



Clean & Play

Volunteers Elizabeth Bagley and Kevin Knox clean equipment at the Community Playground near Crescent Harbor Saturday morning. The playground, built in 2016 and designed by Anderson Land Planning, is the first ADA-compliant playground in Sitka. Volunteers spent the day pressure washing and scrubbing the equipment and donation plaques. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)

Grey Whale Effect on Herring Spawn Studied

**ANNA LAFFREY**  
Sentinel Staff Writer

Dozens of gray whales are dancing around in shallow, nearshore waters north of Sitka this spring, raising their tails to the sky as they feed from the seafoam.

In recent years, mariners have noticed more and more gray whales visiting waters near Sitka. Researchers say roughly 150 to 200 gray whales appeared in the Sound last spring, soon after the returning Sitka herring population began to spawn.

Gray whales are arriving again this spring to feed along their annual, 12,000-mile-plus migration route from the coast of Baja California, where they breed each winter, to their northern foraging grounds in the Bering and Chukchi Seas.



Gray whales move around Sitka Sound in this photo captured by visiting journalist Amy Romer, from a drone piloted by Alaska Whale Foundation researcher Liah McPherson. (Photo captured under National Marine Fisheries Service Permit Number 26663).

On Wednesday, scientists with the Alaska Whale Foundation, a nonprofit organization based in Baranof Warm Springs, counted about 60 to 70 gray whales in the Sound.

Compared with this time last year, fewer gray whales have arrived, says Dr. Lauren Eckert, AWF's board president who is visiting Sitka with a team of researchers until mid-May.

Eckert said that team members saw about five gray whales during their first weekly, systematic survey on March 26, and about 45 gray whales the next week, on April 2.

The team of AWF researchers is following the gray whales in local waters this spring to track their numbers and study their feeding habits, which appear to center on herring eggs.

Last spring, the whales keyed in on herring spawning grounds about two weeks after the fish laid their eggs.

In a presentation co-hosted by the Sitka Maritime Heritage Society last month, foundation Executive Director Dr. Andy Szabo said that last year the gray whales' distribution seemed to be overlaid almost exactly with areas

where herring spawned in Sitka Sound.

Whale-watchers have "been seeing them behaving in ways that suggested that they're eating herring eggs... and have even seen herring eggs coming out of the months," Szabo said.

Szabo said that AWF, which typically focuses on humpback whale research, decided to study the gray whales' feeding habits in Sitka Sound given the "extreme importance of herring to ecological communities, commercially, and culturally" to people in the area.

"If you have 150 or 200 or so gray whales coming in during that very critical herring spawning moment, and they're consuming herring eggs, that could potentially have an impact on that population of herring," Szabo said. "So there's a lot of interest in understanding what might be the impact of all these whales on the herring."

AWF is working to quantify "what

people suggested was already going on, and hopefully get to a point where maybe we could actually estimate how much (herring eggs) these animals are eating...and what their impact might be in terms of biomass removal," Szabo explained.

"Hopefully next year, or at least in the next ten years, we'll be able to answer this question for you," Szabo said.

The ongoing foundation project got started in 2024 in collaboration with the University of Alaska Southeast Sitka Campus and Dr. Lauren Wild, after local researchers noticed an increased presence of gray whales in Sitka Sound beginning in about 2019.

The increased presence in Sitka Sound coincided with gray whale population declines. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration determined that the species experienced an "unusual mortality event" from late 2019 through late 2023, when about

700 of the whales were found dead in the eastern North Pacific.

The Whale Research Program at UAS-Sitka has been keeping track of the gray whales as their population changes. Jan Straley at UAS-Sitka has been monitoring gray whales near Sitka since the early 1990s, beginning with assistance from Mt. Edgecumbe High School students.

Wild and Straley started noticing the increases near Sitka in 2020, and UAS started an official gray whale monitoring and research project in 2023.

UAS and AWF worked in partnership in 2024 to monitor and study the feeding habits of the whales. UAS is continuing to monitor the gray whales this year, Wild said.

The foundation is now conducting standalone research to try to find out the impact that gray whales are having on the local herring population. The nonprofit is devoting about three months to research this year.

AWF team members began their stay in Sitka this spring by hosting a week-long drone workshop with the Sitka Sound Science Center, which SSSC celebrated with a custom whale cake by the Backdoor Cafe's Dan Gunn.

Eckert and Szabo have attended meetings with Sitka Tribe of Alaska leaders to share updates about their team's project.

Eleven people comprise the AWF team that's visiting Sitka, and are often seen bustling around Eliason Harbor, where the foundation keeps two boats, the 28-foot Hewescraft Paula T. and the 17-foot Zodiac Barbara Bell.

Since mid-March, the crew has gone out to study the whales each day that the weather allows.

Liah McPherson, an AWF fellow and doctoral student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, described during an interview this month how the team is conducting "weekly systematic

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Legislature Sends Gov School Funding Bill

By CORINNE SMITH and JAMES BROOKS  
Alaska Beacon

The Alaska Legislature on Friday passed a major increase to K-12 education funding, worth \$1,000 in the state's per-student funding formula. Gov. Mike Dunleavy has indicated he will veto the proposal, saying lawmakers failed to include policy changes he requested.

In an 11 to 9 vote, senators narrowly passed House Bill 69, one day after the Senate Finance Committee removed all education policy changes previously proposed by the state House and the Senate Education Committee. That left an abbreviated version with only the increase in per student funding, known as the base student allocation.

Hours later, the House voted 21-16, with three legislators excused as absent, to approve the Senate changes. That action will send the bill to Dunleavy, who said before the vote that he would veto the bill if it passed without changes.

On Thursday, Dunleavy posted a statement on social media calling the bill a "joke," and said unless legislation includes policy changes, "it will be vetoed immediately."

On Friday, Senators debated the bill on the floor, largely focused on the state of Alaska schools' financial picture and the cost of the education funding bill — estimated at \$253 million per year.

Sen. Lōki Tobin, D-Anchorage and chair of the education committee, urged support for school districts facing dire financial shortfalls.

"We have heard from hundreds of parents and students and teachers asking us to raise the base student allocation," she said. "There's little else contained in those missives about other types of education reforms. What they're asking us to do is increase school funding because our schools are in crisis, and we must respond."

Senate Minority Leader Mike Shower, R-Wasilla, said he couldn't support the funding without a balanced budget. "We've all said this is important, the BSA needs to be increased. Nobody is arguing that," he said. "But at what cost, and at what reasonable cost that we think we can make work while we're not negatively impacting everybody else to a significant degree?"

Shower argued not all parents support the funding boost. "I've heard lots

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House Votes to Slash Proposed PF Dividend

By JAMES BROOKS  
Alaska beacon

The Alaska House of Representatives voted to cut its proposed 2025 Permanent Fund dividend by almost two-thirds on Friday as the House's contentious budget process lurched another step forward.

The reduction, which had stymied the House Finance Committee for more than a week, drops the proposed dividend from roughly \$3,900 per recipient to about \$1,400.

Assuming Gov. Mike Dunleavy's proposed capital budget, the change cuts the proposed budget deficit from \$1.9 billion to less than \$400 million for the fiscal year that begins in July.

Lawmakers also face an almost \$200 million deficit in the budget that ends June 30.

The House resumed debating the state's fiscal year 2026 operating budget today.

Members of the House's Republican minority caucus said they were caught off guard by Friday's vote.

Several Republicans said they had been told by the leaders of the House's Democratic-independent-Republican majority caucus that there would be no budget action on Friday, and three minority Republican lawmakers were absent as a result.

Amendments pass the House if approved by a majority of lawmakers present on the floor, and the amendment to reduce the proposed dividend passed 20-17, with Rep. Neal Foster, D-Nome, joining 16 minority Republicans in opposition.

"I am ashamed at the process, and I am ashamed at what is happening today," said House Minority Leader Mia Costello, R-Anchorage.

"What is happening today on amendment No. 1 is, in my mind, now considered the poster child of disingenuous relations," she said.

Rep. Frank Tomaszewski, R-Fairbanks, attempted to adjourn the House until Monday in order to allow time for the missing Republicans to return, but

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Jury Picked for Palin's Libel Suit Against NYT

By LARRY NEUMEISTER  
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A jury was selected Monday to hear a retrial of Sarah Palin's claims that The New York Times libeled her in an editorial eight years ago.

Opening statements were scheduled for Tuesday as the onetime Republican vice presidential candidate and ex-governor of Alaska gets another chance to prove to a federal jury that the newspaper defamed her with the 2017 editorial falsely linking her campaign rhetoric to a mass shooting. Palin said it damaged her reputation and career.

The Times has acknowledged the editorial was inaccurate but said it quickly corrected the "honest mistake."

During a jury selection process that lasted less than an hour, Judge Jed S. Rakoff in Manhattan gave jurors a brief description of the case, saying that the plaintiff was Sarah Palin and the defendant was The New York Times, "complete unknowns I'm sure."

The trial, expected to last up to two weeks, comes after the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals restored the case last year.

In February 2022, Rakoff rejected Palin's claims in a ruling issued while a jury deliberated. The judge then let jurors deliver their verdict, which also went against Palin.

In restoring the lawsuit, the 2nd Circuit said Rakoff's dismissal ruling improperly intruded on the jury's work. It also cited flaws in the trial, saying there was erroneous exclusion of evidence, an inaccurate jury instruction and an erroneous response to a question from the jury.



Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin arrives at Manhattan federal court, today. (AP Photo/Yuki Iwamura)

The retrial occurs as President Donald Trump and others in agreement with his views of news coverage have been aggressive toward media outlets when they believe there has been unjust treatment.

Trump sued CBS News for \$20 billion over the editing of a "60 Minutes" interview with his 2024 opponent, former Vice President Kamala Harris, and also sued the Des Moines Register over an Iowa election poll that turned out to be inaccurate. ABC News settled a lawsuit with Trump over its incorrect claim the president had been found civilly liable for raping writer E. Jean Carroll.

Kenneth G. Turkel, a lawyer for Palin, left the courthouse Monday without commenting.

Charlie Stadlander, a spokesperson for the Times, said Palin's claim stemmed from "a passing reference to an event in an editorial that was not about Sarah Palin."

"That reference was an unintended error, and quickly corrected. We're confident we will prevail and intend to vigorously defend the case," Stadlander said in a statement.

Legislators Struggle as Tariffs Raise Oil Prices

By BECKY BOHRER  
Associated Press

JUNEAU (AP) — After President Donald Trump returned to office, Alaska Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy declared "happy days are here again." He likened Trump's friendly approach to energy development as "Christmas every day" for a state whose fortunes rise or fall with oil.

But the nearly three months since Trump's inauguration have been tumultuous, roiling Alaska's substantial federal workforce and raising questions about the reliability of federal funding.

