

**From:** [Frank Dean](#)  
**To:** [Jeff Wasserman](#); [Gregory Monahan](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, May 5, 2014  
**Date:** Monday, May 05, 2014 10:36:09 AM

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FYI

Frank Dean  
General Superintendent  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
201 Fort Mason  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
(415) 561-4720

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Frank Dean <[frank\\_dean@nps.gov](mailto:frank_dean@nps.gov)>  
**Date:** May 5, 2014 7:35:25 AM PDT  
**To:** Kevin Cochary <[kevin\\_cochary@nps.gov](mailto:kevin_cochary@nps.gov)>, Randy Lavasseur <[Randy\\_Lavasseur@nps.gov](mailto:Randy_Lavasseur@nps.gov)>, Chad Marin <[chad\\_marin@nps.gov](mailto:chad_marin@nps.gov)>  
**Cc:** Carey Feierabend <[carey\\_feierabend@nps.gov](mailto:carey_feierabend@nps.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, May 5, 2014

Note Yosemite ban on drones. Probably not so easy for us.

Frank Dean  
General Superintendent  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
201 Fort Mason  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
(415) 561-4720

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING**

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**DATE: MONDAY, MAY 5, 2014 7:00 AM EDT**

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## **DOI in the News:**

**SECRETARY JEWELL VOWS BUNDY WILL ANSWER TO LAW.** The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (5/4, 705) reports that Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy will “answer to the law for failing to pay his grazing fees and ignoring federal court orders to remove his several hundred cows from public lands northeast of Las Vegas,” according to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. Following a speech Jewell delivered to the National Wildlife Federation’s annual meeting in Baltimore, she said, “We will be pursuing all possible means to bring Mr. Bundy to justice – laws, regulations, judicial system – and that’s where we are right now.” Jewell also defended BLM Director Neil Kornze’s decision “to halt the roundup and release the few hundred cows it had rounded up.” She said, “There was an armed confrontation where our people who were there to round up cattle were being the target of a lot of hostility, including some pretty significant weaponry and people. I did not feel, neither did our head of the Bureau of Land Management, that it was appropriate to put our people in that kind of a dangerous situation, so we withdrew.”

***Bundy’s Family Demands Investigation Of BLM.*** The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/3, Glionna, 3.46M) reports that Bundy returned to “high pitch Friday when the cattleman’s family marched into Las Vegas Metropolitan Police headquarters” to insist that the local authorities begin “an investigation into the Bureau of Land Management.” According to the article, Bundy’s son Aamon commented, “We want the sheriff of Clark County to investigate the federal government for its actions” against the Bundy family’s ranch, arguing that “Their jurisdiction is not in the county and they must be held accountable.”

Also covering the story is the [AP](#) (5/4), [Reuters](#) (5/4, Allen), and the [Washington Times](#) (5/5, Richardson, 455K).

***Rep. Horsford Calls For Ejection Of Bundy Backers.*** The [AP](#) (5/5) reports that Rep. Steven Horsford is “calling on elected officials in the state to rid a town in his district of militia members who have rallied around rancher Cliven Bundy in his battle with federal land managers.” Horsford, “in an address to the Clark County Democratic Convention in Las Vegas on Saturday, said he’s making the request after hearing more complaints from constituents about the presence of Bundy supporters near Bunkerville, 75 miles northeast of Las Vegas.”

***Additional Coverage.*** Additional coverage was provided by [FOX](#)

[News](#) (5/2, 74.23M), [USA Today](#) (5/5, Delong, 5.82M), [Forbes](#) (5/2, 6.28M), the [Reno \(NV\) News & Review](#) (5/4, 75K), the [San Francisco Sentinel](#) (5/4, 753), the [New Zealand Herald](#) (5/4, 621K), the [Examiner](#) (5/4, 1.56M), and the [New American](#) (5/4, 9K).

**NEVADA LAND DISPUTES HAVE LONG HISTORY.** [USA Today](#) (5/5, Delong, 5.82M) portrays the battle between rancher Cliven Bundy and the Federal government as just one in a long series of contentious disputes between the government and local ranchers. USA Today says that the roots of the Bundy dispute “can be traced back nearly 40 years to the birth of the so-called ‘Sagebrush Rebellion,’ a movement in which supporters sought to put control of millions of acres of federal land into state and local hands.” The piece traces the history of the conflict and the various developments over the last few decades.

The [Washington Times](#) (5/5, Richardson, 455K) reports that “behind the hoopla” of the Bundy “standoff” is a “growing resentment over the federal government’s status as the largest landowner in the West.” The Times points out that in the West, the Federal government owns one out of every two acres, including 81.1% in Nevada. The Times says that a number of states, particularly Utah, are pushing for the Federal government to give up control of much of that land.

**CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN APPROVED.** [KRVN-AM](#) Lexington, NE (5/4) reports that the Interior Department and the Department of Agriculture have “announced that farmers, ranchers and landowners implementing Farm Service Agency (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practices intended to protect and increase lesser prairie-chicken populations will not be subject to additional regulations as a result of the species’ listing as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.”

The [AgWeb](#) (5/4, 6K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, “We applaud USDA for their commitment to provide incentives for voluntary conservation. With the majority of the lesser prairie-chicken’s habitat on private lands, we all need to work together to ensure the conservation of the species and the economic well-being of ranchers and farmers across the species’ range.”

Also reporting on the story is [KTIC-FM](#) West Point, NE (5/4).

***Protection Of lesser Prairie Chicken Welcomed.*** The [Dallas Morning News](#) (5/4, 1.18M) says that the FWS “rightly placed” the lesser prairie chicken on the threatened species list. It argues that “some protection for these wild, beautiful birds is deserving of applause.”

**WESTERNERS FEAR OBAMA ADMINISTRATION’S MONUMENTS PUSH.** The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (5/4, 470K)

reports the President Obama's vow to use his unilateral power under the 1906 Antiquities Act has "some in the West fearing more intrusion by the federal government into their backyard, undermining locally driven efforts to decide the future of public lands." the article notes that "environmentalists hailed the action as long overdue to preserve these unique and pristine lands," and "momentum may be accelerating for Obama to pull a similar move." However, Republicans in Congress are "trying to tie any president's hands in making such declarations going forward." Meanwhile, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said "recently that the administration is still focused on working with local officials on public-lands issues but that if Congress slow-plays, or sits on timely issues, there may come a time when the president has to step in."

***Republicans Urged To Reclaim Conservation Roots.*** For "The Blog" of the [Huffington Post](#) (5/4, Morgan, 11.54M), Ann Morgan, Executive director, National Wildlife Federation regional office in Boulder, CO, writes that "some GOP leaders seem eager to dismantle our heritage of public lands, which are open to all Americans and are managed for multiple uses." Morgan calls on the Republican National Committee to "embrace the party's conservation roots and support the public lands that provide so much and that help our western communities to thrive and make this country the greatest on earth."

