



1 98168 09540 9

DAILY SITKA SENTINEL

www.sitkasentinel.com • A home-owned newspaper serving Sitka since 1940 • @sitka_sentinel

\$1

Volume 86 No.73

Sitka, Alaska

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

6 Pages



School of Fish

Sitka commercial fisherman Matt Lawrie gets a hug from a second grader this morning during a Fish to Schools program lunch. The program, coordinated by Sitka Conservation Society, provides salmon and other seafood donated by fishermen and processors to the Sitka

School District, Mt. Edgecumbe High School and other local schools. At the annual We Love Our Fishermen Lunch, working fishermen are invited to one of the twice-monthly Fish to Schools lunches to dine and talk with students. (Sentinel Photo James Poulson)

Outer Coast to Host Community Town Hall

ANNA LAFFREY
Sentinel Staff Writer

Outer Coast, a nonprofit, post-secondary education institution based on the former campus of Sheldon Jackson College, is inviting the public to its first-ever community town hall Thursday night.

The event will be held in Fraser Hall starting at 6:30 p.m. with a presentation about the school, which currently has 15 students enrolled in a two-year college program that's accredited by the University of Alaska Southeast.

After the opening, breakout groups of townspeople will have conversations facilitated by Outer Coast staff, faculty and students, who will record the ideas and feedback that arise.

The college is hosting the town hall with support from the Alaska Humanities Forum. Participants will share a meal during the two-hour event.

In an interview Tuesday, Outer Coast executive director Bryden Sweeney-Taylor said he's hoping people who attend the town hall "won't necessarily all be on the same page," and will bring their ideas of "what Outer Coast can and should be."

Sweeney-Taylor explained that the college, which is built on the "three pillars" of academics — service and labor, and self-governance — got its start about a decade ago as a vision of bringing higher education back to the SJ campus.

"We've been running programs since 2018 but this year marks the launch of our two-year undergraduate program for students to begin their



Outer Coast students spend time together before class this afternoon in the Yaw Building on the SJ Campus.

The school is hosting a town hall meeting Thursday. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)

college careers at Outer Coast," Sweeney-Taylor said.

Fifteen students comprise the first-ever class of the two-year program, and 20 more young people will join the student body this fall.

"Ultimately, our vision is to have 40 students across two years here in Sitka studying, working in the broader com-

munity and helping to build this new institution of higher education," Sweeney-Taylor said.

Staff and faculty also are preparing to host the college's eighth summer seminar this year for 24 high school students from "across the state, and around the country and the world to get a taste of college-level academics

while immersing themselves in Sitka," Sweeney-Taylor said.

He said Outer Coast leaders are working to build an institution that addresses the complicated history of the campus which began in the late 1800s as a Presbyterian missionary boarding school for Alaska Native children.

Continued on Back Page

YPT Play 'Failure: A Love Story' Explores Time

SHANNON HAUGLAND
Sentinel Staff Writer

"Look me in the eyes. You know and I know, just because something ends, that don't mean it wasn't a great success."

- from "Failure: A Love Story"

Actors in the upcoming Young Performers Theater play "Failure: a Love Story" may warn you upfront that the play involves death.

But they'll also assure you that there's plenty to laugh at.

"It's very sad and full of grief, but it's also very humorous," said 13-year-old Ruby Gandel, who plays Gerie, the eldest of the Fail girls. "And there's a lot of physical and lyrical comedy, while there's still romance scattered through."

The play, directed by Zeke Blackwell, will be staged 7 p.m. Friday, April 18, and 7 p.m. Saturday April 19 and 3 p.m. Sunday, April 20.

In the story, written by Phillip Dawkins, the audience is told that by the end of 1928, the Fail sisters will be "tragically dead," expiring in reverse order, youngest to oldest, by blunt object, disappearance and consumption.

But Ruby and one of her acting colleagues, Ruby Bahna, said the play is also full of zaniness and humor, thanks to the presence of talking snakes and

dogs, escape artist parakeets, singing gramophones and moody clocks.

"Sometimes we can sort of make dying a little bit funny," said Rosie Bahna, who plays the girls' mom, Marietta Fail, as well as a cuckoo clock, and a chorus member. "There's one part where the clocks get smashed, and we do little screams here and there. We just have fun with it."

Members of the chorus can lighten the mood, Rosie said, by changing the tones of their voices. "You can make it more comedic than just (what is written). But there are also parts in the show that are supposed to be sad."

Blackwell said he's known about the play for a few years, and thought it would be interesting to try with his troupe of 22 older actors. He also thought the kids would appreciate the absurd elements.

"It feels very theatrical and there's a lot of opportunity to make creative choices and work with students to make creative choices," said Blackwell, who's run the program for 10 years and directed about 30 plays at SFAC. "It has a handful of main characters, but also has a Greek chorus that moves the story forward, allowing room to incorporate the cast into storytelling."

The play is set in a clock shop, where the family lives. The girls said clocks are a big part of the story, and



Young Performers Theater cast members present scenes from the tragic comedy "Failure: a Love Story" this afternoon at the Odess Theater in front of an audience of fourth and fifth graders. The show opens to the public Friday night. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)

work to make the point for such things as making the most of one's time and one's time running out.

"The whole play revolves around time, clocks and time, and just how you should spend your time, and time goes by," said Rosie, 14. "There's this one line where, there's just no more time. ...

It's like the theme of the show."

Ruby has been enjoying her role and being in the play, and called it "amazing" when asked how she liked it.

"It's really weird but it makes it really interesting," she said. "There's a lot of different moving parts and characters

Continued on Back Page

Senate Drafts Budget; Trims to 'Bare Bones'

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

As Alaska legislators confront a major state budget deficit, the state Senate on Tuesday voted unanimously to approve a "bare bones" \$162 million capital budget to pay for construction and renovation projects across the state.

The spending plan, which would take effect July 1, remains a draft subject to approval by the House. Gov. Mike Dunleavy may also make line-item vetoes.

The budget bill passed by the Senate is almost entirely limited to the minimum needed to unlock more than \$2.5 billion in federal grants for road maintenance and other priorities.

With oil revenue down and costs up — including the Permanent Fund dividend — analysts are projecting a significant budget deficit for the coming year. On Friday, the House voted to reduce the proposed 2025 dividend, but not enough to erase the deficit.

To help the issue, members of the Senate Finance Committee clawed back millions of dollars previously allocated to construction projects, reducing the need for new state revenue to pay for the capital budget.

Among the clawbacks: \$37 million set aside for the Juneau Access Project, an effort to improve road and ferry service to the capital city.

"To even get to the bare-bones capital budget, my district ended up contributing half a dozen ribs and a femur. ... I'm not pleased," said Sen. Jesse Kiehl, D-Juneau and a member of the Senate Finance Committee.

Other notable clawbacks included \$10 million for a proposed deep-draft port in Nome, and \$138,611 remaining in an account to be used for Ketchikan's proposed Gravina Island Bridge, once dubbed the "bridge to nowhere."

Members of the finance committee also turned to the state-owned investment bank, the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, for an additional \$12.5 million above the \$20 million already pledged by the bank to the state treasury.

Budgeters rejected some of Dunleavy's budget requests: \$2.5 million for a proposed road in the western portion of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, \$4.2 million for development of the trans-Alaska natural gas pipeline, \$2.5 million for firefighting aircraft, and \$6.5 million for a new state plane to be used for emergency response.

They also rejected all \$3.2 billion in requests from individual legislators for their specific districts.

Senate Minority Leader Mike Shower, R-Wasilla, called the result "a fair and balanced approach" in a statement released after the vote.

Some projects saw reduced funding: A \$6.5 million request to expand the Bradley Lake hydroelectric project's capacity was cut to \$6 million. Bradley Lake is among the cheapest sources of electricity on the Railbelt.

The Senate's biggest addition was \$19 million for major maintenance at public schools — the governor had proposed no funding for the major maintenance list.

Continued on Back Page

Assembly: Leach, Jones Win Praise and Raises

ANNA LAFFREY
Sentinel Staff Writer

Assembly members gave positive reviews of both the municipal administrator and the city attorney Tuesday night in the Assembly's annual evaluation of their performance in office.

After emerging from closed-door evaluation sessions, Mayor Steven Eisenbeisz announced that the Assembly had offered pay raises to both Administrator John Leach and Attorney Rachel Jones.

In addition to granting the raises, the Assembly told Leach he can start the process of hiring a deputy administrator.

The city administrator and attorney are the only two city employees who are hired directly by the Assembly. The annual evaluation of their performance in office is part of their terms of employment.

Each official is given the choice of having their evaluation in public or behind closed doors. Both Leach and Jones chose private executive sessions.

Jones was evaluated first over the course of almost two hours, with the Assembly members inviting Jones to join them for one hour of the executive session.

Mayor Steven Eisenbeisz said afterward that the Assembly gave Jones "an exemplary review, and we will be offering our municipal attorney a 5 percent increase in her base rate of pay."

Rachel Jones has been municipal attorney since September 2024, and was hired with a salary of \$162,500.

"It's been a brief time and a busy time we understand, but we as an As-

sembly feel you are the correct person for that position," Eisenbeisz said when her evaluation session was over.

Leach was present for one hour of the Assembly's private, two-hour review of the administrator.

Eisenbeisz said afterward that Leach also received an "exemplary review" from the Assembly.

"We're going to offer, for this next contract period, a salary of \$175,000 per year," Eisenbeisz said.

Leach was hired as administrator in October 2019 with a salary of \$140,000, and his employment agreement has been amended each year since then.

During its 2023 evaluation, the Assembly approved a 5.4 percent increase to the administrator's 2019 pay, for a salary of about \$148,000.

In its April 2024 evaluation, the Assembly amended Leach's employment agreement to provide for 12 months of severance pay in the event that Leach is terminated by the Assembly.

Following conversations during the private review of Leach's job performance on Tuesday, Eisenbeisz said that "it is the Assembly's wish that we hire a deputy administrator as well."

"The Assembly feels that it is time with the growth of our organization that that (deputy administrator) position is key," Eisenbeisz said.

He asked Leach to "start that process of building a job description" for the position and thanked him for his ongoing work for the city.