And his on-again, off-again tariffs, and a related drop in oil prices, have compounded the uncertainty for Alaska lawmakers, who each year must craft a state budget based on volatile oil prices. The legislative session is set to end in mid-May, well before Trump's recently announced pause on higher tariffs for many countries expires.

The whiplash has worsened long-standing tension over how much

money should go toward the yearly oil-wealth fund check most Alaska residents receive as opposed to education or other needs. Lawmakers have shown scant interest in raising taxes and have blown through billions in savings plugging recurring budget deficits dating back more than a decade.

"We're all in a pickle," said House Speaker Bryce Edgmon, an independent who leads a coalition of Democrats, independents and two Republicans.

Alaska is no stranger to the boom-bust cycle of oil. The government spends more freely on infrastructure and other projects when prices are high and shutters facilities or slashes costs when they are low. Lawmakers base spending off twice-a-year revenue outlooks pegged to oil price and production forecasts.

A year ago, North Slope oil was around \$90 a barrel. It settled in the low-to-mid-\$70 range beginning last fall and hit as low as \$65 this week before Trump announced the 90-day tariff pause.

At current prices, each dollar change in oil equates to about \$35 million to \$40 million in state revenue, according to the nonpartisan Legislative Finance Division. The March revenue forecast was based on \$68-a-barrel oil for the upcoming budget year, down \$2 from a December forecast.

Oil prices change frequently and plans by OPEC+ members to add more oil to the market could cause a price softening, said Dunleavy spokesperson Jeff Turner, who noted the governor is focused on Trump's executive order supporting increased oil and gas drilling, mining and logging in Alaska, and that it is "great to have an administration that supports Alaska's responsible resource development."

Some state political leaders hope Trump's threatened tariffs could prompt countries like Japan, South Korea and Taiwan to invest in or commit to buying gas from a proposed massive liquefied natural gas project in Alaska. The project, repeatedly touted by

Trump, has struggled for years to gain traction amid cost concerns, competition from other projects and questions about its economic feasibility.

Trump carried Alaska in November's election.

Besides oil, Alaska relies heavily on earnings from its nest-egg oil-wealth investment fund. The fund's principal is protected, but its earnings can be spent. Lawmakers cap withdrawals based on a percentage of the fund's average market value over a five-year period. The yearly dividend paid to residents has traditionally come from earnings, but since lawmakers also began using earnings for state services in 2018, there has been friction over how much should go toward each.

Dunleavy proposed a roughly \$3,800 dividend per resident, which would cost \$2.5 billion — two-thirds of this year's earnings withdrawal — and result in a deficit he suggested covering by tapping the state's diminished savings.

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Letters to the Editor

Hoops & Herring

**Dear Editor:** I am writing to express my gratitude for the Hoops & Herring basketball tournament that took place in Sitka last weekend. First, a special thank you to the board members of the Baranof Ballers – Mitch Mork, Ashley Haskins, Steve Black, Janna Ploetzner, Shasta Smith, Jeremy Strong, and Kirstin Karsunky – who are the cornerstone of our club sport. Their commitment, all as volunteers, is truly awe-inspiring.

The heart and soul of our club are the coaches. These dedicated individuals spend countless hours guiding our youths through practices and games, while juggling work, family, fundraising, and travel for tournaments.

They communicate with parents, track down lost gear, and support our children, win or lose. The coaches that I know of are Karen and Rich Krupa, Gary Smith, Mike Vieira, Jarrett Hirai, Eric Peterson, Savanah and Jeremy Plank, Ryan Peters, Joe Ploetzner, Justin Bagley, Mitch Mork, Ralph Wolfe, Effen Arce, Cliff Richter, Phillip Orlando, Scott Woodcock, and Tony and Ashley Haskins. The character building they are involved in is priceless.

Additionally, I want to acknowledge the referees, both professional and volunteer, and the many others who served as scorekeepers or donned neon vests to assist visitors.

Through the highs and lows of the games, our Baranof Baller youth basketball players emerged as true winners by experiencing this event in their hometown. This opportunity wouldn't have been possible without the unwavering support of their families. We will never forget the thrilling triple overtime sixth grade championship game at Blatchley Middle School! These moments keep kids dreaming and striving to do their best.

The Hoops & Herring tournament was a shining example of community spirit and dedication. To everyone involved, thank you for making this event a resounding success. I know that my children, Quentin and Ruby, loved it! I am so thankful. My heart is full. I know many others agree.

Betty Richter, Sitka

Youth Leadership

**Dear Editor:** The Sitka Youth Leadership Committee is dedicated to promoting equity, diversity, and healthy relationships in Sitka and across Alaska. We do this through creating campaigns, videos, and discussion panels that teach about important issues in our community.

At the beginning of every year we establish goal areas that we want to address. In 2018, SYLC members created the goal to “promote equity in Sitka so that community members can identify their own privilege and ways they can use their power to help other people.” By doing so, we hoped to see more effective allies who fully understand the impact of their words and actions and work to create change.

To share these concepts with the

community, SYLC developed the Equity Campaign. Though we originally launched the campaign in 2019, it remains relevant to this day. Across the state, rural communities lack access to opportunities and resources given to larger communities. Prejudices held against historically oppressed groups lead to discrimination and exclusion.

Since our initial launch, it's been an annual priority to learn more about the topic as a group, and to understand key concepts like the distinction between equity and equality. While these two ideas sound similar, they are fundamentally different.

One SYLC member described it as follows: “Equality means each individual or group is given the same resources or opportunities. Equity recognizes that each person has different circumstances and allocates the exact resources and opportunities needed to reach an equal outcome.” Understanding this distinction is important because our social identities shape the opportunities we encounter, sometimes creating systemic advantages or disadvantages. Recognizing and addressing these disparities brings us a step closer to true equality.

SYLC's Equity Campaign consists of a video, poster, bookmark, and webpage that delves into terms like intersectionality, allyship, privilege, oppression, and types of power. The video, titled Know Your Privilege, Share Your Power, features SYLC members sharing their personal definitions and experiences with privilege and oppression. The intent is for the viewer to recognize their privilege to help community members who may not have the same privileges as them.

Each of us can help advance equity in our community. The Sitka Youth Leadership Committee encourages community members, especially those with power, to speak up against injustices and microaggressions. Allyship means using your privilege to support others and create change. To see our campaign materials and learn more, visit [sitkayouthleadership.com/equity-campaign](http://sitkayouthleadership.com/equity-campaign) or follow us on Facebook and Instagram @sylcleaders.

Jared Cross  
Sitka Youth Leadership  
Committee Intern

Cruise Ship Head Tax

**Dear Editor:** I have been wondering why? Why isn't more of the Cruise Ship Head Tax and other money, connected directly and indirectly to tourism, not being shared with the residents who live in Sitka? Why are utility rates being raised again? Why isn't the tourism revenue being used to help lower utility costs? How about filling the pot holes in the Sitka streets? Help the less fortunate! Where's my piece of the pie?

Call me selfish. Call me greedy. I don't care. But, until I do get a bigger piece of the tourist pie in Sitka example: (lower utility bills), I am now declaring myself anti-tourism. I am now going to make a stand. Make noise. Do you want me to be pro-tourism? Then give me some of that pie.

David Rice, Sitka

Trump Attacks CBS Over Greenland, Ukraine News

By DAVID BAUDER  
AP Media Writer

Despite a court order, a reporter and photographer from The Associated Press were barred from an Oval Office news conference today with President Donald Trump and his counterpart from El Salvador, Nayib Bukele.

Last week's federal court decision forbidding the Trump administration from punishing the AP for refusing to rename the Gulf of Mexico was to take effect today. The administration is appealing the decision and arguing with the news outlet over whether it needs to change anything until those appeals are exhausted. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. circuit set a Thursday hearing on Trump's request that any changes be delayed while case is reviewed. The AP is fighting for more access as soon as possible.

Since mid-February, AP reporters and photographers have been blocked from attending events in the Oval Office, where President Donald Trump frequently addresses journalists, and on

Air Force One. The AP has seen sporadic access elsewhere, and regularly covers White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt's briefings. Leavitt is one of three administration officials named in the AP's lawsuit.

The dispute stems from AP's decision not to follow the president's executive order to rename the Gulf of Mexico, although AP style does cite Trump's wish that it be called the Gulf of America. The AP argued – and U.S. District Judge Trevor N. McFadden agreed last week – that the government cannot punish the news organization for exercising its right to free speech.

McFadden on Friday had rejected Trump's request for more delay in implementing the ruling; now the president is asking an appeals court for the same thing.

“We expect the White House to restore AP's participation in the (White House press) pool as of today, as provided in the injunction order,” AP spokeswoman Lauren Easton said today.

The extent of AP's future access remains uncertain, even with the court decision.

Until being blocked by Trump, AP has traditionally always had a reporter and photographer among the small group of journalists invited into the Oval Office. McFadden did not order that to be restored, only that no news organization should be shut out because the president objects to its news decisions — under a principle called “viewpoint discrimination.”

Weather

Sitka Forecast

For tonight, the National Weather Service predicts a 37 degree low with showers and wind 10-15 mph. On Tuesday expect a high of 46 degrees with showers and an overnight low of 39 with mostly cloudy skies and wind to 10 mph.

Sitka Weather

On Sunday temperatures ranged from 46 to 50 degrees, the wind gusts to 38 mph at 1:53 p.m., and .66 inch of rain was logged at the Sitka Flight Service Station..



President Donald Trump greets El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele as he arrives at the West Wing of the White House, today in Washington. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

Bukele Says El Salvador Won't Release Md. Man

By SEUNG MIN KIM and  
MARCOS ALEMÁN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's top advisers and Nayib Bukele, the president of El Salvador, said today that they have no basis for the small Central American nation to return a Maryland man who was wrongly deported there last month. Bukele called the idea “preposterous” even though the U.S. Supreme Court has called on the administration to “facilitate” Kilmar Abrego Garcia's return.

Trump administration officials emphasized that Abrego Garcia, who was sent to a notorious gang prison in El Salvador, was a citizen of that country and that the U.S. has no say in his future. And Bukele, who has been a vital partner for the Trump administration in its deportation efforts, said “of course” he would not release him back to U.S. soil.

“The question is preposterous. How can I smuggle a terrorist into the United States?” Bukele, seated alongside Trump, told reporters in the Oval Office today. “I don't have the power to return him to the United States.”

Should El Salvador want to return Abrego Garcia, the U.S. would “facilitate it, meaning provide a plane,” Attorney General Pam Bondi said.

But “first and foremost, he was illegally in our country, and he had been illegally in our country,” she said. “That's up to El Salvador if they want to return him. That's not up to us.”