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXPECTS TO SPEND MORE FIGHTING WILDFIRES DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE.** [The Hill](#) (5/3, Cama, 237K) reported that the Department of Interior and US Forest Service said on Thursday that they expect to spend \$470 million more than Congress provided to fight wildfires this season, saying that "climate change is causing longer and more intense wildfire seasons." The agencies urged lawmakers to act on President Obama's budget request and proposed bills that would give them more flexibility to move funds, alleviating the shortfall.

**SECRETARY JEWELL ADDRESSES NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION MEETING.** [Politico](#) (5/4, Guillén, 73K) reports that the National Wildlife Federation's annual meeting, "focused this year on clean water issues," kicked off in Baltimore with remarks Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY SUH TO PARTICIPATE IN CEREMONY KICKING OFF ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH.** The [Northwest Asian Weekly](#) (5/4) reports that Rhea Suh, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget, at the Interior Department, is among the officials participating in a ceremony by the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders kicking off Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. During the ceremony, members of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders will be ceremonially sworn in.

**MANDATED REPORTS OVERWHELM CONGRESS.** The [Washington Post](#) (5/3, Fahrenthold, 4.22M) reports that while Congress is officially expecting to receive 4,291 written reports from 466 Federal agencies and nonprofit groups this year, it has “overwhelmed itself” and is “not even sure how many of those 4,291 reports are actually turned in.” The Post notes that while “many reports are quite valuable and well read...there is no system to sort the good ones from the useless ones,” making it difficult “for congressional staffers to spot any valuable information hidden in the flood.”

**ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL PUSHES FOR FUNDING TO RESTORE NATIONAL MALL.** Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell’s support of funding to restore the National Mall was provided by [Bloomberg](#) (5/2) and the [AP](#) (5/4, Jacobs).

**CONGRESS URGED TO SUPPORT CLEAN ENERGY** For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (5/4, 11.54M), Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva writes that “in the next few weeks, Congress will decide the country’s Fiscal Year 2015 funding priorities” and “a lot is riding on whether we fund necessary environmental, clean energy and reclamation programs or leave them to wither. I’m hoping we do the right thing.” He notes that “this year President Obama requested about \$6.9 billion for clean energy technology programs at the Department of Energy, the Department of Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency. Many parts of his proposal are smart investments in our environmental future.” But “unfortunately, the administration wants to accelerate the already rapidly expanding exploitation of domestic oil and gas fields.” When Congress finalizes the FY2015 budget, Grijalva hopes his “colleagues bear in mind the need to start chipping away at the environmental debt we’re leaving our children.” He concludes that “coming generations of Americans will judge us harshly if we continue to pollute our atmosphere in the name of short-term profits, especially when there’s a better way.”

### **America’s Great Outdoors:**

*National Park Service:*

**DRONES BANNED IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK.** The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/4, 3.46M) reports that the NPS issued a statement Friday reminding visitors that federal regulations ban the use of unmanned aircraft within the park’s boundaries. Officials said in a statement, “The park has experienced an increase in visitors using drones within park boundaries over the last few years. Drones have been witnessed filming climbers ascending climbing routes, filming views above tree-tops, and filming aerial footage of the park.” The park said “drones pose a safety threat as well as ruin the aesthetics of the wilderness.”



Also covering the story are the [AP](#) (5/4, Joseph, 455K), [Forbes](#) (5/3, 6.28M), [KFSN-TV](#) Fresno, CA (5/4, 2K), and [WRC-TV](#) Washington (5/4, Pham, 312K).

**SEWAGE OVERFLOW AFFECTS C&O CANAL IN GEORGETOWN.** The [Washington Post](#) (5/4, 4.22M) reports that “last week’s heavy rain caused raw sewage to flow into the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal near Washington,” NPS officials said Saturday, “warning that no one should fish or conduct recreational activities in the affected stretch of water before midday Sunday.” According to the article, “the rain caused sewage to overflow from a manhole along D.C. Water’s Potomac Interceptor, affecting the canal below Lock 6 near Cabin John.” Officials advised that “anyone who has visited that part of the canal recently should sanitize materials and equipment that was in contact with the water.”

Also covering the story are the [AP](#) (5/4), [WRC-TV](#) Washington (5/4, 312K), and [WUSA-TV](#) Washington (5/3, 95K).

**SENATE RESOLUTION INTRODUCED TO PRAISE THOSE WHO REBUILT WASHINGTON MONUMENT.** The [Examiner](#) (5/4, 1.56M) reports that Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse has introduced a senate resolution to honor the NPS and others “for their hard work in restoring” the Washington Monument on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Whitehouse introduced Senate Resolution 432 on Thursday, May 1. It was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. However, no other senator initially cosponsored it.

**NPS UNVEILS 20-YEAR PLAN FOR GGNRA.** The [Marin \(CA\) Independent Journal](#) (5/5, 88K) reports that the NPS has completed its general management plan for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, which “shows how the GGNRA could look over the next two decades.” The article notes that “the plan is expected to be signed and approved by National Park Service Pacific West Regional Director Christine Lehnertz at the end of the month.” According to the article, “all the physical changes outlined in the plan would cost the National Park Service about \$150 million,” and “it would take another \$32 million a year along with another 46 employees to operate the new facilities.”

**WITH CRACK REPAIRED, BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY REOPENS.** [USA Today](#) (5/3, Chávez, 162K) reports that “the entire Blue Ridge Parkway is open again, nearly five months after a 20-mile section was closed because a massive gash along the mountain route undermined the road’s stability.” Leesa Brandon, parkway spokeswoman, said, “They weren’t planning to have it open so soon, being busy with the opening of so many other parkway facilities by May 9. So this will be a happy surprise for people.”



**CIVIL WAR TRUST TRANSFERS SAUNDERS FIELD LAND TO NPS.** The [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (5/4, 103K) reports that on Saturday, the Civil War Trust ceremonially transferred its deed to 49 acres of Saunders Field land to the NPS. At a news conference, NPS Northeast Regional Director Mike Caldwell accepted the transfer into Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park. Park Superintendent Lucy Lawliss said, “The American public is deeply indebted to Warren Middlebrook for his decades of stewardship of this remarkable resource. If he had not recognized the historic significance of his land and sought its permanent protection, today’s celebration would not be possible.”

**GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK HOSTING BIRDS OF PREY PROGRAM.** The [Knoxville \(TN\) Daily Sun](#) (5/4) reports that Great Smoky Mountains National Park is working with the Balsam Mountain Trust “for a third year to present a special program, Birds of Prey, at the Oconaluftee Multipurpose Room on Friday, May 9.” Supervisory Park Ranger Lynda Doucette said, “We are delighted to continue our partnership with Balsam Mountain Trust for a third year. This program provides an opportunity for park visitors to see and learn about these beautiful birds first hand.”

**NPS NEGOTIATING FOR NEW MARINA OPERATOR AT BIGHORN RESERVOIR.** The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (5/4, 174K) reports that the NPS has been negotiating with the nearby Crow Tribe to provide concessions for this summer at the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. Kevin Tillman, the acting superintendent at the recreation area, said, “For the past five months we’ve been trying to get a temporary contract for the summer until we can get another 10-year contract.” He added, “I’m hoping for a successful conclusion in the next week or two.”

