comments to the BLM at the above address, zip code 96002, or send them by email to szeffera@blm.gov. The BLM must receive comments by 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14. Staff at the field office will use public comments and suggestions to develop a preliminary grant application to the California State Parks, Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Federal Hearings On Vineyard Wind Return Feb. 11-15

North American Windpower (Lillian)

Following a delay due to the government shutdown, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has announced a new schedule for public hearings on Vineyard Wind's proposed project. The newly scheduled hearings will take place during the week of Feb. 11-15 in Massachusetts in Hyannis, New Bedford, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, as well as Narragansett, R.I.

BOEM updates public hearing dates for Vineyard Wind's proposed offshore project

Windpower Engineering & Development (Froese)

The United States' Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has announced a new schedule for public hearings to accept comments on the agency's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Vineyard Wind's proposed 800-MW wind farm to be constructed in federal waters south of Martha's Vineyard and approximately 34 miles south of the Cape Cod mainland. The will hearings take place during the week of February 11 to 15 in Hyannis, New Bedford, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Narragansett, RI. BOEM has reopened the public comment period for the Vineyard Wind DEIS. Comments should be submitted no later than February 22.

Vineyard Wind hearing rescheduled for Valentine's Day

Standard-Times (Barnes)

After more than a month's delay due to the government shutdown, a public hearing on the environmental effects of Vineyard Wind has been rescheduled for Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. The hearing in New Bedford is one of five across the region that will address environmental issues in Vineyard Wind's construction and operations plan. The U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is collecting public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement before the draft is finalized.

Vineyard Wind Files Emergency Motion to Stay ISO-NE Auction

RTO Insider (Kuser)

Vineyard Wind on Monday filed an emergency motion for FERC to stay ISO-NE's 13th Forward Capacity Auction, claiming it "will suffer irreparable injury" if it is not afforded renewable technology resource (RTR) status in the auction, which was scheduled to begin the same day the company submitted its request (ER19-570, ER19-444). Resources obtaining RTR status are exempted from the auction's minimum offer price rule (MOPR).

Stuttering outlook for Gulf of Mexico

Petroleum Engineer (Slaton, Abraham)

After a challenging 2018 that saw project momentum in the US Gulf of Mexico (GOM) falter amid weaker oil prices, the outlook for drilling activity in 2019 appears diminished. The November price declines could have a chilling effect on investment, amid rising project costs. It marks a contrast with the situation in early 2018, when oil prices were high and deep layoffs,

sustained cost-cutting, new technology, and optimisation had stripped the industry down to lean and mean. Sustained relief on commodity prices, which rose above \$60/bbl and even above \$70/bbl, was felt and welcomed. Also welcomed were changes in the US tax landscape. The December 2017 tax restructuring reduced corporate income tax rates and revised capital expenditures. Higher spending was expected to result from taking deductions for capex in the year they occur.

Fishermen Want More Time to Negotiate Over Wind

ecoRI (Faulkner)

Lanny Dellinger, a Newport, R.I.-based lobsterman and chairman of the Fishermen's Advisory Board, said fishermen are being rushed to accept a compensation offer for the harm they say will be caused by the Vineyard Wind offshore project. "It's like being pushed into the (real estate) closing without seeing the appraisal," Dellinger said. There's no doubt that the project developer is in a hurry. Vineyard Wind needs approval from the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) soon so that construction can begin on the 84-turbine project and qualify for a federal tax credit. Any changes to the layout of the project or the compensation offer will add weeks or months to the application process, and delay pending permits from Massachusetts.

South Carolina, feds spar on limits in seismic testing lawsuit

Brunswick News (Wolfe)

With at least three weeks of funding approved by Congress, lawyers for the federal government in civil cases got back to work, and that included responses to states' motions to intervene in a lawsuit in Charleston, S.C., federal court seeking to block offshore seismic testing. There are two motions — one by nine different states, including Massachusetts and Virginia, which call themselves commonwealths — and one by South Carolina, on its own. Attorneys for the federal defendants — the National Marine Fisheries Service, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Assistant Administrator of Fisheries Chris Oliver — wrote in their response that they and the nine states agree with the the conditions placed on the states allowing them to intervene as plaintiffs.

Bureau of Reclamation

'Close Is Not Done;' What's Next For Arizona's Drought Contingency Plan?

KJZZ 91.5 FM (Radio) (Brodie)

On Thursday, Gov. Doug Ducey signed Arizona's Drought Contingency Plan, hours ahead of a federally-imposed deadline. But the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation on Friday asked Colorado River states for input on potential water cutbacks the Interior Department could have to make, saying "close isn't done." To talk about what's next, John Fleck, director of the University of New Mexico Water Resources Program, joined The Show.

Beyond Drought: 7 states rebalance their Colorado River use as global warming dries the

region**Fence Post (Gulch)**

As major reservoirs shrink with the changing climate, seven states seek a sustainable future for the critical regional water source. The Colorado River watershed may be reaching a climate tipping point, drying under the influence of global warming to the point that states and tribes in the basin can no longer put off a day of reckoning about the water allocations that have been their lifeblood for the past century.

California Talks and Deadline Drama Cloud Arizona's Approval of Drought Plan**Phoenix New Times (Flaherty)**

The status of the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan remains uncertain because of players outside of Arizona, in spite of legislation signed by Governor Doug Ducey last week authorizing Arizona to join a seven-state drought plan for the Colorado River region. Contradicting Ducey's office, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation said Arizona and California did not finalize the plan by a January 31 deadline, so the federal government will prepare to intervene to prevent disaster on the river. Meanwhile, an influential irrigation district in California is negotiating past the deadline for more federal funding before the district's board formally approves the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP).

Joining 6 States, Arizona Agrees to Use Less Water From Colorado River**Tribune News Service (Davis)**

"Everyone will feel pain" was the mantra emanating from supporters of Arizona's drought plan for the Colorado River as it wound through the Legislature. It is true that under the plan, now embedded in state law, the major water users served by the \$4 billion Central Arizona Project -- cities, tribes and farms -- will all take a hit.

What's next for the parched Colorado? The latest on the West's drought drama.**Grist (Holthaus)**

A major deadline just passed without unanimous agreement among Western states over the future of the Colorado River, so the federal government is one step closer to stepping in on the dwindling river that provides water for 1-in-8 Americans. The path forward has become murkier for the drought-stricken region now in its 19th year of low water levels after a January 31 deadline failed to garner signed agreements from Arizona and California.

Deal or No Deal, Colorado River's Problems Roll on**Voice of San Diego (Rivard)**

For decades, Arizona and California have been fighting over how to share the Colorado River, which provides water to 40 million in the western United States and Mexico. Last week,

Arizona lawmakers rushed to bless a deal that changes how states share the river. The voluntary deal is supposed to prevent federal bureaucrats at the Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation from stepping in to ration the river. The deal is meant to do two things. States would forgo water to avoid a doomsday if a two-decade drought continues much longer. That's good for everyone.

Bureau of Reclamation still accepting suggestions to address low-water concerns at Lake Mead

KLAS (TV) (Jaramillo)

The rainy weather and snow that's been accumulating in southern Nevada this winter will help the water levels at Lake Mead, but the area still needs a lot more. Until we get more The Bureau of Reclamation is constantly monitoring and studying the levels. In the event that water elevation decreases below, 1,050-foot officials have developed a plan to address operational needs because due to the government shutdown, the public wasn't able to provide comment on the low water plan for Lake Mead, so an extension has been provided through Feb.15.

Fish and Wildlife Service

Researcher: Wash. could have far more wolves than we thought

Greenwire

The number of wolves in Washington state is likely much higher than previously thought, according to a University of Washington researcher who spent two years studying the animals using scat-sniffing dogs.

Rocky Mountain National Park investigating two cases of elk poaching

Loveland Reporter-Herald (Byars)

Rocky Mountain National Park rangers are investigating two instances of elk poaching in the park last September. According to a release, a large bull elk was found shot alongside Trail Ridge Road near Milner Pass on Sept. 12. The elk's head had been cut off, with the rest of the carcass left behind. Another large bull elk was found shot on Sept. 22 next to Trail Ridge Road near the Ute Crossing Trail, south of Forest Canyon Overlook.

Award Announced For Two Cases Of Bull Elk Poaching Along Trail Ridge Road

KCNC (TV)

Officials with the Rocky Mountain National Park announced a \$2,000 reward for information about two elk poaching cases from September of 2018. Park Rangers are hoping to find the person or people responsible for the crimes. They say on Sept. 12, rangers found a bull elk dead and decapitated alongside Trail Ridge Road near Milner Pass. They believe the deadly shooting happened either during the night of Sept. 11 or early that morning on Sept. 12.

Wildlife-Based Recreation Contributes \$1 Billion to Wyoming Economy

SweetwaterNOW

If you don't think wildlife recreation doesn't have an effect on the Cowboy State coffers, think again. Hunters, anglers and wildlife watchers in Wyoming contributed more than \$1 billion to Wyoming's economy during 2017, according to a new analysis by the University of Wyoming. It's a 2.3 percent increase from 2016 due to more people heading outdoors. "Wyoming has some of the best wildlife watching in the country, and the hunting and fishing opportunities here are sought after because of the high-quality wildlife, access and the outdoor experience with friends and family," said John Kennedy, acting Wyoming Game and Fish Department director. "We're glad to host everyone who chooses to enjoy Wyoming's wildlife."

Turtle-smuggling ex-journalist admits poaching thousands of protected terrapins from New Jersey marshes

Associated Press

A Pennsylvania man and former reporter has pleaded guilty to trafficking protected turtles. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania says David Sommers, 64, of Levittown, on Monday admitted to sending a package to Canada in 2014 containing 11 diamondback terrapin hatchlings. Sommers allegedly caught and sold the turtles in 2017 and sold them to to Canada three years later in a box that said a \$10 book was inside, the U.S. Attorney's Office has said.

NSSF says hunting participation on the decline, target shooting increasing

Guns.com

The National Shooting Sports Foundation said hunting participation is down while participation in target shooting is going up. The the gun industry trade association discussed the shift in a seminar titled Industry Data and New Shooter Recruitment held at SHOT Show in Las Vegas in late January. Speaking on the subject of participation and recruitment, NSSF Director of Research and Market Development Jim Curcuruto told a room packed with SHOT Show attendees ranging from media to manufacturers to gun shop owners that while hunting is on the decline, target shooting is now getting the attention of many gun owners.

Fish and Wildlife Service to host Great Backyard Bird Count

Inter-Mountain

Those participating will meet at 9 a.m. Feb. 16 at Glendale Park in Elkins. No experience is necessary; experienced birders will be on hand. Bring binoculars if you have them. There will be a few pairs to loan out, as well as some guidebooks. New to birding, or want to introduce birding to your kids? This is the perfect place to start.

Montana Resources says Butte comes first in getting water

Montana Standard (Dunlap)

Montana Resources wants Silver Lake water to help augment the stream in Silver Bow Creek. MR has been in negotiations with Butte-Silver Bow County for roughly a year and a half to reach an agreement that would provide Silver Lake water to the creek in the hot summer months when fish are most stressed and water flows suffer. Mark Thompson, MR vice president for environmental affairs, said the mine wants to put Butte first.

National Park Service**Lawmakers to examine NPS spending during shutdown****E&E News (Hotakainen)**

When the National Park Service used visitor fee revenues to keep sites open during the partial government shutdown, Rep. Betty McCollum immediately cried foul.

The National Parks' iconic typeface has never been digitized—until now**Fast Company (Schwab)**

If you've ever been to a National Park, chances are you've come across signage with the same distinctive lettering. The type, which features rounded edges carved into wood in all caps, has become an icon of the National Parks system. But it turns out that this text isn't an actual typeface, as information designer Jeremy Shellhorn discovered when he was working as designer-in-residence at Rocky Mountain National Park in 2013.

National Park Service lost millions during partial government shutdown**Federal News Network (White)**

It looks like the National Park Service lost between \$10 million and \$11 million during the partial government shutdown. The Hill reported an internal email sent to NPS staff suggesting it had a detrimental effect on worker morale. Attorneys are investigating if it was legal for the Interior Department to use recreation fees to pay for maintenance and trash collection.

Mountain Goat reduction plan open for comment**KIFI (TV)**

The National Park Service (NPS) is accepting public comments through February 15 on a plan to remove mountain goats from Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. NPS is considering three alternatives. The first would allow the current goat population to continue to be monitored with no active efforts to reduce it. The second would lethally remove them from the park using aerial and ground-based "techniques." The third option is capture and translocation in which lethal methods would be used to reduce mountain goat population.

Shrimp trawler breaks apart on Outer Banks in treacherous ‘Graveyard of the Atlantic’**Charlotte Observer (Price)**

The shrimp trawler Big John ran ashore and broke into countless pieces early Monday along North Carolina’s Outer Banks, adding another sunken hull to the so called “Graveyard of the Atlantic.” Photos show what’s left of the ship off Cape Point in the surf, and a wide debris field on the sand. The ship, based out of Wanchese, is believed to have overturned before sinking, said a press release from the National Park Service.

With more rain, ‘miracle’ wildflower blooms will blanket LA**Curbed (Chandler)**

November fires bring May flowers. In the wake of wildfires—followed by lots of rain—Los Angeles might be treated to an extraordinary display of wildflowers this spring. It’s too soon to predict whether there will be a super bloom as remarkable as the one that covered the region in 2017. But if the weather doesn’t get too hot and if rain continues to fall over the next couple of months, odds are favorable that a rainbow of blooms will carpet Southern California’s hillsides, mountains, and deserts. “We’re optimistic that it’s going to be a good one,” says Mark Mendelsohn, a National Park Service biologist stationed in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Park service awards \$613K to protect Summit Point land**Herald-Mail Media (Shea)**

The National Park Service recently awarded a \$613,930 grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program to help acquire 280 acres of Summit Point Battlefield, a significant Civil War site. "Some of the most defining moments in our nation’s history were decided by conflicts that played out on hallowed grounds like this battlefield," P. Daniel Smith, deputy director of the park service, said in a news release. "In partnership with local communities and the Public Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle, this grant will help preserve this battlefield for future generations."

Too much snow leaves families stranded at lodge near Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks**KMPH (TV) (Gonzalez)**

The latest storm system to hit the Central Valley and surrounding mountains is being blamed for leaving more than 100 people stranded at a lodge near Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks. "We came here to celebrate my husband's birthday," says Alejandra Arita, who traveled with her family from the San Fernando Valley to Montecito Sequoia Lodge on Friday. "He always wanted to experience the snow, activities in the snow."

Cape Hatteras National Seashore seeks volunteers for large beach cleanup in Frisco

WITN (TV)

Cape Hatteras National Seashore is seeking volunteers who would like to help National Park Service staff clear a large debris field that was left Monday morning by the Big John shrimp trawler wreckage. The beach cleanup will take place Tuesday, February 5, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Individuals interested in volunteering should meet National Park Service staff at the entrance to off-road vehicle (ORV) ramp 49 in Frisco.

U.S. Geological Survey**Northern California's Cascadia Subduction Zone Hit by 11 Earthquakes Over Weekend****Newsweek (Georgiou)**

Over the weekend, nearly a dozen earthquakes struck within a relatively small region just off the coast of Northern California, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The 11 quakes ranged in magnitude between 2.9 and 4.5 on the Richter scale. Tremors from 3.0 up to 3.9 are considered “minor”—although they can often be felt—whereas quakes that measure between 4.0 and 4.9 are classified as “light” on the scale. The first of the quakes occurred beneath the ocean, around 11 miles west of Petrolia, a small community of about 500 people located in Humboldt County. It struck at 4:30 p.m. PT on Friday with a magnitude of 2.9, at a depth of 4.5 miles.

USGS: Over a dozen earthquakes rattle North Coast since Friday**KRCR (TV) (Papanek)**

Over a dozen earthquakes above a 2.5 magnitude have rattled the North Coast since Friday, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. On Feb. 1 at around 4:30 p.m. a 2.9 magnitude earthquake struck 11 miles off the coast of Petrolia, according to the USGS. Then, about 11 hours later, on Feb. 2 just before 3 a.m., a 4.3 magnitude earthquake hit about 7 miles off the coast. Less than 30 minutes later, a 3.2 magnitude hit in the same area, 8 miles off the coast of Petrolia.

3.6 evening quake strikes near Anchorage**KTVA (TV)**

A minor earthquake struck near Anchorage Monday evening, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The 3.6 temblor struck at 6:15 p.m. Monday, based on USGS data. It was focused 9.6 miles north-northwest of Anchorage, at a depth of 20.3 miles. At least a dozen responses from people in the area reported feeling the quake, according to the USGS.

Bill aims to stop chronic wasting disease**Feedstuffs**

Bipartisan legislation aimed at combating the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) within

the deer population was recently reintroduced by Rep. Ralph Abraham (R., La.). The bill, H.R. 837, calls for the secretaries of agriculture and interior to partner with the National Academies of Science to study and identify the ways CWD is transmitted among wild, captive and farmed cervids (deer, caribou, elk and moose).

Weekend rains bring flooding to Oak Creek, Verde River (with videos)

Camp Verde Bugle

February has always been the month for floods in the Verde Valley and this weekend was no exception. This past weekend's rains saw Oak Creek swell to nearly 7,000 cubic feet per second and the Verde River in Clarkdale saw its flow rise to more than 4,500 cfs. By 10 a.m. Monday, the Verde river had risen to about 10,000 cfs.

Why charismatic, introduced species are so difficult to manage

Phys.org

Introduced and invasive species can present big problems, particularly when those species are charismatic, finds a recently published paper in the Ecological Society of America's journal *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. People tend to have a more favorable view of species that are large; do not bite, crawl, or squirm; are not oily or slimy; or are culturally valued. Some introduced species, like zebra mussels, tend to be reviled by the public, and people willingly adhere to strict management policies.

US Geological Survey delegation to visit Uzbekistan for co-op discussion

AzerNews

A delegation of the US Geological Survey (USGS) will visit Uzbekistan on February 4-7, Trend reports via Uzbek media. The representatives of USGS agreed on that with the leadership Uzbek State Committee on Geology during negotiations that were held in the framework of implementation of agreements reached during the visit of US Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross to Uzbekistan in October 2018. The sides thoroughly exchanged views on building up mutually beneficial cooperation in areas defined by the Uzbek-US intergovernmental Agreement on scientific and technical cooperation of 2012.