The refusal of both countries to allow the return of Abrego Garcia, who had an immigration court order preventing his deportation over fears of gang persecution, is intensifying the battle over the Maryland resident's future. It has also played out in contentious court filings, with repeated refusals from the government to tell a judge what it plans to do, if anything, to repatriate him.

The judge handling the case, Paula Xinis, is now considering whether to grant a request from the man's legal team to compel the government to explain why it should not be held in contempt.

The fight over Abrego Garcia also underscores how critical El Salvador has been as a linchpin of the U.S. administration's mass deportation operation.

How Bukele is helping with Trump's immigration crackdown

Since March, El Salvador has accepted from the U.S. more than 200 Venezuelan immigrants — whom Trump administration officials have accused of gang activity and violent crimes — and placed them inside the country's maximum-security gang

prison just outside of the capital, San Salvador. That prison is part of Bukele's broader effort to crack down on the country's powerful street gangs, which has put 84,000 people behind bars and made Bukele extremely popular at home.

“I want to just say hello to the people of El Salvador and say they have one hell of a president,” Trump said as he greeted Bukele, who was wearing a black mock turtleneck sans tie.

Bukele struck a deal under which the U.S. will pay about \$6 million for El Salvador to imprison the Venezuelan immigrants for a year.

But Democrats have raised alarm about the treatment of Abrego Garcia and other migrants who may be wrongfully detained in El Salvador. Democratic Sen. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland is pushing for a meeting with Bukele while he is in Washington to discuss Abrego Garcia's potential return, and New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, urged the administration to release Abrego Garcia and others “with no credible criminal record” who were deported to the maximum-security prison.

“Disregarding the rule of law, ignoring unanimous rulings by the Supreme Court and subjecting individuals to detention and deportation without due process makes us less safe as a country,” Shaheen said.

Though other judges had ruled against the Trump administration, this month the Supreme Court cleared the way for Trump to use the Alien Enemies Act, an 18th century wartime law, to deport the immigrants. The justices did insist that the immigrants get a court hearing before being removed from the U.S. Over the weekend, 10 more people who the administration claims are members of the MS-13 and Tren de Aragua gangs arrived in El Salvador, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Sunday.

Trump wants to expand his deportation plans

The president has said openly that he would also favor El Salvador taking custody of American citizens who have committed violent crimes, a view he repeated today.

“We have bad ones too, and I'm all for it because we can do things with the president for less money and have great security,” Trump said during the meeting. “And we have a huge prison population.” It is unclear how lawful U.S. citizens could be deported elsewhere in the world.

Before the press entered the Oval Office, Trump said in a video posted on social media by Bukele that he wanted to send “homegrowns” to be incarcerated in El Salvador, and added that “you've got to build five more places,” suggesting Bukele doesn't have enough prison capacity for all of the U.S. citizens that Trump would like to send there.

The high court weighs in, and the administration response

The Supreme Court has called for the Trump administration to “facilitate” the return of Abrego Garcia.

Trump indicated over the weekend that he would return Abrego Garcia to the U.S. if the high court's justices said to bring him back, saying “I have great respect for the Supreme Court.” But the tone from top administration officials was sharply different today.

“He's a citizen of El Salvador,” said Stephen Miller, a White House deputy chief of staff. “So it's very arrogant, even for American media, to suggest that we would even tell El Salvador how to handle their own citizens.”

Sitka Tribe of Alaska

Live Life Powerfully Retreat @ Community Dinner

Join STA and Indigenous leaders Johanna Corpeno and Waylon "Pee" Pahona to learn about living your best life in wellness and healing at the **Live Life Powerfully Retreat from 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 15 to noon Thursday, April 17.** Space is limited, RSVP for the retreat at <https://forms.gle/WVzD2uJe1yK1PN5SA> **(no cost)**

We strongly suggest you register only if you are able to commit to participating the entire 2 1/2 days.

All are invited to join us for a community dinner and presentation Thursday, April 17 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Harrigan Centennial Hall auditorium. We will hear from the leaders of the “STA Live Life Powerfully Retreat,” and learn more about the work they are doing in the field of Indigenous wellness. Space is limited, please RSVP for the dinner at: <https://forms.gle/oB7yS35Kmxr8ga7VA> **(no cost)**

WH Bars AP at Event In Spite of Court Order

By DAVID BAUDER  
AP Media Writer

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“No other news organization in the United States receives the level of guaranteed access previously bestowed upon the AP,” the administration argued in court papers over the weekend. “The AP may have grown accustomed to its favored status, but the Constitution does not require that such status endure in perpetuity.”

Ex-Deputy Sentenced In Killing of Colo. 911 Caller

By COLLEEN SLEVIN  
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — A former Colorado sheriff's deputy convicted of killing a 22-year-old man in distress who called 911 for help was sentenced today to three years in prison, the maximum sentence, by a judge who said the shooting was about power.

Andrew Buen was convicted in February of criminally negligent homicide in the 2022 death of Christian Glass, which drew national attention and prompted calls to reform how authorities respond to people with mental health problems.

Prosecutors alleged that Buen needlessly escalated a standoff with Glass, who showed signs of a mental health crisis and refused orders to get out of his SUV near Silver Plume, a small, former mining town along Interstate 70 in the Rocky Mountains west of Denver.

His parents and the agencies involved reached a \$19 million settlement that included crisis intervention training for officers responding to people in distress.

Judge Catherine Cheroutes said Buen's sentence needed to address both the loss of Glass and the damage done to the community by the shooting.

“I think this was about power. It wasn't a mistake. It was about, ‘you need to listen to me because I'm in charge,’” she said. She said she believed Buen's family and supporters that he was a “shirt-off-your-back kind of guy” but said he acted differently when he put on a uniform and had a gun.

Buen, wearing an orange jail uniform, apologized to the Glass family, dabbing his eyes with a tissue with his handcuffed hands as he spoke at a podium.

Glass's family had questioned whether any remorse Buen might show

would be sincere. Buen, his voice shaking, said they had every right to feel the way they do. He said his actions had escalated the standoff and told the judge he wasn't “owed” anything.

“There are a million things I should have done better that night,” he said before he was sentenced.

Sally Glass told Cheroutes that Buen had acted like a “bully” toward her son, a creative and gentle artist who was born in his father's native New Zealand.

“He met evil that night and there was no compassion,” she said.

Simon Glass said his family's grief was compounded at first by authorities initially describing his son as the aggressor in the standoff, which the sheriff's office later apologized for. He said he struggles with anxiety and has trouble referring to his son in the past tense, but takes comfort that his son's name has been cleared, in part because of body camera footage.

Katie Glass said she and her mother try to always drive below the speed limit to avoid being pulled over by the police. She said she regrets watching the body camera footage showing her older brother's final moments.

“He died terrified, in pain and all alone. That is what hurts me the most,” she said.

Buen, a former deputy in Clear Creek County, was convicted after a second trial.

Nearly a year ago, another jury convicted him of a misdemeanor for recklessly putting other officers in danger by opening fire. However, jurors could not agree on a murder charge or a charge of official misconduct.

With the support of Glass' family, prosecutors decided to try Buen again on a second-degree murder charge. Jurors also had the option of convicting him of the less serious charge of criminally negligent homicide.

CITY & BOROUGH OF SITKA

LEGAL NOTICE

Planning Commission Meeting Agenda - FINAL  
Wednesday, April 16, 2025

7:00 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

A. Approve the April 2, 2025 meeting minutes.

IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

(Public participation on any item off the agenda. All public testimony is not to exceed 3 minutes for any individual, unless the Chair imposes other time constraints at the beginning of the agenda item.)

V. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

VI. REPORTS

VII. THE EVENING BUSINESS

B. Review and adoption of findings of fact related to the Planning Commission's denial of a zoning variance request at 112 and 116 Nancy Court under case file VAR 25-01 on April 2, 2025.

C. Public hearing and consideration of a conceptual plat for a planned unit development to result in 53 lots at 600 Yaw Drive in the R-2 MHP multifamily and mobile home district. The property is also known as Lot 5B, Department of Public Safety Subdivision. The request is filed by Lucas Goddard for Baranof Island Housing Authority. The owner of record is Baranof Island Housing Authority.

D. Public hearing and consideration of a preliminary plat for a minor subdivision to result in three lots at NHN Ring Island in the GI general island district. The property is also known as Tract A, U.S. Survey 3480, embracing Ring Island in Sitka Harbor. The request is filed by Justin Brown.

E. Public hearing and consideration of a zoning text amendment to allow for onsite marijuana consumption facilities. The applicants are Elizabeth and Marty Martin.

ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: More information on these agenda items can be found at <https://sitka.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> or by contacting the Planning Office at 100 Lincoln Street. Individuals having concerns or comments on any item are encouraged to provide written comments to the Planning Office or make comments at the Planning Commission meeting. Written comments may be dropped off at the Planning Office in City Hall or emailed to [planning@cityofsitka.org](mailto:planning@cityofsitka.org). Those with questions may call (907) 747-1814.

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Please log onto <https://searhc.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/SEARHC> to see all the open positions in Sitka.

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(F/T) at Center for Community-Early Learning Program. Seeking compassionate individuals to join our team in providing family-centered, home and community based services in Sitka. Must have strong personal-relationship skills, work as a team, possess strong written/oral communication, computer skills, organizational skills, and knowledge of local culture. Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor level degree in one of the following: Special Education, Early Childhood Education, Pediatric Nursing, Social Work, Pediatric OT/SLP/PT or related field and have 1-2 years experience working with children 0-3 years. 50k-60k annually DOE. Benefits included. Send resume and cover letter or deliver in-person to: Center for Community, 700 Katlian Street Ste B, Sitka, AK 99835, Attn: Lisa Hodges, Program Manager or e-mail [lhodges@cfc.org](mailto:lhodges@cfc.org). For more information call 907.966.4229. Open until 4/14.

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### Sheet'ká Kwáan Sitka Tribe of Alaska

The Sitka Tribe of Alaska is seeking an Automotive Mechanic. This position supports the operations of "the RIDE" Public Transportation program and Tribal Tours by maintaining and repairing all vehicles. The position will inspect and provide a maintenance schedule for each vehicle. Minimum qualifications: High School diploma or GED & 5 years of experience. This is a full-time, benefitted position, salary DOE.

For a complete job description and application visit:[www.sitkatribes.org](http://www.sitkatribes.org) or visit: 204 Signaka Way, Suite 300. Phone: (907)966-9649.

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### Kindergarten Sets Sneak Peek Day

Xóots Elementary School is hosting its kindergarten and pre-kindergarten Sneak Peek 2-3 p.m. Friday, April 18.

Upcoming preschoolers and kindergartners for the 2025-2026 school year, and their families, are invited to visit classrooms, meet teachers and school staff, and do a scavenger hunt.

For information, call the school office at its new number, 907 621-8000.