*Bureau of Land Management:*

**ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: UTAH RANCHERS SEEK COURT ORDER TO REMOVE WILD HORSES.** In his column for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (5/5, 470K), Paul Rolly writes that Utah Gov. Gary Herbert “should be careful when stepping into the controversy between the Bureau of Land Management and southern Utah ranchers over wild horses vs. cattle grazing on federal lands.” Rolly recounts a story of how Utah flew in Michael Jordan “to St. George on the state plane before the game so Jordan could enjoy the fabulous golf courses in southwestern Utah.” And how “folks were outraged that the new governor would use taxpayer funds to fly one of the nation’s richest people to southern Utah for a free golf trip.” Rolly says that “it demonstrated the political power of horses.”

Additional coverage of the lawsuit by the Western Rangeland Conservation Association over wild horses was provided by the [AP](#) (5/4, Knox), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (5/4, 470K), [Reuters](#) (5/4,

Dobner), the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (5/2, 48K), and the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (5/3, 28K).

**ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF RED RIVER LAND DISPUTE.**

In an op-ed for the [Houston Chronicle](#) (5/5, Tryon, 2.23M), Stephen G. Tryon, field manager of the BLM's Oklahoma Field Office, writes that BLM is "not seeking to expand federal holdings along the Red River, as has recently been claimed." He asserts that the BLM is "planning only for the appropriate management of lands in federal ownership."

Additional coverage of the Red River land dispute was provided by the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (5/2, 687K).

**ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BLM URGES HALT TO ILLEGAL RECAPTURE CANYON ATV RIDE.** Additional coverage of the plan to drive ATVs through Recapture Canyon was provided by the [Denver Post](#) (5/4, Lofholm, 940K).

*Fish and Wildlife Service:*

**JUDGE RULES AGAINST CONSERVATIONIST SEEKING TO PROTECT WHITEBARK PINE.** The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (5/2, 687K) reports that "a federal judge has ruled against conservationists who sought to force the government to protect a high-elevation pine tree whose nuts are a food source for threatened grizzly bears." The Wildwest Institute and Alliance for the Wild Rockies "sued after the government designated in 2011 that protections for the whitebark pine tree were warranted, but precluded by other priorities." US District Judge Dana Christensen held on April 25 that the FWS "designation leaves species such as the pine tree in limbo." However he "declined to overturn the government finding, saying it's up to Congress to allocate enough money to pay for protections."

**BOAT INDUSTRY TO DISCUSS NEW DESIGNS IN FIGHT AGAINST INVASIVE SPECIES.** The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (5/4, Smith, 1.48M) reports that "the battle to protect Minnesota's cherished lakes and rivers from ruinous invasive species such as zebra mussels has for years focused on cleaning and inspecting boats," but "now that high-stakes fight is shifting to boat design." Leaders in the boating industry will gather in Washington, D.C., this week "to take the extraordinary step of examining how boats could be redesigned in ways that would make it harder for the aquatic pests to hide, even as inspections intensify for Minnesota's 2.3 million boaters." On Wednesday, the American Boat and Yacht Council, "which develops widely used safety standards, will ask a national task force led in part by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to bring together everyone from boat builders to scientists to draft design standards to slow the spread of aquatic invasive species."

## **PAPER ARGUES IN SUPPORT OF RATTLESNAKE**

**MOUNTAIN TOURS.** In an editorial, the [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (5/3, 115K) argues that tours of Rattlesnake Mountain should continue. It argues that “public lands, by definition, should allow for at least some public access, even if it is limited.” The paper says that the FWS “should continue to find ways to allow the public access to the lands it controls in the Hanford area, including Rattlesnake Mountain,” and “the tribes should join that process, sharing the lands they hold sacred with the public and educating us all as part of the program.”

**BALANCE TOUTED IN MEXICAN WOLF PROPOSAL.** In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (5/4, 1.45M), Larry Voyles, director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, writes that “a historic proposal was recently developed by four counties and 25 critical stakeholders that supports a self-sustaining Mexican wolf population in Arizona and New Mexico.” The proposal has been submitted to the FWS “for consideration as it develops an environmental impact statement to revise the current federal rule governing Mexican wolf conservation.” The Arizona Game and Fish Department “firmly believes there must be balance among wolves, other wildlife species and human stakeholders to successfully reintroduce Mexican wolves.”

## **Securing America’s Energy Future:**

### *Renewable Energy:*

**COURT RULES AGAINST CAPE WIND OPPONENTS.** The [Boston Herald](#) (5/4, 783K) reports that “a federal judge has dismissed the latest lawsuit against Cape Wind, but opponents say they are not giving up on their fight to stop the long-delayed offshore wind farm.” A federal judge on Friday dismissed the lawsuit brought by the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound and the town of Barnstable that “challenged the power purchase agreement between Cape Wind and Nstar, and its approval by the state.” US District Judge Richard Stearns said the federal court has “no jurisdiction because individuals are barred from suing states in federal court.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Cape Cod \(MA\) Times](#) (5/4, 101K).

**COMPANY PROPOSES WIND FARM NEAR SQUAW CREEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.** The [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (5/3, 1.48M) reports that a company is proposal to build Missouri’s largest wind farm near the Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge. According to the article, “Element Power of Portland, Ore., says it will break ground soon for its \$400 million Mill Creek Wind Energy Project: 84 to 118 wind turbines, each nearly 350 feet tall, on 25,000 acres the company has leased just east of Squaw Creek.” However, “ornithologists, the Audubon Society, the American Bird

Conservancy and birders in general predict a slaughter as birds and bats fly into the whipping turbines.”

**PROPOSED MAINE WIND PROJECT SUFFERS SETBACK.**

The [AP](#) (5/2, 687K) reported that the Maine Board of Environmental Protection took a preliminary vote to rejected First Wind’s Bowers Wind project, a \$100 million wind farm in the Downeast Lakes region. The AP noted that a study found that the project “would be visible from several scenic water bodies and have an adverse impact on camp owners, sportsmen and other visitors to the remote area.” First Wind indicated that it will consider appealing the decision to Maine’s Supreme Judicial Court.

**WIND POWER PLAYS “CRITICAL ROLE” IN PROVIDING STABLY-PRICED, RELIABLE ELECTRICITY.** AWEA director of research Michael Goggin wrote in the “Congress Blog” for [the Hill](#) (5/3, Goggin, 237K) that wind power plays a “critical role” in providing US consumers “with low-cost, stably-priced, reliable electricity,” noting that wind energy output “was consistently strong” as extreme winter weather drove record demand for electricity use and caused failures at many conventional power plants.