Opinion

Editorial: Trump's acting administration

San Francisco Chronicle (Editorial Board)

From a chaotic post-election transition to an unprecedented shutdown, President Trump's indifference to the workings of the government he was elected to run has been unmistakable. Among the most dangerous symptoms of this carelessness is his failure to field any semblance of a stable senior staff. The administration's constant purging of prominent members has been the most visible facet of its personnel problems, having left half a dozen Cabinet-level officials

— more than a quarter of them — serving in an acting capacity: the attorney general, defense secretary, interior secretary, Environmental Protection Agency administrator, chief of staff and Office of Management and Budget director. But a new analysis shows that the ranks beneath these officials are even more ragged.

Guest opinion: D.C. versus Idaho's plan to save the sage grouse

Idaho Press-Tribune (Otter)

It is a great Idaho tradition to complain that the federal government in Washington, D.C., never listens to the people of the Gem State. In the case of the greater sage grouse, President Trump and his team at the Department of the Interior heard our message and are finally making things right for the species and for Idahoans. This journey began with an invitation by former Obama administration Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Fish and Wildlife Service Director Don Ashe to participate in developing state-based sage grouse management plans in order to foil litigation by environmentalists to list the bird under the Endangered Species Act. It was suggested to me and other Western governors that if we developed our plans cooperatively with the federal government, we would have the chance to balance the economic needs of our states with what was need to conserve the species.

Other Opinions: We must stop the political do-over on the Twin Metals mine

Detroit Lakes (Halter)

I remember the day the Mount Polley mine failed. Mount Polley is a copper and gold mine in British Columbia, and on Aug. 4, 2014, a tailings basin dam catastrophically failed. Four short days later, the nearly 1,000-acre tailings basin was largely empty, having released 26 million cubic yards of water, silt and toxic tailings into nearby lakes and rivers.

Yellowstone wolves should be off limits to hunting

Bozeman Daily Chronicle (Strong)

A new bill introduced in the Montana Senate (SB 185) would close areas along the northern border of Yellowstone National Park to wolf hunting and trapping. The bill speaks to a decades-long debate over whether some level of protection should exist for wolves that primarily live within the park but occasionally wander into Montana. SB 185 would effectively close two “wolf management units” adjacent to the northern boundary of the park. Under current hunting and trapping regulations, only a total of four wolves can be killed in these two areas.

Top National News

Trump to Call for Bipartisanship as He Threatens to Declare Emergency

Wall Street Journal (Ballhaus)

President Trump in Tuesday’s State of the Union is expected to issue a plea for national unity

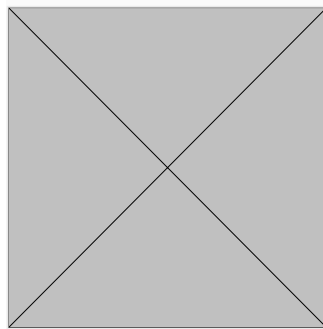
at a moment of deep partisan divisions, with the Democratic-controlled House and the White House at an impasse over spending priorities while Mr. Trump threatens to do an end-run around both chambers of Congress to pay for a wall on the southern U.S. border. Mr. Trump's call for bipartisanship will be a contrast with his recent assertions that bipartisan efforts to reach a deal on border security are a "waste of time." Last week, he said there was a "good chance" he would declare a national emergency over immigration, in which he would attempt to divert funds from elsewhere in the administration to pay for a border wall without congressional approval. The move would face immediate court challenges.

Puerto Rico Wins Approval of \$18 Billion Bond Restructuring

Wall Street Journal (Scurria)

Puerto Rico won court approval Monday for a restructuring deal that wipes out one-third of its \$18 billion in sales-tax bond debt, a milestone in its quest to fix its broken finances. U.S. District Judge Laura Taylor Swain confirmed a debt adjustment plan covering the revenue bonds known as Cofinas, marking the largest renegotiation yet of the U.S. territory's bond and pension obligations. The write-downs imposed on the Cofina bonds, first issued as rescue financing in 2007, will save the island government \$17 billion in interest and principal payments over the coming decades as it tries to reverse a decade of economic decline and out-migration.

Date	Host	Title
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3/20	ACORE	Renewable Energy Policy Forum



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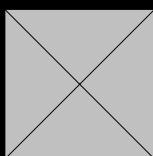
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DOI News

[**Bernhardt's past work as solicitor sheds light on his future**](#)

Greenwire (Doyle)

Back when Donald Trump was but a businessman with a gleam in his eye, David Bernhardt was putting a distinctive stamp on the Interior Department during a formative tour as the department's solicitor.

[**U.S. Department of Interior Sec. David Bernhardt talks energy independence**](#)

in Hobbs

Carlsbad Current-Argus (Hedden)

During his State of the Union address President Donald Trump championed American energy independence as the country becomes a major global producer of oil and gas. The next day on Wednesday, Acting Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt traveled to the heart of one of the nation's biggest oil plays in southeast New Mexico and a region, he said, was a cornerstone to achieving the President's goals. Bernhardt met with workers at Watson Hopper in Hobbs, where oil rigs were being built to service operations in the Permian Basin.

The Latest: Trump official touts lease sales in New Mexico

Associated Press (Hobbs)

A top Trump administration official is touting record sales for oil and gas leases under the U.S. Bureau of Land Management as he seeks to promote energy development on public lands. Acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt says the federal agency last year generated \$1.1 billion from oil and gas lease sales, making 2018 its highest-grossing year.

Sen. Cramer on the Nomination of David Bernhardt as Department of Interior Secretary

KVLY (TV)

U.S. Senator Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) issued the following statement on the nomination of David Bernhardt as Department of Interior Secretary: "It's good to see President Trump nominate someone as experienced as David Bernhardt. As chairman of the EPW Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife, we oversee the Department of Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I look forward to meeting with Mr. Bernhardt to discuss the ways we can work together."

National Audubon Society Reacts to Nomination of David Bernhardt as Secretary of the Interior

Sierra Sun Times

"The Interior Secretary's job is to balance development interests with protecting public lands and wildlife. To date, the Interior Department leadership has fallen short in meeting their obligations to steward our nation's natural resources for our children and grandchildren," said Sarah Greenberger, senior vice president for conservation policy at National Audubon Society after news broke that David Bernhardt had been nominate to lead the Department of the Interior. "We don't have to undermine bedrock wildlife laws that protect birds and endangered species, sell off public lands to the highest bidder and open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling. We expect the Senate will only confirm a nominee who makes clear their commitment to right the course for future generations and hew more closely to the spirit of the agency's conservation mission."

Some outdoor organizations reject Trump's Interior Secretary nomination

SNEWS (Arevesen)

President Donald Trump has nominated a former oil and gas lobbyist as Secretary of the Interior, which, according to several outdoor advocacy organizations, doesn't bode well for public lands. Trump appointed David Bernhardt as deputy secretary to Ryan Zinke, and has been running the Interior since the Montanan stepped down last December.

Lawmakers ask for GAO review of Interior's decisions during government shutdown

Federal News Network (Ogrysko)

A few members of Congress are growing increasingly skeptical of the Trump administration's decisions to reopen certain agency functions as the recent government shutdown dragged on to the longest in U.S. history. Reps. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.), chairwoman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, and Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.), chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, are asking the Government Accountability Office to conduct an official review of certain actions the Trump administration took to keep national parks open during the 35-day government shutdown.

Interior Says New Rule Makes It Easier To Get Public Records, But Will It?

Wyoming Public Media (Hegyi)

When Ryan Zinke, a former Navy SEAL, resigned from his post as U.S. Interior Department secretary on Jan. 2, he was under fire on multiple fronts. There was an ongoing federal investigation into his role in a real estate deal between Zinke's family foundation and the head of oil giant Halliburton. Rumors swirled that his office tried to replace the head of Interior's internal watchdog with a Trump political appointee.

Federal Oil And Gas Lease Sales Break \$1 Billion In 2018, Nearly Triple Previous Record

Daily Caller (Pearce)

Federal oil and gas lease sales earned roughly \$1.1 billion in 2018, nearly tripling the previous record set a decade ago, Acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt announced Wednesday. Oil and gas lease sales generated about \$408 million in revenue to the federal and state governments in 2008. Preliminary data indicates that 2018's sales have safely shattered that record.

Trump: We cannot continue to spend 'billions' on 'preventable' forest fires

The Hill (Samuels)

President Trump on Wednesday appeared to ease off his threat to cut disaster funding for California forest fire victims, but emphasized there should be action to prevent future blazes. "I told my people, I said we cannot continue to spend billions of dollars, billions and billions of dollars," Trump told regional reporters at the White House. "Forest fires are totally preventable. They shouldn't happen."

Republicans push back at first climate hearings

The Hill (Green)

Democratic leaders asserted their newfound control of the House on Wednesday by convening two key committee hearings on climate change that each emphasized the need for swift action on curbing greenhouse gas emissions after years of inaction under former Republican leadership. The two simultaneous hearings held by the House Natural Resources and Energy and Commerce committees Wednesday were the first in nine and six years respectively to focus on fixing climate change.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Inside One Native Tribe's Decades-Long Fight For Recognition

Pacific Standard (Furshong)

Hill 57 stands at the western edge of Great Falls, Montana, toffee-colored and treeless beneath a gray winter sky. The weather is unusually mild for mid-January, and tufts of grass poke through patches of melting snow. At the foot of the hill, a small blue warehouse has been converted to a tribal cultural center. The building's dirt parking lot is packed full of cars and pick-up trucks with license plates from across the state.

American Indian/Alaska Native Public Witness Hearings

Indian Country Today

The Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies will hold public witness hearings on Tuesday, February 26 for non-tribal programs, and March 6 and 7 for tribal programs. In addition to the public witness hearings, written testimony will be accepted in accordance with the guidelines below. All written testimony will be reviewed by the subcommittee and will be included in the public record.

How Pamunkey Tribe's proposed \$700 million casino could bring gaming to Virginia

Indian Country Today (Schilling)

In 2016, the Pamunkey Tribe in Virginia received federal recognition in Virginia, becoming the first tribe in that state to be recognized. Now, in 2019, the Pamunkey are seeking to secure land in Norfolk, Virginia to begin building a proposed \$700 million casino. With this \$700

million dollar casino, the Pamunkey—who received recognition in 2016 through the federal BIA process—are setting a precedent that has not been seen in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The state will have gaming for the first time.

Native Americans protest border wall at site of Texas butterfly habitat

The Hill (Folley)

A group of Native Americans on Monday protested President Trump's plans to build a border wall which will cut through a protected natural habitat for butterflies. The protest was at the National Butterfly Center in Mission, Texas. The barrier is expected to pass through the butterfly refuge, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

Office of Insular and International Affairs

\$722 Million Spent on Hurricane Recovery So Far – \$894 Million More on the Way

St. Thomas Source (Knight)

In the 16 months after the 2017 hurricanes, the U.S. Virgin Islands has spent roughly \$722 million in disaster funds so far, spread across various local government agencies, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency has obligated \$894 million for approved projects, according to Finance Commissioner Nominee Kirk Callwood.

Governor willing to work with Kilili to address NMI immigration issues

Marianas Variety (Erediano)

Governor Ralph DLG Torres said he wants to work with U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan in addressing CNMI immigration issues. These include ensuring that the individuals on humanitarian parole can remain in the CNMI. In a letter dated Jan. 25, Torres told Kilili that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director L. Francis Cissna has informed him, the governor, of the Trump administration's "interest in securing legislative remedy." Torres said the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's decision to end the humanitarian parole in the Commonwealth has "impacted hundreds of individuals who have lived and called the CNMI home for years."

China releases footage of 'Guam killer' missile in 'clear message to US'

South China Morning Post

China has revealed footage of its next-generation Dongfeng-26 ballistic missile showing improved stability and accuracy, a move analysts say aims to send a message to the United States about its military strength. Footage of the missile was released for the first time in a report on state broadcaster CCTV, amid intensifying military rivalry between China and the U.S. Four fin-like flight control surfaces are seen around the missile nose in the report on an

exercise in northwest China. The People's Liberation Army Rocket Force launched at least one DF-26 missile during the drill.

Torres to lobby DC on H-2B

Saipan Tribune (Perez)

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is set to leave for Washington, D.C. in the third week of February to attend the National Governors Association's winter meeting and, at the same time, meet with some federal officials to talk about the H-2B program. The NGA meeting is set from Feb. 22 to 25. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently removed the Philippines from its list of countries whose workers are eligible for H-2B visas.

USVI Still 'Mired in Financial Crisis'; Structural Deficit at \$415M

St. Thomas Source (Knight)

The U.S. Virgin Islands is still in a state of financial crisis, and the government's structural debt has continued to increase, Gov. Albert Bryan's financial team told the Senate Finance Committee Tuesday in remarks that echoed Bryan's State of the Territory address. "The state of our territory is distressed and still very much mired in financial and economic crisis," said Kirk Callwood, Finance commissioner nominee, reporting a current structural deficit of \$415 million that he stressed had "accumulated over time."

China eyed as niche market in Pacific tourism industry

Radio New Zealand

The South Pacific Tourism Organisation says it hopes to develop a niche market for Chinese tourists in the region. Direct air links are yet to be set up between China and the Pacific but for the Chinese New Year, charter flights are being run to Fiji and New Caledonia. The chief executive of the Organisation, Chris Cocker, said the industry is still trying to learn about China and its culture.

USVI is Committed to Regional Collaboration, Boschulte Tells Tourism Officials

St. Thomas Source

Joe Boschulte, the new head of the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism, signaled his department's desire to collaborate with other Caribbean destinations in promoting the region in the global marketplace. "A rising tide lifts all boats, so it is important that Caribbean destinations work more collaboratively to earn a greater share of the global tourism business," Boschulte said following the 37th annual Caribbean Travel Marketplace, held last week in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Roof installations completed 4 months after Yutu

Saipan Tribune (Bautista)

The final nail on the 546th roof was drilled into place yesterday, signifying the completion of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's temporary roofing program in the Commonwealth, four months following the destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu. Members of the Torres administration, members of the CNMI community, and servicemen under the U.S Department of Defense came together to complete the construction of the final temporary roof under the Temporary Emergency Tent and Roofing Installation Support program led by FEMA.

Senate President will listen only to the governor on bonds

Talane News

Senate President Gaoteote Palaie Tofau is insisting that senators heed Governor Lolo Moliga's request not to call in Treasurer Ueligitone Tonumaie'a at this time for a hearing on the 2018 bond series and how these new bonds will be paid. This amid reports that the administration is preparing new tax legislation to raise revenues to repay the bonds. KHJ News understands that the tax legislation will be submitted to the Fono next month.

Bureau of Land Management

Greens seek to overturn Utah lease sales near monuments

Greenwire (Yachnin)

A Utah-based conservation group today filed suit in federal court challenging dozens of oil and gas leases sold by the Bureau of Land Management, arguing the Trump administration relied on "arbitrary, capricious and legally inadequate efforts" ahead of a March 2018 auction.

Agency shuffles senior leadership with retirements, transfers

E&E News (Streater)

The Bureau of Land Management is once again reshaping senior leadership, as BLM's second-in-command is set to retire as early as the end of the month, the bureau's fire and aviation program director is moving to the Idaho state office, and two new state directors are close to being finalized in Alaska and Montana-Dakotas. Margaret Schneider, who in August was appointed acting deputy director of operations, is set to retire, though a firm date has not been set due to the looming threat of another partial federal government shutdown. The deputy director of operations handles the day-to-day operations of the bureau and its nearly 10,000 employees who manage 250 million acres of public lands under its control.

Group says oil and gas leases will ruin ancient cultural artifacts in Utah

Deseret News (O'Donoghue)

A conservation organization is suing the U.S. Department of Interior for offering oil and gas leases in a remote section of southeast Utah it says is packed with ancient cultural relics. Advocates for the West filed the lawsuit Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Utah on behalf of Friends of Cedar Mesa, which is targeting the first of three related oil and gas lease sales held in March 2018.

Bureau of Land Management moves forward with the sale of sacred land

Inhabitat (Miller)

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is moving forward with the sale of land in the vicinity of New Mexico's Chaco Culture National Historical Park. The land, which is considered sacred ground by Native Americans in the area, was approved amid heavy criticism from environmentalists and tribal leaders.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

?Gov. Baker Presents 4 Themes To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in DC Testimony

Framingham Source (Petroni)

Today, Feb. 6, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker testified before the House Natural Resources Committee in Washington, D.C. to discuss what Massachusetts is doing to address climate change at the first congressional hearing on climate change in over eight years. He shared the Commonwealth's bipartisan record of addressing climate change, urging Washington to work across all levels of government in a similar fashion and highlighted some of the Baker-Polito Administration's bipartisan initiatives and cost-effective projects put in place to prepare for the effects of a changing climate and to promote renewable energy.

Stoecker: State pins energy future on offshore turbines

Long Island Business News (Stoecker)

The State of New York and Deepwater Wind continue to move forward with the development of a 15 turbine wind farm off Long Island's south fork, the second such one in the United States. It's a project that could pay big dividends for our region and the state. The project comes as part of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's goal of having New York produce 50 percent of its energy from renewables by 2030.

State: Vineyard Wind can seek local permits for cable

Cape Cod Times (Bragg)

Vineyard Wind can now move forward with regional and local permitting for its planned offshore wind farm after receiving a critical certificate from state environmental officials, and regulators on the Cape and Islands say they are ready. "We've looked at cables before," said

Paul Foley, the development of regional impact coordinator with the Martha's Vineyard Commission.

Hebrew Center to host Vineyard Wind hearing

Martha's Vineyard Times (Saltzberg)

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Army Corps of Engineers are coming to to the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center to talk about Vineyard Wind on Feb. 12. BOEM is crafting an Environmental Impact Statement about Vineyard Wind's construction and operation plan and will seek public comment at the hearing regarding it. The Army Corps of Engineers will also be present to seek comment on a permit application from Vineyard Wind relative to the Rivers and Harbors Act and the Clean Water Act.