## Preschool Gears Up for Spring Big Rig Event

3 to 5 Preschool's Big Rig spring fundraiser is planned 10 a.m.-2 p.m. April 26 at the Mt. Edgecumbe parking lot, rain or shine.

The community event is open to all. Admissions is \$5 a person or \$20 for a family of four or more.

Big Rig T-shirts for children (youth XS and SM) and adults have arrived in fluorescent lime and orange, along with a new color this year, hot pink. They will be sold at the admission table for \$15/\$20, or may be purchased early at the preschool. Call 747-6898.

Those who want to sponsor or donate to the event can contact Lisa at 907 747-6898. The money helps with operations of the school including its scholarship fund.

"We continue to look for all kinds of vehicles to add to our event," the preschool said. "We are also looking for operators who could possibly show their rigs in action for a short time."

To help or for more information contact Marcia Hirai at [marciahirai@gmail.com](mailto:marciahirai@gmail.com) or 360 481-1505.

## Open House Set At UAS-Sitka

UAS-Sitka Campus will host an open house 4-6 p.m. April 16.

"We invite the community to explore our campus, register for classes, meet our dedicated staff and faculty, and experience our campus art walk," a news release from the Sitka campus said.

All are invited to attend, including prospective students and community member.

Prizes will be offered, including a \$500 tuition waiver for prospective students. Light refreshments will be served. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

## Game Nights Slated at STA

Sitka Tribe of Alaska will host family game nights 5:30-7:30 p.m. April 18 at 204 Signaka Way.

Cards and other games will be available. Pizza, snacks and popcorn will be provided to tribal families.

For information contact Cathlene Adams at [cathlene.adams@sitka-tribe-nsn.gov](mailto:cathlene.adams@sitka-tribe-nsn.gov) or 907 966-9664.

## Easter Egg Hunt Set for April 19

The annual community Easter egg hunt is planned noon April 19 at Keet Gooshee elementary school playground.

The free event includes 10,000 eggs, face painting, hot chocolate, hot dogs, and other activities.

It is sponsored by Assembly of God Church.

## Live Life Retreat Slated for April

Sitka Tribe of Alaska and Indigenous leaders Johanna Corpeno and Waylon "Pee" Pahona will talk about "living your best life in wellness and healing" at the Livpse Life Powerfully Retreat 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 15, through noon Thursday, April 17.

Space is limited. RSVP at <https://forms.gle/WVzD2uje1yK1PN5SA>.

## Medicare in Alaska Topic of Program

Those approaching age 65 having questions about Medicare, or who are currently enrolled but still needing more information, are invited to a program 11 a.m.-noon Wednesday, April 30, at Harrigan Centennial Hall.

SEARHC Patient Health Benefits Manager Susan Briles will give a presentation and answer questions.

The free program is open to the public.

## Police Blotter

The following calls were logged by the Sitka Police Department as of 8 a.m. today:

#### April 11

At 2:19 p.m. a Boston terrier named Duncan was reported running in and out of traffic in the 200 block of Lake Street. Attempts at catching him were unsuccessful.

At 4:42 p.m. a man was reported to have tripped and fallen in traffic in the 200 block of Harbor Drive. He was deemed able to care for himself. At 7:28 p.m. he was reported to have fallen again in the 100 block of Harbor Drive, and was taken to the hospital.

At 6 p.m. a woman said an older male had been harassing two boys about age 11 in the 800 block of Lincoln Street, cussing at them and threatening to put their bikes in the water. Officers were advised.

A woman said people were driving by her home, harassing her son. Police gave her options to pursue, including getting a protective order.

At 9:50 p.m. a taxi driver said two

## Outer Coast Hosts Town Hall Event

Outer Coast is hosting a Town Hall 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 17, in Fraser Hall on the SJ Campus.

Food and conversation about the role that Outer Coast can play in the community as a new institution of higher education is being planned.

Outer Coast staff and leadership will be on hand to facilitate conversations and receive input.

## Volunteers Needed For AFS in Sitka

AFS is seeking Sitka volunteers so the program can continue. Current volunteer leaders are retiring.

A meeting is planned 7 p.m. tonight at the Sitka High School Library to recruit new volunteers. All are welcome to come and learn about volunteer possibilities.

"AFS has been a vibrant international high school exchange program at SHS for 40 years, bringing more than 100 teenagers to Sitka to live with host families and attend SHS," the program said in a news release.

For information, call Connie Kreiss 907 747-5387 or text 907 738-4753.

## Indigenous Wellness Presentation Listed

The public is invited to join Sitka Tribe of Alaska for a community dinner and presentation on Indigenous wellness 6-8 p.m. Thursday, April 17, at Harrigan Centennial Hall auditorium.

Attendees will learn more about the work done by leaders of the STA Live Life Powerfully Retreat, Johanna Corpeno and Waylon "Pee" Pahona.

The event is open to the public at no cost. Space is limited. RSVP at <https://forms.gle/oB7yS35Kmxr8ga7VA>.

## School Budget Work Session On

Sitka School Board will hold a budget work session 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, at the district office board room.

Superintendent Deidre Jensen will present the board with a draft budget for the 2025-2026 school year. The work session is open to the public.

men had driven by him on Katlian Street, yelling at him. Police gave him options to pursue.

At 11:53 p.m. a possible case of domestic violence was reported. Police are investigating.

#### April 12

At 5:56 a.m. an officer saw a bear getting into trash at the state wildlife troopers post in the 4700 block of HPR. The bear ran off shortly after being spotted.

At 10:34 a.m. the Boston terrier Duncan was reported running at large at the Alaska Raptor Center. Afterward, a caller said he was back home.

At 9:23 p.m. juvenile drivers were reported passing one another and being reckless on the Harbor Mountain Road. Police were unable to locate the vehicles.

#### April 13

A caller asked to have it documented that some money was lost about two weeks ago.

Security checks were made at the airport parking lot at 8:18 p.m. and at Starrigavan campground at 8:42 p.m.

At 9:05 p.m. plastic baskets were reported in the roadway in the 1200 block of SMC, posing a traffic hazard. They were removed.

## Emergency Calls

Sitka Fire Department received one ambulance call Friday, six on Saturday and two on Sunday.

## Annual Potato Planting Event On

The public is invited to the annual Tlingit Potato Planting, a community event celebrating tradition, culture and springtime planting.

Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Sitka Ranger District, and Pacific High School will gather 1:15-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 29, at the U.S. Forest Service District Office, 2108 Halibut Point Road.

The event will start with a short oral history about the Tlingit potato – a resilient and culturally significant food – before planting this year's crop together.

It is free and open to the public.

For more information contact Tammy Young at 907 747-7167 or tammy.young@sitkatribes-nsn.gov.

## Play Presentation By SFAC on Stage

Sitka Fine Arts Camp's Young Performers Theater will present "Failure: A Love Story" 7 p.m. April 18 and 19 and 3 p.m. April 20 at the Odessa Theater at Allen Hall on the SJ Campus.

"By the end of 1928, all three Fail sisters will be tragically dead – expiring in reverse order, youngest to oldest, from blunt object to the head, disappearance, and finally consumption," a press release from the Fine Arts Camp said. "But as tragic as it sounds, we'll be smiling on the journey, with a whimsical chorus of talking dogs, newspaper reading snakes, escape artist parakeets, annoyed clocks, and singing gramophones. 'Failure: A Love Story' is a beautiful, weird, magical fable where, in the end, the power of love is tested against the power of love, in a world where nothing is guaranteed."

Tickets are \$10/\$5, and children under 5 are free. They are available at [fineartscamp.org](http://fineartscamp.org) or 907 747-3085.

## Calendar of Events

#### MONDAY

6-8 a.m. MEHS Aquatic Center pool open  
Noon AA, St. Peter's basement, call AA hotline 747-8866 for information  
5:30-6:30 p.m. AA, Sitka Pioneers Home Recreation Kitchen, call AA hotline 747-8866 for information  
6 p.m. White Elephant Shop open  
7 p.m. AFS exchange program informational meeting, Sitka High library

#### TUESDAY

6-8 a.m. MEHS Aquatic Center pool open  
9:30 a.m. STA Retreat on wellness and healing, <https://forms.gle/WVzD2uje1yK1PN5SA>  
10:30 a.m. Sitka Sprouts, ages 3-5 years and caregivers, Sitka Sound Science Center  
Noon AA, St. Peter's basement, call AA hotline 747-8866 for information  
Noon Rotary Club, Misfit Island Cafe  
1 p.m. SAIL Adventure Club, 15 and old, SAIL offices  
3:30 p.m. Stay and Play, Sitka Public Library  
5:30 p.m. Freedom of Information Act form registration event, Sitka Public Library  
6 p.m. Special Assembly Meeting, executive session, Harrigan Centennial Hall

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# SENTINEL SPORTS

## Sitka Softball Competes in Home Jamboree



Sitka runner Kaelynn Balovich out at first in game against Juneau, Saturday on Moller Field. The teams tied 3-3 in the preseason matchup, though the day prior Sitka beat Juneau 13-3. (Sentinel photo by James Poulson)

**By GARLAND KENNEDY**  
**Sentinel Sports Editor**  
Sitka High softball players stretched their legs in the team's first home games of the season, Thursday through Saturday on the turf at Moller Field, winning three, losing three and tying two against teams from across the state.

Sitka led off Thursday with losses to Chugiak and Kodiak, 10-1 and 5-4 respectively, but followed up with a 16-1 rout over Wasilla.

Friday afternoon in weather that was alternately sunny and snowy, Sitka dismantled Juneau 13-3 as the home team's bats lit up, and the Lady Wolves' pitching kept the Crimson Bears from mounting a comeback.

"We're just trying to figure out what our identity as a team is," said Sitka coach Jael McCarty following that Juneau game. "I just keep telling them, 'the minute you decide to believe you're as good as I've been telling you you are, we're going to have some really great games,' and they're

starting to pick it up and try all the new things we've been trying. And it's worked out the last couple games."

After scoring 5 runs in the first inning, Sitka's defense, led by junior Alina Lebahn on the pitcher's mound, stepped up and ensured that only three Juneau-Douglas batters stepped up to the plate in the top of the second. Sitka kept up the pressure in the bottom of the second and scored 6 more runs, with runners batted in by Sadie Saline, Veda West, Molly Pepper and Madison Campbell, all in the span of only a few minutes.

While Juneau attempted to rally in the third inning and scored 3 runs, Sitka scored twice more in the bottom of the third before the game ended at its 65-minute time limit and Sitka won 13-3.

"I feel like we're doing good, we got those first games out of the way and now we're good to go... It's a bit of a different field. Still just figuring out everyone on the field, trying out different field setups," SHS pitcher Alina

Lebahn told the Sentinel after the win. Lebahn thinks the Wolves' pitching staff is solid this year.

"We have a lot of variety with our pitchers. We have a lot of different speeds, a lot of different everything," she said.