*Onshore Energy Development:*

**DRILLING NEAR EVERGLADES RAISES FRACKING CONCERNS.** The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/3, Dave, 3.46M) reported that concerns about an “enhanced extraction procedure” that South Florida conservationists likened to fracking caused Dan A. Hughes Co. “to be slapped with a cease-and-desist order, face scrutiny from a U.S. senator and be questioned by residents about water supply safety.” However, the company argued that its procedure is acid stimulation, which has been done for 50 years in Florida, not fracking.

**OPEN HOUSES BEING HELD TO DISCUSS FOUR CORNERS POWER PLANT AND NAVAJO MINE.** The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (5/4, 46K) reports that “a series of public meetings about the draft environmental impact statement for the Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Mine is underway.” The OSMR on March 28 released the draft EIS, which “evaluates potential environmental effects from continued operation of both the power plant and mine through the year 2041.” As part of the public review, officials with the OSMRE and other agencies are “conducting an open house for the public to learn more about the draft EIS and to submit written or verbal comments about the statement and the project.”

Also covering the open houses is the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (5/4, 28K).

**CARROLL: COLORADO SHOULD BE ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON FRACKING.** The [Denver Post](#) (5/3, Carroll, 940K) editorial editor Vincent Carroll writes that state lawmakers have less than a week to pass a law that appeals to advocates of reasonable local control and industry representatives if they hope to avoid controversy over ballot measures on oil and gas drilling this fall. Carroll argued that achieving such a measure should be possible, noting that most Coloradans don't want to ban drilling or fracking; however, Carroll also noted that many in the forefront of the anti-fracking movement want to ban fracking in Colorado and elsewhere, and are unlikely to back down due to a deal reached in Colorado.

*Offshore Energy Development:*

**CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF OFFSHORE DRILLING.** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, Sider, Cook, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that about 100,000 representatives of the energy industry will meet in Houston, Texas this week at the Offshore Technology Conference. The article explains that much of the recent focus on energy issues has been devoted to onshore drilling, especially after the Deepwater Horizon oil-spill four years ago. The article points out, however, that energy executives are still seeking to tap huge underwater reserves in order to meet rising global demand for energy. To do this, companies are investing heavily in advanced technology that will allow them to drill deeper, at high pressures and in extreme temperatures.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (5/2, Rose, 2.23M) referred to the conference to as "the Super Bowl of the offshore oil and gas industry," noting that the four-day conference will feature a technical program with "about 300 papers, panel discussions and keynote speakers." Chris Barton, an executive for Wood Group Mustang, stated: "The conference is an opportunity to see the latest in technology and environmental protection, with companies showcasing their latest innovations for exploration, drilling and risk management."

[FuelFix](#) (5/4, Holeywell, 7K) added that Mexico will likely be a "hot topic" at the conference "as it lifts Pemex's monopoly on the country's energy resources" for the first time in decades. The article also reported that General Electric Chairman Jeff Immelt and BP America President John Mingé will speak at the conference.

Also covering the story is the [Houston Chronicle](#) (5/4, Burns, 2.23M).

**API TOUTS GULF OF MEXICO'S DRILLING OPPORTUNITIES.** The [Houston Chronicle](#) (5/5, Dlouhy, 2.23M) noted the popularity of the Gulf of Mexico for drillers, even as the shale boom occurs elsewhere in the US. Technological innovations are credited with helping to keep the area key in many oil companies'

portfolios. Additionally, the area is said to offer “a relatively stable regulatory environment.” According to American Petroleum Institute senior policy adviser Andy Radford, this provides companies with “the confidence to invest in the region and build ultra-deep-water facilities with 30-year life spans.” He said “there are decades more life” in the Gulf.

**OP-ED: PARTICIPATION IN “NEAR MISS” INCIDENT REPORTING SHOULD BE MANDATORY.** In an op-ed for the [Houston Chronicle](#) (5/4, Steffy, 2.23M), Loren Steffy, senior writer with the communications firm 30 Point Strategies, writes that the BSEE “recently unveiled a plan to meet with offshore operators and pitch them on the idea of providing the regulator with data on ‘near-miss’ incidents.” The bureau “wants to use the information to build a database that could show patterns for potential safety problem at offshore facilities.” Steffy observes that “with the fourth anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon disaster just past, the BSEE, the regulator born of that accident, still finds itself begging for the industry’s help in making offshore operations safer.” He argues that “building a database of near-miss data is crucial to improving offshore safety,” and that “participation shouldn’t be voluntary. It should be required – as it is in some other countries – and the results should be transparent.”

### **Tackling America’s Water Challenges:**

**UCLA RESEARCHERS UNVEIL NEW TECHNOLOGY TO CLEAN BRACKISH WATER.** The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/4, Sahagun, 3.46M) reports that UCLA researchers have “rolled out a new mobile water treatment technology designed to cut the costs of getting the salt out of brackish groundwater and agricultural runoff.” According to the article, “it’s a desalination plant installed in 40-foot cargo container able to treat up to 25,000 gallons of water a day — enough to provide about 50,000 people with clean, fresh water for reuse in irrigation and household uses.” The system will “go to a test site in farmlands west of Fresno in the San Joaquin Valley, where poor drainage has increased salinity and levels of calcium sulfate — the main constituent of drywall — in agricultural runoff.” The article notes that “the experiment is supported by the US Bureau of Reclamation, the California Department of Water Resources and several water districts in the San Joaquin Valley.”

**DEPUTY SECRETARY CONNOR EXPECTED TO CONTINUE LEADERSHIP ON WATER ISSUES.** In an op-ed for the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (5/4, 282K), Charles Wilkinson, board chair of the Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment, writes that Mike Connor, BOR, Commissioner from 2009-2014, will “carry most of his water portfolio to his new job” as Deputy Interior Secretary. In his new role, Wilkinson expects that Connor will continue his leadership in



exploring innovative initiatives like “Minute 319”, and emphasizing “conservation, rather than traditional projects.”

**PAPER SAYS BOR SHOULD NOT RESTRICT WATER TO EASTERN WASHINGTON MARIJUANA FARMS.** The [Seattle Times](#) (5/5, 1.22M) editorializes that the BOR is “in the water business, not the law-enforcement business.” According to the paper, the BOR has “never had — nor should it have — a stake in what crop is planted.” But now, the federal government is “threatening to forget that history, because some regulators are queasy about Washington and Colorado’s experimentation with marijuana legalization.” The paper argues that the DOJ “should follow its own precedent and keep” the BOR’s “role clear: Its hand is on the water tap, not on a holster.”

### **Empowering Native American Communities:**

**SOME QUESTION COBELL SETTLEMENT BUY-BACK PROGRAM.** The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (5/4, 141K) reports that “the land buy-back program has allowed some tribal members who live in poverty to sell land they have long owned but may never have used, and stories are arising that some individuals are getting checks up to \$100,000 from a pay-out that could reach \$100 million in all.” However, some say the Cobell Settlement buy-back program is “creating a whole new set of problems — including once again taking long-held land away from individual tribal members — that outweigh those cash payments and any benefits to the tribal government.”