Judge Considers Ruling Admin Is In Contempt

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
and MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge today said he has found probable cause to hold the Trump administration in criminal contempt of court and warned he could seek officials' prosecution for violating his orders last month to turn around planes carrying deportees to an El Salvador prison.

The ruling from U.S. District Judge James E. Boasberg, whom President Donald Trump has said should be impeached, marks a dramatic battle between the judicial and executive branches of government over the president's powers to carry out key White House priorities.

Boasberg accused administration officials of rushing deportees out of the country under the Alien Enemies Act last month before they could challenge their removal in court, and then willfully disregarding his order that planes already in the air should return to the United States.

The judge said he could hold hear-

ings and potentially refer the matter for prosecution if the administration does not act to remedy the violation. If Trump's Justice Department leadership declines to prosecute the matter, Boasberg said he will appoint another attorney to do so.

"The Constitution does not tolerate willful disobedience of judicial orders — especially by officials of a coordinate branch who have sworn an oath to uphold it," wrote Boasberg, the chief judge of Washington's federal court.

The administration said it would appeal.

"The President is 100% committed to ensuring that terrorists and criminal illegal migrants are no longer a threat to Americans and their communities across the country," White House communications director Steven Cheung wrote in a post on X.

The case has become one of the most contentious amid a slew of legal battles being waged against the Republican administration that has put the White House on a collision course with the federal courts.

Letters to the Editor

Support BSA Increase

Dear Editor: The following letter was sent to Gov. Dunleavy.
Dear Governor Dunleavy: As a fellow graduate of Pennsylvania public schools, I know we both carry the values and experiences that come from a well-supported public education. It's those very roots that helped shape who we are today. Since moving to Alaska, I have spent nearly 30 years serving as a public-school elementary teacher.

I'm writing to urge your strong support for a meaningful and lasting increase to Alaska's Base Student Allocation (BSA). Despite our state's vast geography, diverse communities, and unique educational needs, the BSA has remained virtually stagnant for years, lagging far behind inflation and the real costs of delivering quality education.

To put it in perspective: In 1979, the year you graduated high school in Pennsylvania, that state invested approximately \$2,098 per student — which, when adjusted for inflation, would be around \$8,600 today. By contrast, Alaska's current BSA in 2025 is still just \$5,960, not even matching the inflation-adjusted investment levels of 45 years ago — and far below Pennsylvania's current \$21,985 per student spending — nearly three times Alaska's current BSA. This disparity is especially striking considering Alaska's unique challenges: remote rural schools and higher transportation and energy costs.

Governor Dunleavy, you and I know firsthand what it means to benefit from a robust public education. As a former educator and administrator, and as someone who's walked the halls of Pennsylvania's schools, you know that investing in education isn't just about numbers — it's about outcomes, opportunity, and equity. Our students deserve a future that mirrors the opportunity you and I were given through our own public-school journeys. Please make the bold and necessary choice to increase the BSA — not incrementally, but meaningfully — so our students, teachers, and communities can thrive.

Respectfully,
Lorrie Heagy, Juneau
2011 Alaska Teacher of the Year

Thanks to Tongass

Dear Editor: I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Tongass Federal Credit Union, both staff and volunteers, for hosting the Financial Reality Fair for Sitka High School seniors. This event provided a valuable, hands-on opportunity for our students to explore real-world financial scenarios, from budgeting and managing expenses to understanding credit and making informed financial decisions.

The Fair was both engaging and eye-opening, giving students a realistic glimpse into adult financial responsibilities in a fun and supportive environment. Events like this are incredibly important in preparing our students

for life beyond high school, and we are grateful for the time, energy, and resources that Tongass Federal Credit Union dedicated to making it happen.

Thank you, again, for your commitment to financial education and for investing in the future of our students.
Laura Rogers, Interim Principal

Monthly Grind Thanks

Dear Editor: The Sitka Monthly Grinds 30th season has ended. We did seven shows this year. The Grind would like to thank the community of Sitka for their incredible generosity. We will start with the venues: five Grinds were held at the Sheet'ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi Tribal Community House. I don't think you will find a facility with such great acoustics. The staff, Leo Jimmy, is excellent. The facility has a magic to it. One show at Centennial Hall for the WhaleFest Grind, which also is perfect for the large audience and its multi-use. Next, the Sitka Performing Arts Center where the Original Grinds are performed. With a bit more technology to allow a diversity for the original pieces, including art and displays.

Next, we would like to thank all the different ways we publicize the Grind. The Daily Sitka Sentinel for their articles and PSAs about the Grind from their great staff of writers. Thank you to the Sitka Soup and its long-time help. KCAW and KIFW radio stations for their PSAs and interviews and helping get the words out.

Thank you, Old Harbor Books, for your years and years of selling tickets in advance for the show.

Ahh, the Sitka audiences! You are the best. If there was a way to measure community audiences, Sitka would be number one. Thank you for your support and cheering on the performers, young, old, and in-between.

Thank you to all the volunteers — everyone who helps put on the Grind is a volunteer. The Jesuit Volunteers have for years usually judged the desert contest. Every now and then we get others to do that sweet and delicious job.

I hesitate to start naming all the regular Grind folks, but will do it and apologize if I have left anyone out.

But first, a heartfelt thank you to Julie Schmitts and Ted Howard. Ted and Julie were part of the original crew that put on the first Grind and many more after that. I would venture to say without their help, expertise, and musicality we would not still be doing these 30 years on. The mainstays: Jeanne Stolberg, John Herchenrider, Jasmine Shaw, Jim Clare, Tom and LaNell Bacon, Melinda McAdams, Charlie Morgan, Elle Campbell, Vern Culp, Suzanne Portello, Debby LeVeck, Rick Fleischman and Jennifer Price.

The plan is for a 31st Grind season starting in October of this year. Thank you to one and all.

Jeff Budd,
Sitka Monthly Grind

House Again Approves Bill Governor Vetoed in 2024

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

Last year, Gov. Mike Dunleavy vetoed five bills, citing the fact that the Alaska Legislature passed them after the constitutional end of the legislative session.

So far in 2025, four of those five bills have been reapproved by either the House or Senate.

On Friday, the Alaska House of Representatives voted 37-0 to remove a requirement that fishing vessels register with the state Department of Motor Vehicles if they're already registered with the U.S. Coast Guard and Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission.

That removal will become law if the Senate and Gov. Mike Dunleavy also approve House Bill 31, which contains the removal and was the fourth of the five bills vetoed last year because of the missed deadline.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Louise Stutes, R-Kodiak, in both years.

Of the remaining missed-deadline bills, the Legislature has already passed two: one that allows state borrowing for a cruise ship dock in Seward, and another that allows teens to serve alcohol

at restaurants, lodges and similar establishments. Senate Bill 15 is awaiting the governor's action.

The Senate — but not the House — has passed a bill allowing employers to pay employees via "payroll cards."

The last of the vetoed-and-reintroduced bills, which would have banned insurance companies from denying coverage or charging higher rates to elected officials, has not received a hearing.

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

Sitka Yesterday

20 YEARS AGO
April 2005

Photo caption: Shannon Hitchcock, 6, listens to a tin can telephone during the Super Saturday event at Baranof Elementary School. ... The event was sponsored by the school's Parent Advisory Committee and co-ordinated by Krisanne Rice and Mary Todd Andersen.

50 YEARS AGO
April 1975

Eleven students in grades fifth through seventh have completed a 9-week course in babysitting techniques. Sitka High FHA directed the course, which included making a babysitting entertainment kit. Becki Kevan's kit won first prize, Lori Edgington won second, and Edrie Ulrich won third.

Weather

Sitka Forecast

For tonight expect a low of 39 degrees with a 30 percent chance of rain and wind to 15 mph, gusting as high as 30 mph. On Thursday expect a high of 49 with a 30 percent chance of rain and an overnight low of 43 degrees with more rain.

Sitka Weather

Temperatures ranged from 38 to 46 degrees, the wind gusted to 25 mph at 1:53 a.m., and .47 inch of rain was logged in the 24 hours ending at midnight last night.



U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr speaks during a Make Indiana Healthy Again initiative event in Indianapolis Tuesday. (AP Photo/Michael Conroy)

Health Officials Criticize
RFK Jr.'s Measles Talk

By AMANDA SEITZ
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As measles outbreaks popped up across the U.S. this winter, pediatricians waited for the nation's public health agency to send a routine, but important, letter that outlines how they could help stop the spread of the illness.

It wasn't until last week — after the number of cases grew to more than 700, and a second young child in Texas had died from a measles infection — that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention finally issued its correspondence.

The delay of that letter may seem minor. But it is one in a string of missteps that more than a dozen doctors, nurses and public health officials interviewed by The Associated Press identified in the Trump administration's response to the outbreak.

Health secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s efforts to contain an epidemic in a tight-knit, religious community in West Texas have run counter to established public health strategies deployed to end past epidemics.

"What we are lacking now is one, clear strong voice — from the federal to the state to the local — saying that the vaccine is the only thing that will prevent measles," said Patricia Stinchfield, a nurse practitioner and infectious disease expert who helped stop a 2017 measles outbreak in Minnesota's Somali community.

An 'extremely unusual' approach to the outbreak

Behind the scenes, Kennedy has not been regularly briefed in person on the outbreak by his own infectious disease experts at the CDC at least through March 21, according to Kevin Griffis, a career staffer who worked as the agency's communications director until he resigned that day.

Even after the measles claimed its first young Texas victim in late February, Kennedy had still not been briefed by CDC staff, Griffis said. His account was confirmed by a second former federal health official, who resigned at the end of February.

A spokesperson for Kennedy did not answer specific written questions about how he had been briefed or his communications with CDC staff.

The spokesperson said the CDC activated an Atlanta-based response in early February to provide overall guidance on measles testing and vaccination strategy. An on-the-ground team was deployed to West Texas throughout most of March and withdrawn on April 1.

It was a "joint decision" between state and federal officials to send the team home, CDC spokesman Jason Mc-

Donald said. Another team of seven was dispatched back to the region this week.

