# Interior boss aims to protect US public land access

Critics question the timing

**By MATTHEW BROWN** Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — Acting U.S. Interior Sec-David Bernhardt ordered federal land managers on Thursday to give greater priority to access for hunting, fishing and other kinds of recreation when the government considers selling or trading public land.

The secretarial order comes amid longstanding complaints that millions of acres of state and federal land in the West can be reached only by traveling across private property or small slivers of public land.

Bernhardt's order requires the Bureau of Land Management to come up with alternatives to access routes that could be lost during land sales or exchanges. It also helps prevent land from being selected in the first place for potential sale.

The move could help boost Bernhardt's conservation credentials ahead of a Senate confirmation hearing next week, in which Democrats are likely to highlight his past work as an energy industry lobbyist.

Bernhardt has been nominated to replace former Secretary Ryan Zinke, who resigned in January.

Several hunting and conservation groups voiced support for the action, including the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Association of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies. But others said it appeared politically calculated to curry favor among lawmakers ahead of the hearing.

The critics pointed to drastic cuts in President Donald Trump's proposed budget to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which supports conservation and outdoor recreation projects nationwide.

Bernhardt said in a statement that the administration "has and will continue to prioritize access so that people can hunt, fish, camp and recreate on our public lands."

Hunting and fishing



Deer in the grasslands near Miles City, Mont.

advocates had pressed the administration to close what they considered a loophole in federal land policies that allows some sites to be sold.

The Bureau of Land Management oversees almost 400,000 square miles of federal land. A 1976 law requires agency officials to identify lands for potential sale or exchange, but not to look at potential effects on recreational access.

As a result, the bureau has identified for potential sale sites such as 11 parcels of land totaling 4.3 square miles adjacent to the Bighorn National Forest west of Buffalo, Wyoming, said Joel Webster with the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.

The area sits beneath the towering peaks of the Bighorn Mountains. One of the parcels identified for potential sale has a hiking trail passing directly through it, Webster said.

Another area identified for potential sale — an 8-square mile tract of mostly grasslands near Miles City, Montana — is popular for deer, antelope and bird hunting and can be accessed from a nearby highway.

"It is one of the best mule deer hunting areas in the nation," Webster said. "The BLM just has not been thinking about recreational access when they've been looking to sell lands. We think this order means much fewer acres with access are going to be available for sale."

National Parks Conservation Association Vice President Kristen Brengel said the order's timing exactly one week before Bernhardt appears in front of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee — casts doubt over the administration's purpose.

"They're paying lip service to an issue a lot of people care about," Brengel said. "When the president's budget doesn't fund the most prominent program that would guarantee this access, this is completely empty."

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**UNDER THE SKY Tonight's Sky:** Before midnight, nearly overhead is Perseus, the Hero.

Apr 12

Apr 19

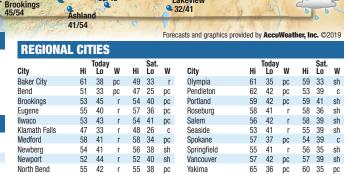
Apr 5

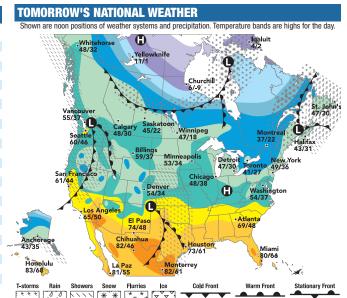
**NATIONAL CITIES** 

**TOMORROW'S TIDES** Astoria / Port Docks

City	Hi	Today Lo	w w	Hi	Sat. Lo	w
Atlanta	65	43	S	69	48	S
Boston	45	37	sh	49	32	sf
Chicago	43	26	pc	48	38	S
Denver	51	35	t	54	34	рс
Des Moines	57	30	S	56	42	pc
Detroit	42	23	sf	47	30	S
El Paso	73	46	рс	74	48	S
Fairbanks	48	26	pc	47	30	рс
Honolulu	83	67	рс	83	68	pc
Indianapolis	48	24	S	51	37	S
Kansas City	64	40	рс	55	50	sh
Las Vegas	70	53	рс	74	51	рс
Los Angeles	65	51	рс	65	50	рс
Memphis	66	44	S	68	53	рс
Miami	76	57	S	80	66	рс
Nashville	66	35	S	62	42	S
New Orleans	73	51	S	75	55	S
New York	51	34	r	49	36	S
Oklahoma City	70	51	рс	66	54	t
Philadelphia	52	34	pc	49	33	S
St. Louis	58	34	S	55	45	рс
Salt Lake City	53	41	sh	57	43	С
San Francisco	60	49	r	61	44	рс

Seattle 66 47 sh 60 46 Washington, DC 56 35 pc 54 37 Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries,





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#### and shootout in Cloverdale Associated Press Oregon State Police say

Arrests made after a bank robbery

CLOVERDALE — A man and woman from the Salem area were arrested after police say they robbed a bank at gunpoint in Tillamook County and later got into a shootout with police.

the robbery was reported at a U.S. Bank in Cloverdale around 11:30 a.m. Thursday. Police say the suspects were driving away when officers arrived.

Police say after a short pursuit the suspect vehicle hit a police vehicle and that the woman and man were arrested after exchanging gunfire with police. The woman and man were taken to a hospital for evaluation from the crash

Police say no one was injured in the shooting.

#### **OBITUARIES**

#### Mary Jean (Henry) Zillman Astoria June 16, 1929 — March 14, 2019

Mary Jean (Henry) Zillman, of Astoria, ginia Younger Chaney and William Dondied Thursday, March 14, 2019, in Astoria. She was born June 16, 1929, to Carl August Henry and Minnie Cornelia Larson Henry in Bonanza, Oregon.

She graduated from Ashland High School in Oregon.

On May 5, 1956, she married William Fredrick Zillman.

She is survived by a son, Timothy William Zillman; a daughter, Kathleen Jean Zillman; grandchildren, Lisa Marie Beardsley, Vir-



**Mary Zillman** 

ald George, great-grandsons, Joseph Peck and Andrew Peck; great-great-granddaughter, Briella; niece, Kit Haldman Gosha; and another niece.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William Fredrick Zillman, and a grandchild, Alisha George.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Astoria Senior Center, 1111 Exchange St., Astoria, OR., 97103.

#### **DEATH**

March 21, 2019

MEDAL, Lorraine "Lorrie" R., 72, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

#### **PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**MONDAY** 

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

## **LOTTERIES**

**OREGON** Thursday's Pick 4: **1 p.m.:** 0-2-9-5

business day prior.

9 a.m. the day of publication.

**4 p.m.:** 5-9-9-5 **7 p.m.:** 3-7-2-4 **10 p.m.:** 2-4-0-6 Thursday's Lucky Lines: 02-05-10-15-FREE-17-24-28-32 Estimated jackpot: \$16,000

and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at DailyAstorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at

**WASHINGTON** Thursday's Daily Game:

Thursday's Keno: 04-05-06-13-19-22-26-30-35-36-39-43-44-53-60-61-67-72-76-77

Thursday's Match 4: 07-10-

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