**MONTANA SENATORS CALL FOR GAO INVESTIGATION OF INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE.** The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (5/4, Uken, 45K) reports that “the Billings Area Indian Health Service is coming under increased scrutiny,” with Montana Sens. Jon Tester and John Walsh, both Democrats, asking the GAO to “conduct a formal investigation of the federal agency.” Tester, chair of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, and Walsh wrote to the GAO Friday that “issues have plagued the facilities in the Billings service area for years as patients endure poor to no services and extraordinary delays in seeing physicians or filling a prescription. ... In one troubling case, we heard of a provider who only sees one patient a day.” The report notes the requests coincide “with the resignation of Anna Whiting-Sorrell, who served as director of the embattled agency for less than 18 months.”

### **Top National News:**

**SUNDAY SHOWS DEBATE OVER BENGHAZI PROBE BREAKS ALONG PARTY LINES.** Benghazi was a major topic of conversation on this week’s Sunday political talk shows. Not surprisingly, opinions on the issue broke along party lines, with Republicans arguing a “select committee” is necessary because the



Administration is withholding information about the attack, and Democrats countering that it is an effort by Republicans to divert attention away from their lack of an agenda going into the mid-term elections, and to tarnish the President and former Secretary of State Clinton.

In an appearance on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (5/4, 2.64M), Republican Sen. Lindsay Graham argued that the Administration is still withholding information about the attacks. [Politico](#) (5/4, Emma, 73K) reported in its "Politico Live" blog that Graham said the Administration is "hiding information" and "even lying to the American people." Referring to an email written by White House national security aide Ben Rhodes which asked then UN Ambassador Rice "to emphasize on the Sunday shows that the attacks killing four Americans stemmed from a spontaneous demonstration and not terrorism," Graham said, "If it were up to the White House, you would have never known about this email. ... Congress subpoenaed all documents relating to Benghazi in August, and 20 months later they're hiding things. I mean, they say this email doesn't matter. These are the same people that tried to hide it. And what was the purpose of this email?. ... To protect the White House politically from the damage that could've been done from the truth coming out about Benghazi, six, seven weeks before the election ... They created a political smoke screen."

However, [Reuters](#) (5/5, Zengerle) reports that Graham warned that Republican attempts to embarrass the Administration over Benghazi could hurt the party in the mid-term elections. Graham argued that while the issue may appeal to some voters, it poses a political risk for Republicans. Graham noted, "If we're playing politics with Benghazi, we'll get burned."

The [Washington Times](#) (5/5, Sherfinski, 455K) reports that Republican Sen. Kelly Ayotte told [Fox News Sunday](#) that she is glad House Speaker Boehner called the select committee, arguing that "there has been important work done on the issue in relevant committees but that the investigation thus far has been 'disjointed.'" Ayotte said, "And the latest revelation from the White House really tells us that we need this select committee. ... Why is it that we're just receiving this email, that really shows where the idea from the video came, because that video was not in the talking points, and yet that is what Ambassador Rice pushed on your show and every Sunday show?"

On [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (5/4, 3.08M), Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) described as a "false narrative" the Administration's claim that the Benghazi attacks were part of a protest against an anti-Muslim video. Chaffetz said the "false narrative" was "perpetuated over the course of time" and then "became a lie." Chaffetz added, "Look at what was happening in real time, and there is nobody, nobody that thought

there was a video that was causing a protest in Benghazi – nobody.”

The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, Hicks, 4.22M) reports that former GOP Sen. Rick Santorum supported the decision to form a select committee, telling ABC’s “This Week” that “they have an obligation to investigate the Benghazi matter.” Santorum said, “There’s a firestorm out there across America among Republicans who don’t think we’ve taken this issue on,” adding that Boehner has “no choice but to move forward on this.”

[Politico](#) (5/4, Eischen, 73K) reported in its “Politico Live” blog that Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff told [Fox News Sunday](#) that creation of the select committee is a “colossal waste of time,” adding that “we tread down this path so many times.” Schiff “suggested that Democrats in the House would not participate in the select committee,” saying, “It’s a tremendous red herring and a waste of taxpayer resources.”

[Politico](#) (5/4, Emma, 73K) reported in its “Politico Live” blog that in an appearance on [ABC’s This Week](#), former White House Senior Adviser David Plouffe said that House Republican plans to convene a select committee to investigate the Benghazi attacks are “bogus,” and that if Republicans “stay mired in the investigation instead of a positive agenda...it will hurt them in this fall’s midterm elections.” Plouffe said, “This has been politicized like we’ve never seen before,” noting that there is “a loud delusional minority and no conspiracy theory exists.” Plouffe added, “What ought to be done here is not another bogus committee, but real work to protect our agencies.”

[Politico](#) (5/4, Bresnahan, French, Sherman, 73K) reported that the select committee, which will be led by Rep. Trey Gowdy, “will immediately take over top billing on Benghazi” from Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA), whose Oversight and Government Reform Committee “has led the way on this issue since October 2012.” The investigation “will last into the fall — keeping Benghazi in the news for the 2014 midterm elections.” In addition, it could “serve to tarnish Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s name ahead of a potential 2016 presidential bid.” Boehner will choose all of the Republicans on the committee. Republicans will hold “a big edge in the ratio of members over Democrats,” and there is “some question about whether Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) will even name members to the panel, which Democrats are already dismissing as a partisan joke designed to try to politically damage Clinton and Obama.”

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/5, Knickerbocker, 566K) reported that for Clinton, Benghazi is “quickly growing into a potentially devastating target of opportunity for the GOP as it searches for a way to head off a Clinton political dynasty.” Republican’s “see Clinton as very vulnerable” on the issue, “which could become more than just a

distraction for her and her supporters starting to line up with endorsements.”

The [Washington Times](#) (5/5, Dinan, 455K) reports that a vote to create a special committee to investigate the Benghazi attacks, which could come up this week, is one of several with which House Republicans “have created a political minefield for Democrats in tough re-election races.” On the Benghazi vote, Republicans say “their hands were forced...by the revelation last week that the State Department failed for months to turn over” the Rhodes email.

The [Washington Times](#) (5/5, Chasmar, 455K) reports that in an interview Sunday, Pelosi said that “criticism by conservative lawmakers against herself and the Obama administration only demonstrates that they are suffering from a ‘poverty of ideas.’” Pelosi told MSNBC’s “Up with Steve Kornacki” that “Republicans have spent hundreds of millions of dollars in launching personal attacks against her,” saying, “It means nothing to me. ... I consider the source and I consider them to be stuck in a poverty of ideas.” Pelosi added, “We’re about what we have to offer to the American people. And nothing demonstrates the distinction more, and that’s what they want to try to divert attention from, than the two budgets that are coming forth. These two budgets are very different from each other and they don’t want the public to see that contrast. So what do they talk about? Benghazi, Pelosi — it’s all diversionary. It’s all totally unimportant and I couldn’t care less personally about them.”