In previous administrations, health secretaries held weekly briefings with CDC staff, lasting between 25 and 30 minutes, during infectious disease outbreaks, both former HHS officials said. Kennedy, instead, received updates on paper or through email, Griffis said.

"That is extremely unusual," said Griffis, who sat in on such briefings with the previous health secretary and said that none were held for Kennedy during his first month on the job. "I've never seen that before."

In another irregularity, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the nation's largest network of pediatricians, has not been tapped to work with the CDC on the outbreak, according to the organization's officials. Historically, the CDC and AAP have convened for monthly or biweekly briefings during outbreaks to share updates, which include details about what doctors are seeing and questions they're fielding from parents in exam rooms. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to freely discuss the health department's response.

The only updates provided widely to pediatricians by the CDC have come from a health alert network update sent on March 7, a week after the first U.S. measles death in a decade, and the letter sent to providers last week, which, according to the pediatric academy officials, was late in the outbreak.

Kennedy praised the CDC on Tuesday during an event in Indianapolis, saying it "had done a very good job controlling the measles outbreak."

Kennedy endorses vaccines, but still raises safety doubts

Kennedy's inconsistent and unclear message on the measles vaccines has also made the outbreaks difficult to contain, experts say.

He has occasionally endorsed the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine as "effective," but also continues to raise safety concerns about the shots in other statements. In a CBS interview last week, he claimed the vaccines were "not safety tested."

That approach has been the biggest flaw of the government's response, said Dr. Carlos del Rio, past president of the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

"Imagine if the captain of the Titanic had told you that you need to be careful about lifeboats and think about other opportunities," del Rio said.

Trials were conducted on thousands of children before the vaccine was approved for use in the 1960s. The federal government has since used medical records to continue to monitor for side effects from use in millions of people since.

Admin Planning to End
IRS Free Direct Filing?

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration plans to eliminate the IRS' Direct File program, an electronic system for filing tax returns directly to the agency for free, according to two people familiar with the decision.

The program developed during Joe Biden's presidency was credited by users with making tax filing easy, fast and economical. But Republican lawmakers and commercial tax preparation companies complained it was a waste of taxpayer money because free filing programs already exist, although they are hard to use.

The program had been in limbo since the start of the Trump administration as Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency have slashed their way through the federal government. Musk posted in February on his social media site, X, that he had "deleted" IRS, a government agency that worked on technology projects such as Direct File.

There was some hope that Musk, with his DOGE team of computer programmers, could take over Direct File and improve it. But the two people familiar with the decision to end Direct File said its future became clear when the IRS staff assigned to the program were told in mid-March to stop working on its development for the 2026 tax filing season.

The two people were not authorized to publicly discuss the plans and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Adam Ruben, a vice president at the liberal-leaning Economic Security Project, said "the fix was in from the beginning."

"It is an outrage to see everyday taxpayers play no role in this decision," he said. "Cutting costs and saving money for families were just empty campaign promises."

But David Williams, president of the Taxpayers Protection Alliance, which describes itself as a nonpartisan organization that disseminates research and analysis on the government's effects on the economy, said Direct File was "problematic" from day 1, citing the program's costs and noting that many people who started the process never finished. According to the IRS 423,450 taxpayers logged into Direct File and 140,803 submitted accepted returns in 2024.

"From hidden costs to taxpayer confusion, the program is riddled with issues," Williams said.

Direct File was rolled out as a pilot program in 2024 after the IRS was tasked with looking into how to create a "direct file" system as part of the money it received from the Inflation Reduction Act signed into law by Biden in 2022. The Democratic administration spent tens of millions of dollars developing the program.

Last May, the agency announced that the program would be made permanent.

But the IRS has faced intense blowback to Direct File from private tax preparation companies that have made billions from charging people to use their software and have spent millions lobbying Congress. The average American typically spends about \$140 preparing returns each year.

Trump Admin Sues Maine Over Trans Athletes Issue

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER,
ERIC TUCKER and
PATRICK WHITTLE

Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration on Wednesday sued Maine for not complying with the government's push to ban transgender athletes in girls and women's sports, escalating a dispute over whether the state is abiding by a federal law that bars discrimination in education based on sex.

The lawsuit follows weeks of feuding between the Republican administration and Democratic Gov. Janet Mills that has led to threats to cut off crucial federal funding and a clash at the White House when she told President Donald Trump: "We'll see you in court."

The political overtones of the moment were clear, with Attorney General Pam Bondi — and one of the athletes who joined her on stage at the Justice Department — citing the matter as a priority for Trump. Bondi said other states, including Minnesota and California, could be sued as well.

"President Trump, before he was elected, this has been a huge issue for him," Bondi said. "Pretty simple: girls play in girls' sports, boys play in boys' sports. Men play in men's sports, women play in women's sports."

Trump campaigned against the participation of transgender athletes in sports in his 2024 race. As president, he has signed executive orders to prohibit that and to use a rigid definition of the sexes, rather than gender, for federal government purposes. The orders are being challenged in court.

Trump's departments of Education and Health and Human Services have said Maine's education agency is violating the federal Title IX antidiscrimination law by allowing transgender girls to participate on girls teams. The Justice Department is asking the court to order the state to direct all schools to prohibit the participation of males in athletic competition designated for females.

Maine officials have refused to agree with a settlement that would have banned transgender students from sports, arguing that the law does not prevent schools from letting transgender athletes participate. Mills said Wednesday that the lawsuit was expected and is part of a pressure campaign by Washington to force Maine to ignore its own human rights laws.

"This matter has never been about school sports or the protection of women and girls, as has been claimed, it is about states rights and defending the rule of law against a federal government bent on imposing its will, instead of upholding the law," Mills said in a statement.

Maine's attorney general, Aaron Frey, said Wednesday he is confident Maine is acting in accordance with state and federal law.

"Our position is further bolstered by

the complete lack of any legal citation supporting the Administration's position in its own complaint," he said in a statement. "While the President issued an executive order that reflects his own interpretation of the law, anyone with the most basic understanding of American civics understands the president does not create law nor interpret law."

The government's complaint cites as examples the case of a transgender athlete who in February won first place in pole vault at a Maine indoor track and field meet and a transgender athlete who last year began competing in female cross country races in the state and placed first in a girl's 5K run.

The lawsuit reflects a stark philosophical turnaround from the position on gender identity issues taken during Democratic administrations.

Under President Joe Biden, the government tried to extend civil rights policies to protect transgender people. In 2016, the Justice Department, then led by Attorney General Loretta Lynch, sued North Carolina over a law that required transgender people to use public restrooms and showers that corresponded the gender on their birth certificate.

Trump signed an executive order in February, "Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports," that gave federal agencies wide latitude to ensure entities that receive federal funding abide by Title IX in alignment with his administration's interpretation of "sex" as the gender someone was assigned at birth.

Bondi was joined at the news conference by former University of Kentucky swimmer Riley Gaines, who has emerged as a public face of the opposition to transgender athletes. Gaines tied with a transgender athlete for fifth place in a 2022 NCAA championship and has testified before lawmakers across the country on the issue. She and others frame the issue as women's rights.

During a February meeting with governors, Trump threatened to pull federal funding from Maine if the state did not comply with his executive order. Mills responded: "We'll see you in court."

Maine sued the administration this month after the Department of Agriculture said it was pausing some money for the state's educational programs because of what the administration contended was Maine's failure to comply with the Title IX law. A federal judge on Friday ordered the administration to unfreeze funds intended for a Maine child nutrition program.

Questions over the rights of transgender people have become a major political issue in the past five years. Twenty-six states have laws or policies barring transgender girls from girls school sports. GOP-controlled states have also been banning gender-affirming health care for transgender minors and restricting bathroom use in schools and sometimes other public buildings.

CITY & BOROUGH OF SITKA				
PUBLIC NOTICE Sprinkler Waiver Committee				
The Sprinkler Waiver Committee will hold a meeting at 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 18, 2025 , in Conference Room 303 at City Hall, 100 Lincoln Street. The committee will review the following three (3) sprinkler waiver requests:				
1. A storage building located at 300 Airport Road, owned by ASKW Davis, LLC				
2. A retail sales building at 4509 Halibut Point Road, owned by Burgess Bauder				
3. The Japonski Island Boathouse, located at 1490 Seward Avenue				
For additional information, please contact Pat Swedeen, Building Official, at (907) 747-1832.				
Published: April 16, 2025				
PUBLIC NOTICE Notice of Non-Compliant Business: Failure to file and/or remit sales tax				
The businesses reported below are delinquent in filing and/or remitting of sales tax. The sales taxes collected by merchants, in the normal course of business, are required by law to be held in trust for and remitted to the City and Borough of Sitka.				
The Sales Tax Office of the City and Borough of Sitka is committed to ensuring that all sales tax accounts are fully compliant. In this round of enforcement, demand and compliance letters were sent requesting that businesses bring their accounts into compliance. All have taken steps to rectify the situation, except for the businesses listed below, which continue to be non-compliant. Our ongoing efforts aim to bring all businesses into compliance.				
The Sales Tax Office is available to assist businesses with filing returns. Please contact us at 907-747-1840 or 907-747-1853 if you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment.				
The following information is published under Sitka General Code 4.25.350 (b) and 4.25.405.				
Business Name	Owner Name	Number of Returns	Year of Oldest Missing Return	Delinquent in Remission of Sales Tax
Armer's Marine & ATV Breezy	Charles Armer	24	2019	Unknown
Days Taxi	Doug Smathers	17	2020	Yes
Baranof Machine LLC	Dan Blake	14	2021	Unknown
Gombeen's Taxi	David Ryan Zach	13	2021	Unknown
Marthaller Transportation	Marthaller	12	2022	Yes
Q&L Excavation	Sean Barclay	11	2022	Yes
Catch Sitka	Issam Samman		2023	Yes
Catch Sitka Seafoods	Issam Samman		2023	Yes
Jacoby Custom Construction	Michael Jacoby	9	2022	Yes
Sizzling Chow	Marivic Carbonnel	9	2022	Yes
Ye TacoLoco	Carlos Rodriguez Hernandez	3	2024	Yes
Published April 16, 2025				

THE DAILY SITKA SENTINEL
USPS 146-160
ISSN 2998-0844 (print)
2998-0852 (online)

Editorial, business and publication offices: 112 Barracks St., Sitka, Alaska.