The team is just now finding its footing in the early season, said Sadie Saline, also a junior.

"Now we're cooking, we found our groove... Our hitting was on and our defense was on, too," Saline said.

Madison Campbell, a senior, thinks the team could stand to improve its hitting.

"The timing when swinging at the ball is not quite there," she said. The squad's pitching is "looking good," she added. Campbell pitched on Thursday.

At this point in the first weeks of the season, Lebahn said, the team is focused on "fundamentals, fundamentals, fundamentals, they get you through the game."

Coach McCarty highlighted her

team's pitching as a reason the Wolves overcame the Crimson Bears.

"Our pitchers were working good today," McCarty said. "Alina's balls were hitting the right spots, and she was pitching them just where they needed to be out of the zone when she was ahead in the count, and we had some solid defense behind her, which always makes the pitcher more comfortable."

Saline wants to see her team improve their "routine plays" through the season.

"Sometimes we just get really excited and really want to get that out, and that's when we pull our heads up, we pick up our gloves, and we just need to always remember to go back to stupid simple," Saline said.

She recalled her double RBI in the second inning in detail.

"I was just waiting for my pitch, and I saw a pitch that I liked, and I put my hands to the ball, swung hard, and it worked. Fundamentals don't fail," she said.

The intermittently foul weather on the diamond Friday — there was snow on the ground briefly in the morning — forced players to be extra careful when throwing, she noted.

"That's when you really need to find the seam of the ball," Saline said.

Later Friday, Sitka suffered a 10-1 loss to Chugiak, as the Mustangs scored 9 runs in the third inning. On Saturday, Sitka and Juneau tied 3-3, and Sitka beat Ketchikan 10-3 before tying Wasilla 6-6. The preseason jamboree tournament pitted a variety of teams against each other in short, timed games that ended after 65 minutes regardless of the inning, the coach noted.

"It is just getting us as much practice for all these teams as possible. We're getting six to eight games per team, and just seeing a lot of live pitching and a lot of situations so they can be ready going into their regular season," McCarty said.

The team has more softball games coming up this month, with the regional tournament set for late May in Ketchikan.

As the season enters high gear, McCarty hopes to see the team "embracing their identity. We're going to be a scrappy team that fights for everything that we get, and we're going to be an aggressive team taking extra bases when we can and just living up to that scrappy identity."

Masters debut a year ago, suddenly had a share of the lead when McIlroy fell apart on the middle of the back nine. He missed a birdie putt from the fringe to take the lead, then finished bogey-triple bogey.

McIlroy and Rose finished at 11-under 277, two shots ahead of former Masters champion Patrick Reed (69). Scheffler, trying to win the Masters for the third time in four years, never got anything going this week and still shot 69 to finish fourth.

Rose had every reason to believe he threw away his chances on Saturday with a 75 that put him seven shots behind, and then two bogeys on the front nine. Even as he steadied himself, he was four shots back and running out of time.

He did his part in a 10-birdie round and that dynamic birdie putt to cap it off.

McIlroy did his part, too.

Nothing was more shocking than the 13th. McIlroy played it safe, leaving himself a big target from 82 yards away and a lob wedge. He missed his mark by some 20 yards, the ball disappearing into the tributary of Rae's Creek and leading to double bogey.

Rose was on the par-3 16th and hit his tee shot to 4 feet for birdie, and suddenly they were tied. Then, McIlroy hit a weak drive to the right and was blocked by pines. He didn't reach the green, didn't make the par putt and no longer had the lead.

But he was resilient as ever — he's been like that his entire career. Seemingly in trouble left of the 15th fairway, McIlroy hit 7-iron around the trees and onto the green to 6 feet.

He missed the eagle putt — the birdie still helped him regain a share of the lead. Two holes later, facing a semi-blind shot, he drilled 8-iron and chased after it, urging it to "Go! Go! Go! Go!" And it did, barely clearing the bunker and rolling out to 2 feet for birdie and a one-shot lead.

Turns out that wasn't enough, either. He was 5 feet away from victory and badly missed the putt, leaving him more work to do — another chance to fail.

Not this time. The 35-year-old from Northern Ireland never wavered in what he came to Augusta National to do. He leaves with a green jacket.

### MEHS Field Public Notice

Mt. Edgcombe High School staff and students ask people to keep their dogs off the school's softball field.

The school is gearing up for the spring sports season and aims to keep the softball field clean, safe, and poop-free. We kindly ask that dogs stay off the field.

## City League Tourney Begins

**By Sentinel Staff**

Leading off the City League volleyball tournament Sunday evening, Subway overcame the Beak Brunchers 2-1 in their competitive division match.

In recreational matches, Sitka Dental beat DeeZ Netz 2-0 and Wildflour likewise scored a 2-0 win over the CBS

City Boys in the opening round of the tourney. The SEARHC Slammers won by forfeit over How I Set Your Mother, and the Diggity Dogs also won their first match of the bracket by forfeit, this time over the Gillnetters.

More games will take place this week and next to determine the top volleyball teams in the league.

## Mariners Sweep Rangers in Series

SEATTLE (AP) — Cal Raleigh homered for a third straight game to spark the Seattle Mariners to a 3-1 win and a sweep of the Texas Rangers on Sunday.

Raleigh sent a two-run shot out to right field off Texas starter Nathan Eovaldi in the first inning.

The win brings Seattle to .500 on the season (8-8). The Mariners never trailed in their fourth straight victory.

Logan Gilbert (1-1) allowed just one run — a second-inning homer by Dustin Harris — in five innings. He surrendered three hits and a walk, striking out seven. It was the second homer for Harris in 10 major league at-bats.

Eovaldi (1-2) didn't make it out of the sixth. Julio Rodriguez led off with a single and Jorge Polanco reached on an error by first baseman Jake Burger. Eovaldi exited after hitting Raleigh and Randy Arozarena to force in a run.

Seattle's Gabe Speier, Carlos Vargas and Trent Thornton all pitched a score-

less inning without allowing a baserunner. Andrés Muñoz notched his sixth save with a scoreless ninth. Muñoz has not allowed a run in his first eight innings, striking out 12.

Gilbert struggled in the first inning, allowing a one-out hit to Corey Seager before a wild pitch sent him to second base. He walked Adolis García to put runners at the corners with two outs before striking out Josh Jung swinging to end the threat.

Raleigh showed off his power in the sweep. He hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth to rally the Mariners to a 5-3 win in Friday's opener.

The Mariners have yet to name a starter for Tuesday's opener of a three-game series in Cincinnati. Brady Singer (3-0, 3.18 ERA) gets the nod for the Reds. The Rangers have yet to name a starter for Tuesday's opener of a three-game series against the visiting Los Angeles Angels, who will send Yusei Kikuchi (0-2, 5.00) to the mound.

## Lakers Wrap Up Pacific Title

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Luka Dončić had 39 points, eight rebounds and seven assists and the Los Angeles Lakers clinched the No. 3 seed in the Western Conference playoffs with a 140-109 victory over the Houston Rockets on Friday night.

Austin Reaves scored 23 points for the Lakers, who also clinched the Pacific Division title for only the second time in the last 13 seasons and won 50 games for just the second time in 14 years.

LeBron James scored 14 points before sitting out the final 19 minutes of Los Angeles' sixth win in eight games. Dončić played only the first three quarters.

Taking care of business against Houston likely means James and Dončić will get at least a full week off between this game and the start of the playoffs.

Alperen Sengun, Dillon Brooks, Fred VanVleet, Amen Thompson, Jabari Smith Jr., Tari Eason and Jae'Sean Tate all sat out for the Rockets, leaving Hous-

ton without six of its top seven scorers.

Cam Whitmore scored a career-high 34 points for Houston, which clinched the No. 2 seed in the West on Tuesday when the Lakers lost at Oklahoma City. Four starters then sat out Wednesday while the Rockets lost to the Clippers.

Bronny James played the final 4:23.

Rockets: "The argument is rest versus rust, I guess — getting them what they need with the layoff that's coming." Houston coach Ime Udoka said. "But we want to be smart about it. What I told the group was, you've earned the right to choose the path you want to take."

Lakers: Dorian Finney-Smith had another strong perimeter game, hitting six 3-pointers.

When Udoka decided to rest four starters and two key reserves.

The Lakers have won 25 Pacific Division titles since the NBA began divisional play in 1970.

The Lakers visit Portland on Sunday, and the Rockets host Denver.

## Grizzlies Cruise past Mavericks

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Lamar Stevens scored a career-high 31 points, Marvin Bagley III had 25 points and 11 rebounds and the Memphis Grizzlies defeated the Dallas Mavericks 132-97 on Sunday in the teams' regular-season finale.

Both the Grizzlies and Mavericks will play in the Western Conference play-in tournament. So, with both teams' positions pretty well set — Memphis at No. 8 and Dallas at No. 10 — many of the starters sat out with soreness, injury recovery or rest.

That left Sunday's game as a contest between bench players.

Cam Spencer scored 23 points and Jay Huff had 22 for Memphis.

Daniel Gafford led the Mavericks with 20 points and seven rebounds. Jaden Hardy scored 17 points and Max Christie finished with 14 points.

Dallas is the No. 10 seed and will play at No. 9 Sacramento on Wednesday night. The winner will then have to beat the loser of the Golden State-Memphis game to face top-seeded Oklahoma City in the first round. The No. 8 Grizzlies will be on the road Tuesday night to face the No. 7 Warriors.

### Alpine Adventure Run

Registration for the seven-mile mountain run opens April 23rd at 7 a.m. Alaska time. The 32nd running of the Alpine Adventure Run is scheduled for July 19, 2025.

Register by emailing organizer Chris Horan at christinemariehoran@gmail.com requesting entry. Runners will be sent a registration form to download, complete and return. Sitka runners can drop their forms and entry fee at 111 Cascade Creek Road (drop box on deck).

Early requests or Facebook requests will not be accepted, and individual runners must make their own requests for entry. Space is assigned based on the order of requests, subject to administrative oversight. Runners will be advised within four days if they hold a confirmed space or if they are on a wait list.

The race is a challenging seven-mile mountain run starting at St. Gregory's Catholic Church. The course climbs Gavan Hill and continues along the Harbor Mountain rim to the picnic area on Harbor Mountain.

Runners must be able to complete the course in 2.5 hours. The run is limited to 125 participants and runners must be at least 15 years old. The registration fee is \$50 and includes a t-shirt. For further information please contact Chris Horan at christinemariehoran@gmail.com or 907-747-6471.

The Alpine Adventure Run is conducted under a Special Use Permit with the Tongass National Forest.

### Medveje Solstice Run

June 21 at 9 a.m.