University Of Delaware Sets Up Courses To Train Offshore Wind Professionals

Clean Technica (Hanley)

Last fall, the University of Delaware, in partnership with the Energy and Climate Academy of Denmark, announced it was creating a new curriculum to train people for jobs in the wind energy industry. The first of the new courses began last week. This is the first offshore wind skills training program in the United States to focus on professionals and managers seeking to enter the industry. The courses will provide instruction in the basics of wind power, offshore wind turbines, and the development of offshore wind projects with an emphasis on professionals from traditional energy industries, supply chain companies, regulators, the investment community and others.

Norfolk students rally to protect offshore drilling

WVEC (TV)

Over 100 students rallied Tuesday to protest the anticipated expansion of offshore drilling off the Atlantic Coast. Students met on Old Dominions University's campus where there was a 12-foot long, 6-foot tall inflatable whale. "Marine life would suffer deeply from the impacts of an oil spill," Nasha Robertson, President of VegODU, said.

Bureau of Reclamation

Water rights legislation heads to governor's desk

Greenwire

Legislation to end years of litigation and help finalize a settlement agreement involving water rights in heavily populated southwestern Idaho is headed to the governor's desk following a unanimous Senate vote yesterday.

Idaho water legislation headed to governor's desk

Associated Press (Ridler)

Legislation to end years of litigation and help finalize a settlement agreement involving water rights in heavily populated southwestern Idaho is headed to the governor's desk following a unanimous Senate vote on Tuesday. The 35-0 vote sends to Gov. Brad Little the bill that involves water rights in the Boise River system. "It was an important last piece of getting that settlement completed," said Sen. Jim Rice, R-Caldwell, one of the bill's sponsors in the Senate. "Water is one of those issues you have to get right in Idaho."

Drought deal trips over Calif. water district demands

Greenwire (Jacobs)

A California water district and a looming environmental disaster have impounded drought contingency negotiations on the Colorado River.

Bureau of Reclamation Releases Biological Assessment for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project

Sierra Sun Times

The Bureau of Reclamation released the Biological Assessment for the re-initiation of consultation on the coordinated long-term operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. The document was transmitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for consideration in developing new biological opinions covering CVP and SWP operations. Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources re-initiated consultation in 2016 based on new information related to multiple years of drought and ongoing science efforts.

Congressman Kevin McCarthy praises Trump administration for biological assessment

KERO (TV) (Broderick)

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a biological assessment on the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. Congressman Kevin McCarthy issued a statement, praising the administration for updating the science to maximize water supplies in California.

What Is Happening With The Colorado River Drought Plans?

KUNC 91.5 FM (Radio) (Runyon, Jaspers)

States that rely on the Colorado River for their water supplies are currently unable to finish a series of agreements that would keep its biggest reservoirs, Lake Mead and Lake Powell, from dropping to levels not seen since they were filled decades ago. Five states — Colorado, Utah,

New Mexico, Wyoming and Nevada — are done. The country of Mexico has also completed its portion. But California and Arizona failed to meet a Jan. 31 federal government deadline to wrap up negotiations and sign a final agreement.

Runoff in Upper Colorado River Basin likely below-average, federal official warns

Aspen Times (Gardner-Smith)

The regional director of the Upper Colorado River Basin for the Bureau of Reclamation told water managers and users last week to expect below-average runoff this year, despite encouraging snowfall this winter. Brent Rhees — who oversees the federal reservoirs in the upper basin for the Bureau of Reclamation, including Lake Powell, Flaming Gorge and Blue Mesa — said that although this winter's snowfall in the upper basin above Lake Powell was now above average (106 percent Tuesday) the parched ground left in the wake of a hot, dry 2018 likely would soak up a lot of the resultant moisture in the spring.

Big storms boost already impressive snow pack

Folsom Telegraph (Sullivan)

Last week the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) conducted the second Phillips Station snow survey of the new year which yielded more positive results and a bright future ahead when it comes to local lake levels for the spring and summer months. The recent survey showed California's snow pack now at 100 percent of average, and that was before the latest series of storms that dumped several feet of snow in the high country this past week. Early runoff from the storms have brought Folsom Lake closer to its winter threshold which is 577,000 for flood control. As of Tuesday, the lake sat at 576,090 acre feet.

Community continues push for Klamath dam removal

Times-Standard (Mukherjee)

Humboldt County residents have until Feb. 26 to offer input on the draft environmental report covering the pending removal of four Klamath River dams, dams many scientists say have diminished the river's water quality and endangered its salmon populations.

Fish and Wildlife Service

Sen. Hirono Urges Swift Passage of Bipartisan Public Lands Package

Big Island Now

Sen. Mazie Hirono took to the Senate floor on Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019, to urge the swift passage of S.47, the Natural Resources Management Act. The sweeping bipartisan public lands package includes, among other critical Hawai'i priorities, a permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, legislation to expand Conservation Corps programs

like KUPU, and legislation Sen. Hirono introduced in the 115th Congress to expand and improve volcano monitoring across the country.

Monarch butterflies stump researchers

Greenwire (Heller)

The campaign to save monarch butterflies faces a new mystery: The beloved insects are on the rebound in the East and disappearing in the West.

Feeding season underway

Kackson Hole Daily (Koshmrl)

For the first time since March 2017, big-rig elk feeding trucks rumbled over the frozen pastures of the National Elk Refuge on Wednesday. Biologists who keep tabs on the volume of accessible forage on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service preserve say that elk had consumed or deep snow had locked in 93 percent of the grassy forage that was available as recently as mid-October. More than 5,000 elk that have gathered on the refuge's southern flats were competing for those remnants of last year's growth, though that number is expected to spike in the coming days.

Willapa Refuge's Ferrier named manager of the year

Chinook Observer (Webb)

Jackie Ferrier, the hard-working leader at the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge Complex, has won a top national award. She has been named the 2019 Paul Kroegel National Wildlife Refuge System Refuge Manager of the Year. Presented by the National Wildlife Refuge Association, and given in honor of Kroegel, the first manager of a national wildlife refuge, the award recognizes outstanding accomplishment by a refuge manager in the protection and management of national wildlife refuges.

Atlantic Coast Pipeline delayed amid price increase

Staunton News Leader (Fair)

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline service date was pushed to 2021, according to Dominion a Energy quarterly earnings news release published on Friday. The new schedule increases the estimated cost for the project to be between \$7 billion and \$7.5 billion. The project was initially projected to cost between \$4.5 billion and \$5 billion. But the project construction remains stalled due to some permit trouble. "We remain highly confident in the successful and timely resolution of all outstanding permit issues as well as the ultimate completion of the entire project," said chairman, president and chief executive office Thomas Farrell. "We are actively pursuing multiple paths to resolve all outstanding permit issues including judicial, legislative, and administrative avenues."

Iowa monarch conservation strategy updated with best management practices

Mapleton Press

The Iowa Monarch Conservation Strategy recently added best management practices to guide Iowans in helping increase monarch butterfly habitat. Establishing and maintaining monarch habitat on agricultural lands, urban, and suburban areas, rural roadside rights of way, and public lands is essential for Iowa to meet its monarch conservation goal of establishing 480,000 to 830,000 acres of habitat by 2038. These goals were outlined in the strategy, released in March 2018, by the Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium.

Man Who Killed Wolf Inside Grand Teton Pleads Guilty

Mountain Journal (Wilkinson)

A 56-year-old Wyoming man charged with killing a gray wolf inside Grand Teton National Park has pled guilty and received a \$5,040 fine. His identity and that of a woman who was also charged have not been released by park officials. According to a park press release circulated Wednesday, law enforcement officials investigated the illegal killing of the wolf on or about January 1, 2019 near Spread Creek along Grand Teton's eastern border. The wolf killed was an uncollared young female.

Wolf Moved Last Fall To Isle Royale National Park Heads For Home

National Parks Traveler

A wolf moved to Isle Royale National Park last fall in a bid to boost the island's predators took advantage of an ice bridge tying the island to the mainland and set off toward Minnesota where she had been captured. "I was excited to see locations after not seeing anything for five days, but that excitement quickly gave way to disappointment as my eyes followed the track that led away from Isle Royale. I knew this could happen but of course you always hope for the best," Mark Romanski, the park's chief of resources, said Wednesday.

Rats remain on Lehua

Garden Island (Else)

There are more seabirds on Lehua Island after the 2017 helicopter drop of rodenticide over the landmass, but the rats haven't completely disappeared. "Because there have been periodic detections of rats in localized areas, the Lehua Island Ecosystem Restoration Project is in a mop-up phase to complete the eradication," said Dan Dennison, spokesman for the state Department of Land and Natural Resources, a partner in the project.

National Park Service

National Park Service Announces \$48.5 Million In Assistance For Communities Affected By Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, And Maria

National Parks Traveler

The National Park Service announced \$48.5 million in supplemental assistance grants to help historic resources recover in areas impacted by hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria in 2017. Communities in Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Texas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands will receive assistance for historic preservation projects related to hurricane recovery efforts.

NPS faces more fire for using visitor fees during shutdown

Greenwire (Hotakainen)

The National Park Service today came under renewed attack on Capitol Hill over its decision to use revenue from visitor fees to keep parks open during the five-week partial government shutdown.

Park Service backtracks, won't use entrance fees to pay for shutdown operations

The Hill (Green, Cama)

The National Park Service (NPS) will retroactively pull from congressionally appropriated funds to pay for the park maintenance and other operations the Trump administration authorized during the partial government shutdown, according to an internal NPS memo obtained by The Hill Wednesday. Dan Smith, NPS's deputy director and its top official, told staff in an emailed memo that the agency will reverse its earlier, controversial decision to use park visitor entrance fees to pay for maintenance and staffing needs under the shutdown.

Park Service Refunds Entrance Fees Used During Shutdown (1)

Bloomberg Environment (Kern)

The National Park Service is refunding the money it spent from its visitor entrance fees during the partial government shutdown with continuing resolution funds it received Jan. 25, the agency announced in a Feb. 6 memo.

Dem chairwoman seeks watchdog probe of Park Service's shutdown operations

The Hill (Cama)

The top House Democrat overseeing the National Park Service's (NPS) funding is formally asking for an official probe of the Trump administration's decision to use agency entrance fees to operate parks during the government shutdown. Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.), chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee's subpanel for the Interior Department, announced her intent to seek a Government Accountability Office (GAO) probe after a Wednesday hearing on the use of the fees.

Tourism Strong In Yellowstone And Glacier Despite Wildfires

Montana Public Radio

Yellowstone National Park reports that it experienced another busy year last year. The park recorded over 4.1 million visits. That's a 0.04-percent decrease from 2017 and a 3.5 percent decrease from the record-breaking year in 2016. It was the third busiest year on record. To calculate visitation numbers for late December, during the partial government shutdown, park staff used data from an automated counter that recorded vehicle traffic at the North Entrance and reports from over-snow concessioners.

Despite drop, visitation still strong at Glacier National Park

KTVH (TV)

Glacier National Park's final visitor totals for 2018 show a strong year for tourism in the park. But they couldn't quite overcome the impact of a wildfire closing down the Park's most popular section for the second year in a row. The National Park Service released the final statistics for Glacier visits after the long partial federal government shutdown delayed its completion.

'If the government shuts down, we'll do it again': Vicksburg military park kept open, and 19,000 visitors showed up

Mississippi Today (Rozier)

A 35-day tug-of-war in Washington D.C. would have kept over 19,000 tourists out of one of the world's jewels for military history. The Vicksburg National Military Park, however, kept its forts manned during the federal government's partial shutdown thanks to the support of a local non-profit, Friends of VNMP, as well as the City of Vicksburg. Friends of VNMP released new figures last week showing only a slight decrease in visitation.

On a Civil War battlefield in Western Maryland, opposition to Hogan's land swap

Washington Post (Chason)

Paul Gilligan is standing inside a West Main Street storefront that predates the Civil War, waving a cigar and talking about a battle he says is too often overlooked. Days before Antietam, the single deadliest day in American military history, the Battle of South Mountain unfolded around this tiny town in Western Maryland, which has a modern-day population of 160.

National Park Service aims to untangle traffic, improve safety at Memorial Circle

WTOP (TV) (Augenstein)

Driving through Memorial Circle provides one of the most beautiful views available of the nation's capital. But a driver who momentarily takes eyes off the labyrinth of merging lanes is likely to end up in the wrong place, or in a fender-bender. The National Park Service has been

pulling together options to make travel safer and improve traffic flow through the circle, which sits between the south end of the Memorial Bridge and the main gate of Arlington National Cemetery.

U.S. Geological Survey

Who Will Feed The LNG Monster?

Forbes (Rapier)

In the previous article, I discussed the global nature of the oil markets. But the shale oil boom in the U.S. temporarily increased the localized impact on the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) benchmark. As a result, its price diverged from that of international crudes for a few years. The natural gas markets, on the other hand, are far more localized due to the difficulty in transporting natural gas. That means that natural gas in the U.S. could be \$3 per million British thermal units (MMBtu), but double or triple that level in Japan or Europe.

USGS: 4.4 magnitude earthquake hits Blue Lake Wednesday morning

KRCR (TV) (Krauss)

A 4.4 magnitude earthquake hit 13 kilometers east-southeast of Blue Lake around 10:23 Wednesday morning. A smaller 2.5 magnitude earthquake hit the same area 12 minutes later at 10:35 a.m. These two earthquakes come only two days after the North Coast experienced a swarm of 14 earthquakes that hit over a 72-hour period Saturday through Monday. Most of those quakes hit off the coast of Petrolia.

Small Earthquake Shakes Near Gilroy: USGS

KNTV (TV)

A 2.5 magnitude earthquake struck near Gilroy late Wednesday, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The temblor struck at 8:15 p.m., about 6 miles east of Gilroy near the San Luis Reservoir, the USGS said. It was relatively shallow at just 4 kilometers deep, according to USGS figures.

'I have no clue what I'm going home to,' resident says after Grand River flood

Booth Newspapers (Kransz)

Shortly after midnight, Rose Cyr was awakened by heavy knocking at the door. It was the police. Cyr was confused; she hadn't done anything wrong. Then she saw the water. "When I went to bed, it wasn't raining or snowing or anything -- everything was fine," she said. "I opened the door and there's police and there's just water. That's all you see is water. I had one more step before it was over my porch."

Opinion

Op-Ed: Access to the Outdoors Is a Basic Human Right

Outside Online (Rubio, Richard)

The Land of Enchantment: our state motto perfectly captures New Mexico and its sacred Zia, a harmonious symbol of friendship that originated in the Zia Pueblo. The four words evoke a stunning landscape of mountains, rivers, deserts, forests, and Native American communities. The Land of Enchantment has sunsets that take your breath away, with skylines sketched on a canvas of reds, oranges, purples, and pinks.

No need to drill for oil in precious lands

Adirondack Daily Enterprise (Editorial Board)

The United States has become the world's leading producer of petroleum, beating even Saudi Arabia. That means we can be somewhat choosy about where we drill for oil. Two key conflicts exist in that regard. One, of course, is protection of the environment, including natural treasures that, once devastated, can never be replaced.

Top National News

U.S., Allies Are Set to Retake Islamic State Territory, Trump Says

Wall Street Journal (McBride)

President Trump said the U.S. and its coalition partners are on the verge of regaining control over all the territory held by Islamic State, with an announcement expected within the next week that the task has been accomplished. Addressing representatives of the 79-member global coalition formed to fight the extremist group at a gathering Wednesday in Washington, Mr. Trump said: "Our military has been incredible, and your militaries have been incredible."

A new Google tool tells you if your password is unsafe

CNN (Garcia)

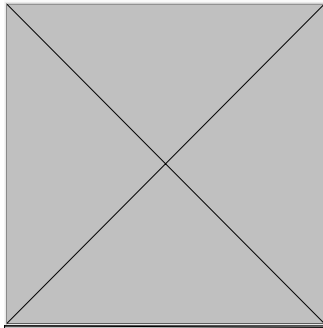
There is a good chance hackers already know your favorite passwords. Now Google has a new free tool to let you know when your login information is exposed. People who use Google Chrome can download the Password Checkup extension, which will monitor their various website logins. When someone logs in with a username and password that Google knows has been compromised, it triggers a warning that prompts the user to change the password.

'We have one reef': Key West bans popular sunscreens to help keep coral alive

Washington Post (Bever)

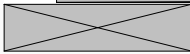
Soon, beachgoers won't be able to buy certain top-selling sunscreens along parts of the Florida Keys. The Key West City Commission voted Tuesday night to ban sunscreens containing oxybenzone and octinoxate, two chemicals that have been shown to be damaging to coral reefs. Beginning in January 2021, Key West will ban such sunscreens from sale within city limits — taking a cue from Hawaii, which became the first state to pass a similar ban.

Date	Host	Title
2/10-14	Society for Range Management	Society for Range Management
3/20	ACORE	Renewable Energy Policy Forum



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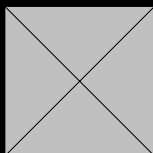
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Importance: Normal
Subject: Department of the Interior Daily News Briefing Thursday, February 7, 2019
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DOI News

[Bernhardt's past work as solicitor sheds light on his future](#)

Greenwire (Doyle)

Back when Donald Trump was but a businessman with a gleam in his eye, David Bernhardt was putting a distinctive stamp on the Interior Department during a formative tour as the department's solicitor.

[U.S. Department of Interior Sec. David Bernhardt talks energy independence](#)

in Hobbs

Carlsbad Current-Argus (Hedden)

During his State of the Union address President Donald Trump championed American energy independence as the country becomes a major global producer of oil and gas. The next day on Wednesday, Acting Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt traveled to the heart of one of the nation's biggest oil plays in southeast New Mexico and a region, he said, was a cornerstone to achieving the President's goals. Bernhardt met with workers at Watson Hopper in Hobbs, where oil rigs were being built to service operations in the Permian Basin.

The Latest: Trump official touts lease sales in New Mexico

Associated Press (Hobbs)

A top Trump administration official is touting record sales for oil and gas leases under the U.S. Bureau of Land Management as he seeks to promote energy development on public lands. Acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt says the federal agency last year generated \$1.1 billion from oil and gas lease sales, making 2018 its highest-grossing year.