Published daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays. Periodical postage paid at Sitka, Alaska.

A family-owned independent newspaper edited and published by Thad and Sandy Poulson, d/b/a Verstovia Corp.

Mailing address:
Daily Sitka Sentinel
112 Barracks Street
Sitka, AK 99835
Phone: (907) 747-3219
Fax: (907) 747-8898
<http://www.sitkasentinel.com>

Local subscription rates: three months \$55; six months \$75; one year \$120. Senior rates available. Inquire for mail rates. Member of The Associated Press.

© Daily Sitka Sentinel. All rights reserved.

Postmaster: Send address changes to 112 Barracks, Sitka, AK 99835.

SENTINEL *Classifieds*

Sentinel Classifieds: your BEST BUY for the Sitka market
Your print ad here runs free at www.sitkasentinel.com
Email us at news@sitkasentinel.com or go to 112 Barracks St.



NEW LISTING! 407 DeGROFF STREET

\$699,000 Detached Duplex

2BD/1BA and 2BD/1.75BA, Zoned R-2

Income Potential! Near Downtown



LISTED BY: SHANNON C. DAILEY, ASSOCIATE BROKER AND CANDI C. BARGER, OWNER/BROKER • SITKAREALTY.COM



SEARHC is looking for qualified candidates to join our team in Sitka!

If you are passionate about making a difference in the community and eager to learn, this opportunity is perfect for you. We pride ourselves on fostering a supportive and inclusive work environment where every team member can thrive. Join us in our mission to provide quality healthcare and embark on a rewarding career path.

Become a Dental Assistant Trainee. A new class will commence in July 2025.

Please submit applications no later than April 30, 2025.

Full-time pay \$25.00 an hour and benefits while training.

Working at SEARHC is more than a job, it's a fulfilling career. We offer generous benefits, including retirement, paid time off, paid parental leave, health, dental, and vision benefits, life insurance and long and short-term disability, and more.

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

Help Wanted

FACILITY MAINTENANCE and Custodial position. Average 24 hours/week at \$22-\$28/hour DOE. Duties include sweeping, pressure washing, painting, basic carpentry; repairing, organizing & operating tools, supplies, plumbing, electrical and mechanical equipment. Reply to fishermansquay@gmail.com

GARDENER NEEDED. 907-713-7589.

THE SITKA School District is accepting applications for a district-wide Occupational Therapist. An Alaska Type-C certification preferred. Open until filled. Apply at www.sitkaschools.org, click on "Employment." The Sitka School District is an equal opportunity employer. Alaska Natives are encouraged to apply.

DAVID O. Pearson, D.D.S., is seeking F/T Dental Assistant. Experience preferred, but will train. Salary D.O.E. Interested applicants can submit resume in person to Sitka Dental Clinic @ 514 Lake St. or email to sitkadental@gci.net. Open until filled.

THE SENTINEL has newspaper delivery routes available on: Katlian St., Edgecumbe, Lance, Wolff, & Anna Drive, also HPR/SMC. Call Hayley or Sarah at 747-3219 for more information.



Sheet'ka 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 or visit: 204 Siginaka Way, Suite 300. Phone: (907)966-9649.

Help Wanted

LOCAL LARGE-SIZED Sitka fishing lodge with an excellent reputation seeks full- & part-time employees for serving breakfasts and dinners in our Lodge dinner room. Shifts range from 4 to 8 hours and jobs start late May & go thru Sept 16. We are a positive & rewarding workplace with competitive wages. D.L. required. Email: kingfisherlodghehr@gmail.com



Sheet'ka Kwáan Sitka Tribe of Alaska

The Sitka Tribe of Alaska is seeking an Economic Development Director. This position is responsible for overseeing the development and operations of business ventures, ensuring the delivery of excellent customer service to clients and customers, and coordinating with all subsidiary managers to ensure maximum returns to the Tribe. The Economic Development Director creates/implements short-term and long-term objectives, goals, and department plans. Minimum qualifications: Bachelor's degree in business administration or similar field & 3 years of experience in business development/management. This is a full-time, benefitted position, salary DOE.

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

Business Services

ARBORSMITH TREE Care Now Serving Sitka!
www.arborsmithtreecare.com. 907-219-0242. AK LIC#10306880.

OCEANSIDE EXCAVATION. One-stop source for all excavation and concrete work. Land development, grading, driveway work, rock walls, concrete foundation, retaining walls, patios, concrete driveways, curbs, gutters, and much more. Call for estimate, 738-1027.

ABSOLUTE TREE Care. It's that time of year again, Sitkans, to get your trees trimmed, topped or removed. 20% discount to seniors. 10% discount to others through May 2025. Licensed. Bonded. Insured. Workman's Comp. Serving Sitka since 1999. 907-747-7342, 907-738-2616.

Items for Sale

EXERPEUTIC THERAPEUTIC fitness treadmill. \$100. Call (907) 747-5702.

Boats for Sale

FINE 40' liveaboard. New survey. Lower asking. Business opportunity. 907-713-7589.

Travel Trailers for Sale

2021 DUTCHMAN Coleman Light Travel Trailer. Great condition, 31-feet long, located in Sitka. \$35,000/OBO. 907-738-0449.

Zumba Continues

Zumba classes will continue in April at the Sheet'ka Kwáan Naa Kahidi.

The 30- to 45-minute classes will be 5:30 p.m. April 18, 12:15 p.m. March 23, 2 p.m. March 27, and 12:15 p.m. March 30.

Free classes are open to the community, and appropriate for all skill levels. For information, email Harper Glazer at harper.glazer@sitkatribes-nsn.gov

Herring Protectors Run Run, Walk Set

The Herring Protectors 5K fun run and 2-mile walk will be held 10 a.m. Sunday, May 4.

The race is out to the airport and back, starting and ending under the bridge.

Registration starts at 9 a.m. The event, open to the public, is free but donations to the Herring Protectors are welcome. For information call Bridget at 907 738-5515.

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 Odess 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 or 907 747-3085.

Beginner Ukulele Lessons Offered

Sitka Ukulele 100 free beginner instruction will be offered 5-7 p.m. April 20, 27, May 11 and 18 at the Sitka Pioneers Home Chapel. Participants should take their own ukuleles.

Scrap Yard Closure Noted

The City and Borough of Sitka's Gary Paxton Industrial Park scrap yard, 4655 Sawmill Creek Road, will be closed 8 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Thursday, April 17. At 9:30 a.m., it will resume regular business hours until 4 p.m.

Call the Public Works Department with any questions at 907 747-1804.

Calendar of Events

WEDNESDAY
4-6 p.m. Open House, UAS-Sitka Campus
4:30 p.m. Sitka Parkinson's Support Group, 1212 Seward Ave. (the old BOQ) 907 747-3461
5:30 p.m. Domestic Science for adults, Sitka Sound Science Center
5:30 p.m. Sitka School Board budget meeting, district office board room
7 p.m. Sitka Sportsman's Association Indoor Range open
7 p.m. AA, St. Gregory's Church, 606 Etolin Street, info: 907-747-8866
THURSDAY
6-8 a.m. MEHS Aquatic Center pool open
10:30 a.m. SAIL Senior Hiking Club, Whale Park to Silver Bay, info: 888-487-1033
11-2 Salvation Army Little Store open
Noon AA, St. Peter's basement, AA hotline 907-747-8866 for information
Noon Alanon Zoom, sitkaalanon@gmail.com, for login info
Noon White Elephant Shop open
6 p.m. First Grade Concert, Sitka Performing Arts Center
6-8 p.m. Sitka Tribe of Alaska community dinner and presentation on Indigenous wellness, Harrigan Centennial Hall, RSVP <https://forms.gle/oB7yS35Kmxr8ga7VA>
6:30 p.m. STA Natural Resources Committee, at STA
6:30-8:30 p.m. Outer Coast Town Hall, Fraser Hall on SJ Campus
6:30 p.m. Women's AA, Unitarian Fellowship Hall, AA Hotline 907 747-8866
7 p.m. AA, St. Peter's basement, 611 Lincoln Street, AA hotline 907-747-8866
FRIDAY
Noon AA, St. Peter's basement, call AA hotline 907-747-8866 for information
2 p.m. kindergarten and pre-kindergarten Sneak Peek, Xóots Elementary School
5:30 p.m. Free Zumba, STA-sponsored, Sheet'ka Kwáan Naa Kahidi
5:30 p.m. NA Meeting, St. Peter's Church basement
7 p.m. Sitka Fine Arts Camp's Young Performers Theater's "Failure: A Love Story," Odess Theater on SJ Campus
7 p.m. AA, St. Peter's basement, 611 Lincoln Street, hotline 907-747-8866



**We do grading, paving,
striping & sealcoating
in Sitka!**

**Residential • Commercial
Parking Lots • Roads**

SECON Granite Creek Quarry

**OPEN Monday to Saturday
8am-4pm**

• Delivery available •

**For a FREE estimate and info on pricing,
please call: 907-747-8514**

Police Blotter

Police the following calls as of 8 a.m. today.

April 15

At 6:50 a.m. a city employee said he wanted it documented that while he was checking the restrooms at Eliason Harbor a woman propositioned him, and when he rejected her offer she became aggressive and slammed his vehicle door.

A caller said that someone had opened a TV account in her name. She was to contact AT&T.

At 10:47 a.m. a caller said people had open containers in front of a business in the 200 block of Katlian Street. The people were gone when officers arrived.

At 11:33 a.m. a dog that had attacked another dog previously was reported back at the Keet ball field, running at large. The animal control officer was contacted.

At 3:02 p.m. a man and woman were reported sleeping on a bench outside a business in the 100 block of Lincoln Street. Officers found they were able to care for themselves and they were going to the library. At 4:09 p.m. the two were reported passed out at the library. They were reported able to care for themselves.

Easter Services At Salvation Army

The Salvation Army has announced its Easter events.

—Friday, April 18, 1 p.m., Good Friday Service. Bread and broth will follow.