Please join us for the 18th running of this SHS Cross Country and Track program fundraiser. The three distance events will begin and end at Herring Cove, adjacent to the Beaver Lake Trailhead parking lot at the end of Sawmill Creek Road. All races will head out toward Medveje Hatchery and back. The half marathon turn-around is at the Green Lake Power House, 10K near the Medveje Hatchery, and the 5K at about half-way out to the hatchery. This is a hilly course, please train accordingly.

Registration: <https://runsignup.com/Race/Info/AK/Sitka/MedvejeSolsticeRun> (open until 8 p.m. on 6/20/25). Fees: \$30 - 5K, \$35 - 10K and \$45 - 1/2 marathon. Virtual events are also available for \$30.

In-person registration will be available on race day until 8:30 a.m. at Herring Cove but registration fees are \$5 more on race day. A non cotton T-shirt is included for the first 75 entrants. (SHS students run for free & t-shirt can be purchased separately.)

Volunteers are warmly invited to support this fun event. For more information email runsitkahigh@gmail.com, or send a message on our Facebook page.

## McIlroy Wins Masters, Completes Grand Slam

**By DOUG FERGUSON**

**AP Golf Writer**

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — The closer Rory McIlroy came to fulfilling his lifetime dream — winning the Masters — the more it kept slipping away. Sunday at Augusta National felt like his last 11 years in the majors, blunders mixed in with sheer brilliance.

A two-shot lead gone in two holes. A four-shot lead gone in three holes with a shocker of a mistake. A 5-foot putt on the final hole to win narrowly missed.

And then McIlroy turned what could have been another major collapse into his grandest moment of all when he hit wedge to 3 feet for birdie in a sudden-death playoff against Justin Rose to become — finally — a Masters champion and take his place in golf history as the sixth player with the career Grand Slam.

"There were points in my career where I didn't know if I would have this nice garment over my shoulders," McIlroy said, that Masters green jacket looking like a perfect fit. "But I didn't make it easy today. I certainly didn't make it easy. I was nervous."

"It was one of the toughest days I've ever had on the golf course."

The reward was greater than he imagined, and it showed. He rapped in that final putt, raised both arms in the air and let the putter fall behind him. He covered his head, dropped to his knees, and before long his forehead was on the green as his chest heaved with emotion.

That was 11 years of pent-up emotion from his last major, when he began to carry the burden of getting the final leg of the Grand Slam. It was 14 years of remembering the time he wasted a four-shot lead with an 80 on the final day as a 21-year-old.

"I started to wonder if it would ever be my time," he said.

The thought could have easily crossed his mind during the final round.

What could have been a coronation for McIlroy along the back nine turned into a heart-racing, lead-changing, jaw-dropping finish at golf's greatest theater that ended with McIlroy sobbing with joy and disbelief.

It ended with more heartache for Rose, who lost to Sergio García in a playoff in 2017 and forced this one with a clutch 20-foot birdie on the 18th hole for a 6-under 66. He wound up joining Ben Hogan as the only players to lose twice in playoffs at Augusta National.

"It's the kind of putt you dream about as a kid, and to have it and hole



Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, celebrates winning in a playoff against Justin Rose, of England, Sunday in Augusta, Ga. (AP Photo/Matt Slocum)

it, it was a special feeling," Rose said. "And unfortunately, the playoff, they always end so quickly. If you're not the guy to hit the great shot or hole the great putt, it's over. But not really anything I could have done more today."

The joy on McIlroy's face never left him from the time that putt dropped — on the green, in Butler Cabin when defending champion Scottie Scheffler first helped him into the green jacket, and during the trophy presentation on the 18th green.

"My dreams have been made today," McIlroy said.

Moments later, speaking to 4-year-old daughter Poppy, he told her: "Never give up on your dreams. Never, ever give up on your dreams."

This was shaping up as another horror show for McIlroy, who in 2011 lost a four-shot lead on the final day with a 43 on the back nine, a highlight reel that now can start collecting dust.

"I didn't make it easy today," McIlroy said.

Right when it looked as though he would throw away another major, McIlroy delivered two majestic shots when nothing less would do, two birdies that sent him to the 18th hole with a one-shot lead.

That still wasn't enough. He hit a wedge into the bunker and wound up missing a 5-foot par putt for a 1-over 73 and the first Masters playoff in eight years.

Faced with more failure, McIlroy responded with another booming drive, and this wedge bounced onto the slope of the top shelf with enough spin to trickle down toward the hole, closer and closer, until it stopped 3 feet away.

And when Rose missed from 15 feet, McIlroy finally sealed it.



# Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My partner and I have been together more than five years now. He has two adult children. I learned two days ago that I am pregnant. At 43 years old, I didn't think a child was in my future. But now that I'm pregnant, I couldn't be happier. I'm cautiously excited because I am unsure what my partner's reaction is going to be. I haven't shared with him that I'm expecting. How quickly do I need to tell him? -- PREG-NANT PAUSE IN NEW YORK

DEAR PREGNANT: Tell your partner NOW, so you both can begin planning how to integrate this new little person into your household. If his reaction is positive, it will be the beginning of a happy journey. If his reaction is negative, and because babies are expensive, discuss what it may mean financially, which will enable you to prepare for raising the baby on your own with financial support from him.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 17 and will be turning 18 in six months. I can't wait to move out. My mother and I have a hard relationship. We argue every day. She's an addict, and it's sometimes difficult to talk to her. I feel like nothing I do will ever be good enough for her. I feel like I am walking on eggshells. I plan on moving out as soon as possible, but I need help dealing with these last few months with her. I feel like I am barely holding on. Please give me some advice. -- TORTURED TEEN IN INDIANA

DEAR TEEN: I am sorry for the stressful situation in which you find yourself. You certainly should extricate yourself as soon as you can. Are there other relatives who might be willing to have you stay with them until you graduate from high

school and find a job? If there are, that would be ideal. If there aren't, start talking with a trusted teacher or counselor at school and explain what is happening because there may be resources in your community for young people from troubled homes.

DEAR ABBY: I am a retired man who, unfortunately, got caught up in an internet inheritance scam and lost all my money. I'm now broke and in debt. This is the worst thing that could have happened to me. I had to file for bankruptcy (Chapter 13).

Fortunately, my house is paid for, but I could lose my truck (my only means of transportation) if I can't keep up with my bankruptcy payments. I have medical issues and take a lot of medication, so I have to get to my doctors' appointments. The bankruptcy payments are high, and I'm afraid I won't be able to afford them soon. I was enjoying my retirement, and now I have nothing. I don't know what to do. What can you suggest? -- DETOURED IN WISCONSIN

DEAR DETOURED: I am sorry for your predicament. It may be possible to lower your Chapter 13 bankruptcy payments. If you can't afford to hire an attorney, contact the Legal Aid Society or a pro bono lawyer and ask for help. The laws can vary from state to state, and an attorney may be able to help you. I wish you success.

## TUNDRA



## ZITS



## RHYMES WITH ORANGE



## BLONDIE



## GARFIELD



## DADDY DAZE



## SATURDAY'S CARTOON...



## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Turn down

1 Leafy lunch  
6 Basics  
10 Refrain syllables

11 Ominous tarot card

13 Fall flower

14 Messing of "Will & Grace"

15 Turn bad

16 Golf prop

18 Uncooked

19 Athlete's booster

22 Color

23 Border

24 Eagle's grasper

27 Ignore the limit

28 Magnetic metal

29 Had lunch

30 "I Want to Know What Love Is," for example

35 Stick out

36 Snaky shape

37 Bullfight cry

38 Stage comment

40 Ibis's cousin

42 Made over

43 Calendar entry

45 Copen-hagen natives

DOWN

1 Intent look

2 Fiery crime

3 Espresso order

4 Tavern drink

5 Rainforest weapon

6 Threw in

7 Garden visitor

8 Trip by taxi

9 Peculiar

12 Peddled

17 Iris setting

20 River of France

21 Drive off

24 Bill collector

25 Wakened shop

26 When the beach is biggest

27 Hid away

29 Crunch targets

31 Slender

32 Sophia of "Two Women"

33 By oneself

34 Body shop

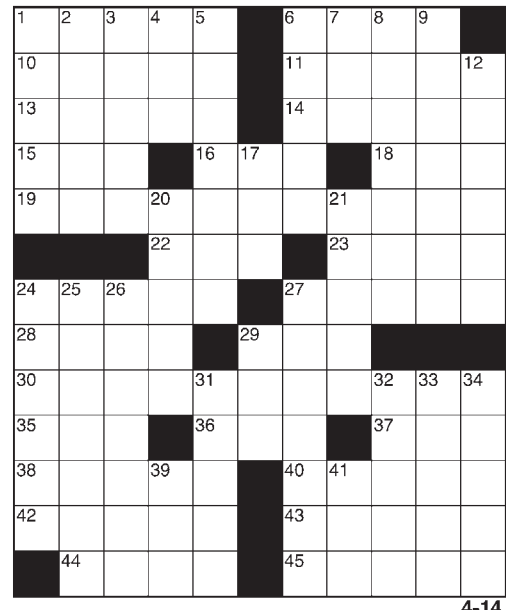
39 Racket

41 Mendes of

45



Friday's answer



## Sitka by the Stars

For Tuesday, April 15, 2025

The emotional energy in the air is strong, which can be useful for dealing with matters of the heart or caring for our mental health. For those of us who have been feeling stressed, the cosmos encourage us to seek the calm that we need. We can also harness today's planetary power for passion projects, creative work or humanitarian efforts. We are reminded that showing emotional vulnerability as well as compassion for others is both a sign of strength and humanity. By the late evening, the emotional intensity dies down, paving the way for more cheerful vibes.

ARIES

(March 21 to April 19)

If you haven't yet tackled your spring cleaning, this can be a good day to get started.

TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20)

Community and teamwork are the cornerstones of your success. Connect and partner with people who share or support your vision.

GEMINI

(May 21 to June 20)

Your hard work yields positive results. Keep going!

CANCER

(June 21 to July 22)

Whatever you set your mind to, you can achieve. Believe in your power.

LEO

(July 23 to Aug. 22)

If you're feeling blue or low-energy, call on your loved ones for support.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

The chances of manifesting a dream collaboration or partnership are high. Seek people whose talents and interests complement your own.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

Whether you're working to improve your wellness, finances or career, you'll find the motivation you need today to further your goals.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

If it feels like you're in your element today, you are. Now go and be great!

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

You can't always be on the go. Stillness and rest are necessary for your well-being.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

Be open to new connections. Introduce yourself to someone new. Attend a social event. Join a team or club. You never know who you might meet!

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

If you're hoping to make a good impression on someone, bring your A game, and you will. Meanwhile, it's also a good day for marketing your business or expertise.

PISCES

(Feb. 19 to March 20)

You're virtually unstoppable today. Anything you set in motion now has a high probability of succeeding.

