

First baby on the North Coast in 2019



Providence Seaside Hospital welcomed the first baby of the year, Brock Snyder, at 3:25 p.m. Tuesday. From left to right are Janiece Zauner, chief nursing officer; Brock, Bradley and Raquel Snyder, of Astoria; Dr. Dominique Greco; and Katherine Davidson, inpatient nurse manager.

National Park Service to tap into entrance fees to keep operating

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The National Park Service says it is taking the extraordinary step of dipping into entrance fees to pay for staffing at its highly visited parks in the wake of the partial government shutdown.

P. Daniel Smith, deputy director of the park service, said in a statement Sunday that the money would be used to bring in staff to maintain restrooms, clean up trash and patrol the parks. He acknowledged that the Trump administration's decision to keep the parks open during the weeklong budget impasse was no longer workable and so more extreme measures were warranted.

Parks have been relying on outside help for security and upkeep.

"We are taking this extraordinary step to ensure that parks are protected, and that visitors can continue to access parks with limited basic services," Smith said.

Republican U.S. Sen. Steve Daines of Montana warned Interior Secretary David Bernhardt on Saturday of "significant risk to property and public health" without funding. Three Utah Republican congressmen also asked Bernhardt to restart regular operations.

Democrats want the parks fully opened. But



A woman walks past trash piled next to a garbage bin at Ocean Beach in San Francisco.

Rep. Betty McCollum of Minnesota, the incoming chair of the subcommittee overseeing Interior appropriations, said Sunday that dipping into user fees was "not acceptable" in this situation, and likely violates the law.

Parks supporters called the administration's move misguided.

"Instead of working to reopen the federal government, the administration is robbing money collected from entrance fees to operate our national parks during this shutdown," said Theresa Pierno, president and CEO for the National Parks Conservation Association. "For those parks that don't collect fees, they will now be in the position of competing for the same inadequate pot of money to protect their resources and visitors. Draining accounts dry is not the answer."

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THE DAILY ASTORIAN



Huge trash-collecting boom in Pacific Ocean breaks apart

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A trash collection device deployed to corral plastic litter floating in the Pacific Ocean between California and Hawaii has broken apart and will be hauled back to dry land for repairs.

Boyan Slat, who launched the Pacific Ocean cleanup project, told NBC News last week that the 2,000-foot long floating boom will be towed 800 miles to Hawaii.

If it can't be repaired there, it will be loaded on a barge and returned to its home port of Alameda, California.

The boom broke apart under constant wind and waves in the Pacific.

Slat said he's disappointed, but not discour-



AP Photo/Lorin Eleni Gill

A ship tows The Ocean Cleanup's first buoyant trash-collecting device toward the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco en route to the Pacific Ocean.

aged and pledged that operations would resume as soon as possible.

"This is an entirely new category of machine that is out there in extremely challenging conditions," the 24-year-old Dutch inventor said. "We always took into

account that we might have to take it back and forth a few times. So it's really not a significant departure from the original plan."

Previously, Slat said the boom was moving slower than the plastic, allowing the trash to float away.

Environmentalists withdraw from 'broken' Oregon wolf plan negotiations

By TONY SCHICK
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Environmental groups have withdrawn from an effort to update Oregon's plan for managing gray wolves days before a final meeting of stakeholders, throwing the future of negotiations over wolf management and protections into question.

Ranchers, hunters and wolf conservation advocates have been in talks with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife over an update to the rules governing the protection and management of the state's wolf population, including when and how wolves can be killed.

But Oregon Wild, Defenders of Wildlife, Cascadia Wildlands and the Center for Biological Diversity

are now pulling out of the process and plan to oppose the state's plan, according to a joint letter filed with Gov. Kate Brown's office.

"We feel the process is so broken and the plan is so bad that there really isn't a purpose for us to show up to this next meeting," said Oregon Wild Executive Director Sean Stevens. "We know the direction they're trying to go and it's not trying to find an honest consensus around the plan."

Stevens said any of the conservationists' suggestions, regardless of how ranchers and hunters received them, were dismissed by the state as either too costly or too complex. Specifically, wolf advocates took issue with the notion that two livestock attacks within either a nine-month

or 12-month period could be considered chronic depredation, which triggers plans to kill the culprit wolves.

Remaining stakeholders represented are the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Oregon Farm Bureau, the Oregon Hunters Association and the Oregon Cattlemen.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife convened stakeholders at the request of Brown, after the agency's draft for a new wolf plan last year was met with significant criticism — much of it from the same environmentalists now withdrawing from the process.

The next meeting of the wolf plan stakeholders is scheduled for 9 a.m. Tuesday at the Monarch Hotel and Conference Center in Clackamas.

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