—Easter Sunday, April 20: early morning service, 9 a.m.; Easter breakfast, 9:45 a.m.; Easter worship service, 11 a.m.; and candy hunt for the children, 12:30 p.m.

Pioneers Reset Meeting Date

Pioneers of Alaska Sitka Igloos will not meet in April, but will gather at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 7, at the Salvation Army.

The meeting will begin with a potluck dinner, followed by an election of officers for 2025-26, including president, vice president, treasurer and secretary. Nominations are now open, and they may be submitted via phone message to: 907-888-9629. Annual payments of \$20 are due.

STA Earth Day Cleanup April 22

Sitka Tribe of Alaska will host an Earth Day cleanup on Tuesday, April 22.

"In celebration of Earth Day, the Sitka Tribe of Alaska staff will be heading outdoors to give back to the land we love," STA said.

Teams will be on Indian River Road and in the surrounding neighborhoods picking up trash and doing their part.

"If you see us out there, feel free to give a wave or a word of encouragement," STA said.

Sportsman's Assn. Offers Scholarship; Deadline Near

The Sitka Sportsman's Association is offering scholarships to graduating senior students who reside in Sitka.

The application process is open to public, private or home-schooled students. Qualified applicants will be those planning to attend a college or participate in a vocational program during the 2025-2026 school year.

Each applicant must write an essay based on "The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution." The application and the essay requirements will be available at each school's counseling or administration offices. Submission deadline is 3 p.m. Thursday, April 17. Contact the association's secretary Tess Lee (206) 305-7584 sitkasportsmans@yahoo.com with any questions.

STA Teachers, Elders, Students Honored With Presentation

Sitka Tribe of Alaska will honor its elders, teachers, students, and community supporters who have brought the Sitka Native Education Program through 50 years at noon on Saturday, April 19, at Harrigan Centennial Hall.

"Our students have been working hard to learn new things and are excited to show a demonstration of their knowledge with you all," STA said.

Kindergarten Has 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.

Sitka Police

Eric S. Ward, 30, was arrested Tuesday and charged with assault in the third degree, a felony, and assault in the fourth degree, a misdemeanor, in an April 12 incident. In addition, this morning Ward was charged with assault in the presence of a child, a misdemeanor.

Emergency Calls

Sitka Fire Department received three ambulance calls Tuesday.

Historical Society Board to Meet

The Sitka Historical Society and Museum board of directors will meet noon-1 p.m. Thursday, April 17, at the Sitka History Museum, Harrigan Centennial Hall.

Indigenous Wellness Presentation Thurs.

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 "Pec" Pahona.

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

Serving Sitka -



- since 1999

• Licensed • Bonded • Insured • Workers Compensation

Well Sitka, it's that time of year again. Time to get those trees trimmed or removed.

Are your trees are getting too close to your house making you feel like your living in a cave? Give us a call, we can brighten things up for you.

Are you losing your view? We can top your trees.

If your garden isn't getting enough sunshine, we can help you with that too.

No job too big, no job too small. We have all the right equipment and 40+ years experience.

20% senior discount through April and May

10% discount to everyone else

WE WILL BEAT ALL LEGITIMATE ESTIMATES. PERIOD.

Office - 907 747 7342 cell - 907 738 2616

Register to VOTE

Voter Registration Reminder!

A Special Municipal Election is scheduled for May 28, 2025. You must be a registered voter in Sitka to be eligible to vote in the Election. If you plan to vote but aren't registered to vote in Sitka, you must complete registration by April 28, 2025.

To check voter registration status:
<https://myvoterportal.alaska.gov>

To register/update a voter registration record:
<http://voterregistration.alaska.gov>
or, visit the Municipal Clerk's Office at City Hall, 100 Lincoln Street, 3rd floor.

Election questions? Contact the Municipal Clerk's Office at 907.747.1826 or 907.747.1811.

Voter registration questions? Contact the State of Alaska Division of Elections at 1.866.948.8683 or 1.907.465.3021.



The City & Borough of Sitka has a wide range of full-time, benefitted opportunities across several departments including Finance, Centennial Hall, Electric, Assessing, Planning, Police, and Public Works. We offer a generous benefit package that includes PERS and SBS Retirement, Medical, Dental, Vision, Paid Leave, and Paid Holidays. The City & Borough of Sitka is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Please scan the above QR code or visit governmentjobs.com/careers/sitka for more information and call 747-1816 with any questions.

SENTINEL SPORTS

NCAA Settlement Goes to Judge for Decision

By EDDIE PELLAS
AP National Writer

The \$2.8 billion legal settlement designed to reshape college sports is now before a federal judge for a final decision.

Attorneys who hashed out the House settlement filed a brief that did not include changes urged by U.S. District Court Judge Claudia Wilken regarding team roster limits, saying such a late change to that rule would create havoc.

The plan on the table, the attorneys said, “is a vast improvement over the status quo” and they offered only a few tweaks to the sprawling deal announced last year that will clear the way for schools to begin sharing millions in revenue with their athletes and pay hundreds of millions more to former and current athletes who said they were illegally prevented from earning money.

The filing came late Monday in response to Wilken’s suggestion last week that the terms of the roster limit rules be adjusted “to grandfather in a group of rostered people” set to lose their spots on teams if the caps come into play.

The defendants — the NCAA and the nation’s five largest conferences — said such a move would “cause significant disruption.” They said countless roster moves have already been made in anticipation of the settlement going into effect on July 1.

“These decisions, in turn, cascaded into tens of thousands of decisions by individual student-athletes,” the attorneys said. “Many kept their pre-existing roster

spots (and may now receive scholarships), because the roster limits were designed to capture the average number of participants across a season and thereby minimize disruptions from the transition. Some transferred to new schools to seek roster spots and enhanced opportunities for athletic competition. ... while implementing a ‘grandfather’ provision might benefit some athletes, it would, at the same time, upset the settled expectations, enrollment decisions and other preparations of numerous other student-athletes and member institutions.”

Wilken has already granted preliminary approval of the settlement and called it a “good” deal, if imperfect. In addition to asking for Monday’s adjustments from attorneys on both sides of the case, Wilken asked for objectors to respond to the new brief on Tuesday and she received several.

One attorney said the settlement had ignored Title IX and thus committed a “1.1-billion-dollar error in calculation of damages that must be addressed” while a letter on behalf of Temple gymnast Emma Reathafoad said the deal violates prohibitions against harming class settlement members and, if approved, “will force schools who waited for the final approval order to unilaterally and unfairly cut thousands of athletes from their rosters without recourse.”

Attorneys expect Wilken’s final decision on the settlement to come in a matter of weeks.

In what was supposed to be the final hearing a week ago, more than a dozen ath-

letes and their lawyers outlines their objections to the terms.

Of all the arguments over the deal, which sets a template for schools to pay athletes directly for use of their name, image and likeness and outlines \$2.78 billion in back pay to athletes who played before NIL, those about roster limits appeared to make the biggest impact on Wilken.

Under current rules, schools must adhere to a scholarship limit in each sport, but there are no roster limits. There are spots for walk-ons and partial scholarship recipients, all of whom can later qualify for aid.

The new rules propose roster limits and make everyone eligible for scholarships. It could increase the total amount of aid available but is expected to cost athletes thousands of roster spots across the country as schools look to cut expenses to absorb higher costs.

One example: Some women’s swim teams currently divide 14 scholarships among 40 or more athletes. Under the new rules, most rosters would be capped at 30, but all those players could receive full rides.

Wilken said figuring out a way to delay implementation wouldn’t be that expensive and “would save a lot of good will and angst and unhappiness from a lot of students and their parents, so why not just do it?”

In their filing, attorneys said it would be too “unworkable,” with athletes perhaps seeking to start over after making a change: “And every additional ‘round’ of re-dos permitted would create a new set of poten-

tially affected student-athletes who might want re-dos themselves; with thousands if not more individual decisions having been made on the understanding the roster limits would likely go in effect in less than three months.”

The brief also argued that one of the most overlooked parts of the roster limits is how much more aid would go to athletes.

“Indeed, while it is unfortunate that a small number of athletes may ultimately have lost roster spots as a result of the settlement, the settlement afforded them an opportunity to compete for scholarships (or larger scholarships) and additional compensation and benefits that were not previously available,” they attorneys wrote.

The brief sought to address other concerns of the judge:

— By agreeing to clarify that future Division I athletes — they are covered under the 10-year term of the settlement even if they are not yet in college — will have a chance to object to the deal and not release any claims until they have a chance to be heard or until their 60-day objection window ends. The defendants are hoping to avoid an endless series of court challenges over the same issues of athlete compensation.

“College sports would be entirely unmanageable if individual future college athletes (or groups of future athletes) pursued different types of injunctive relief year over year over year,” the filing said. The settlement “works only if it is durable and applicable to all current and future class members.”

Volleyball Tourney Heats Up

By Sentinel Staff

Competing in another round of the City League volleyball tournament Tuesday, Yellow Jersey took down the YAPPERS 2-0 in a competitive division match. In the same division, Subway defeated Fisheye 2-1 in the consolation bracket, ending Fisheye’s season.

The Lancers will take on Yellow Jersey at the Blatchley gym at 8:45 p.m. tonight.

In recreational gameplay, the Wildflower Cookie Monsters overcame Sitka Dental 2-0, knocking Dental into the consolation bracket. The SEAR-HC Slammers notched a 2-1 victory over the Diggity Dogs as well.

Hays Helps Reds Beat Mariners



Reds’ Gavin Lux watches his RBI single during the third inning of a baseball game against the Seattle Mariners, Tuesday in Cincinnati. (AP Photo/Jeff Dean)

CINCINNATI (AP) — Austin Hays drove in four runs in his season debut, and the Cincinnati Reds beat Luis Castillo and the Seattle Mariners 8-4 on Tuesday night.

Hays, who signed with Cincinnati in free agency, singled in Matt McLain in the third inning. He capped the Reds’ four-run fifth with a three-run shot to center.

Hays missed the start of the season with a left calf strain that occurred on the final day of spring training.

Castillo (1-2) was charged with six runs and seven hits in 4 1/3 innings in his first career start against Cincinnati. He was traded from the Reds to the Mariners in July 2022.