FOR TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

You've got guts. You don't think twice about taking chances or following your heart. You don't allow failure to deter you from getting what you want. You'll keep trying until you achieve your mission. You're warm, affectionate, and always willing to share what you have with those around you. You possess a strong moral compass, and you always do what's right, even if it's hard. This year, you may be moved to unpack emotions that you've been holding on to for too long. It's time to clear out the junk that's been bogging you down.

## Sudoku

ANSWER TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

9	5	8	6	4	2	3	1	7
3	1	6	9	5	7	4	8	2
7	4	2	3	8	1	5	6	9
1	3	5	2	9	4	8	7	6
6	9	4	7	3	8	1	2	5
2	8	7	5	1	6	9	4	3
8	6	3	4	7	9	2	5	1
5	2	1	8	6	3	7	9	4
4	7	9	1	2	5	6	3	8

Difficulty: ★★★★★

4/11

## King Classic Sudoku

6		3	1					4
		8	6	4			7	9
9								6
	6	5	9	2	1		4	
1		9				5		8
7		4	8	3	5	6		1
			4			7		2
2	9	6	3		7			
							8	3

Difficulty: ★

4/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Sudoku increases from Monday to Friday. Each day the previous day's answer will be published.

## CRYPTOQUOTE

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-14

CRYPTOQUOTE

FCVSEW SF QJKE DLT GK KM

MSZK QJSFAMSEW, KYKE QSAJ

X FJLK GTMM LG FMTFJ.

— RL TW MXVLE

**Previous Cryptoquote:** YOU KNOW, DOING WHAT IS RIGHT IS EASY. THE PROBLEM IS KNOWING WHAT IS RIGHT. — LYNDON B. JOHNSON

## ARROWHEAD PRESS

For all your printing needs



Take this Super Quiz to a Ph.D. Score 1 point for each correct answer on the Freshman Level, 2 points on the Graduate Level and 3 points on the Ph.D. Level.

Subject: BOOK TITLES: "THE ? OF ?"

Complete the book title. Bonus if you name the author. Alternate answers may be possible. (e.g., "The Wonderful Wizard of \_\_\_\_\_" Answer: Oz (L. Frank Baum).)

FRESHMAN LEVEL

1. "The Grapes of \_\_\_\_\_"

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

2. "The Merchant of \_\_\_\_\_"

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

3. "The Phantom of \_\_\_\_\_"

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

GRADUATE LEVEL

4. "The Picture of \_\_\_\_\_"

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

5. "The Count of \_\_\_\_\_"

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

6. "The Hound of \_\_\_\_\_"

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

PH.D. LEVEL

7. "The Age of \_\_\_\_\_"

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

8. "The Red Badge of \_\_\_\_\_"

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

9. "The Prime of \_\_\_\_\_"

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

SCORING: 18 points -- congratulations, doctor; 15 to 17 points -- honors graduate; 10 to 14 points -- you're plenty smart, but no grind; 4 to 9 points -- you really should hit the books harder; 1 point to 3 points -- enroll in remedial courses immediately; 0 points -- who reads the questions to you? Super Quiz is a registered trademark of K. Fisher Enterprises Ltd.

ANSWERS: 1. Wrath (John Steinbeck), 2. Venice (William Shakespeare), 3. The Opera (Gaston Lenoux), 4. Dorian Gray (Oscar Wilde), 5. Monte Cristo (Alexandre Dumas), 6. The Baskervilles (Arthur Conan Doyle), 7. Innocence (Edith Wharton), 8. Courage (Stephen Crane), 9. Miss Jean Brodie (Muriel Spark).



# Russia Claims Missiles Targeted Military Forces

By **LORNE COOK**  
**Associated Press**  
BRUSSELS (AP) — Russia on Monday claimed its deadly missile attack on Ukraine's Sumy that killed and wounded scores including children had targeted a gathering of Ukrainian troops, while European leaders condemned the attack as a war crime.

Ukrainian officials have said two ballistic missiles on Palm Sunday morning hit the heart of Sumy, a city about 30 kilometers (20 miles) from Ukraine's border with Russia, killing at least 34 people, including two children, and wounding 119. It was the second large-scale attack to claim civilian lives in Ukraine in just over a week.

Asked about the attack, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia's military only strikes military targets. Russia's Defense Ministry said the strike targeted a gathering of senior military officers and accused Kyiv of using civilians as shields by holding military meetings in the city's center.

The ministry claimed to kill over 60 troops. Russia gave no evidence to back its claims.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has called for a global response to the attack, saying the first strike hit university buildings and the second exploded above street level.

"Only real pressure on Russia can stop this. We need tangible sanctions against those sectors that finance the Russian killing machine," he wrote

Monday on social media.

Polish Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski, whose country holds the European Union's rotating presidency, called the attacks "Russia's mocking answer" to Kyiv's agreement to a ceasefire proposed by the United States over a month ago.

Finnish Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen noted that the attack on Sumy came shortly after President Donald Trump's envoy, Steve Witkoff, was in Saint Petersburg for talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. It demonstrates that "Russia shows full disregard for the peace process, but also that Russia has zero regard for human life," Valtonen said.

"I hope that President Trump, the U.S. administration, see that the leader of Russia is mocking their goodwill, and I hope the right decisions are taken," Sikorski told reporters in Luxembourg, where EU foreign ministers met.

Lithuania's foreign minister, Kestutis Budrys, echoed Ukraine's assertion that the Russian strike used cluster munitions to target civilians, calling it "a war crime by definition." The Associated Press has been unable to verify that claim.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said the attack shows that Putin has no intention of agreeing to a ceasefire, and called for the European Union to "take the toughest sanctions against Russia to suffocate its economy and prevent it from fueling its war effort."

# UK Police Try to Counter Violence in Online Claims

LONDON (AP) — Outdated laws unfit for the social media age hampered police from countering false claims that helped fuel anti-immigrant violence in Britain last summer, an investigation by lawmakers said Monday.

Parliament's Home Affairs Committee said limits on disclosing details of criminal investigations "created an information vacuum that allowed disinformation to flourish" after three children were stabbed to death at a summer dance party in July.

The attack in the northwest England town of Southport shocked the country and triggered days of disorder after far-right activists seized on incorrect reports that the attacker was a Muslim migrant who had recently arrived in the U.K.

Over several nights, crowds attacked housing for asylum-seekers, as well as mosques, libraries and community centers, in the worst street violence Britain had seen since riots in 2011.

# Whale . . .

**Continued from Front Page**  
surveys of the whole Sound, including areas where herring are spawning and whale foraging habitat ... to estimate the abundance of whales in the Sound."

The team is taking drone photos of the whales to identify them, and to make judgments on the health of the whales, many of which appear to be younger males.

In another part of the study, the team is tagging the whales with suction cup video cameras that pop back up to the surface after riding along on the whales to film their habits. AWF is licensed by the National Marine Fisheries Service to deploy the tags.

McPherson said the tags capture "video, audio and movement under the water," showing the whale's "foraging behavior under the water, what they're feeding on, and how often."

While feeding on herring eggs in Sitka Sound, the baleen whales also filter tiny creatures from sediment on the seafloor, and eat other small species like krill.

Eckert said that AWF researchers also are referencing the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's public spawn deposition data, created each year from float planes and SCUBA diver surveys, to identify the areas where most herring spawn occurred this year.

Dr. Martin Van Aswegen, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and AWF team member, will take all of this data, and apply a model he's used with humpback whales to try to estimate the number of herring eggs consumed by the gray whales in Sitka Sound.

Van Aswegen said during the interview this month that the process begins with 2D drone images that provide accurate measurements of the gray whales. He said his model can convert those measurements "into volume, 3D volume, and then volume across the tissue types."

By studying the whales with this method throughout the spring, the team hopes to track "how much lipids, or fats, they are gaining," he said.

The team will estimate how much of that weight gain is a result of herring egg consumption, and use measures of the "energy density of blubber, the energy density of herring eggs, and the rough cost of digestive efficiency ... to estimate the number of herring eggs consumed."

All of these metrics will help the team try to find out the impact of the whales on local herring, as well as the "value of Sitka Sound and herring to these gray whales," McPherson said.

Attacker Axel Rudakubana, who was 17 when he carried out the rampage at a Taylor Swift-themed dance class, is the British-born son of Rwandan Christian parents. He is serving a life sentence with no chance of parole for 52 years for killing Alice Da Silva Aguiar, 9, Elsie Dot Stancombe, 7, and Bebe King, 6, and wounding eight other children and two adults.

Longstanding contempt-of-court rules, intended to ensure fair trials, hampered police in correcting online misinformation, and a ban on naming suspects under 18 meant the attacker's identity was withheld from the public for several days.

A tweet falsely identifying the attacker, posted on the day of the stabbings, was retweeted thousands of times and viewed by millions of people, the lawmakers said. Police did not state that the information was false until the next day, and even then did not release the attacker's name.

Meanwhile, the team is rounding out their studies by speaking with as many mariners and other knowledgeable local residents as possible.

"Other whale watchers are radioing in to tell us what they're seeing out there in the sound," McPherson said. "We've had some pretty cool conversations the past couple of weeks."

Eckert said that, even when the team departs from Sitka, researchers will be looking to learn more from these peoples' experiences.

"We continue to be interested in chatting with anyone who wants to talk to us about this," Eckert said. "If anyone would like to reach out with information or ideas, we'd be happy to talk to people."

Contact information for Alaska Whale Foundation personnel is available on their website at [www.alaskawhalefoundation.org](http://www.alaskawhalefoundation.org).

# Oil . . .

**Continued from Front Page**

That amount hews to a formula abandoned years ago by lawmakers as unaffordable.

The proposal is a nonstarter with legislative leaders, who are hearing pleas for more funding for K-12 schools squeezed by years of inflation and energy and health care costs. Education advocates also want the state to tackle a maintenance backlog that they say has created unsafe learning environments for students, including mold and structural issues at some schools.

Last year, residents received \$1,702, a combined dividend and energy relief payment. The dividend the past five years has been as low as \$992 in 2020 and as high as \$3,284, another combined dividend and energy relief check.

House Majority Leader Chuck Kopp, a Republican, said politicians should not be "even stoking the fantasy" of a dividend as large as Dunleavy proposed.

"We cannot pay an unsustainable dividend, and that dividend distorts the fiscal reality that we're facing," he said. "Do we need new revenue, or do we need to get a handle on the size of the dividend we're paying and honestly figure out how we're going to prioritize that?"

Some members of the bipartisan-led Senate have urged changes to oil taxes to raise revenue, but overall support has been limited.