Sen. Cramer on the Nomination of David Bernhardt as Department of Interior Secretary

KVLY (TV)

U.S. Senator Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) issued the following statement on the nomination of David Bernhardt as Department of Interior Secretary: "It's good to see President Trump nominate someone as experienced as David Bernhardt. As chairman of the EPW Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife, we oversee the Department of Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I look forward to meeting with Mr. Bernhardt to discuss the ways we can work together."

National Audubon Society Reacts to Nomination of David Bernhardt as Secretary of the Interior

Sierra Sun Times

"The Interior Secretary's job is to balance development interests with protecting public lands and wildlife. To date, the Interior Department leadership has fallen short in meeting their obligations to steward our nation's natural resources for our children and grandchildren," said Sarah Greenberger, senior vice president for conservation policy at National Audubon Society after news broke that David Bernhardt had been nominate to lead the Department of the Interior. "We don't have to undermine bedrock wildlife laws that protect birds and endangered species, sell off public lands to the highest bidder and open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling. We expect the Senate will only confirm a nominee who makes clear their commitment to right the course for future generations and hew more closely to the spirit of the agency's conservation mission."

Some outdoor organizations reject Trump's Interior Secretary nomination

SNEWS (Arevesen)

President Donald Trump has nominated a former oil and gas lobbyist as Secretary of the Interior, which, according to several outdoor advocacy organizations, doesn't bode well for public lands. Trump appointed David Bernhardt as deputy secretary to Ryan Zinke, and has been running the Interior since the Montanan stepped down last December.

Lawmakers ask for GAO review of Interior's decisions during government shutdown

Federal News Network (Ogrysko)

A few members of Congress are growing increasingly skeptical of the Trump administration's decisions to reopen certain agency functions as the recent government shutdown dragged on to the longest in U.S. history. Reps. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.), chairwoman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, and Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.), chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, are asking the Government Accountability Office to conduct an official review of certain actions the Trump administration took to keep national parks open during the 35-day government shutdown.

Interior Says New Rule Makes It Easier To Get Public Records, But Will It?

Wyoming Public Media (Hegyi)

When Ryan Zinke, a former Navy SEAL, resigned from his post as U.S. Interior Department secretary on Jan. 2, he was under fire on multiple fronts. There was an ongoing federal investigation into his role in a real estate deal between Zinke's family foundation and the head of oil giant Halliburton. Rumors swirled that his office tried to replace the head of Interior's internal watchdog with a Trump political appointee.

Federal Oil And Gas Lease Sales Break \$1 Billion In 2018, Nearly Triple Previous Record

Daily Caller (Pearce)

Federal oil and gas lease sales earned roughly \$1.1 billion in 2018, nearly tripling the previous record set a decade ago, Acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt announced Wednesday. Oil and gas lease sales generated about \$408 million in revenue to the federal and state governments in 2008. Preliminary data indicates that 2018's sales have safely shattered that record.

Trump: We cannot continue to spend 'billions' on 'preventable' forest fires

The Hill (Samuels)

President Trump on Wednesday appeared to ease off his threat to cut disaster funding for California forest fire victims, but emphasized there should be action to prevent future blazes. "I told my people, I said we cannot continue to spend billions of dollars, billions and billions of dollars," Trump told regional reporters at the White House. "Forest fires are totally preventable. They shouldn't happen."

Republicans push back at first climate hearings

The Hill (Green)

Democratic leaders asserted their newfound control of the House on Wednesday by convening two key committee hearings on climate change that each emphasized the need for swift action on curbing greenhouse gas emissions after years of inaction under former Republican leadership. The two simultaneous hearings held by the House Natural Resources and Energy and Commerce committees Wednesday were the first in nine and six years respectively to focus on fixing climate change.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Inside One Native Tribe's Decades-Long Fight For Recognition

Pacific Standard (Furshong)

Hill 57 stands at the western edge of Great Falls, Montana, toffee-colored and treeless beneath a gray winter sky. The weather is unusually mild for mid-January, and tufts of grass poke through patches of melting snow. At the foot of the hill, a small blue warehouse has been converted to a tribal cultural center. The building's dirt parking lot is packed full of cars and pick-up trucks with license plates from across the state.

American Indian/Alaska Native Public Witness Hearings

Indian Country Today

The Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies will hold public witness hearings on Tuesday, February 26 for non-tribal programs, and March 6 and 7 for tribal programs. In addition to the public witness hearings, written testimony will be accepted in accordance with the guidelines below. All written testimony will be reviewed by the subcommittee and will be included in the public record.

How Pamunkey Tribe's proposed \$700 million casino could bring gaming to Virginia

Indian Country Today (Schilling)

In 2016, the Pamunkey Tribe in Virginia received federal recognition in Virginia, becoming the first tribe in that state to be recognized. Now, in 2019, the Pamunkey are seeking to secure land in Norfolk, Virginia to begin building a proposed \$700 million casino. With this \$700

million dollar casino, the Pamunkey—who received recognition in 2016 through the federal BIA process—are setting a precedent that has not been seen in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The state will have gaming for the first time.

Native Americans protest border wall at site of Texas butterfly habitat

The Hill (Folley)

A group of Native Americans on Monday protested President Trump's plans to build a border wall which will cut through a protected natural habitat for butterflies. The protest was at the National Butterfly Center in Mission, Texas. The barrier is expected to pass through the butterfly refuge, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

Office of Insular and International Affairs

\$722 Million Spent on Hurricane Recovery So Far – \$894 Million More on the Way

St. Thomas Source (Knight)

In the 16 months after the 2017 hurricanes, the U.S. Virgin Islands has spent roughly \$722 million in disaster funds so far, spread across various local government agencies, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency has obligated \$894 million for approved projects, according to Finance Commissioner Nominee Kirk Callwood.

Governor willing to work with Kilili to address NMI immigration issues

Marianas Variety (Erediano)

Governor Ralph DLG Torres said he wants to work with U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan in addressing CNMI immigration issues. These include ensuring that the individuals on humanitarian parole can remain in the CNMI. In a letter dated Jan. 25, Torres told Kilili that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director L. Francis Cissna has informed him, the governor, of the Trump administration's "interest in securing legislative remedy." Torres said the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's decision to end the humanitarian parole in the Commonwealth has "impacted hundreds of individuals who have lived and called the CNMI home for years."

China releases footage of 'Guam killer' missile in 'clear message to US'

South China Morning Post

China has revealed footage of its next-generation Dongfeng-26 ballistic missile showing improved stability and accuracy, a move analysts say aims to send a message to the United States about its military strength. Footage of the missile was released for the first time in a report on state broadcaster CCTV, amid intensifying military rivalry between China and the U.S. Four fin-like flight control surfaces are seen around the missile nose in the report on an

exercise in northwest China. The People's Liberation Army Rocket Force launched at least one DF-26 missile during the drill.

Torres to lobby DC on H-2B

Saipan Tribune (Perez)

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is set to leave for Washington, D.C. in the third week of February to attend the National Governors Association's winter meeting and, at the same time, meet with some federal officials to talk about the H-2B program. The NGA meeting is set from Feb. 22 to 25. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently removed the Philippines from its list of countries whose workers are eligible for H-2B visas.

USVI Still 'Mired in Financial Crisis'; Structural Deficit at \$415M

St. Thomas Source (Knight)

The U.S. Virgin Islands is still in a state of financial crisis, and the government's structural debt has continued to increase, Gov. Albert Bryan's financial team told the Senate Finance Committee Tuesday in remarks that echoed Bryan's State of the Territory address. "The state of our territory is distressed and still very much mired in financial and economic crisis," said Kirk Callwood, Finance commissioner nominee, reporting a current structural deficit of \$415 million that he stressed had "accumulated over time."

China eyed as niche market in Pacific tourism industry

Radio New Zealand

The South Pacific Tourism Organisation says it hopes to develop a niche market for Chinese tourists in the region. Direct air links are yet to be set up between China and the Pacific but for the Chinese New Year, charter flights are being run to Fiji and New Caledonia. The chief executive of the Organisation, Chris Cocker, said the industry is still trying to learn about China and its culture.

USVI is Committed to Regional Collaboration, Boschulte Tells Tourism Officials

St. Thomas Source

Joe Boschulte, the new head of the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism, signaled his department's desire to collaborate with other Caribbean destinations in promoting the region in the global marketplace. "A rising tide lifts all boats, so it is important that Caribbean destinations work more collaboratively to earn a greater share of the global tourism business," Boschulte said following the 37th annual Caribbean Travel Marketplace, held last week in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Roof installations completed 4 months after Yutu

Saipan Tribune (Bautista)

The final nail on the 546th roof was drilled into place yesterday, signifying the completion of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's temporary roofing program in the Commonwealth, four months following the destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu. Members of the Torres administration, members of the CNMI community, and servicemen under the U.S Department of Defense came together to complete the construction of the final temporary roof under the Temporary Emergency Tent and Roofing Installation Support program led by FEMA.

Senate President will listen only to the governor on bonds

Talane News

Senate President Gaoteote Palaie Tofau is insisting that senators heed Governor Lolo Moliga's request not to call in Treasurer Ueligitone Tonumaie'a at this time for a hearing on the 2018 bond series and how these new bonds will be paid. This amid reports that the administration is preparing new tax legislation to raise revenues to repay the bonds. KHJ News understands that the tax legislation will be submitted to the Fono next month.

Bureau of Land Management

Greens seek to overturn Utah lease sales near monuments

Greenwire (Yachnin)

A Utah-based conservation group today filed suit in federal court challenging dozens of oil and gas leases sold by the Bureau of Land Management, arguing the Trump administration relied on "arbitrary, capricious and legally inadequate efforts" ahead of a March 2018 auction.

Agency shuffles senior leadership with retirements, transfers

E&E News (Streater)

The Bureau of Land Management is once again reshaping senior leadership, as BLM's second-in-command is set to retire as early as the end of the month, the bureau's fire and aviation program director is moving to the Idaho state office, and two new state directors are close to being finalized in Alaska and Montana-Dakotas. Margaret Schneider, who in August was appointed acting deputy director of operations, is set to retire, though a firm date has not been set due to the looming threat of another partial federal government shutdown. The deputy director of operations handles the day-to-day operations of the bureau and its nearly 10,000 employees who manage 250 million acres of public lands under its control.

Group says oil and gas leases will ruin ancient cultural artifacts in Utah

Deseret News (O'Donoghue)

A conservation organization is suing the U.S. Department of Interior for offering oil and gas leases in a remote section of southeast Utah it says is packed with ancient cultural relics. Advocates for the West filed the lawsuit Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Utah on behalf of Friends of Cedar Mesa, which is targeting the first of three related oil and gas lease sales held in March 2018.

Bureau of Land Management moves forward with the sale of sacred land

Inhabitat (Miller)

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is moving forward with the sale of land in the vicinity of New Mexico's Chaco Culture National Historical Park. The land, which is considered sacred ground by Native Americans in the area, was approved amid heavy criticism from environmentalists and tribal leaders.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

?Gov. Baker Presents 4 Themes To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in DC Testimony

Framingham Source (Petroni)

Today, Feb. 6, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker testified before the House Natural Resources Committee in Washington, D.C. to discuss what Massachusetts is doing to address climate change at the first congressional hearing on climate change in over eight years. He shared the Commonwealth's bipartisan record of addressing climate change, urging Washington to work across all levels of government in a similar fashion and highlighted some of the Baker-Polito Administration's bipartisan initiatives and cost-effective projects put in place to prepare for the effects of a changing climate and to promote renewable energy.

Stoecker: State pins energy future on offshore turbines

Long Island Business News (Stoecker)

The State of New York and Deepwater Wind continue to move forward with the development of a 15 turbine wind farm off Long Island's south fork, the second such one in the United States. It's a project that could pay big dividends for our region and the state. The project comes as part of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's goal of having New York produce 50 percent of its energy from renewables by 2030.

State: Vineyard Wind can seek local permits for cable

Cape Cod Times (Bragg)

Vineyard Wind can now move forward with regional and local permitting for its planned offshore wind farm after receiving a critical certificate from state environmental officials, and regulators on the Cape and Islands say they are ready. "We've looked at cables before," said

Paul Foley, the development of regional impact coordinator with the Martha's Vineyard Commission.

Hebrew Center to host Vineyard Wind hearing

Martha's Vineyard Times (Saltzberg)

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Army Corps of Engineers are coming to to the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center to talk about Vineyard Wind on Feb. 12. BOEM is crafting an Environmental Impact Statement about Vineyard Wind's construction and operation plan and will seek public comment at the hearing regarding it. The Army Corps of Engineers will also be present to seek comment on a permit application from Vineyard Wind relative to the Rivers and Harbors Act and the Clean Water Act.

University Of Delaware Sets Up Courses To Train Offshore Wind Professionals

Clean Technica (Hanley)

Last fall, the University of Delaware, in partnership with the Energy and Climate Academy of Denmark, announced it was creating a new curriculum to train people for jobs in the wind energy industry. The first of the new courses began last week. This is the first offshore wind skills training program in the United States to focus on professionals and managers seeking to enter the industry. The courses will provide instruction in the basics of wind power, offshore wind turbines, and the development of offshore wind projects with an emphasis on professionals from traditional energy industries, supply chain companies, regulators, the investment community and others.

Norfolk students rally to protect offshore drilling

WVEC (TV)

Over 100 students rallied Tuesday to protest the anticipated expansion of offshore drilling off the Atlantic Coast. Students met on Old Dominions University's campus where there was a 12-foot long, 6-foot tall inflatable whale. "Marine life would suffer deeply from the impacts of an oil spill," Nasha Robertson, President of VegODU, said.

Bureau of Reclamation

Water rights legislation heads to governor's desk

Greenwire

Legislation to end years of litigation and help finalize a settlement agreement involving water rights in heavily populated southwestern Idaho is headed to the governor's desk following a unanimous Senate vote yesterday.

Idaho water legislation headed to governor's desk

Associated Press (Ridler)

Legislation to end years of litigation and help finalize a settlement agreement involving water rights in heavily populated southwestern Idaho is headed to the governor's desk following a unanimous Senate vote on Tuesday. The 35-0 vote sends to Gov. Brad Little the bill that involves water rights in the Boise River system. "It was an important last piece of getting that settlement completed," said Sen. Jim Rice, R-Caldwell, one of the bill's sponsors in the Senate. "Water is one of those issues you have to get right in Idaho."

Drought deal trips over Calif. water district demands

Greenwire (Jacobs)

A California water district and a looming environmental disaster have impounded drought contingency negotiations on the Colorado River.

Bureau of Reclamation Releases Biological Assessment for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project

Sierra Sun Times

The Bureau of Reclamation released the Biological Assessment for the re-initiation of consultation on the coordinated long-term operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. The document was transmitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for consideration in developing new biological opinions covering CVP and SWP operations. Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources re-initiated consultation in 2016 based on new information related to multiple years of drought and ongoing science efforts.

Congressman Kevin McCarthy praises Trump administration for biological assessment

KERO (TV) (Broderick)

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a biological assessment on the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. Congressman Kevin McCarthy issued a statement, praising the administration for updating the science to maximize water supplies in California.

What Is Happening With The Colorado River Drought Plans?

KUNC 91.5 FM (Radio) (Runyon, Jaspers)

States that rely on the Colorado River for their water supplies are currently unable to finish a series of agreements that would keep its biggest reservoirs, Lake Mead and Lake Powell, from dropping to levels not seen since they were filled decades ago. Five states — Colorado, Utah,

New Mexico, Wyoming and Nevada — are done. The country of Mexico has also completed its portion. But California and Arizona failed to meet a Jan. 31 federal government deadline to wrap up negotiations and sign a final agreement.

Runoff in Upper Colorado River Basin likely below-average, federal official warns

Aspen Times (Gardner-Smith)

The regional director of the Upper Colorado River Basin for the Bureau of Reclamation told water managers and users last week to expect below-average runoff this year, despite encouraging snowfall this winter. Brent Rhees — who oversees the federal reservoirs in the upper basin for the Bureau of Reclamation, including Lake Powell, Flaming Gorge and Blue Mesa — said that although this winter's snowfall in the upper basin above Lake Powell was now above average (106 percent Tuesday) the parched ground left in the wake of a hot, dry 2018 likely would soak up a lot of the resultant moisture in the spring.

Big storms boost already impressive snow pack

Folsom Telegraph (Sullivan)

Last week the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) conducted the second Phillips Station snow survey of the new year which yielded more positive results and a bright future ahead when it comes to local lake levels for the spring and summer months. The recent survey showed California's snow pack now at 100 percent of average, and that was before the latest series of storms that dumped several feet of snow in the high country this past week. Early runoff from the storms have brought Folsom Lake closer to its winter threshold which is 577,000 for flood control. As of Tuesday, the lake sat at 576,090 acre feet.

Community continues push for Klamath dam removal

Times-Standard (Mukherjee)

Humboldt County residents have until Feb. 26 to offer input on the draft environmental report covering the pending removal of four Klamath River dams, dams many scientists say have diminished the river's water quality and endangered its salmon populations.

Fish and Wildlife Service

Sen. Hirono Urges Swift Passage of Bipartisan Public Lands Package

Big Island Now

Sen. Mazie Hirono took to the Senate floor on Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019, to urge the swift passage of S.47, the Natural Resources Management Act. The sweeping bipartisan public lands package includes, among other critical Hawai'i priorities, a permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, legislation to expand Conservation Corps programs

like KUPU, and legislation Sen. Hirono introduced in the 115th Congress to expand and improve volcano monitoring across the country.

Monarch butterflies stump researchers

Greenwire (Heller)

The campaign to save monarch butterflies faces a new mystery: The beloved insects are on the rebound in the East and disappearing in the West.

Feeding season underway

Kackson Hole Daily (Koshmrl)

For the first time since March 2017, big-rig elk feeding trucks rumbled over the frozen pastures of the National Elk Refuge on Wednesday. Biologists who keep tabs on the volume of accessible forage on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service preserve say that elk had consumed or deep snow had locked in 93 percent of the grassy forage that was available as recently as mid-October. More than 5,000 elk that have gathered on the refuge's southern flats were competing for those remnants of last year's growth, though that number is expected to spike in the coming days.

