The PR battle for the Gulf and other recent stories about the BP oil spill that you may have missed

BP spokesman (and former journalist) Geoff Morrell authored an op-ed for the news website POLITICO titled "No, BP Didn’t Ruin the Gulf." The story prompted a rebuttal from the Ocean Conservancy’s Kara Lankford titled "Yes, BP Did Damage the Gulf." Geoff Morrell’s opinion piece -- and the ensuing criticism it incited -- prompted an analysis by the Columbia Journalism Review: "...Morrell’s message can be read as part of a larger public relations strategy, forgoing transparency and mea culpas and instead defining the narrative of recovery post-spill with BP as a victim of misinformation," wrote Alexis Sobel Fitts. The Gulf Restoration Network, an environmental group based in New Orleans, has filed a lawsuit seeking to block the use of $58 million in Deepwater Horizon oil spill recovery funds to construct a hotel and conference center at Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores. The PR battle for the Gulf and other recent stories about the BP oil spill that you may have missed

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A new $40 million partnership the will give money for conservation projects to farmers and private landowners in states affected by BP's 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced Tuesday.

A group of California scientists discovered what they're calling a "bathtub ring" of oil beneath the Gulf of Mexico. In a study published this week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, researchers detailed their findings.

BP wants oil spill claims czar Patrick Juneau to turn over a multimillion dollar audit of the program the company bankrolled. The audit, carried out by McGladrey LLP, is the second one performed on the claims process.

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