The [Daily Caller](#) (5/4, Bordelon, 408K) reported that Brit Hume, who appeared on the Fox News Sunday panel alongside former Rep. Jane Harman, “grilled” the former lawmaker “over her denial of a Benghazi cover-up, calling the White House’s initial talking points ‘monumentally misleading’ and challenging Harman to describe which office or individual altered the attack’s storyline.” While Harman, “who claimed to have met with senior intelligence officials soon after the attack, characterized the blow-up as nothing but a right wing conspiracy,” Hume “pushed back,” saying, “here wasn’t a conspiracy in the United States to mount the Benghazi attack.” Hume added, “Where did the idea that the video had anything to do with Benghazi come from?” Harman replied, “My view is, having been around at the time, that this was not deliberately misleading. ... It turned out to be wrong, but it was not deliberately misleading.”

On [ABC’s This Week](#) (5/4, 2.73M), ABC News’ chief White House correspondent Jon Karl said Rhodes’ email “seems to suggest...that the White House wanted Susan Rice to talk so much about the protests triggering the attack in Benghazi to deflect criticism from White House policies.” Karl added, “But...the bigger issue is, why was that e-mail not turned over to Congress earlier?”

Appearing on [NBC’s Meet the Press](#) (5/4, 3.08M), former White

House Communications Director Anita Dunn called Rhodes' email "a leaky water pistol" as opposed to a "smoking gun." According to Dunn, "There's nothing in there that's inconsistent with the e-mails that have been released before, and there's nothing in there that's inconsistent with what the CIA had written."

Appearing on [Fox News Sunday](#) (5/4), Harman said "a couple days ago," House Oversight Committee chairman Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) "subpoenaed" Secretary of State John Kerry, "who during the Benghazi time was a member of the United States Senate." Harman continued, "They subpoenaed him to appear and testify on May 21st when he is scheduled to be in Mexico doing some serious work. This is a circus. ... He shouldn't be subpoenaed."

***Logan's Return To 60 Minutes "Appears Less And Less Likely."***

The [Huffington Post](#) (5/5, Calderone, 11.54M) reported that a New York magazine feature traces CBS correspondent Laura Logan's "rapid ascent at CBS, aided by telegenic looks and fearlessness – or, to some colleagues, recklessness – in war zones." Prior to her "now-discredited Benghazi report that led to her being sidelined from the network for over six months," Logan had "set off alarm bells within the network that she could not aggressively, and skeptically, cover military, New York reports." Her work on Benghazi "only elevated concerns that she was out of control." The report notes that Morley Safer "demanded that '60 Minutes' Executive Producer Jeff Fager fire Logan." While Fager "has said that Logan will come back this year, [contributing editor Joe] Hagan writes that her 'return appears less and less certain.'"

**PRESIDENT SET TO FOCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AS KEY COMPONENT OF HIS LEGACY.** In a front-page story, the [Washington Post](#) (5/5, A1, Eilperin, 4.22M) reports that after years of "putting other policy priorities first – and dismaying many liberal allies in the process" – President Obama is "now getting into the weeds on climate change and considers it one of the key components of his legacy, according to aides and advisers." The President "is using his executive authority to cut greenhouse gas emissions from power plants and other sources, and is moving ahead with stricter fuel-efficiency standards for the heaviest trucks." The Post says that while Obama "routinely brings up climate change in closed-door meetings with world leaders," his aides say that he "also discusses it in his private life, talking about global warming's implications with his teenage daughters."

***Federal Climate Report Expected To Highlight Dangers Of Warming To US.*** [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/4, story 4, 2:40, Holt, 7.86M) reported that an "alarming" new climate change report is expected to be released by the Federal government this week, which, in draft form, included "a sobering forecast about how climate and weather conditions may change here in the United States." NBC

(Curry) adds that the report “by a 60-member committee, including the Defense Department, the American Cancer Society and Chevron, in addition to climate scientists says the warming is primarily driven by human activity and predicts temperatures in the US could soar by as much as 10 degrees by 2100.” That would lead to a drop in snowfall, more wildfires, and greater threat of hurricanes.

**USA TODAY/PEW POLL: GOP’S MIDTERM EDGE ITS LARGEST IN OVER 20 YEARS.** [USA Today](#) (5/5, Page, Breitman, 5.82M) reports that a new USA TODAY/Pew Research Center nationwide survey of 1,162 registered voters, taken April 23-27, “shows the strongest tilt to Republican candidates at this point in a midterm year in at least” twenty years. In November’s midterm elections, those surveyed “are inclined to support the Republican candidate over the Democrat in their congressional district by 47%-43%,” which is particularly “notable because Democrats traditionally fare better among registered voters than they do among those who actually cast ballots, especially in low-turnout midterms.” USA Today adds, “In 1994, when” Republicans won both “the House and Senate, Democrats held a 2-point advantage in the spring of the election year.”

***GOP Establishment Hopes To Beat Back Tea Party Candidates In Primaries.*** [USA Today](#) (5/5, Schouten, 5.82M) reports that tomorrow’s North Carolina Senate primary will provide “the latest gauge of whether the” GOP “establishment and its deep-pocketed allies are winning the battle against” Tea Party-backed candidates. The US Chamber of Commerce and American Crossroads, linked “to mainstream Republican interests,” have pumped “a combined \$2 million” into the contest in support of state House Speaker Thom Tillis’ (R) bid to take on Sen Kay Hagan (R), while physician Greg Brannon (R) is backed by Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul (R), who has “substantial Tea Party clout.” USA Today says that in this year’s primaries, leading Republicans are trying “to avoid a repeat of the 2010 and 2012 elections in which Tea Party-aligned Senate candidates won” GOP nominations “only to lose to Democrats in the general election.”

In a report that largely focuses on North Carolina’s GOP Senate primary, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, O'Connor, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) similarly says that the Republican establishment and allied outside groups have been working to boost Tillis, believing he’s the strongest candidate to take on Hagan. The Journal notes that the GOP establishment and their allies have also been seeking to boost their preferred candidates in other GOP Senate primaries.

***Once Viewed As “Vulnerable,” Graham Now Expected To “Cruise” To Primary Win.*** The [AP](#) (5/5, Collins) reported that while South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham (R) once appeared “vulnerable to a primary challenge from conservatives offended by his bipartisan

dealmaking and votes for President Barack Obama's Supreme Court nominees," the lawmaker's "power and shrewdness, not to mention" his "intimidating \$7 million" campaign war chest, "have positioned him to cruise to" victory in both the GOP primary and general election this year. The AP noted that Graham also has been the beneficiary of support from "establishment Republicans and allied groups such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce."

***Primary Poll: Boehner At "Only 49 Percent" Ahead Of***

***Tomorrow's Vote.*** The [Daily Caller](#) (5/4, Howley, 408K) reported that a Gravis Marketing survey of 2,275 OH8 likely GOP primary voters shows House Speaker Boehner (R) capturing "only 49 percent of the Republican vote" ahead of his Tuesday primary matchup against "tea party challenger J.D. Winteregg." The Caller does not report how Winteregg fared in the poll, when the survey was in the field, or who commissioned the poll.