Dylan Moore homered twice and drove in four runs for Seattle, which had won four in a row. Moore had three of the Mariners’ six hits.

Moore’s tiebreaking two-run homer

made it 4-2 in the fifth, but the Reds rallied in the bottom half.

Gavin Lux had four hits for Cincinnati in its fourth consecutive win. McLain walked three times and scored two runs in his return to the lineup after being sidelined by a hamstring injury.

Ben Williamson went 1 for 3 and scored a run in his big league debut with Seattle.

Reds left-hander Nick Lodolo permitted four runs and five hits in 4 2/3 innings. He struck out six and walked one.

Scott Barlow (1-0) got one out for the win.

Castillo had a seven-pitch first inning before throwing 53 pitches to get through the next two.

Right-hander Bryce Miller (0-2, 4.50 ERA) pitches for Seattle today, and right-hander Nick Martinez (0-2, 6.06 ERA) starts for Cincinnati.

Baseball Celebrates Jackie Robinson’s Legacy

By BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jackie Robinson was the first to break baseball’s color barrier with the Brooklyn Dodgers 78 years ago Tuesday. His legacy continues to inspire people inside the major leagues — and outside, too.

Players and staff from the Dodgers, including Shohei Ohtani, Mookie Betts and rookie Roki Sasaki, and the Colorado Rockies surrounded Robinson’s statue in Centerfield Plaza hours before game time in Los Angeles on Jackie Robinson Day around the major leagues.

They were joined by Basketball Hall of Fame player Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who turns 78 today. He recalled wearing a Brooklyn baseball cap while growing up in the neighboring borough of Manhattan.

“I’d get in fights with people from the Giants, the Yankees, pretty often,” he said, “but I kept my cap on and nobody was able to knock it off. I was so tall.”

Abdul-Jabbar, then known as Lew Alcindor, followed in Robinson’s footsteps as a sports star at UCLA, where he won three national championships under Hall of Fame coach John Wooden.

Robinson has continued to be a lifelong inspiration for Abdul-Jabbar.

“He meant excellence, giving your all, giving your best,” Abdul-Jabbar said, “and for all the detractors that are out there, just ignore them and keep on.”

Every team playing Monday wore No. 42 jerseys. It’s the only number universally retired in the majors.

“It’s not just a one-off day,” Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. “We under-



A statue of Jackie Robinson is seen at Dodger Stadium on Jackie Robinson Day before a baseball game, Tuesday in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

stand what this man did for our world, our country. This is how you go about life. This is something for me, keeping his legacy burning.”

Roberts, Ron Washington of the Los Angeles Angels and Will Venable of the Chicago White Sox are only Black managers currently in the majors.

“One of the things Jackie obviously nailed is he realized from an early time that life was going to be hard,” Roberts said. “He was special and he was put in this certain position to rise above and know that it’s not just about the game of baseball. It’s bigger than him.”

The Dodgers and Rockies were joined

by Sonya Pankey Robinson, the oldest grandchild of Jackie and Rachel Robinson and the only child of Jackie Jr., who was killed in a car accident in 1971 at age 24. Granddaughter Ayo Robinson, whose father is David Robinson, was on hand, too.

“He was so progressive in so many ways,” Pankey Robinson said of her grandfather. “When I think about him fondly, I just think about all of his contributions to society and to us as a family. I feel a real responsibility to uphold his values and I take that job very seriously.”

Robinson’s 102-year-old widow marked the anniversary at the Jackie Robinson Museum in Brooklyn with Commis-

sioner Rob Manfred.

“She is out looking great and greeting everyone,” Pankey Robinson said. “Not only did she instill the values that she knows my grandfather would expect us to uphold, but she had her own values and her own expectations of us early on to set goals for ourselves in life.”

Pankey Robinson lives near her grandmother in New York, saying, “We keep it close and tight.”

Robinson was in the news last month when a Defense Department page describing his military service was restored after it briefly went missing. The department has been removing content highlighting contributions by women and minority groups as part of a directive for President Donald Trump’s administration to delete material promoting diversity, equity and inclusion.

“Disheartening but not discouraged because I think what he’s done is etched in history and it’s not anyone else’s place to remove that,” Pankey Robinson said after the ceremony. “His impact is large and we feel good knowing, that while disappointed, what he did mattered.”

The Angels’ Washington learned about Robinson when he bought a book about him during a bus stop in Waterloo, Iowa, on a minor league trip in 1972.

“It impacted me tremendously to find out what he had to go through just to play the game of baseball,” Washington said, “and then you look back and say, ‘Wow, in this period could I have done that?’ I want to think I could, but I don’t know if I could.”

New York Yankees manager Aaron Boone called Robinson “one of the most important figures in American history.”

Federal Transgender Ban Generates Lawsuits

By WILL GRAVES
AP National Writer

Donald Trump, the candidate, pledged to get “transgender insanity the hell out of our schools” and “keep men out of women’s sports.”

Donald Trump, the president, wasted little time delivering on his promise to address a topic that seemed to resonate across party lines. Trump issued an executive order on the day his second term began that called for “restoring biological truth to the federal government” and signed another today titled “ Keeping Men Out of Women’s Sports.”

The federal government now has wide latitude across multiple agencies to penalize federally funded entities that “deprive women and girls of fair athletic opportunities.”

“The war on women’s sports is over,” Trump declared.

Probably not. Legal challenges like the ones against other executive orders aimed at transgender people are likely and today, the Trump administration sued Maine for not complying with the government’s push to ban transgender athletes in girls and women’s sports.

What is in the executive order?

The biggest takeaway is that the Trump administration has empowered the federal government to take aggressive steps to go after entities — be they a school or an athletic association and now a state — that do not comply. Federal funding, and potentially grants to educational programs, could be pulled.

The threshold for noncompliance: Any entity that denies “female students an equal opportunity to participate in sports and athletic events by requiring them, in the women’s category, to compete with or against, or to appear unclothed before males.”

The Education Department announced less than 24 hours after the order’s signing that it was investigating San Jose State University, the

University of Pennsylvania and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, all of which have had Title IX violations reported against them for allowing transgender athletes to compete. It also investigated Maine and last week referred the case to the Justice Department.

Determining “sex” vs. “gender” and how will that affect Title IX?

Every administration has the authority to issue its own interpretations of the landmark legislation best known for its role in ensuring gender equity in athletics and preventing sexual harassment on campuses.

Given the push-pull of how recent presidencies view Title IX, it has created a whiplash effect.

Joe Biden signed an executive order on his first day in office that interpreted sex as “gender identity” under Title IX, a move that protected transgender athletes from being discriminated against if they wanted to participate in a sport that aligned with their gender identity, not their sex assigned at birth.

Yet it took more than three years for Title IX regulations saying that to be finalized. And when they were, they lacked specifics sports and were put on hold by courts.

Trump’s order explicitly states that sex means the “immutable biological classification as either male or female.” ‘Sex’ is not a synonym for and does not include the concept of “gender identity.” The order adds that “sexes are not changeable and are grounded in fundamental and incontrovertible reality.”

The decision marks a significant shift in the way Title IX is viewed and more explicitly, how it will be enforced.

How many transgender athletes will be affected?

That number is hard to pin down.

The NCAA, for example, does not track data on transgender athletes among the 544,000 currently compet-

ing on 19,000 teams at various levels across the country, though NCAA President Charlie Baker testified in Congress in December that he was aware of fewer than 10 active NCAA athletes who identified as transgender.

A 2019 survey of high school students by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) noted just 5% of respondents said they participated in a sport that aligned with their gender identity. A 2022 report by the Williams Institute estimated about 300,000 high school-age students (ages 13-17) identified as transgender. How many of those young people participate in sports is unknown, but it is likely a tiny fraction.

Does the order have actual teeth?

The reach of Title IX extends far beyond the participation of transgender athletes. Noncompliance is believed to be widespread.

The Women’s Sports Foundation noted in a 2022 report that there were still “gross gender inequities” across all college divisions and that there was “cause for concern about widespread Title IX noncompliance in high school and college and university athletic programs” even before the COVID-19 pandemic made women’s sports even more vulnerable.

Yet to date no school at any level has had its federal funding rescinded for not meeting Title IX standards that require institutions to provide women with equal access and treatment, said Cheryl Cooky, a professor at Purdue University who studies the intersection of gender, sports, media and culture. She wondered where all this support for women’s sports in general — and not on this issue specifically — has been for the last five decades.

“All of these other inequalities have existed and now you’re in a position of power to address those opportunities and this is what you’re addressing?” Cooky said earlier this year. “The fact that this is the issue that the administration is concerned about speaks vol-

umes in terms of how we value women in this society and how we value women’s sports in this society.”

Yet given Trump’s unpredictable approach to governing, precedent and history might not apply.

How will this work at the state level?

About half the states have already enacted legislation that effectively bars transgender athletes from competing in the category that aligns with their gender identity. The AP reported in 2021 that in many cases, states introducing a ban on transgender athletes could not cite instances where their participation was an issue.

Some states are already planning to challenge the Trump order in court. Connecticut Attorney General William Tong called the order “mean spirited and unlawful” and called for those opposed to the order to “stand together and fight back.”

What also remains unclear is whether a federal agency can go after specific organizations — like state high school sports associations — that do not receive money directly from the federal government.

How will this affect college sports?

The NCAA Board of Governors moved quickly, amending its transgender participation policy to limit competition in women’s sports to athletes assigned female at birth. The NCAA has more than 500,000 athletes competing for some 1,100 schools.

“We strongly believe that clear, consistent, and uniform eligibility standards would best serve today’s student-athletes instead of a patchwork of conflicting state laws and court decisions,” Baker said then. “To that end, President Trump’s order provides a clear, national standard.”

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, the governing body for more than 200 small schools across the country, voted unanimously in 2023 to effectively ban transgender athletes from competing in women’s sports.

SPORTS CALENDAR

BASEBALL at Moller Field

THURSDAY

Noon Junior varsity Sitka v. Ketchikan
3 p.m. JV Sitka v. Ketchikan
6 p.m. Varsity Sitka v. Ketchikan

FRIDAY

1 p.m. JV Sitka v. Ketchikan
4 p.m. Varsity Sitka v. Ketchikan
7 p.m. Sitka v. Ketchikan

MEHS Field Public Notice

Mt. Edgecumbe 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.