Willapa Refuge's Ferrier named manager of the year

Chinook Observer (Webb)

Jackie Ferrier, the hard-working leader at the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge Complex, has won a top national award. She has been named the 2019 Paul Kroegel National Wildlife Refuge System Refuge Manager of the Year. Presented by the National Wildlife Refuge Association, and given in honor of Kroegel, the first manager of a national wildlife refuge, the award recognizes outstanding accomplishment by a refuge manager in the protection and management of national wildlife refuges.

Atlantic Coast Pipeline delayed amid price increase

Staunton News Leader (Fair)

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline service date was pushed to 2021, according to Dominion a Energy quarterly earnings news release published on Friday. The new schedule increases the estimated cost for the project to be between \$7 billion and \$7.5 billion. The project was initially projected to cost between \$4.5 billion and \$5 billion. But the project construction remains stalled due to some permit trouble. "We remain highly confident in the successful and timely resolution of all outstanding permit issues as well as the ultimate completion of the entire project," said chairman, president and chief executive office Thomas Farrell. "We are actively pursuing multiple paths to resolve all outstanding permit issues including judicial, legislative, and administrative avenues."

Iowa monarch conservation strategy updated with best management practices

Mapleton Press

The Iowa Monarch Conservation Strategy recently added best management practices to guide Iowans in helping increase monarch butterfly habitat. Establishing and maintaining monarch habitat on agricultural lands, urban, and suburban areas, rural roadside rights of way, and public lands is essential for Iowa to meet its monarch conservation goal of establishing 480,000 to 830,000 acres of habitat by 2038. These goals were outlined in the strategy, released in March 2018, by the Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium.

Man Who Killed Wolf Inside Grand Teton Pleads Guilty

Mountain Journal (Wilkinson)

A 56-year-old Wyoming man charged with killing a gray wolf inside Grand Teton National Park has pled guilty and received a \$5,040 fine. His identity and that of a woman who was also charged have not been released by park officials. According to a park press release circulated Wednesday, law enforcement officials investigated the illegal killing of the wolf on or about January 1, 2019 near Spread Creek along Grand Teton's eastern border. The wolf killed was an uncollared young female.

Wolf Moved Last Fall To Isle Royale National Park Heads For Home

National Parks Traveler

A wolf moved to Isle Royale National Park last fall in a bid to boost the island's predators took advantage of an ice bridge tying the island to the mainland and set off toward Minnesota where she had been captured. "I was excited to see locations after not seeing anything for five days, but that excitement quickly gave way to disappointment as my eyes followed the track that led away from Isle Royale. I knew this could happen but of course you always hope for the best," Mark Romanski, the park's chief of resources, said Wednesday.

Rats remain on Lehua

Garden Island (Else)

There are more seabirds on Lehua Island after the 2017 helicopter drop of rodenticide over the landmass, but the rats haven't completely disappeared. "Because there have been periodic detections of rats in localized areas, the Lehua Island Ecosystem Restoration Project is in a mop-up phase to complete the eradication," said Dan Dennison, spokesman for the state Department of Land and Natural Resources, a partner in the project.

National Park Service

National Park Service Announces \$48.5 Million In Assistance For Communities Affected By Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, And Maria

National Parks Traveler

The National Park Service announced \$48.5 million in supplemental assistance grants to help historic resources recover in areas impacted by hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria in 2017. Communities in Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Texas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands will receive assistance for historic preservation projects related to hurricane recovery efforts.

NPS faces more fire for using visitor fees during shutdown

Greenwire (Hotakainen)

The National Park Service today came under renewed attack on Capitol Hill over its decision to use revenue from visitor fees to keep parks open during the five-week partial government shutdown.

Park Service backtracks, won't use entrance fees to pay for shutdown operations

The Hill (Green, Cama)

The National Park Service (NPS) will retroactively pull from congressionally appropriated funds to pay for the park maintenance and other operations the Trump administration authorized during the partial government shutdown, according to an internal NPS memo obtained by The Hill Wednesday. Dan Smith, NPS's deputy director and its top official, told staff in an emailed memo that the agency will reverse its earlier, controversial decision to use park visitor entrance fees to pay for maintenance and staffing needs under the shutdown.

Park Service Refunds Entrance Fees Used During Shutdown (1)

Bloomberg Environment (Kern)

The National Park Service is refunding the money it spent from its visitor entrance fees during the partial government shutdown with continuing resolution funds it received Jan. 25, the agency announced in a Feb. 6 memo.

Dem chairwoman seeks watchdog probe of Park Service's shutdown operations

The Hill (Cama)

The top House Democrat overseeing the National Park Service's (NPS) funding is formally asking for an official probe of the Trump administration's decision to use agency entrance fees to operate parks during the government shutdown. Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.), chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee's subpanel for the Interior Department, announced her intent to seek a Government Accountability Office (GAO) probe after a Wednesday hearing on the use of the fees.

Tourism Strong In Yellowstone And Glacier Despite Wildfires

Montana Public Radio

Yellowstone National Park reports that it experienced another busy year last year. The park recorded over 4.1 million visits. That's a 0.04-percent decrease from 2017 and a 3.5 percent decrease from the record-breaking year in 2016. It was the third busiest year on record. To calculate visitation numbers for late December, during the partial government shutdown, park staff used data from an automated counter that recorded vehicle traffic at the North Entrance and reports from over-snow concessioners.

Despite drop, visitation still strong at Glacier National Park

KTVH (TV)

Glacier National Park's final visitor totals for 2018 show a strong year for tourism in the park. But they couldn't quite overcome the impact of a wildfire closing down the Park's most popular section for the second year in a row. The National Park Service released the final statistics for Glacier visits after the long partial federal government shutdown delayed its completion.

'If the government shuts down, we'll do it again': Vicksburg military park kept open, and 19,000 visitors showed up

Mississippi Today (Rozier)

A 35-day tug-of-war in Washington D.C. would have kept over 19,000 tourists out of one of the world's jewels for military history. The Vicksburg National Military Park, however, kept its forts manned during the federal government's partial shutdown thanks to the support of a local non-profit, Friends of VNMP, as well as the City of Vicksburg. Friends of VNMP released new figures last week showing only a slight decrease in visitation.

On a Civil War battlefield in Western Maryland, opposition to Hogan's land swap

Washington Post (Chason)

Paul Gilligan is standing inside a West Main Street storefront that predates the Civil War, waving a cigar and talking about a battle he says is too often overlooked. Days before Antietam, the single deadliest day in American military history, the Battle of South Mountain unfolded around this tiny town in Western Maryland, which has a modern-day population of 160.

National Park Service aims to untangle traffic, improve safety at Memorial Circle

WTOP (TV) (Augenstein)

Driving through Memorial Circle provides one of the most beautiful views available of the nation's capital. But a driver who momentarily takes eyes off the labyrinth of merging lanes is likely to end up in the wrong place, or in a fender-bender. The National Park Service has been

pulling together options to make travel safer and improve traffic flow through the circle, which sits between the south end of the Memorial Bridge and the main gate of Arlington National Cemetery.

U.S. Geological Survey

Who Will Feed The LNG Monster?

Forbes (Rapier)

In the previous article, I discussed the global nature of the oil markets. But the shale oil boom in the U.S. temporarily increased the localized impact on the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) benchmark. As a result, its price diverged from that of international crudes for a few years. The natural gas markets, on the other hand, are far more localized due to the difficulty in transporting natural gas. That means that natural gas in the U.S. could be \$3 per million British thermal units (MMBtu), but double or triple that level in Japan or Europe.

USGS: 4.4 magnitude earthquake hits Blue Lake Wednesday morning

KRCR (TV) (Krauss)

A 4.4 magnitude earthquake hit 13 kilometers east-southeast of Blue Lake around 10:23 Wednesday morning. A smaller 2.5 magnitude earthquake hit the same area 12 minutes later at 10:35 a.m. These two earthquakes come only two days after the North Coast experienced a swarm of 14 earthquakes that hit over a 72-hour period Saturday through Monday. Most of those quakes hit off the coast of Petrolia.

Small Earthquake Shakes Near Gilroy: USGS

KNTV (TV)

A 2.5 magnitude earthquake struck near Gilroy late Wednesday, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The temblor struck at 8:15 p.m., about 6 miles east of Gilroy near the San Luis Reservoir, the USGS said. It was relatively shallow at just 4 kilometers deep, according to USGS figures.

'I have no clue what I'm going home to,' resident says after Grand River flood

Booth Newspapers (Kransz)

Shortly after midnight, Rose Cyr was awakened by heavy knocking at the door. It was the police. Cyr was confused; she hadn't done anything wrong. Then she saw the water. "When I went to bed, it wasn't raining or snowing or anything -- everything was fine," she said. "I opened the door and there's police and there's just water. That's all you see is water. I had one more step before it was over my porch."

Opinion

Op-Ed: Access to the Outdoors Is a Basic Human Right

Outside Online (Rubio, Richard)

The Land of Enchantment: our state motto perfectly captures New Mexico and its sacred Zia, a harmonious symbol of friendship that originated in the Zia Pueblo. The four words evoke a stunning landscape of mountains, rivers, deserts, forests, and Native American communities. The Land of Enchantment has sunsets that take your breath away, with skylines sketched on a canvas of reds, oranges, purples, and pinks.

No need to drill for oil in precious lands

Adirondack Daily Enterprise (Editorial Board)

The United States has become the world's leading producer of petroleum, beating even Saudi Arabia. That means we can be somewhat choosy about where we drill for oil. Two key conflicts exist in that regard. One, of course, is protection of the environment, including natural treasures that, once devastated, can never be replaced.

Top National News

U.S., Allies Are Set to Retake Islamic State Territory, Trump Says

Wall Street Journal (McBride)

President Trump said the U.S. and its coalition partners are on the verge of regaining control over all the territory held by Islamic State, with an announcement expected within the next week that the task has been accomplished. Addressing representatives of the 79-member global coalition formed to fight the extremist group at a gathering Wednesday in Washington, Mr. Trump said: "Our military has been incredible, and your militaries have been incredible."

A new Google tool tells you if your password is unsafe

CNN (Garcia)

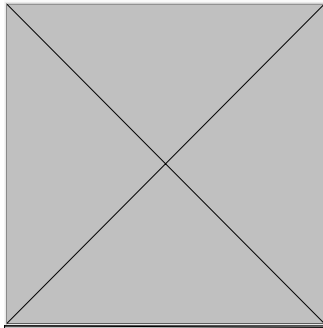
There is a good chance hackers already know your favorite passwords. Now Google has a new free tool to let you know when your login information is exposed. People who use Google Chrome can download the Password Checkup extension, which will monitor their various website logins. When someone logs in with a username and password that Google knows has been compromised, it triggers a warning that prompts the user to change the password.

'We have one reef': Key West bans popular sunscreens to help keep coral alive

Washington Post (Bever)

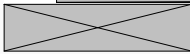
Soon, beachgoers won't be able to buy certain top-selling sunscreens along parts of the Florida Keys. The Key West City Commission voted Tuesday night to ban sunscreens containing oxybenzone and octinoxate, two chemicals that have been shown to be damaging to coral reefs. Beginning in January 2021, Key West will ban such sunscreens from sale within city limits — taking a cue from Hawaii, which became the first state to pass a similar ban.

Date	Host	Title
2/10-14	Society for Range Management	Society for Range Management
3/20	ACORE	Renewable Energy Policy Forum



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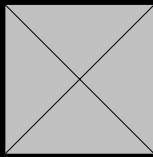
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DOI News

[Bernhardt's past work as solicitor sheds light on his future](#)

Greenwire (Doyle)

Back when Donald Trump was but a businessman with a gleam in his eye, David Bernhardt was putting a distinctive stamp on the Interior Department during a formative tour as the department's solicitor.

[U.S. Department of Interior Sec. David Bernhardt talks energy independence](#)

in Hobbs

Carlsbad Current-Argus (Hedden)

During his State of the Union address President Donald Trump championed American energy independence as the country becomes a major global producer of oil and gas. The next day on Wednesday, Acting Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt traveled to the heart of one of the nation's biggest oil plays in southeast New Mexico and a region, he said, was a cornerstone to achieving the President's goals. Bernhardt met with workers at Watson Hopper in Hobbs, where oil rigs were being built to service operations in the Permian Basin.

The Latest: Trump official touts lease sales in New Mexico

Associated Press (Hobbs)

A top Trump administration official is touting record sales for oil and gas leases under the U.S. Bureau of Land Management as he seeks to promote energy development on public lands. Acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt says the federal agency last year generated \$1.1 billion from oil and gas lease sales, making 2018 its highest-grossing year.

Sen. Cramer on the Nomination of David Bernhardt as Department of Interior Secretary

KVLY (TV)

U.S. Senator Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) issued the following statement on the nomination of David Bernhardt as Department of Interior Secretary: "It's good to see President Trump nominate someone as experienced as David Bernhardt. As chairman of the EPW Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife, we oversee the Department of Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I look forward to meeting with Mr. Bernhardt to discuss the ways we can work together."

National Audubon Society Reacts to Nomination of David Bernhardt as Secretary of the Interior

Sierra Sun Times

"The Interior Secretary's job is to balance development interests with protecting public lands and wildlife. To date, the Interior Department leadership has fallen short in meeting their obligations to steward our nation's natural resources for our children and grandchildren," said Sarah Greenberger, senior vice president for conservation policy at National Audubon Society after news broke that David Bernhardt had been nominate to lead the Department of the Interior. "We don't have to undermine bedrock wildlife laws that protect birds and endangered species, sell off public lands to the highest bidder and open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling. We expect the Senate will only confirm a nominee who makes clear their commitment to right the course for future generations and hew more closely to the spirit of the agency's conservation mission."

Some outdoor organizations reject Trump's Interior Secretary nomination

SNEWS (Arevesen)

President Donald Trump has nominated a former oil and gas lobbyist as Secretary of the Interior, which, according to several outdoor advocacy organizations, doesn't bode well for public lands. Trump appointed David Bernhardt as deputy secretary to Ryan Zinke, and has been running the Interior since the Montanan stepped down last December.

Lawmakers ask for GAO review of Interior's decisions during government shutdown

Federal News Network (Ogrysko)

A few members of Congress are growing increasingly skeptical of the Trump administration's decisions to reopen certain agency functions as the recent government shutdown dragged on to the longest in U.S. history. Reps. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.), chairwoman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, and Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.), chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, are asking the Government Accountability Office to conduct an official review of certain actions the Trump administration took to keep national parks open during the 35-day government shutdown.

Interior Says New Rule Makes It Easier To Get Public Records, But Will It?

Wyoming Public Media (Hegyi)

When Ryan Zinke, a former Navy SEAL, resigned from his post as U.S. Interior Department secretary on Jan. 2, he was under fire on multiple fronts. There was an ongoing federal investigation into his role in a real estate deal between Zinke's family foundation and the head of oil giant Halliburton. Rumors swirled that his office tried to replace the head of Interior's internal watchdog with a Trump political appointee.

Federal Oil And Gas Lease Sales Break \$1 Billion In 2018, Nearly Triple Previous Record

Daily Caller (Pearce)

Federal oil and gas lease sales earned roughly \$1.1 billion in 2018, nearly tripling the previous record set a decade ago, Acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt announced Wednesday. Oil and gas lease sales generated about \$408 million in revenue to the federal and state governments in 2008. Preliminary data indicates that 2018's sales have safely shattered that record.

Trump: We cannot continue to spend 'billions' on 'preventable' forest fires

The Hill (Samuels)

President Trump on Wednesday appeared to ease off his threat to cut disaster funding for California forest fire victims, but emphasized there should be action to prevent future blazes. “I told my people, I said we cannot continue to spend billions of dollars, billions and billions of dollars,” Trump told regional reporters at the White House. “Forest fires are totally preventable. They shouldn’t happen.”

Republicans push back at first climate hearings

The Hill (Green)

Democratic leaders asserted their newfound control of the House on Wednesday by convening two key committee hearings on climate change that each emphasized the need for swift action on curbing greenhouse gas emissions after years of inaction under former Republican leadership. The two simultaneous hearings held by the House Natural Resources and Energy and Commerce committees Wednesday were the first in nine and six years respectively to focus on fixing climate change.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Inside One Native Tribe's Decades-Long Fight For Recognition

Pacific Standard (Furshong)

Hill 57 stands at the western edge of Great Falls, Montana, toffee-colored and treeless beneath a gray winter sky. The weather is unusually mild for mid-January, and tufts of grass poke through patches of melting snow. At the foot of the hill, a small blue warehouse has been converted to a tribal cultural center. The building's dirt parking lot is packed full of cars and pick-up trucks with license plates from across the state.

American Indian/Alaska Native Public Witness Hearings

Indian Country Today

The Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies will hold public witness hearings on Tuesday, February 26 for non-tribal programs, and March 6 and 7 for tribal programs. In addition to the public witness hearings, written testimony will be accepted in accordance with the guidelines below. All written testimony will be reviewed by the subcommittee and will be included in the public record.

How Pamunkey Tribe’s proposed \$700 million casino could bring gaming to Virginia

Indian Country Today (Schilling)

In 2016, the Pamunkey Tribe in Virginia received federal recognition in Virginia, becoming the first tribe in that state to be recognized. Now, in 2019, the Pamunkey are seeking to secure land in Norfolk, Virginia to begin building a proposed \$700 million casino. With this \$700

million dollar casino, the Pamunkey—who received recognition in 2016 through the federal BIA process—are setting a precedent that has not been seen in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The state will have gaming for the first time.

Native Americans protest border wall at site of Texas butterfly habitat

The Hill (Folley)

A group of Native Americans on Monday protested President Trump's plans to build a border wall which will cut through a protected natural habitat for butterflies. The protest was at the National Butterfly Center in Mission, Texas. The barrier is expected to pass through the butterfly refuge, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

Office of Insular and International Affairs

\$722 Million Spent on Hurricane Recovery So Far – \$894 Million More on the Way

St. Thomas Source (Knight)

In the 16 months after the 2017 hurricanes, the U.S. Virgin Islands has spent roughly \$722 million in disaster funds so far, spread across various local government agencies, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency has obligated \$894 million for approved projects, according to Finance Commissioner Nominee Kirk Callwood.