***GOP Expected To Gain Control Of More State Legislatures.*** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, Reinhard, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) reports that the GOP is set to gain control of a number of state Houses and Senates this cycle. The GOP could gain control of five state Senates with gains of no more than three seats, and the Party is also targeting other chambers. For example, if the GOP gains a single seat in either Colorado or Nevada, they could take control of those state senates, and push through key legislation.

***Dionne: In Midterms, Voters Who Disapprove Of Obama But Back Clinton Key For Democrats.*** In his [Washington Post](#) (5/5, Dionne, 4.22M) column, E.J. Dionne Jr. writes that a Washington Post/ABC News poll out last week showed that "roughly one-eighth of voters who disapprove of [President] Obama" back a 2016 presidential run by Hillary Clinton. In this year's midterm elections, says Dionne, that slice of voters "may be the most important group in the electorate. If Democratic candidates can collectively manage to corral Clinton's share of the national electorate this fall, the party would likely keep control of the Senate and might take over the House."

**Editorial Wrap-Up:**

**NEW YORK TIMES. "A Better Economy, Still Far From Good."**

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (5/5, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) says that the good news last week was the strong April jobs report, but "wages remained flat, nearly 10 million unemployed people are looking for jobs, and millions more have become so disenchanted that they have given up on finding work altogether." The Times takes Republicans to task for not extending emergency unemployment benefits and for blocking a minimum wage increase.

***"Policing, On The Safe Side."*** An editorial in the [New York Times](#) (5/5, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) examines a recent proposal by



New York's City Council to add 1,000 new officers to the New York City Police Department. Mayor Bill de Blasio and Police Commissioner William Bratton, however, believe the current force is adequate. The editorial notes that "crime in the city has fallen to record lows" over the past decade despite a police force about 6,000 down from its peak size in 2001. The paper concludes that "without an increase in crime, the burden is on the Council to show convincingly why and where 1,000 officers are needed." Until then, the editorial states, it would be unwise to increase the force.

***"Are Pap Smears On The Way Out?"*** An editorial in the [New York Times](#) (5/5, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) notes that a new "genetic test that looks for the viruses implicated in causing cervical cancer," now rivals the pap smear, which heretofore has been "the only screening tool to look for cancer in asymptomatic women." The Times notes that "a coalition of 17 consumer, women's and health groups opposed the approval on grounds that the new test had not been adequately tested, will create confusion and might lead to expensive, invasive, potentially harmful follow-up procedures," and points out that while the test "is not expected to replace Pap smears in the United States any time soon," it is "welcome news that an effective new screening test for cervical cancer is available should women prefer that option."

***"The Toll Of 'No New Taxes.'"*** In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (5/5, Subscription Publication, 9.65M) comments on the Obama Administration's request to Congress that it end the current prohibition on states' charging tolls to pay for interstate highways, arguing that it would "reverse a proud policy" and "underlines the urgency for Congress to act" on a more meaningful measure to address the Federal transportation funding shortfall. The editorial notes that the Federal gas tax was last increased in 1993, and that resistance to raising taxes to pay for the highway system "is a particular disservice to the nation's motorists." The editorial states that "budgetary duct tape" will do little to pay for the upkeep of America's roads without raising gas taxes.

**WASHINGTON POST. *"The Sad State Of D.C. Elections."***

Editorializing on the recent problems with counting votes in Washington DC's Democratic primary, the [Washington Post](#) (5/5, 4.22M) lambastes the Board of Elections and Ethics, arguing that the city "needs to delve into its operations" before giving it more money to fix its supposedly faulty technology. The editorial states that the agency's new explanation for its "ineptitude" is faulty electronic voting machines, noting that upgrades could cost \$2 to 4 million. The paper points to past problems with voting in 2008 and 2010, adding that voters in DC experience "some of the longest waits in the country." Ultimately, the editorial concludes that reform of the agency must be made a priority by the next mayor.



***“Mr. Kerry’s Surrender.”*** An editorial in the [Washington Post](#) (5/5, 4.22M) argues that the failure Secretary of State Kerry’s “quixotic attempt to broker a final peace accord between Israelis and Palestinians” raises questions “about what will follow it — and there are plenty of bad options.” The Post argues that preventing those bad options from occurring and “finding ways to lay the groundwork for an eventual Palestinian state is a necessary sequel to Mr. Kerry’s surrender.”

***“Risky Business.”*** An editorial in the [Washington Post](#) (5/5, 4.22M) notes a recent derailment of a train carrying crude oil, arguing that the government should do more to prevent oil spills from trains. The paper claims that the sheer volume of oil being transported by huge trains has resulted in “more oil spilled in train accidents last year than in the nearly 40 preceding years combined.” The editorial states that the government first must allow energy companies to build pipelines “so they do not have to use rail,” adding that the Keystone XL project is just one of these. Next, the paper argues that there should be “tough regulations on oil cars,” introducing more inspections, mandatory standards and upgrades. Finally, the editorial claims that while the Administration “has sat on important regulations in past election years,” it cannot afford to do so this time.

**WALL STREET JOURNAL. *“Standing To Sue Obama.”*** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) discusses President Obama’s use of executive power as well as legal challenges to the use of that power by some lawmakers. The Journal argues that President Obama has circumvented congressional authority and assumed that legislators lack the legal standing to oppose him. The editorial cites several examples of legal challenges over the separation of powers that point to the President being in the wrong, including Sen. Ron Johnson’s (R-Wisc.) suit over healthcare benefits for Congressional staffers. The Journal concludes that President Obama’s actions raise questions over those separations, and claims that they undermine political accountability of both the executive and legislative branches.

***“Gary S. Becker.”*** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) eulogizes Gary S. Becker, the Nobel laureate who died on Saturday. The Journal hails his research into the impact of economics on areas thought to be traditionally removed from economic analysis. At his core, the Journal says, Becker believed in the ability of humans to improve their lot if given the chance to use their talents to the fullest.

***“The Real Buffett Rule.”*** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, Subscription Publication, 5.51M) writes that President Obama used billionaire Warren Buffett’s call for a minimum tax on the wealthy as a tool to hit Mitt Romney with during the last election, but now, Buffett argues in an interview with Fortune Magazine that his

objective is to pay absolutely the minimum personal and corporate tax possible. The Journal highlights his statement that his company, Berkshire Hathaway, gets a tax credit to build windfarms, which don't make economic sense without such an incentive. The Journal says that is a misallocation of resources for non-economic activity of the sort Romney's tax reform proposal would have eliminated.

