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CALIFORNIA

Man wielding knives attacks deputies

Kern Valley Sun, April 25

At approximately 4:27 p.m. on Friday, April 21, the Kern County Sheriff's Office Kern Valley Substation received a call reporting suspicious activity in the 100 block of Rocky Road in Bodfish. While deputies were en route, the deputies were advised that the suspect, 64-year-old Kirk Allison, a resident of Bodfish, was attempting to assault a neighbor with a deadly weapon. The deputies were also informed that Allison was attempting to burn the neighbor's house down.

The California Highway Patrol and a ranger with the Bureau of Land Management responded with deputies to assist. The BLM ranger had a K-9 partner with him.

US Marines Airlifted 1,100 Tortoises to New Desert Homes

Live Science, April 26

The U.S. Marine Corps had an unusual mission this month: to airlift more than 1,000 desert tortoises across the Mojave Desert. Desert tortoises are native to the southwestern desert, and a population of the reptiles had made their home near the U.S. Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, California. However, plans to expand the Marines' training grounds for large-scale exercises with live fire would have put the tortoises at risk, so the military took on the massive task of relocating approximately 1,100 desert tortoises.

President Trump's move to review national monuments prompts local concern

Press Democrat, April 25

Local lawmakers and community leaders are wary about President Donald Trump's call for a review of national monument designations, including two on the North Coast...Sonoma County's two congressmen, a state lawmaker and Mendocino and Lake County community leaders said Obama's designation of the sprawling Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in 2015 and the addition of a Mendocino seaside tract to the California Coastal National Monument in 2014 are unlikely targets for undoing. Both were created with strong local support.

Invasive weeds establish greater foothold on range

AG Alert, April 26

...Oneto said he's also seeing lots of brush and regrowth in areas that previously burned, including in Amador and Calaveras counties where the Butte Fire occurred, and in El Dorado County, the site of the King Fire. Shrubs tend to resprout after fire disturbances, with much of the growth coming in the next two months, he added.

PG&E Issued Citations And Fined \$8.3M For Violations Related To Butte Fire

CBS Sacramento, April 25

The California Public Utilities Commission issued two staff citations totaling \$8.3 million to Pacific Gas & Electric for violations that were discovered by the CPUC's investigation into the Butte fire. The commission cited the utility for "failing to maintain its 12 kV overhead conductors safely and properly." According to the CPUC, the violation stretches back to January 2015, when it says PG&E and its contractors failed to identify that the removal of nearby trees would create a hazardous condition with a gray pine tree and could make contact with the 12-kilovolt line. The commission says the tree eventually made contact with the line on September 9th and started the Butte Fire. The citation was issued for the maximum allowable amount of \$8M.

Arbor Day is coming: Six trees worth hugging, and where to find them

Los Angeles Times, April 26

Giant Sequoia groves on Case Mountain southeast of Three Rivers, Calif. (Bob Wick/ Bureau of Land Management) ...The sheer size of redwoods make jaws drop, and for good reason. They're the tallest, most massive trees in the world and they thrive in several parts of the Golden State and points north. You'll find giant sequoias the thick ones such as the General Grant Tree in Sequoia National Park that would take several people to wrap their arms around. It's an easy hike to get to this tree.

NATIONAL

Press Briefing by Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke on the Executive Order to Review the Designations Under the Antiquities Act

The White House, April 25

... Tomorrow, the President will come to the Department of Interior, to my office, and sign the executive order to review the Antiquities Act. The executive order will direct me, as the Secretary, to review prior monument designations and to suggest legislative changes or modifications to the monuments. The monument designation period stretches from 1 January 1996 under which the act -- and it has to include acts and monuments that are 100,000 acres or more -- so the beginning date is January 1st, 1996, and the other condition is they have to be a total of 100,000 acres or more. That

should include about 24 to 40 monuments. That gives you kind of a thumbnail.

Trump order to aim first at Bears Ears

GREENWIRE, April 25

President Trump tomorrow will sign an executive order calling for a review of the Antiquities Act and dozens of national monuments that were created by his predecessors in the past two decades, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said tonight at a White House briefing. The review, to be led by Zinke, will span from the 1.9 million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument established in southern Utah by President Clinton in 1996 to the 1.35 million-acre Bears Ears National Monument created by President Obama over the opposition of the Beehive State's congressional delegation late last year. Ultimately the secretary may urge the president to rescind, resize or modify the management of around 30 national monuments, Zinke said, all of them larger than 100,000 acres. *See PDF for full story.*

Zinke Vows to Make Interior 'the Happy Department'

Morning Consult, April 25

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said he hopes to improve employee morale and foster a more welcoming image for federal lands, suggesting it's probably not necessary to arm officials who work on remote tortoise refuges...Zinke did not offer any specifics on possible executive actions, expected on Wednesday and Friday, calling for reviews of national monument designations under the Antiquities Act of 1906 and access to offshore oil and gas exploration, according to a Reuters report.

Trump to order Interior to review 50-plus sites

GREENWIRE, April 24

President Trump this week will order the Interior Department to conduct a review of at least 50 national monuments to determine whether existing boundaries are "well beyond the areas in need of protection" and to recommend potential changes, a White House official told E&E News. The official, who spoke on the basis of anonymity, said the executive action will address the Antiquities Act of 1906, which permits presidents to declare federal lands as monuments in order to protect their historical or scientific value and may restrict activities on those lands. *See PDF for full story.*

Agency retirees warn of shutdown's harm

GREENWIRE, April 25

Former park rangers and public lands employees are warning President Trump and Congress about the impact a government shutdown could have on parks, refuges, fish hatcheries and forests. Lawmakers need to pass a spending bill by this weekend, when current funding lapses, to avoid a shutdown of much of the federal government. But they

have yet to hammer out a final deal, thanks to uncertainty over whether Trump will sign a bill that doesn't include funding for a border wall (E&E Daily, April 25). In a letter today, four groups of former employees emphasized that past shutdowns "have cost billions of dollars to local communities" who depend on the visitors who use nearby public lands. *See PDF for full story.*

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