Governor willing to work with Kilili to address NMI immigration issues

Marianas Variety (Erediano)

Governor Ralph DLG Torres said he wants to work with U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan in addressing CNMI immigration issues. These include ensuring that the individuals on humanitarian parole can remain in the CNMI. In a letter dated Jan. 25, Torres told Kilili that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director L. Francis Cissna has informed him, the governor, of the Trump administration's "interest in securing legislative remedy." Torres said the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's decision to end the humanitarian parole in the Commonwealth has "impacted hundreds of individuals who have lived and called the CNMI home for years."

China releases footage of 'Guam killer' missile in 'clear message to US'

South China Morning Post

China has revealed footage of its next-generation Dongfeng-26 ballistic missile showing improved stability and accuracy, a move analysts say aims to send a message to the United States about its military strength. Footage of the missile was released for the first time in a report on state broadcaster CCTV, amid intensifying military rivalry between China and the U.S. Four fin-like flight control surfaces are seen around the missile nose in the report on an

exercise in northwest China. The People's Liberation Army Rocket Force launched at least one DF-26 missile during the drill.

Torres to lobby DC on H-2B

Saipan Tribune (Perez)

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is set to leave for Washington, D.C. in the third week of February to attend the National Governors Association's winter meeting and, at the same time, meet with some federal officials to talk about the H-2B program. The NGA meeting is set from Feb. 22 to 25. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently removed the Philippines from its list of countries whose workers are eligible for H-2B visas.

USVI Still 'Mired in Financial Crisis'; Structural Deficit at \$415M

St. Thomas Source (Knight)

The U.S. Virgin Islands is still in a state of financial crisis, and the government's structural debt has continued to increase, Gov. Albert Bryan's financial team told the Senate Finance Committee Tuesday in remarks that echoed Bryan's State of the Territory address. "The state of our territory is distressed and still very much mired in financial and economic crisis," said Kirk Callwood, Finance commissioner nominee, reporting a current structural deficit of \$415 million that he stressed had "accumulated over time."

China eyed as niche market in Pacific tourism industry

Radio New Zealand

The South Pacific Tourism Organisation says it hopes to develop a niche market for Chinese tourists in the region. Direct air links are yet to be set up between China and the Pacific but for the Chinese New Year, charter flights are being run to Fiji and New Caledonia. The chief executive of the Organisation, Chris Cocker, said the industry is still trying to learn about China and its culture.

USVI is Committed to Regional Collaboration, Boschulte Tells Tourism Officials

St. Thomas Source

Joe Boschulte, the new head of the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism, signaled his department's desire to collaborate with other Caribbean destinations in promoting the region in the global marketplace. "A rising tide lifts all boats, so it is important that Caribbean destinations work more collaboratively to earn a greater share of the global tourism business," Boschulte said following the 37th annual Caribbean Travel Marketplace, held last week in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Roof installations completed 4 months after Yutu

Saipan Tribune (Bautista)

The final nail on the 546th roof was drilled into place yesterday, signifying the completion of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's temporary roofing program in the Commonwealth, four months following the destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu. Members of the Torres administration, members of the CNMI community, and servicemen under the U.S Department of Defense came together to complete the construction of the final temporary roof under the Temporary Emergency Tent and Roofing Installation Support program led by FEMA.

Senate President will listen only to the governor on bonds

Talane News

Senate President Gaoteote Palaie Tofau is insisting that senators heed Governor Lolo Moliga's request not to call in Treasurer Ueligitone Tonumaie'a at this time for a hearing on the 2018 bond series and how these new bonds will be paid. This amid reports that the administration is preparing new tax legislation to raise revenues to repay the bonds. KHJ News understands that the tax legislation will be submitted to the Fono next month.

Bureau of Land Management

Greens seek to overturn Utah lease sales near monuments

Greenwire (Yachnin)

A Utah-based conservation group today filed suit in federal court challenging dozens of oil and gas leases sold by the Bureau of Land Management, arguing the Trump administration relied on "arbitrary, capricious and legally inadequate efforts" ahead of a March 2018 auction.

Agency shuffles senior leadership with retirements, transfers

E&E News (Streater)

The Bureau of Land Management is once again reshaping senior leadership, as BLM's second-in-command is set to retire as early as the end of the month, the bureau's fire and aviation program director is moving to the Idaho state office, and two new state directors are close to being finalized in Alaska and Montana-Dakotas. Margaret Schneider, who in August was appointed acting deputy director of operations, is set to retire, though a firm date has not been set due to the looming threat of another partial federal government shutdown. The deputy director of operations handles the day-to-day operations of the bureau and its nearly 10,000 employees who manage 250 million acres of public lands under its control.

Group says oil and gas leases will ruin ancient cultural artifacts in Utah

Deseret News (O'Donoghue)

A conservation organization is suing the U.S. Department of Interior for offering oil and gas leases in a remote section of southeast Utah it says is packed with ancient cultural relics. Advocates for the West filed the lawsuit Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Utah on behalf of Friends of Cedar Mesa, which is targeting the first of three related oil and gas lease sales held in March 2018.

Bureau of Land Management moves forward with the sale of sacred land

Inhabitat (Miller)

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is moving forward with the sale of land in the vicinity of New Mexico's Chaco Culture National Historical Park. The land, which is considered sacred ground by Native Americans in the area, was approved amid heavy criticism from environmentalists and tribal leaders.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

?Gov. Baker Presents 4 Themes To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in DC Testimony

Framingham Source (Petroni)

Today, Feb. 6, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker testified before the House Natural Resources Committee in Washington, D.C. to discuss what Massachusetts is doing to address climate change at the first congressional hearing on climate change in over eight years. He shared the Commonwealth's bipartisan record of addressing climate change, urging Washington to work across all levels of government in a similar fashion and highlighted some of the Baker-Polito Administration's bipartisan initiatives and cost-effective projects put in place to prepare for the effects of a changing climate and to promote renewable energy.

Stoecker: State pins energy future on offshore turbines

Long Island Business News (Stoecker)

The State of New York and Deepwater Wind continue to move forward with the development of a 15 turbine wind farm off Long Island's south fork, the second such one in the United States. It's a project that could pay big dividends for our region and the state. The project comes as part of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's goal of having New York produce 50 percent of its energy from renewables by 2030.

State: Vineyard Wind can seek local permits for cable

Cape Cod Times (Bragg)

Vineyard Wind can now move forward with regional and local permitting for its planned offshore wind farm after receiving a critical certificate from state environmental officials, and regulators on the Cape and Islands say they are ready. "We've looked at cables before," said

Paul Foley, the development of regional impact coordinator with the Martha's Vineyard Commission.

Hebrew Center to host Vineyard Wind hearing

Martha's Vineyard Times (Saltzberg)

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Army Corps of Engineers are coming to to the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center to talk about Vineyard Wind on Feb. 12. BOEM is crafting an Environmental Impact Statement about Vineyard Wind's construction and operation plan and will seek public comment at the hearing regarding it. The Army Corps of Engineers will also be present to seek comment on a permit application from Vineyard Wind relative to the Rivers and Harbors Act and the Clean Water Act.

University Of Delaware Sets Up Courses To Train Offshore Wind Professionals

Clean Technica (Hanley)

Last fall, the University of Delaware, in partnership with the Energy and Climate Academy of Denmark, announced it was creating a new curriculum to train people for jobs in the wind energy industry. The first of the new courses began last week. This is the first offshore wind skills training program in the United States to focus on professionals and managers seeking to enter the industry. The courses will provide instruction in the basics of wind power, offshore wind turbines, and the development of offshore wind projects with an emphasis on professionals from traditional energy industries, supply chain companies, regulators, the investment community and others.

Norfolk students rally to protect offshore drilling

WVEC (TV)

Over 100 students rallied Tuesday to protest the anticipated expansion of offshore drilling off the Atlantic Coast. Students met on Old Dominions University's campus where there was a 12-foot long, 6-foot tall inflatable whale. "Marine life would suffer deeply from the impacts of an oil spill," Nasha Robertson, President of VegODU, said.

Bureau of Reclamation

Water rights legislation heads to governor's desk

Greenwire

Legislation to end years of litigation and help finalize a settlement agreement involving water rights in heavily populated southwestern Idaho is headed to the governor's desk following a unanimous Senate vote yesterday.

Idaho water legislation headed to governor's desk

Associated Press (Ridler)

Legislation to end years of litigation and help finalize a settlement agreement involving water rights in heavily populated southwestern Idaho is headed to the governor's desk following a unanimous Senate vote on Tuesday. The 35-0 vote sends to Gov. Brad Little the bill that involves water rights in the Boise River system. "It was an important last piece of getting that settlement completed," said Sen. Jim Rice, R-Caldwell, one of the bill's sponsors in the Senate. "Water is one of those issues you have to get right in Idaho."

Drought deal trips over Calif. water district demands

Greenwire (Jacobs)

A California water district and a looming environmental disaster have impounded drought contingency negotiations on the Colorado River.

Bureau of Reclamation Releases Biological Assessment for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project

Sierra Sun Times

The Bureau of Reclamation released the Biological Assessment for the re-initiation of consultation on the coordinated long-term operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. The document was transmitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for consideration in developing new biological opinions covering CVP and SWP operations. Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources re-initiated consultation in 2016 based on new information related to multiple years of drought and ongoing science efforts.

Congressman Kevin McCarthy praises Trump administration for biological assessment

KERO (TV) (Broderick)

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a biological assessment on the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. Congressman Kevin McCarthy issued a statement, praising the administration for updating the science to maximize water supplies in California.

What Is Happening With The Colorado River Drought Plans?

KUNC 91.5 FM (Radio) (Runyon, Jaspers)

States that rely on the Colorado River for their water supplies are currently unable to finish a series of agreements that would keep its biggest reservoirs, Lake Mead and Lake Powell, from dropping to levels not seen since they were filled decades ago. Five states — Colorado, Utah,

New Mexico, Wyoming and Nevada — are done. The country of Mexico has also completed its portion. But California and Arizona failed to meet a Jan. 31 federal government deadline to wrap up negotiations and sign a final agreement.

Runoff in Upper Colorado River Basin likely below-average, federal official warns

Aspen Times (Gardner-Smith)

The regional director of the Upper Colorado River Basin for the Bureau of Reclamation told water managers and users last week to expect below-average runoff this year, despite encouraging snowfall this winter. Brent Rhees — who oversees the federal reservoirs in the upper basin for the Bureau of Reclamation, including Lake Powell, Flaming Gorge and Blue Mesa — said that although this winter's snowfall in the upper basin above Lake Powell was now above average (106 percent Tuesday) the parched ground left in the wake of a hot, dry 2018 likely would soak up a lot of the resultant moisture in the spring.

Big storms boost already impressive snow pack

Folsom Telegraph (Sullivan)

Last week the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) conducted the second Phillips Station snow survey of the new year which yielded more positive results and a bright future ahead when it comes to local lake levels for the spring and summer months. The recent survey showed California's snow pack now at 100 percent of average, and that was before the latest series of storms that dumped several feet of snow in the high country this past week. Early runoff from the storms have brought Folsom Lake closer to its winter threshold which is 577,000 for flood control. As of Tuesday, the lake sat at 576,090 acre feet.

Community continues push for Klamath dam removal

Times-Standard (Mukherjee)

Humboldt County residents have until Feb. 26 to offer input on the draft environmental report covering the pending removal of four Klamath River dams, dams many scientists say have diminished the river's water quality and endangered its salmon populations.

Fish and Wildlife Service

Sen. Hirono Urges Swift Passage of Bipartisan Public Lands Package

Big Island Now

Sen. Mazie Hirono took to the Senate floor on Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019, to urge the swift passage of S.47, the Natural Resources Management Act. The sweeping bipartisan public lands package includes, among other critical Hawai'i priorities, a permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, legislation to expand Conservation Corps programs

like KUPU, and legislation Sen. Hirono introduced in the 115th Congress to expand and improve volcano monitoring across the country.

Monarch butterflies stump researchers

Greenwire (Heller)

The campaign to save monarch butterflies faces a new mystery: The beloved insects are on the rebound in the East and disappearing in the West.

Feeding season underway

Kackson Hole Daily (Koshmrl)

For the first time since March 2017, big-rig elk feeding trucks rumbled over the frozen pastures of the National Elk Refuge on Wednesday. Biologists who keep tabs on the volume of accessible forage on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service preserve say that elk had consumed or deep snow had locked in 93 percent of the grassy forage that was available as recently as mid-October. More than 5,000 elk that have gathered on the refuge's southern flats were competing for those remnants of last year's growth, though that number is expected to spike in the coming days.

Willapa Refuge's Ferrier named manager of the year

Chinook Observer (Webb)

Jackie Ferrier, the hard-working leader at the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge Complex, has won a top national award. She has been named the 2019 Paul Kroegel National Wildlife Refuge System Refuge Manager of the Year. Presented by the National Wildlife Refuge Association, and given in honor of Kroegel, the first manager of a national wildlife refuge, the award recognizes outstanding accomplishment by a refuge manager in the protection and management of national wildlife refuges.

Atlantic Coast Pipeline delayed amid price increase

Staunton News Leader (Fair)

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline service date was pushed to 2021, according to Dominion a Energy quarterly earnings news release published on Friday. The new schedule increases the estimated cost for the project to be between \$7 billion and \$7.5 billion. The project was initially projected to cost between \$4.5 billion and \$5 billion. But the project construction remains stalled due to some permit trouble. "We remain highly confident in the successful and timely resolution of all outstanding permit issues as well as the ultimate completion of the entire project," said chairman, president and chief executive office Thomas Farrell. "We are actively pursuing multiple paths to resolve all outstanding permit issues including judicial, legislative, and administrative avenues."

Iowa monarch conservation strategy updated with best management practices

Mapleton Press

The Iowa Monarch Conservation Strategy recently added best management practices to guide Iowans in helping increase monarch butterfly habitat. Establishing and maintaining monarch habitat on agricultural lands, urban, and suburban areas, rural roadside rights of way, and public lands is essential for Iowa to meet its monarch conservation goal of establishing 480,000 to 830,000 acres of habitat by 2038. These goals were outlined in the strategy, released in March 2018, by the Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium.

Man Who Killed Wolf Inside Grand Teton Pleads Guilty

Mountain Journal (Wilkinson)

A 56-year-old Wyoming man charged with killing a gray wolf inside Grand Teton National Park has pled guilty and received a \$5,040 fine. His identity and that of a woman who was also charged have not been released by park officials. According to a park press release circulated Wednesday, law enforcement officials investigated the illegal killing of the wolf on or about January 1, 2019 near Spread Creek along Grand Teton's eastern border. The wolf killed was an uncollared young female.

Wolf Moved Last Fall To Isle Royale National Park Heads For Home

National Parks Traveler

A wolf moved to Isle Royale National Park last fall in a bid to boost the island's predators took advantage of an ice bridge tying the island to the mainland and set off toward Minnesota where she had been captured. "I was excited to see locations after not seeing anything for five days, but that excitement quickly gave way to disappointment as my eyes followed the track that led away from Isle Royale. I knew this could happen but of course you always hope for the best," Mark Romanski, the park's chief of resources, said Wednesday.

Rats remain on Lehua

Garden Island (Else)

There are more seabirds on Lehua Island after the 2017 helicopter drop of rodenticide over the landmass, but the rats haven't completely disappeared. "Because there have been periodic detections of rats in localized areas, the Lehua Island Ecosystem Restoration Project is in a mop-up phase to complete the eradication," said Dan Dennison, spokesman for the state Department of Land and Natural Resources, a partner in the project.

National Park Service

National Park Service Announces \$48.5 Million In Assistance For Communities Affected By Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, And Maria

National Parks Traveler

The National Park Service announced \$48.5 million in supplemental assistance grants to help historic resources recover in areas impacted by hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria in 2017. Communities in Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Texas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands will receive assistance for historic preservation projects related to hurricane recovery efforts.

NPS faces more fire for using visitor fees during shutdown

Greenwire (Hotakainen)

The National Park Service today came under renewed attack on Capitol Hill over its decision to use revenue from visitor fees to keep parks open during the five-week partial government shutdown.

Park Service backtracks, won't use entrance fees to pay for shutdown operations

The Hill (Green, Cama)

The National Park Service (NPS) will retroactively pull from congressionally appropriated funds to pay for the park maintenance and other operations the Trump administration authorized during the partial government shutdown, according to an internal NPS memo obtained by The Hill Wednesday. Dan Smith, NPS's deputy director and its top official, told staff in an emailed memo that the agency will reverse its earlier, controversial decision to use park visitor entrance fees to pay for maintenance and staffing needs under the shutdown.

Park Service Refunds Entrance Fees Used During Shutdown (1)

Bloomberg Environment (Kern)

The National Park Service is refunding the money it spent from its visitor entrance fees during the partial government shutdown with continuing resolution funds it received Jan. 25, the agency announced in a Feb. 6 memo.

Dem chairwoman seeks watchdog probe of Park Service's shutdown operations

The Hill (Cama)

The top House Democrat overseeing the National Park Service's (NPS) funding is formally asking for an official probe of the Trump administration's decision to use agency entrance fees to operate parks during the government shutdown. Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.), chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee's subpanel for the Interior Department, announced her intent to seek a Government Accountability Office (GAO) probe after a Wednesday hearing on the use of the fees.

Tourism Strong In Yellowstone And Glacier Despite Wildfires

Montana Public Radio

Yellowstone National Park reports that it experienced another busy year last year. The park recorded over 4.1 million visits. That's a 0.04-percent decrease from 2017 and a 3.5 percent decrease from the record-breaking year in 2016. It was the third busiest year on record. To calculate visitation numbers for late December, during the partial government shutdown, park staff used data from an automated counter that recorded vehicle traffic at the North Entrance and reports from over-snow concessioners.

Despite drop, visitation still strong at Glacier National Park

KTVH (TV)

Glacier National Park's final visitor totals for 2018 show a strong year for tourism in the park. But they couldn't quite overcome the impact of a wildfire closing down the Park's most popular section for the second year in a row. The National Park Service released the final statistics for Glacier visits after the long partial federal government shutdown delayed its completion.