Medvejie 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 Medvejie Hatchery and back. The half marathon turn-around is at the Green Lake Power House, 10K near the Medvejie 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/MedvejieSolsticeRun> (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.

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.

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My dad is a registered sex offender who has done time for his crimes against children. My mother has continued to have contact with him and has repeatedly chosen him over her own children. She doesn't respect our wishes, and we believe she gives him information about our lives and our images.

With a child on the way, I cannot continue the same level of contact with her because of this. I'm not willing to have my child be at her home because she has Dad there often. I'm also unwilling to give her photographs of my child because I believe she would share them with Dad. I won't leave her alone with my little one because I believe she'd immediately set up a get-together for my sex offender dad to have contact with my child.

How should I handle setting these boundaries? What do I do if other members of my family blame me for splitting up our family? -- MAMA BEAR IN OHIO

DEAR MAMA BEAR: You are the mama (bear), and you get to set the rules when it comes to who has access to your child. Because you cannot trust your mother not to ignore the boundaries you are setting, you will have to restrict her access to her grandchild. If this causes problems with other family members, so be it. You don't have to apologize to anyone for doing your job. Sex offenders are supposed to stay away from minor children after they have served their time. If they don't do that, they should be reported to the police.

DEAR ABBY: Is there ever a way to give unsolicited

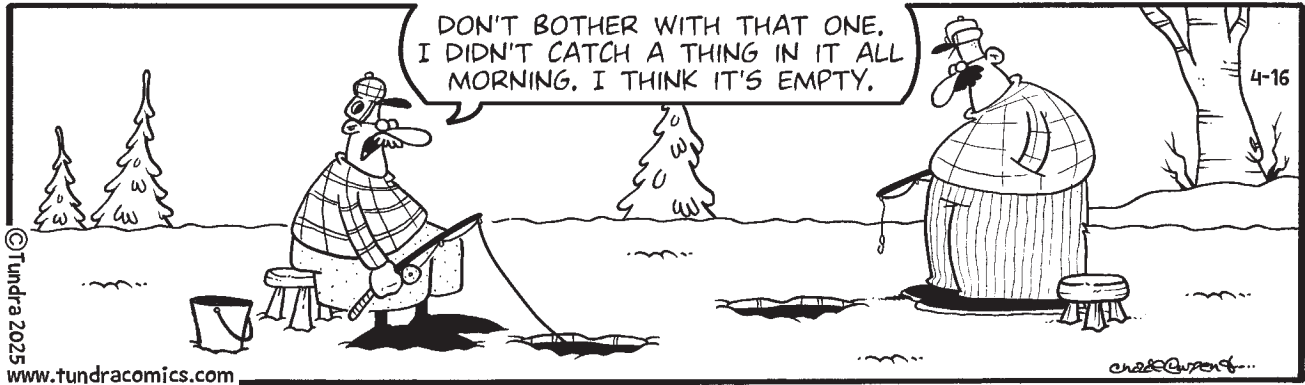
advice in a way it can be appreciated? A co-worker I've become friendly with spent the weekend in the hospital with off-the-charts high blood pressure. She went to the clinic for a headache last Friday, and they sent her to the ER immediately. I'm very worried she's going to have a stroke.

She's in an unhappy marriage to a man who is mean. When they fight, which is often, she retreats and goes out to eat in order to avoid him and feel better. She has also started drinking every night (she kids about how much wine she buys) and has put on a lot of weight. When she talks about trying to get healthy, we plan walking dates or to go to yoga at lunch.

What I really want to do is ask, "Have you thought about marriage counseling?" because if she could lower her relationship stress, the other things might be easier. She hasn't asked for my advice. Should I give it anyway? -- MINDING MY BUSINESS

DEAR MINDING: Eventually, yes. However, before you do that, please tell your co-worker she needs to have a serious talk with her physician about her blood pressure problem. There is medication for it, as well as certain dietary restrictions. After she has done that -- and her blood pressure is stabilized -- would be the time to suggest she talk with a marriage and family therapist about how to improve her relationship with her husband.

TUNDRA



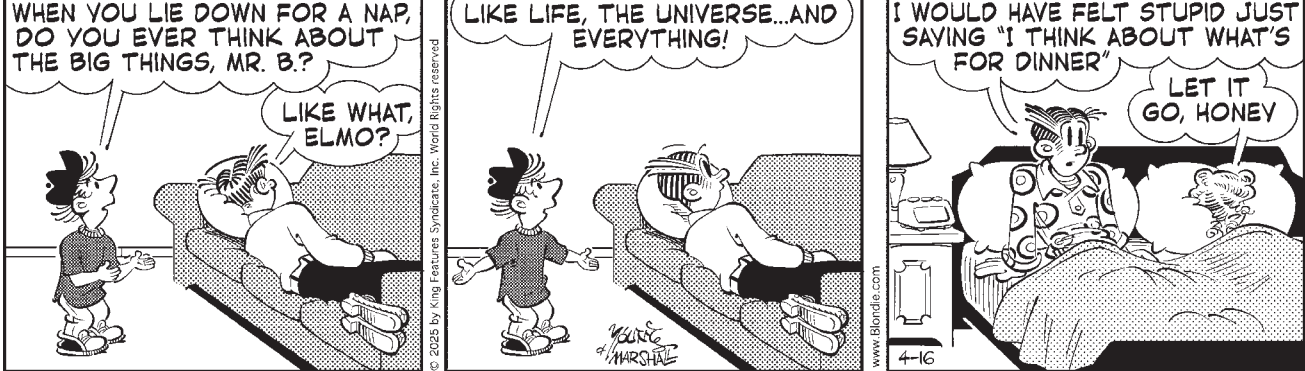
ZITS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



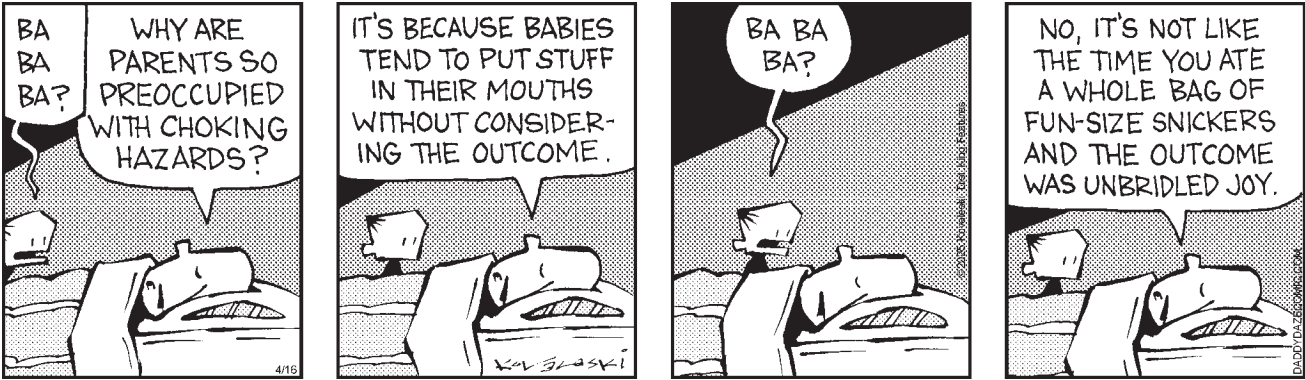
BLONDIE



GARFIELD



DADDY DAZE



SATURDAY'S CARTOON...



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Entertain

1 Mona Lisa 41 Hearty

feature dish

6 2006 Pixar 42 Takes a

film break

10 Writer's

work

11 Farm

carrier

12 Be of use

13 Suspect's

story

14 Signing

needs

15 Charged

16 Silvery

gray

17 Gallery fill

18 Jargon

suffix

19 Rows of

icons

22 At hand

23 Rank

above

viscount

26 Saloon

seat

29 Corp.'s

superior

32 Sinking

signal

33 Cow call

34 "Sit down!"

36 To-do

37 Acid type

38 Cardiff's

land

39 River

through

Alaska

DOWN

1 Be curt

with

2 Changes

the

subject,

perhaps

3 Sir Walter

Scott work

4 Floral

rings

5 Annex

6 Cry out

7 Like

gymnasts

8 Spa

garments

Remus

25 Least

binding

27 Non-

sense

28 Defeats

29 Fixes,

in a way

30 Full

range

31 Kid's ride

35 Be sure

36 Renown

38 Fighting

4-16

MIAMI	SABLE
ALLEN	PLAIN
JOINT	FILLING
OVA	OAT
RESENTS	OAR
WEE	CURD
PORES	LATTIE
APES	HAL
JUG	FATCATS
ALA	ALT
GEE	METAL
ANTIS	CENSE
STARE	EDGER

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10					11			
12					13			
14					15			
16					17			18
19					20			21
22					23			24
25					26			27
28					29			30
31					32			33
34					35			36
37					38			39
40					41			42

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.

4-16

CRYPTOQUOTE

YZVYDZ EOZ BV FAIIAJKDH.

XASZ NZ ET ZDZYGETH ETW

FEW. — NEOC BGETF

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: NEVER GIVE UP. TODAY IS HARD, TOMORROW WILL BE WORSE, BUT THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW WILL BE SUNSHINE. — JACK MA

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: EUROPEAN HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY (e.g., In which country is the westernmost point of continental Europe? Answer: Portugal.)