This image provided by Commonwealth Media Services shows damage after a fire at the Pennsylvania governor's mansion while Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro and his family slept inside on Sunday in Harrisburg, Pa. (Commonwealth Media Services via AP)

# Bail Denied for Suspect In Pa. Gov's Home Fire

By **MARK SCOLFORO** and **MARC LEVY**  
**Associated Press**

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A man who allegedly scaled an iron security fence in the middle of the night, eluded police and set fire to the Pennsylvania governor's mansion was denied bail Monday as he faced charges including attempted homicide, terrorism and arson.

Cody Balmer spoke with a public defender at times as he appeared in court late Monday afternoon after being released from a hospital, where he was taken after an unrelated medical event.

Balmer, 38, told police he had planned to beat Gov. Josh Shapiro with a small sledgehammer if he encountered him after breaking into the building, according to court documents. A motive for the attack, including whether it had anything to do with Shapiro's politics or religious beliefs, wasn't immediately clear.

Balmer's mother told The Associated Press on Monday that she had tried in recent days to get him assistance for mental health issues, but "nobody would help." Christie Balmer said her son was not taking his medicine.

However, in court, Balmer told a judge he did not suffer from any mental illness. He said he was an unemployed welder with no income or savings and "a lot of children." He did not enter a plea to the charges, which include aggravated assault.

The fire caused significant damage and forced Shapiro, his family and guests, including other relatives, to evacuate the building early Sunday. The residence, built in 1968, did not have sprinklers, Harrisburg Fire Chief Brian Enterline said. He estimated the damage could be in the millions of dollars.

Shapiro said he, his wife, their four children, two dogs and another family had celebrated the Jewish holiday of Passover in the same room Saturday night along with members of Harris-

# Bill . . .

**Continued from Front Page**  
sion of the bill and voted along caucus lines, with members of the House majority — 14 Democrats, five independents and two Republicans — voting in favor and members of the House's all-Republican minority opposed.

"I do support a permanent BSA increase ... however, the amount that's in this bill is not something we can afford at this time," said House Minority Leader Mia Costello, R-Anchorage, adding that she would support a \$680 permanent increase, the same size included as a one-time boost this year.

Rep. Justin Ruffridge, R-Soldotna, was among several members of the House who alluded to the governor's veto threat and said that if the House approved the change, it would turn into "a step in the process" rather than be a final action.

A veto override requires approval from 40 of 60 lawmakers meeting in a joint session. Several legislators said they do not expect an override. If the governor rejects the bill, they expect work to continue on a bill that contains a smaller increase.

<https://alaskabeacon.com/james-brooks>

**How Senators voted**  
**In favor:**  
Jesse Bjorkman, R-Nikiski  
Matt Claman, D-Anchorage  
Forrest Dunbar, D-Anchorage  
Cathy Giessel, R-Anchorage  
Elvi Gray-Jackson, D-Anchorage  
Scott Kawasaki, D-Fairbanks  
Jesse Kiehl, D-Juneau  
Kelly Merrick, R-Eagle River  
Gary Stevens, R-Kodiak  
Löki Tobin, D-Anchorage  
Bill Wielechowski, D-Anchorage

**Against:**  
Mike Cronk, R-Tok  
Lyman Hoffman, D-Bethel  
Shelley Hughes, R-Palmer  
James Kaufman, R-Anchorage  
Robert Myers, R-North Pole  
Donny Olson, D-Golovin  
Mike Shower, R-Wasilla  
Bert Stedman, R-Sitka  
Robert Yundt, R-Wasilla

# Stocks Rally Worldwide As Trump Eases Tariffs

By **STAN CHOE**  
**AP Business Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks rose worldwide Monday after President Donald Trump relaxed some of his tariffs, for now at least, and as stress from within the U.S. bond market seems to be easing.

The S&P 500 climbed 0.8%, though trading was still shaky, and it briefly gave back all of its big early gain of 1.8%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 312 points, or 0.8%, and the Nasdaq composite added 0.6%.

Apple and other technology companies helped lift Wall Street after Trump said he was exempting smartphones, computers and other electronics from some of his stiff tariffs, which could ultimately more than double prices for U.S. customers of products coming from China. Such an exemption would mean U.S. importers don't have to choose between passing on the higher costs to their customers or taking a hit to their own profits.

Apple climbed 2.2%, and Dell Technologies rose 4%.

Automakers also rallied after Trump suggested he may announce pauses on tariffs next for the auto industry. General Motors rose 3.5%, and Ford Motor rallied 4.1%.

All told, the S&P 500 rose 42.61 points to 5,405.97. The Dow Jones

Industrial Average gained 312.08 to 40,524.79, and the Nasdaq composite climbed 107.03 to 16,831.48.

But such relief may ultimately prove fleeting. Trump's tariff rollout has been full of fits and starts, and officials in his administration said this most recent exemption on electronics is only temporary.

That could keep uncertainty high for companies, which are trying to make long-term plans when conditions seem to change by the day. Such uncertainty sent the U.S. stock market last week to chaotic and historic swings, as investors struggled to catch up with Trump's moves on tariffs, which could ultimately lead to a recession if not reduced.

China's commerce ministry nevertheless welcomed the pause on electronics tariffs in a Sunday statement as a small step even as it called for the U.S. to completely cancel the rest of its tariffs. China's leader Xi Jinping on Monday said no one wins in a trade war as he kicked off a diplomatic tour of Southeast Asia, hoping to present China as a force for stability in contrast with Trump's frenetic moves on tariffs.

Elsewhere on Wall Street, Goldman Sachs rose 1.9% after reporting a stronger profit for the latest quarter than expected.

# Celebrity Female Crew Takes Quick Space Trip

By **MARCIA DUNN**  
**AP Aerospace Writer**

Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin launched his fiancée Lauren Sanchez into space Monday with an all-female celebrity crew that included Katy Perry and Gayle King.

It was the latest wave in space tourism, where more of the rich and famous than ever before — or lucky and well-connected — can enter the zero-gravity realm traditionally dominated by professional astronauts.

The New Shepard rocket blasted off on the quick up-and-down trip from West Texas. The fringes of space beckoned 66 miles (107 kilometers) up and provided a few precious minutes of weightlessness.

Sanchez, a helicopter pilot and former TV journalist, invited the others along for the 10-minute, fully automated flight, packing on the star power with singer-songwriter Perry and "CBS Mornings" co-host King. Moved by the views of Earth below, Perry said she couldn't resist singing "What a Wonderful World" in space.

Also sharing the ride were film producer Kerianne Flynn; Aisha Bowe, a former NASA engineer who started her own companies to promote science education; and Amanda Nguyen, a scientist who studied planets around other stars and now advocates for survivors of sexual violence.

Blue Origin declined to say how much the flight cost or who paid what. The trip came two months before Sanchez and Bezos marry in Venice.

It was the 11th human spaceflight for the Washington state-based company, founded by Bezos in 2000 after making a fortune with Amazon. Bezos strapped in for Blue Origin's first space tourist flight in 2021 and accompanied the latest

crew to the pad.

The celebrity launch was the nation's first spaceflight where women filled each seat. The only other all-female crew in 64 years of human spaceflight was back in 1963. That's when Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova launched by herself, becoming the first woman in space. Tereshkova spent three days off the planet.

Even after the latest launch, women represent barely 15% of the more than 700 people who have traveled into space. Sanchez said she deliberately chose women to launch with her, each of them eager to inspire both the young and old to dream big, and even commissioned special flight suits.

The launch brought out VIPs to West Texas including Oprah Winfrey; Kris Jenner and other members of the Kardashian family; former NASA astronaut Mae Jemison, who became the first Black woman in space in 1992; and several women who previously have flown on private flights. Winfrey, a close friend of King, wiped away tears when the capsule reached space and the passengers were heard marveling at the moon and shouting with joy.

As the women were buckling up for the ride back, Perry broke into song. Despite urging by her crewmates, she resisted singing "Roar" or her other tunes and instead chose "What a Wonderful World."

"It's not about me. It's not about singing my songs," Perry said following the flight. "It's about a collective energy in there. It's about us." At a news conference later, she stressed, "We weren't just taking up space. We were making space for the future."

# Dividend . . .

**Continued from Front Page**

the missing Republicans to return, but that proposal was voted down.

Friday's vote capped a vexing week for members of the House majority, who sought to reduce the Permanent Fund dividend but lacked the votes to do so because of the opposition of Foster and Rep. Nellie Jimmie, D-Toksook Bay.

In previous years, legislators have used the Permanent Fund dividend as a budget-balancing tool, reducing the amount in years with low revenue and raising it in years with more revenue, as after the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Normally, the House Finance Committee starts its budget debates with a low proposed dividend, and lawmakers negotiate to raise that figure.

This year, Rep. Andy Josephson, D-Anchorage and the co-chair of the finance committee, started with a larger figure, first proposed by Gov. Mike Dunleavy in December.

Josephson, speaking to the Juneau Empire, called that decision a mistake. Cutting the Permanent Fund dividend functions like a regressive tax — it disproportionately affects low-income Alaskans, and two of the finance committee's members are rural Democrats who represent the two lowest-income House districts in the state.

In committee, Foster said he could not vote to reduce the dividend. He and Jimmie joined five Republican members of the committee in voting against a budget-balancing amendment proposed by Josephson that would have set the dividend at \$1,000.

Late Thursday, in an unusual hearing, the committee again tried and again failed to cut the dividend before sending the budget to the floor. The debate was cut short as several members of the committee rushed away to present a legislative citation to the Alaska Folk Fest, occurring a few blocks from the Capitol.

On Friday, Jimmie gave an impassioned speech, saying that the large dividend proposed by Dunleavy and the finance committee was never realistic and is a heartbreaking mirage for her constituents, who rely on the dividend for food and basic essentials.

"I'm going to tell you the truth," she said on the House floor, addressing constituents watching the debate on TV. "From the very first day that we walked into this building, there was never enough money for a full PFD, not without cutting the things that keep us alive: schools, public safety, health care."

The dividend means dignity, means keeping people out of poverty, she said. "It hurts me to see that dividend, something that means heating oil in the winters, diapers for our babies, food on the table, being dangled like a bait, like a prize on a string," she said.

Jimmie said she would continue to advocate for a large dividend but "could not lie to my people to get applause," and voted in favor of the cut.

No lawmaker has proposed tax increases large enough to pay for the larger Permanent Fund dividend, and legislators say they are unwilling to break a soft cap on spending from the Alaska Permanent Fund, which leaves the Constitutional Budget Reserve, the state's principal savings account, as the only means to cover the deficit.

That would require votes from 30 of the 40 members of the House and 15 of the 20 members of the Senate, plus the assent of the governor.

The CBR held \$2.83 billion as of Feb. 28 and the draft budget with the larger dividend would have consumed more than two-thirds of it.

"So this is where we are, ladies and gentlemen," Josephson said on Friday. "This is where we are when we're the only state that is striving mightily to pay money to every citizen that is eligible, and tax no one in the state. Why are we surprised?"

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