'If the government shuts down, we'll do it again': Vicksburg military park kept open, and 19,000 visitors showed up

Mississippi Today (Rozier)

A 35-day tug-of-war in Washington D.C. would have kept over 19,000 tourists out of one of the world's jewels for military history. The Vicksburg National Military Park, however, kept its forts manned during the federal government's partial shutdown thanks to the support of a local non-profit, Friends of VNMP, as well as the City of Vicksburg. Friends of VNMP released new figures last week showing only a slight decrease in visitation.

On a Civil War battlefield in Western Maryland, opposition to Hogan's land swap

Washington Post (Chason)

Paul Gilligan is standing inside a West Main Street storefront that predates the Civil War, waving a cigar and talking about a battle he says is too often overlooked. Days before Antietam, the single deadliest day in American military history, the Battle of South Mountain unfolded around this tiny town in Western Maryland, which has a modern-day population of 160.

National Park Service aims to untangle traffic, improve safety at Memorial Circle

WTOP (TV) (Augenstein)

Driving through Memorial Circle provides one of the most beautiful views available of the nation's capital. But a driver who momentarily takes eyes off the labyrinth of merging lanes is likely to end up in the wrong place, or in a fender-bender. The National Park Service has been

pulling together options to make travel safer and improve traffic flow through the circle, which sits between the south end of the Memorial Bridge and the main gate of Arlington National Cemetery.

U.S. Geological Survey

Who Will Feed The LNG Monster?

Forbes (Rapier)

In the previous article, I discussed the global nature of the oil markets. But the shale oil boom in the U.S. temporarily increased the localized impact on the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) benchmark. As a result, its price diverged from that of international crudes for a few years. The natural gas markets, on the other hand, are far more localized due to the difficulty in transporting natural gas. That means that natural gas in the U.S. could be \$3 per million British thermal units (MMBtu), but double or triple that level in Japan or Europe.

USGS: 4.4 magnitude earthquake hits Blue Lake Wednesday morning

KRCR (TV) (Krauss)

A 4.4 magnitude earthquake hit 13 kilometers east-southeast of Blue Lake around 10:23 Wednesday morning. A smaller 2.5 magnitude earthquake hit the same area 12 minutes later at 10:35 a.m. These two earthquakes come only two days after the North Coast experienced a swarm of 14 earthquakes that hit over a 72-hour period Saturday through Monday. Most of those quakes hit off the coast of Petrolia.

Small Earthquake Shakes Near Gilroy: USGS

KNTV (TV)

A 2.5 magnitude earthquake struck near Gilroy late Wednesday, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The temblor struck at 8:15 p.m., about 6 miles east of Gilroy near the San Luis Reservoir, the USGS said. It was relatively shallow at just 4 kilometers deep, according to USGS figures.

'I have no clue what I'm going home to,' resident says after Grand River flood

Booth Newspapers (Kransz)

Shortly after midnight, Rose Cyr was awakened by heavy knocking at the door. It was the police. Cyr was confused; she hadn't done anything wrong. Then she saw the water. "When I went to bed, it wasn't raining or snowing or anything -- everything was fine," she said. "I opened the door and there's police and there's just water. That's all you see is water. I had one more step before it was over my porch."

Opinion

Op-Ed: Access to the Outdoors Is a Basic Human Right

Outside Online (Rubio, Richard)

The Land of Enchantment: our state motto perfectly captures New Mexico and its sacred Zia, a harmonious symbol of friendship that originated in the Zia Pueblo. The four words evoke a stunning landscape of mountains, rivers, deserts, forests, and Native American communities. The Land of Enchantment has sunsets that take your breath away, with skylines sketched on a canvas of reds, oranges, purples, and pinks.

No need to drill for oil in precious lands

Adirondack Daily Enterprise (Editorial Board)

The United States has become the world's leading producer of petroleum, beating even Saudi Arabia. That means we can be somewhat choosy about where we drill for oil. Two key conflicts exist in that regard. One, of course, is protection of the environment, including natural treasures that, once devastated, can never be replaced.

Top National News

U.S., Allies Are Set to Retake Islamic State Territory, Trump Says

Wall Street Journal (McBride)

President Trump said the U.S. and its coalition partners are on the verge of regaining control over all the territory held by Islamic State, with an announcement expected within the next week that the task has been accomplished. Addressing representatives of the 79-member global coalition formed to fight the extremist group at a gathering Wednesday in Washington, Mr. Trump said: "Our military has been incredible, and your militaries have been incredible."

A new Google tool tells you if your password is unsafe

CNN (Garcia)

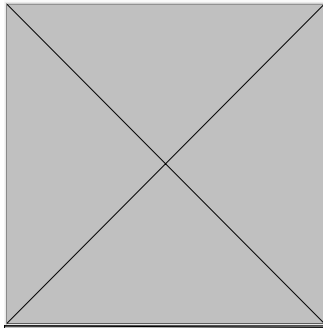
There is a good chance hackers already know your favorite passwords. Now Google has a new free tool to let you know when your login information is exposed. People who use Google Chrome can download the Password Checkup extension, which will monitor their various website logins. When someone logs in with a username and password that Google knows has been compromised, it triggers a warning that prompts the user to change the password.

'We have one reef': Key West bans popular sunscreens to help keep coral alive

Washington Post (Bever)

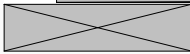
Soon, beachgoers won't be able to buy certain top-selling sunscreens along parts of the Florida Keys. The Key West City Commission voted Tuesday night to ban sunscreens containing oxybenzone and octinoxate, two chemicals that have been shown to be damaging to coral reefs. Beginning in January 2021, Key West will ban such sunscreens from sale within city limits — taking a cue from Hawaii, which became the first state to pass a similar ban.

Date	Host	Title
2/10-14	Society for Range Management	Society for Range Management
3/20	ACORE	Renewable Energy Policy Forum



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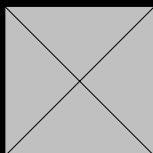
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DOI News

[Bernhardt's past work as solicitor sheds light on his future](#)

Greenwire (Doyle)

Back when Donald Trump was but a businessman with a gleam in his eye, David Bernhardt was putting a distinctive stamp on the Interior Department during a formative tour as the department's solicitor.

[U.S. Department of Interior Sec. David Bernhardt talks energy independence](#)

in Hobbs

Carlsbad Current-Argus (Hedden)

During his State of the Union address President Donald Trump championed American energy independence as the country becomes a major global producer of oil and gas. The next day on Wednesday, Acting Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt traveled to the heart of one of the nation's biggest oil plays in southeast New Mexico and a region, he said, was a cornerstone to achieving the President's goals. Bernhardt met with workers at Watson Hopper in Hobbs, where oil rigs were being built to service operations in the Permian Basin.

The Latest: Trump official touts lease sales in New Mexico

Associated Press (Hobbs)

A top Trump administration official is touting record sales for oil and gas leases under the U.S. Bureau of Land Management as he seeks to promote energy development on public lands. Acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt says the federal agency last year generated \$1.1 billion from oil and gas lease sales, making 2018 its highest-grossing year.

Sen. Cramer on the Nomination of David Bernhardt as Department of Interior Secretary

KVLY (TV)

U.S. Senator Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) issued the following statement on the nomination of David Bernhardt as Department of Interior Secretary: "It's good to see President Trump nominate someone as experienced as David Bernhardt. As chairman of the EPW Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife, we oversee the Department of Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I look forward to meeting with Mr. Bernhardt to discuss the ways we can work together."

National Audubon Society Reacts to Nomination of David Bernhardt as Secretary of the Interior

Sierra Sun Times

"The Interior Secretary's job is to balance development interests with protecting public lands and wildlife. To date, the Interior Department leadership has fallen short in meeting their obligations to steward our nation's natural resources for our children and grandchildren," said Sarah Greenberger, senior vice president for conservation policy at National Audubon Society after news broke that David Bernhardt had been nominate to lead the Department of the Interior. "We don't have to undermine bedrock wildlife laws that protect birds and endangered species, sell off public lands to the highest bidder and open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling. We expect the Senate will only confirm a nominee who makes clear their commitment to right the course for future generations and hew more closely to the spirit of the agency's conservation mission."

Some outdoor organizations reject Trump's Interior Secretary nomination

SNEWS (Arevesen)

President Donald Trump has nominated a former oil and gas lobbyist as Secretary of the Interior, which, according to several outdoor advocacy organizations, doesn't bode well for public lands. Trump appointed David Bernhardt as deputy secretary to Ryan Zinke, and has been running the Interior since the Montanan stepped down last December.

Lawmakers ask for GAO review of Interior's decisions during government shutdown

Federal News Network (Ogrysko)

A few members of Congress are growing increasingly skeptical of the Trump administration's decisions to reopen certain agency functions as the recent government shutdown dragged on to the longest in U.S. history. Reps. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.), chairwoman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, and Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.), chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, are asking the Government Accountability Office to conduct an official review of certain actions the Trump administration took to keep national parks open during the 35-day government shutdown.

Interior Says New Rule Makes It Easier To Get Public Records, But Will It?

Wyoming Public Media (Hegyi)

When Ryan Zinke, a former Navy SEAL, resigned from his post as U.S. Interior Department secretary on Jan. 2, he was under fire on multiple fronts. There was an ongoing federal investigation into his role in a real estate deal between Zinke's family foundation and the head of oil giant Halliburton. Rumors swirled that his office tried to replace the head of Interior's internal watchdog with a Trump political appointee.

Federal Oil And Gas Lease Sales Break \$1 Billion In 2018, Nearly Triple Previous Record

Daily Caller (Pearce)

Federal oil and gas lease sales earned roughly \$1.1 billion in 2018, nearly tripling the previous record set a decade ago, Acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt announced Wednesday. Oil and gas lease sales generated about \$408 million in revenue to the federal and state governments in 2008. Preliminary data indicates that 2018's sales have safely shattered that record.

Trump: We cannot continue to spend 'billions' on 'preventable' forest fires

The Hill (Samuels)

President Trump on Wednesday appeared to ease off his threat to cut disaster funding for California forest fire victims, but emphasized there should be action to prevent future blazes. “I told my people, I said we cannot continue to spend billions of dollars, billions and billions of dollars,” Trump told regional reporters at the White House. “Forest fires are totally preventable. They shouldn’t happen.”

Republicans push back at first climate hearings

The Hill (Green)

Democratic leaders asserted their newfound control of the House on Wednesday by convening two key committee hearings on climate change that each emphasized the need for swift action on curbing greenhouse gas emissions after years of inaction under former Republican leadership. The two simultaneous hearings held by the House Natural Resources and Energy and Commerce committees Wednesday were the first in nine and six years respectively to focus on fixing climate change.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Inside One Native Tribe's Decades-Long Fight For Recognition

Pacific Standard (Furshong)

Hill 57 stands at the western edge of Great Falls, Montana, toffee-colored and treeless beneath a gray winter sky. The weather is unusually mild for mid-January, and tufts of grass poke through patches of melting snow. At the foot of the hill, a small blue warehouse has been converted to a tribal cultural center. The building's dirt parking lot is packed full of cars and pick-up trucks with license plates from across the state.

American Indian/Alaska Native Public Witness Hearings

Indian Country Today

The Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies will hold public witness hearings on Tuesday, February 26 for non-tribal programs, and March 6 and 7 for tribal programs. In addition to the public witness hearings, written testimony will be accepted in accordance with the guidelines below. All written testimony will be reviewed by the subcommittee and will be included in the public record.

How Pamunkey Tribe’s proposed \$700 million casino could bring gaming to Virginia

Indian Country Today (Schilling)

In 2016, the Pamunkey Tribe in Virginia received federal recognition in Virginia, becoming the first tribe in that state to be recognized. Now, in 2019, the Pamunkey are seeking to secure land in Norfolk, Virginia to begin building a proposed \$700 million casino. With this \$700

million dollar casino, the Pamunkey—who received recognition in 2016 through the federal BIA process—are setting a precedent that has not been seen in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The state will have gaming for the first time.

Native Americans protest border wall at site of Texas butterfly habitat

The Hill (Folley)

A group of Native Americans on Monday protested President Trump's plans to build a border wall which will cut through a protected natural habitat for butterflies. The protest was at the National Butterfly Center in Mission, Texas. The barrier is expected to pass through the butterfly refuge, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

Office of Insular and International Affairs

\$722 Million Spent on Hurricane Recovery So Far – \$894 Million More on the Way

St. Thomas Source (Knight)

In the 16 months after the 2017 hurricanes, the U.S. Virgin Islands has spent roughly \$722 million in disaster funds so far, spread across various local government agencies, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency has obligated \$894 million for approved projects, according to Finance Commissioner Nominee Kirk Callwood.

Governor willing to work with Kilili to address NMI immigration issues

Marianas Variety (Erediano)

Governor Ralph DLG Torres said he wants to work with U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan in addressing CNMI immigration issues. These include ensuring that the individuals on humanitarian parole can remain in the CNMI. In a letter dated Jan. 25, Torres told Kilili that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director L. Francis Cissna has informed him, the governor, of the Trump administration's "interest in securing legislative remedy." Torres said the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's decision to end the humanitarian parole in the Commonwealth has "impacted hundreds of individuals who have lived and called the CNMI home for years."

China releases footage of 'Guam killer' missile in 'clear message to US'

South China Morning Post

China has revealed footage of its next-generation Dongfeng-26 ballistic missile showing improved stability and accuracy, a move analysts say aims to send a message to the United States about its military strength. Footage of the missile was released for the first time in a report on state broadcaster CCTV, amid intensifying military rivalry between China and the U.S. Four fin-like flight control surfaces are seen around the missile nose in the report on an

exercise in northwest China. The People's Liberation Army Rocket Force launched at least one DF-26 missile during the drill.

Torres to lobby DC on H-2B

Saipan Tribune (Perez)

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is set to leave for Washington, D.C. in the third week of February to attend the National Governors Association's winter meeting and, at the same time, meet with some federal officials to talk about the H-2B program. The NGA meeting is set from Feb. 22 to 25. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently removed the Philippines from its list of countries whose workers are eligible for H-2B visas.

USVI Still 'Mired in Financial Crisis'; Structural Deficit at \$415M

St. Thomas Source (Knight)

The U.S. Virgin Islands is still in a state of financial crisis, and the government's structural debt has continued to increase, Gov. Albert Bryan's financial team told the Senate Finance Committee Tuesday in remarks that echoed Bryan's State of the Territory address. "The state of our territory is distressed and still very much mired in financial and economic crisis," said Kirk Callwood, Finance commissioner nominee, reporting a current structural deficit of \$415 million that he stressed had "accumulated over time."

China eyed as niche market in Pacific tourism industry

Radio New Zealand

The South Pacific Tourism Organisation says it hopes to develop a niche market for Chinese tourists in the region. Direct air links are yet to be set up between China and the Pacific but for the Chinese New Year, charter flights are being run to Fiji and New Caledonia. The chief executive of the Organisation, Chris Cocker, said the industry is still trying to learn about China and its culture.

USVI is Committed to Regional Collaboration, Boschulte Tells Tourism Officials

St. Thomas Source

Joe Boschulte, the new head of the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism, signaled his department's desire to collaborate with other Caribbean destinations in promoting the region in the global marketplace. "A rising tide lifts all boats, so it is important that Caribbean destinations work more collaboratively to earn a greater share of the global tourism business," Boschulte said following the 37th annual Caribbean Travel Marketplace, held last week in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Roof installations completed 4 months after Yutu

Saipan Tribune (Bautista)

The final nail on the 546th roof was drilled into place yesterday, signifying the completion of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's temporary roofing program in the Commonwealth, four months following the destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu. Members of the Torres administration, members of the CNMI community, and servicemen under the U.S Department of Defense came together to complete the construction of the final temporary roof under the Temporary Emergency Tent and Roofing Installation Support program led by FEMA.

Senate President will listen only to the governor on bonds

Talane News

Senate President Gaoteote Palaie Tofau is insisting that senators heed Governor Lolo Moliga's request not to call in Treasurer Ueligitone Tonumaie'a at this time for a hearing on the 2018 bond series and how these new bonds will be paid. This amid reports that the administration is preparing new tax legislation to raise revenues to repay the bonds. KHJ News understands that the tax legislation will be submitted to the Fono next month.

Bureau of Land Management

Greens seek to overturn Utah lease sales near monuments

Greenwire (Yachnin)

A Utah-based conservation group today filed suit in federal court challenging dozens of oil and gas leases sold by the Bureau of Land Management, arguing the Trump administration relied on "arbitrary, capricious and legally inadequate efforts" ahead of a March 2018 auction.

Agency shuffles senior leadership with retirements, transfers

E&E News (Streater)

The Bureau of Land Management is once again reshaping senior leadership, as BLM's second-in-command is set to retire as early as the end of the month, the bureau's fire and aviation program director is moving to the Idaho state office, and two new state directors are close to being finalized in Alaska and Montana-Dakotas. Margaret Schneider, who in August was appointed acting deputy director of operations, is set to retire, though a firm date has not been set due to the looming threat of another partial federal government shutdown. The deputy director of operations handles the day-to-day operations of the bureau and its nearly 10,000 employees who manage 250 million acres of public lands under its control.

Group says oil and gas leases will ruin ancient cultural artifacts in Utah

Deseret News (O'Donoghue)

A conservation organization is suing the U.S. Department of Interior for offering oil and gas leases in a remote section of southeast Utah it says is packed with ancient cultural relics. Advocates for the West filed the lawsuit Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Utah on behalf of Friends of Cedar Mesa, which is targeting the first of three related oil and gas lease sales held in March 2018.

Bureau of Land Management moves forward with the sale of sacred land

Inhabitat (Miller)

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is moving forward with the sale of land in the vicinity of New Mexico's Chaco Culture National Historical Park. The land, which is considered sacred ground by Native Americans in the area, was approved amid heavy criticism from environmentalists and tribal leaders.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

?Gov. Baker Presents 4 Themes To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in DC Testimony

Framingham Source (Petroni)

Today, Feb. 6, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker testified before the House Natural Resources Committee in Washington, D.C. to discuss what Massachusetts is doing to address climate change at the first congressional hearing on climate change in over eight years. He shared the Commonwealth's bipartisan record of addressing climate change, urging Washington to work across all levels of government in a similar fashion and highlighted some of the Baker-Polito Administration's bipartisan initiatives and cost-effective projects put in place to prepare for the effects of a changing climate and to promote renewable energy.