### **Big Picture:**

#### **HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.**

##### ***Los Angeles Times:***

FAA's Drone Policy Called Lagging

[Quake Liability Weighs Heavily In LA](#)

[Mansions Moving In](#)

Perseverance Is Part Of The Brew

[Ukraine Battle Hits Home](#)

##### ***Wall Street Journal:***

[Takeovers Put Fuel In Stocks' Empty Tank](#)

[Will Putin's Gaze Reach Latvia?](#)

[GOP Poised To Control More State Legislatures](#)

[Alibaba Founder Takes Center Stage](#)

##### ***New York Times:***

[Rush For Deals Before Top Art Goes To Auction](#)

[X Still Marks Sunken Spot, And Gold Awaits](#)

[Heroin's New Hometown](#)

[Libertarians Trail Meter Readers, Telling Town: Live Free Or Else](#)

[At Derby Day With Murdoch, Rand Paul Goes Through His Paces](#)

[Kiev Struggles To Break Russia's Grip On Gas Flow](#)

##### ***Washington Post:***

[Violence In Key Port Raises Stakes In Ukraine](#)

[Big Budgets, Little Oversight In War Zones](#)

[Liberal Donors Eye New Strategy](#)

[For Obama, Climate Is A Renewed Priority](#)

[A Shot Of Vitality, In Blood From The Young](#)

[Four Lives, Forever Changed](#)

##### ***Financial Times:***

[Row Intensifies Over Bid For AstraZeneca](#)

[Internal Candidate To Be Whitehall 'CFO'](#)

[Stressed Bankers Seek 'Mindfulness' Boost](#)

[Citi In Norwegian Wealth Fund Coup](#)

[High-Yield Bonds Boost Europe M&A Hopes](#)

[Transition Fears As Ikea Founder Packs It In](#)

[Sanpower Eyes House Of Fraser Overseas Push](#)

##### ***Washington Times:***

[Corporate Welfare? Boeing Cashes In On Ex-Im](#)  
[GOP Sets Up Tough Votes For Democrats](#)  
[This Land Is Whose Land?](#)  
[UN Looks At Vatican Oversight On Torture](#)  
[Congress Is Likely To Keep Gitmo Locked](#)  
[US Domain Derregulation Could Result In Tangled Web](#)

***Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:***

ABC: Preempted by sports.

CBS: Circus Accident; Russia-Ukraine Violence; Northern Ireland-IRA; Clippers Owner; White House Correspondence Dinner; CDC-Bullied Children Weapons; Retirement Savings.

NBC: Circus Accident; Clippers Owner; Health-Indiana Virus; Russia-Ukraine Violence; Nigerian Girls Kidnapped; Climate Change Report; Mount Everest Avalanche.

***Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:***

ABC: Oklahoma Wildfire; Circus Accident; Russia-Ukraine Violence; WWII Plane Airshow Crash.

CBS: Circus Accident; WWII Plane Airshow Crash; Chinese Vessel-Sailor Deaths; Malaysian Airlines Flight; Russia-Ukraine Violence; Clippers Owner Ban; Asian Markets Down.

NPR: Benghazi Investigation; Circus Accident; California-Elections; Russia-Ukraine Violence; Portugal-Economic Bailout Strategy; Indiana-Middle East Virus; Gas Price Increase.

FOX: Circus Accident; Chinese Vessel-Deaths; Gas Price Increase; Panama Presidential Election.

**Washington Schedule:**

**TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.**

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Welcomes President Ismail Omar Guelleh of Djibouti to the White House; hosts a Cinco de Mayo reception at the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Delivers remarks to the American Psychiatric Association Annual meeting in New York City, open press.  
US Senate: 2 p.m. — The Senate convenes and begins a period of morning business. Following any Leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30pm with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. At 5:30pm, the Senate will proceed to Executive Session and there will be up to 2 roll call votes:

– Confirmation of Executive Calendar 575, Nancy L. Moritz, of Kansas, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit and

– Confirmation of Executive Calendar 703 Peter A. Selfridge, of

Minnesota, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service. During Thursdays session of the Senate, cloture was filed on the motion to proceed to S.2262, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act.

10 a.m. ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS – FIELD HEARING — Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife will hold a field hearing to improve public understanding of the environmental challenges presented by Conowingo Dam in Maryland. Location: Conowingo Visitors Center and Recreation Office, 4948 Conowingo Road, Conowingo, MD.

US House: 1 p.m. HOYER PEN AND PAD — House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer will hold a pen and pad briefing. NO CAMERAS WILL BE ALLOWED. Location: H-144.

Other: May 5 – 7. 11 a.m. UKRAINIAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE — Ukrainian presidential candidate Valery Kononalyuk visits Washington to meet with U.S. government leaders, including members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations as well as officials from the State Department and the Department of Defense. His visit is geared toward securing U.S. support for a unified Ukraine and will include a press conference on Wednesday, May 7 at 11 a.m.

May 5 – 6. CRIME REDUCTION SYMPOSIUM — The National Attorneys General Training and Research Institute (NAGTRI), a branch of the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), and the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) hold a national symposium on crime reduction. NAAG President and Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen and NDAA President and District Attorney Henry Garza will host. 9 a.m. Attorney General Eric Holder will deliver keynote remarks. Media interested in attending must RSVP to Rachel Stone at [rstone@naag.org](mailto:rstone@naag.org) no later than 3 p.m. Sunday, May 4. Location: Attorney General Eric Holder will deliver keynote remarks.

May 5 – 7. MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION CONFERENCE — Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and political legacy Patrick Kennedy are among the 300 speakers at the 2014 National Council for Behavioral Health Conference and Hill Day. Contact: Heather Cobb, 202.684.7457 x277 [HeatherC@TheNationalCouncil.org](mailto:HeatherC@TheNationalCouncil.org) Speakers include: Linda Rosenberg, President & CEO, National Council for Behavioral Health, “Creating Change that Matters”; Tom Insel, Director, National Institute of Mental Health, “Quest for the Cure: Scientific Breakthroughs in Treating Mental Health”; Mariel Hemingway, Oscar-nominated Actress, Ernest Hemingway’s granddaughter, “Running from Crazy”. Location: Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, National Harbor, Md.

GUN CONTROL RALLY — 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. “The Monday White

House Demonstration For Sane Gun Reform.” Weather permitting.  
CONTACTS: Helen Ramsey [helen.ramsey1@gmail.com](mailto:helen.ramsey1@gmail.com); Linda Finkel-Talvadkar [linda.finkeltalvadkar@gmail.com](mailto:linda.finkeltalvadkar@gmail.com); Barbara Elsas [barbara.elsas@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.elsas@gmail.com). Location: In front of the north side of the White House.

### **Last Laughs:**

#### **LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.**

*Jimmy Fallon:* “Tomorrow night reporters and the celebrities will attend the White House Correspondents Dinner. Which is going to be awkward when the reporters from CNN just spend all night trying to find their table.”

*Jimmy Fallon:* “Earlier this week the Senate GOP blocked a bill to raise the minimum wage [to] ten dollars and ten cents an hour. They blocked it. And then President Obama said Republicans should not get the last word on the issue. And Republicans said, ‘We’ll see about that.’”

*Jimmy Fallon:* “A new survey found 70 percent of Americans want someone other than a Bush or Clinton to run for president in 2016, or as Hillary Rodham put it, ‘Not a problem.’”

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