Stoecker: State pins energy future on offshore turbines

Long Island Business News (Stoecker)

The State of New York and Deepwater Wind continue to move forward with the development of a 15 turbine wind farm off Long Island's south fork, the second such one in the United States. It's a project that could pay big dividends for our region and the state. The project comes as part of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's goal of having New York produce 50 percent of its energy from renewables by 2030.

State: Vineyard Wind can seek local permits for cable

Cape Cod Times (Bragg)

Vineyard Wind can now move forward with regional and local permitting for its planned offshore wind farm after receiving a critical certificate from state environmental officials, and regulators on the Cape and Islands say they are ready. "We've looked at cables before," said

Paul Foley, the development of regional impact coordinator with the Martha's Vineyard Commission.

Hebrew Center to host Vineyard Wind hearing

Martha's Vineyard Times (Saltzberg)

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Army Corps of Engineers are coming to to the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center to talk about Vineyard Wind on Feb. 12. BOEM is crafting an Environmental Impact Statement about Vineyard Wind's construction and operation plan and will seek public comment at the hearing regarding it. The Army Corps of Engineers will also be present to seek comment on a permit application from Vineyard Wind relative to the Rivers and Harbors Act and the Clean Water Act.

University Of Delaware Sets Up Courses To Train Offshore Wind Professionals

Clean Technica (Hanley)

Last fall, the University of Delaware, in partnership with the Energy and Climate Academy of Denmark, announced it was creating a new curriculum to train people for jobs in the wind energy industry. The first of the new courses began last week. This is the first offshore wind skills training program in the United States to focus on professionals and managers seeking to enter the industry. The courses will provide instruction in the basics of wind power, offshore wind turbines, and the development of offshore wind projects with an emphasis on professionals from traditional energy industries, supply chain companies, regulators, the investment community and others.

Norfolk students rally to protect offshore drilling

WVEC (TV)

Over 100 students rallied Tuesday to protest the anticipated expansion of offshore drilling off the Atlantic Coast. Students met on Old Dominions University's campus where there was a 12-foot long, 6-foot tall inflatable whale. "Marine life would suffer deeply from the impacts of an oil spill," Nasha Robertson, President of VegODU, said.

Bureau of Reclamation

Water rights legislation heads to governor's desk

Greenwire

Legislation to end years of litigation and help finalize a settlement agreement involving water rights in heavily populated southwestern Idaho is headed to the governor's desk following a unanimous Senate vote yesterday.

Idaho water legislation headed to governor's desk

Associated Press (Ridler)

Legislation to end years of litigation and help finalize a settlement agreement involving water rights in heavily populated southwestern Idaho is headed to the governor's desk following a unanimous Senate vote on Tuesday. The 35-0 vote sends to Gov. Brad Little the bill that involves water rights in the Boise River system. "It was an important last piece of getting that settlement completed," said Sen. Jim Rice, R-Caldwell, one of the bill's sponsors in the Senate. "Water is one of those issues you have to get right in Idaho."

Drought deal trips over Calif. water district demands

Greenwire (Jacobs)

A California water district and a looming environmental disaster have impounded drought contingency negotiations on the Colorado River.

Bureau of Reclamation Releases Biological Assessment for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project

Sierra Sun Times

The Bureau of Reclamation released the Biological Assessment for the re-initiation of consultation on the coordinated long-term operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. The document was transmitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for consideration in developing new biological opinions covering CVP and SWP operations. Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources re-initiated consultation in 2016 based on new information related to multiple years of drought and ongoing science efforts.

Congressman Kevin McCarthy praises Trump administration for biological assessment

KERO (TV) (Broderick)

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a biological assessment on the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. Congressman Kevin McCarthy issued a statement, praising the administration for updating the science to maximize water supplies in California.

What Is Happening With The Colorado River Drought Plans?

KUNC 91.5 FM (Radio) (Runyon, Jaspers)

States that rely on the Colorado River for their water supplies are currently unable to finish a series of agreements that would keep its biggest reservoirs, Lake Mead and Lake Powell, from dropping to levels not seen since they were filled decades ago. Five states — Colorado, Utah,

New Mexico, Wyoming and Nevada — are done. The country of Mexico has also completed its portion. But California and Arizona failed to meet a Jan. 31 federal government deadline to wrap up negotiations and sign a final agreement.

Runoff in Upper Colorado River Basin likely below-average, federal official warns

Aspen Times (Gardner-Smith)

The regional director of the Upper Colorado River Basin for the Bureau of Reclamation told water managers and users last week to expect below-average runoff this year, despite encouraging snowfall this winter. Brent Rhees — who oversees the federal reservoirs in the upper basin for the Bureau of Reclamation, including Lake Powell, Flaming Gorge and Blue Mesa — said that although this winter's snowfall in the upper basin above Lake Powell was now above average (106 percent Tuesday) the parched ground left in the wake of a hot, dry 2018 likely would soak up a lot of the resultant moisture in the spring.

Big storms boost already impressive snow pack

Folsom Telegraph (Sullivan)

Last week the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) conducted the second Phillips Station snow survey of the new year which yielded more positive results and a bright future ahead when it comes to local lake levels for the spring and summer months. The recent survey showed California's snow pack now at 100 percent of average, and that was before the latest series of storms that dumped several feet of snow in the high country this past week. Early runoff from the storms have brought Folsom Lake closer to its winter threshold which is 577,000 for flood control. As of Tuesday, the lake sat at 576,090 acre feet.

Community continues push for Klamath dam removal

Times-Standard (Mukherjee)

Humboldt County residents have until Feb. 26 to offer input on the draft environmental report covering the pending removal of four Klamath River dams, dams many scientists say have diminished the river's water quality and endangered its salmon populations.

Fish and Wildlife Service

Sen. Hirono Urges Swift Passage of Bipartisan Public Lands Package

Big Island Now

Sen. Mazie Hirono took to the Senate floor on Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019, to urge the swift passage of S.47, the Natural Resources Management Act. The sweeping bipartisan public lands package includes, among other critical Hawai'i priorities, a permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, legislation to expand Conservation Corps programs

like KUPU, and legislation Sen. Hirono introduced in the 115th Congress to expand and improve volcano monitoring across the country.

Monarch butterflies stump researchers

Greenwire (Heller)

The campaign to save monarch butterflies faces a new mystery: The beloved insects are on the rebound in the East and disappearing in the West.

Feeding season underway

Kackson Hole Daily (Koshmrl)

For the first time since March 2017, big-rig elk feeding trucks rumbled over the frozen pastures of the National Elk Refuge on Wednesday. Biologists who keep tabs on the volume of accessible forage on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service preserve say that elk had consumed or deep snow had locked in 93 percent of the grassy forage that was available as recently as mid-October. More than 5,000 elk that have gathered on the refuge's southern flats were competing for those remnants of last year's growth, though that number is expected to spike in the coming days.

Willapa Refuge's Ferrier named manager of the year

Chinook Observer (Webb)

Jackie Ferrier, the hard-working leader at the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge Complex, has won a top national award. She has been named the 2019 Paul Kroegel National Wildlife Refuge System Refuge Manager of the Year. Presented by the National Wildlife Refuge Association, and given in honor of Kroegel, the first manager of a national wildlife refuge, the award recognizes outstanding accomplishment by a refuge manager in the protection and management of national wildlife refuges.

Atlantic Coast Pipeline delayed amid price increase

Staunton News Leader (Fair)

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline service date was pushed to 2021, according to Dominion a Energy quarterly earnings news release published on Friday. The new schedule increases the estimated cost for the project to be between \$7 billion and \$7.5 billion. The project was initially projected to cost between \$4.5 billion and \$5 billion. But the project construction remains stalled due to some permit trouble. "We remain highly confident in the successful and timely resolution of all outstanding permit issues as well as the ultimate completion of the entire project," said chairman, president and chief executive office Thomas Farrell. "We are actively pursuing multiple paths to resolve all outstanding permit issues including judicial, legislative, and administrative avenues."

Iowa monarch conservation strategy updated with best management practices

Mapleton Press

The Iowa Monarch Conservation Strategy recently added best management practices to guide Iowans in helping increase monarch butterfly habitat. Establishing and maintaining monarch habitat on agricultural lands, urban, and suburban areas, rural roadside rights of way, and public lands is essential for Iowa to meet its monarch conservation goal of establishing 480,000 to 830,000 acres of habitat by 2038. These goals were outlined in the strategy, released in March 2018, by the Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium.

Man Who Killed Wolf Inside Grand Teton Pleads Guilty

Mountain Journal (Wilkinson)

A 56-year-old Wyoming man charged with killing a gray wolf inside Grand Teton National Park has pled guilty and received a \$5,040 fine. His identity and that of a woman who was also charged have not been released by park officials. According to a park press release circulated Wednesday, law enforcement officials investigated the illegal killing of the wolf on or about January 1, 2019 near Spread Creek along Grand Teton's eastern border. The wolf killed was an uncollared young female.

Wolf Moved Last Fall To Isle Royale National Park Heads For Home

National Parks Traveler

A wolf moved to Isle Royale National Park last fall in a bid to boost the island's predators took advantage of an ice bridge tying the island to the mainland and set off toward Minnesota where she had been captured. "I was excited to see locations after not seeing anything for five days, but that excitement quickly gave way to disappointment as my eyes followed the track that led away from Isle Royale. I knew this could happen but of course you always hope for the best," Mark Romanski, the park's chief of resources, said Wednesday.

Rats remain on Lehua

Garden Island (Else)

There are more seabirds on Lehua Island after the 2017 helicopter drop of rodenticide over the landmass, but the rats haven't completely disappeared. "Because there have been periodic detections of rats in localized areas, the Lehua Island Ecosystem Restoration Project is in a mop-up phase to complete the eradication," said Dan Dennison, spokesman for the state Department of Land and Natural Resources, a partner in the project.

National Park Service

National Park Service Announces \$48.5 Million In Assistance For Communities Affected By Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, And Maria

National Parks Traveler

The National Park Service announced \$48.5 million in supplemental assistance grants to help historic resources recover in areas impacted by hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria in 2017. Communities in Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Texas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands will receive assistance for historic preservation projects related to hurricane recovery efforts.

NPS faces more fire for using visitor fees during shutdown

Greenwire (Hotakainen)

The National Park Service today came under renewed attack on Capitol Hill over its decision to use revenue from visitor fees to keep parks open during the five-week partial government shutdown.

Park Service backtracks, won't use entrance fees to pay for shutdown operations

The Hill (Green, Cama)

The National Park Service (NPS) will retroactively pull from congressionally appropriated funds to pay for the park maintenance and other operations the Trump administration authorized during the partial government shutdown, according to an internal NPS memo obtained by The Hill Wednesday. Dan Smith, NPS's deputy director and its top official, told staff in an emailed memo that the agency will reverse its earlier, controversial decision to use park visitor entrance fees to pay for maintenance and staffing needs under the shutdown.

Park Service Refunds Entrance Fees Used During Shutdown (1)

Bloomberg Environment (Kern)

The National Park Service is refunding the money it spent from its visitor entrance fees during the partial government shutdown with continuing resolution funds it received Jan. 25, the agency announced in a Feb. 6 memo.

Dem chairwoman seeks watchdog probe of Park Service's shutdown operations

The Hill (Cama)

The top House Democrat overseeing the National Park Service's (NPS) funding is formally asking for an official probe of the Trump administration's decision to use agency entrance fees to operate parks during the government shutdown. Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.), chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee's subpanel for the Interior Department, announced her intent to seek a Government Accountability Office (GAO) probe after a Wednesday hearing on the use of the fees.

Tourism Strong In Yellowstone And Glacier Despite Wildfires

Montana Public Radio

Yellowstone National Park reports that it experienced another busy year last year. The park recorded over 4.1 million visits. That's a 0.04-percent decrease from 2017 and a 3.5 percent decrease from the record-breaking year in 2016. It was the third busiest year on record. To calculate visitation numbers for late December, during the partial government shutdown, park staff used data from an automated counter that recorded vehicle traffic at the North Entrance and reports from over-snow concessioners.

Despite drop, visitation still strong at Glacier National Park

KTVH (TV)

Glacier National Park's final visitor totals for 2018 show a strong year for tourism in the park. But they couldn't quite overcome the impact of a wildfire closing down the Park's most popular section for the second year in a row. The National Park Service released the final statistics for Glacier visits after the long partial federal government shutdown delayed its completion.

'If the government shuts down, we'll do it again': Vicksburg military park kept open, and 19,000 visitors showed up

Mississippi Today (Rozier)

A 35-day tug-of-war in Washington D.C. would have kept over 19,000 tourists out of one of the world's jewels for military history. The Vicksburg National Military Park, however, kept its forts manned during the federal government's partial shutdown thanks to the support of a local non-profit, Friends of VNMP, as well as the City of Vicksburg. Friends of VNMP released new figures last week showing only a slight decrease in visitation.

On a Civil War battlefield in Western Maryland, opposition to Hogan's land swap

Washington Post (Chason)

Paul Gilligan is standing inside a West Main Street storefront that predates the Civil War, waving a cigar and talking about a battle he says is too often overlooked. Days before Antietam, the single deadliest day in American military history, the Battle of South Mountain unfolded around this tiny town in Western Maryland, which has a modern-day population of 160.

National Park Service aims to untangle traffic, improve safety at Memorial Circle

WTOP (TV) (Augenstein)

Driving through Memorial Circle provides one of the most beautiful views available of the nation's capital. But a driver who momentarily takes eyes off the labyrinth of merging lanes is likely to end up in the wrong place, or in a fender-bender. The National Park Service has been

pulling together options to make travel safer and improve traffic flow through the circle, which sits between the south end of the Memorial Bridge and the main gate of Arlington National Cemetery.

U.S. Geological Survey

Who Will Feed The LNG Monster?

Forbes (Rapier)

In the previous article, I discussed the global nature of the oil markets. But the shale oil boom in the U.S. temporarily increased the localized impact on the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) benchmark. As a result, its price diverged from that of international crudes for a few years. The natural gas markets, on the other hand, are far more localized due to the difficulty in transporting natural gas. That means that natural gas in the U.S. could be \$3 per million British thermal units (MMBtu), but double or triple that level in Japan or Europe.

USGS: 4.4 magnitude earthquake hits Blue Lake Wednesday morning

KRCR (TV) (Krauss)

A 4.4 magnitude earthquake hit 13 kilometers east-southeast of Blue Lake around 10:23 Wednesday morning. A smaller 2.5 magnitude earthquake hit the same area 12 minutes later at 10:35 a.m. These two earthquakes come only two days after the North Coast experienced a swarm of 14 earthquakes that hit over a 72-hour period Saturday through Monday. Most of those quakes hit off the coast of Petrolia.

Small Earthquake Shakes Near Gilroy: USGS

KNTV (TV)

A 2.5 magnitude earthquake struck near Gilroy late Wednesday, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The temblor struck at 8:15 p.m., about 6 miles east of Gilroy near the San Luis Reservoir, the USGS said. It was relatively shallow at just 4 kilometers deep, according to USGS figures.

'I have no clue what I'm going home to,' resident says after Grand River flood

Booth Newspapers (Kransz)

Shortly after midnight, Rose Cyr was awakened by heavy knocking at the door. It was the police. Cyr was confused; she hadn't done anything wrong. Then she saw the water. "When I went to bed, it wasn't raining or snowing or anything -- everything was fine," she said. "I opened the door and there's police and there's just water. That's all you see is water. I had one more step before it was over my porch."

Opinion

Op-Ed: Access to the Outdoors Is a Basic Human Right

Outside Online (Rubio, Richard)

The Land of Enchantment: our state motto perfectly captures New Mexico and its sacred Zia, a harmonious symbol of friendship that originated in the Zia Pueblo. The four words evoke a stunning landscape of mountains, rivers, deserts, forests, and Native American communities. The Land of Enchantment has sunsets that take your breath away, with skylines sketched on a canvas of reds, oranges, purples, and pinks.

No need to drill for oil in precious lands

Adirondack Daily Enterprise (Editorial Board)

The United States has become the world's leading producer of petroleum, beating even Saudi Arabia. That means we can be somewhat choosy about where we drill for oil. Two key conflicts exist in that regard. One, of course, is protection of the environment, including natural treasures that, once devastated, can never be replaced.

Top National News

U.S., Allies Are Set to Retake Islamic State Territory, Trump Says

Wall Street Journal (McBride)

President Trump said the U.S. and its coalition partners are on the verge of regaining control over all the territory held by Islamic State, with an announcement expected within the next week that the task has been accomplished. Addressing representatives of the 79-member global coalition formed to fight the extremist group at a gathering Wednesday in Washington, Mr. Trump said: "Our military has been incredible, and your militaries have been incredible."

A new Google tool tells you if your password is unsafe

CNN (Garcia)

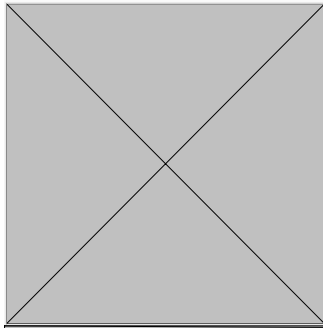
There is a good chance hackers already know your favorite passwords. Now Google has a new free tool to let you know when your login information is exposed. People who use Google Chrome can download the Password Checkup extension, which will monitor their various website logins. When someone logs in with a username and password that Google knows has been compromised, it triggers a warning that prompts the user to change the password.

'We have one reef': Key West bans popular sunscreens to help keep coral alive

Washington Post (Bever)

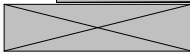
Soon, beachgoers won't be able to buy certain top-selling sunscreens along parts of the Florida Keys. The Key West City Commission voted Tuesday night to ban sunscreens containing oxybenzone and octinoxate, two chemicals that have been shown to be damaging to coral reefs. Beginning in January 2021, Key West will ban such sunscreens from sale within city limits — taking a cue from Hawaii, which became the first state to pass a similar ban.

Date	Host	Title
2/10-14	Society for Range Management	Society for Range Management
3/20	ACORE	Renewable Energy Policy Forum



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