FRESHMAN LEVEL

1. This river flows from the Black Forest to the Black Sea. Answer _____
2. These mountains form the traditional boundary between Europe and Asia. Answer _____
3. This Ukrainian city was the site of a 1986 nuclear accident. Answer _____

GRADUATE LEVEL

4. His works include "Das Kapital" and "The Communist Manifesto." Answer _____
5. The "Enlightenment" is also known as the "Age of ____." Answer _____
6. On what island was the Minoan civilization? Answer _____

PH.D. LEVEL

7. King of the Franks and founder of the first empire in Western Europe after the fall of Rome. Answer _____
8. This killed as many as 50 million Europeans between 1346 and 1353. Answer _____
9. Two of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World were in Europe. Name either. Answer _____

ANSWERS: 1. Danube River, 2. (at Olympia), 3. The Colossus of Rhodes and the Statue of Zeus (at Olympia), 4. Karl Marx, 5. Reason, 6. Crete, 7. Chateaugay, 8. The Black Death, 9. The Colosseum, 10. The Colosseum, 11. The Colosseum, 12. The Colosseum, 13. The Colosseum, 14. The Colosseum, 15. The Colosseum, 16. The Colosseum, 17. The Colosseum, 18. The Colosseum, 19. The Colosseum, 20. The Colosseum, 21. The Colosseum, 22. The Colosseum, 23. The Colosseum, 24. The Colosseum, 25. The Colosseum, 26. The Colosseum, 27. The Colosseum, 28. The Colosseum, 29. The Colosseum, 30. The Colosseum, 31. The Colosseum, 32. The Colosseum, 33. The Colosseum, 34. The Colosseum, 35. The Colosseum, 36. The Colosseum, 37. The Colosseum, 38. The Colosseum, 39. The Colosseum, 40. The Colosseum, 41. The Colosseum, 42. The Colosseum.

Sitka by the Stars

For Thursday, April 17, 2025

The day is bursting with creative energy and optimism, and we're encouraged to take advantage of these cosmic vibes. We can harness today's planetary power for developing innovative projects, inspiring others, and stepping outside our comfort zone. For those of us who could use a mood boost, we can expect to find what we need. The only caveat for the day is that we may be missing the follow-through or stick-to-itiveness needed to execute our plans. However, sometimes all we need is a dream or a spark of inspiration to get going.

ARIES

(March 21 to April 19)
You have an idea that's worth pursuing. Go where you feel led.

TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20)
If you're feeling anxious or stressed, seek tools or techniques that can help you calm your mind. Things may not be as bad as you think.

GEMINI

(May 21 to June 20)
You may be feeling inspired to make a positive change in your community or the world around you. Join forces with people who want to do the same.

CANCER

(June 21 to July 22)
Your ability to attune to what others are thinking or feeling can enable you to make a positive impact as a leader or through the work you do.

LEO

(July 23 to Aug. 22)
Sometimes getting clear about what you want means giving yourself permission to dream about it. It can make the impossible possible.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
Your sixth sense is sharp today.

Trust your gut.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
It's an excellent time to promote or market yourself as you seem to know just what to say and how to get the message across.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
Be open to delegating tasks or duties to others so that you can make your life a little easier.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
Focus on what brings you fun and stokes your passions. You of all people know that life doesn't always need to be so serious.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
It's a quiet and reflective kind of day. Embrace it.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
You may experience a moment of serendipity that connects you to the right person at the right time.

PISCES

(Feb. 19 to March 20)
Involving yourself in projects that are meaningful to you can help you attract or manifest more money.

FOR TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

Whatever you do, you're going to give it 100%. You don't do anything halfheartedly, and you're definitely not timid. You're a person of passion, bravery and strength. You don't define yourself by labels, limitations, or other people's perceptions of you. You possess limitless potential. You often achieve success because you dare to try. Others either admire or envy you for your courage. However, you remain unfazed by the haters. This year, growth and expansion will be major themes in your life. Aim for the stars!

Sudoku 数独

ANSWER TO
YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

Difficulty: ★★

4/15

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

4/16

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.

WH New Media Policy Violates Order, AP Says

By DAVID BAUDER
AP Media Writer

The Associated Press says that a new White House media policy violates a court order by giving the administration sole discretion over who gets to question President Donald Trump, and the news agency asked a federal judge on Wednesday to enforce that order.

The swift move was in response to a policy issued late Tuesday by the White House, which suffered a courtroom loss last week over The Associated Press' ability to cover Trump. The plans, the latest attempt by the new administration to control coverage of its activities, sharply curtail the access of three news agencies that serve billions of readers around the world.

The AP filed Wednesday's motion with U.S. District Judge Trevor N. McFadden, asking for relief "given defendant's refusal to obey" his order last week. McFadden said the White House had violated the AP's free speech by banning it from certain presidential events because Trump disagreed with the outlet's decision not to rename the Gulf of Mexico.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt did not immediately return a message seeking comment on Wednesday. Leavitt is a defendant in the AP's lawsuit, along with White House chief of staff Susan Wiles and her deputy, Taylor Budowich.

The AP's lawsuit claimed that its First Amendment rights were violated by the White House blocking its reporters and photographers from covering Trump. McFadden ordered the administration to treat the AP as it does other news organizations.

For many years, the independent

ANS Spring Bazaar Set for Saturday

The annual Alaska Native Sisterhood Spring Bazaar will be held 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, April 19. Setup will be at 9 a.m. at the ANB Founders Hall.

Tables are \$30 and junior tables are \$25. Chef Brian Weddel will serve cheesey ham and broccoli chowder with smoked turkey sandwiches.

Marie Young and the Russian Orthodox Church ladies will sell Easter bread.

"There is a lot going on that day, so come visit us first!" ANS said.

For more information, call Debe Brincefield at 907 738-4323.

Town Hall . . .

Continued from Front Page

The Sheldon Jackson College closed in 2007 and since then the greater part of the campus has been owned by Alaska Arts Southeast, a nonprofit organization that uses the buildings and grounds for the summertime Sitka Fine Arts Camp and rents space to Outer Coast throughout the year.

The new college on the campus is meant to be "accessible to everybody," Sweeney-Taylor said.

Thursday's town hall comes as students and "staffulty" now have "enough of this first year of the undergraduate program under our belts" to consider ways to possibly reshape the program.

"This feels like a really good moment to sort of take stock of that and hear from the broader community about the ways that it feels like Outer Coast could be of service to all of Sitka," Sweeney-Taylor said.

Nicholas Bonnin, a first-year Outer Coast student from Houston, Texas, said today that feedback from community members is "vitaly important" to community buy-in for the college, and to shape its "curriculum of volunteering."

Students' regular service and labor activities include working with long-time cemetery caretaker Bob Sam, cooking meals for the community, supporting classes like the Tlingit violin program at Blatchley Middle School, and volunteering with organizations such as the Sitka Sound Science Center and SFAC.

Bonnin volunteers weekly with the Sitka Homeless Coalition, and called leaders Andrew Hinton and Denise Shaffer "wonderful, kind, caring people" who he can "build deep ties with" as part of his education.

Bonnin said that anyone who "works for or runs some sort of community organization or nonprofit" should attend the town hall to consider working with Outer Coast students.

The students' curriculum includes

Budget . . .

Continued from Front Page

"This is just the beginning of many tough decisions you're going to see over the next few weeks, between now and the end of May, and I don't think some of the folks in the building have quite grasped that yet," said Sen. Bert Stedman, R-Sitka and co-chair of the Senate Finance Committee in charge of the capital budget.

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

academic courses in writing, ecology, Indigenous studies and other disciplines, as well as practice in Tlingit song and dance, arts, traditional harvesting and other aspects of local cultures.

Last week, students helped host the college's fourth annual Learners Teaching Learners: Tlingit Language Conference with elders from across the region who participated in workshops and discussions about Tlingit language.

Bonnin explained that the school "works across the western and Indigenous paradigm," guiding students to "understand both and combine the two for a more complete and holistic worldview."

"I would impress upon people that the language work and culture work is so important, but it's also not all we do as a college," Bonnin said.

Bonnin said he hopes Sitkans will recognize Outer Coast students in the community "like, 'oh, this is a college student, and someone who is committed to living and learning and contributing to Sitka for two years.'"

He expects the school's presence will be noted next fall, when the student body doubles in size.

"We want being an Outer Coast student to mean something in the greater Sitka community," Bonnin said.

He encouraged people who only know Outer Coast "in passing," or have "no knowledge" of the college, to attend the town hall.

"That's something that we really want to change," Bonnin said.

Contempt . . .

Continued from Front Page

Administration officials have repeatedly criticized judges for reigning in the president's actions, accusing the courts of improperly impinging on his executive powers. Trump and his allies have called for impeaching Boasberg, prompting a rare statement from Chief Justice John Roberts, who said "impeachment is not an appropriate response to disagreement concerning a judicial decision."

Boasberg said He wrote that the government's "conduct betrayed a desire to outrun the equitable reach of the Judiciary."

Boasberg said the government could avoid contempt proceedings if it takes custody of the deportees, who were sent to the El Salvador prison in violation of his order, so they have a chance to challenge their removal. It was not clear how that would work because the judge said the government "would not need to release any of those individuals, nor would

Wrangell Schools Supt. Resigning After 4 Years

By LARRY PERSILY
Wrangell Sentinel writer

Bill Burr has submitted his resignation as Wrangell schools superintendent, effective June 30.

The school board was scheduled to accept his resignation at its monthly meeting Monday, and then move into executive session to discuss its options for the job.

Burr started with the Wrangell schools in the summer of 2021, coming to work from the Delta/Greely School District in Alaska's Interior, where he had been assistant superintendent since 2014. He had also served as director of technology and as a fill-in principal in the district.

This is his 28th year working at Alaska public schools.

Burr declined comment last week on his pending departure.

"I thought he has done an excellent job for the district," School Board President Dave Wilson said last week. "We're sorely going to miss him."

Burr moved to Alaska in 1997. His first full-time teaching job was in Mountain Village, in the Lower Yukon School District in Western Alaska. He later worked for the Aleutians East Borough School District as tech director before moving to the Delta/Greely District in 2014.

Wilson, who is in his ninth year on the school board, said Burr has been the best of the three superintendents he

has worked with.

The agenda for Monday's school board meeting included an executive session, which Wilson said would focus on "how to go about filling" the position of superintendent.

The board will consider all options, he said, including hiring a new superintendent, contracting out the work or sharing the duties with another administrator in the district.

"We have to do something," Wilson said.

State law allows elected officials to discuss personnel issues in executive session — a closed-door meeting — but any votes and decisions must be disclosed in a public session.

The school board and district administrators are immersed in writing their budget for the 2025-2026 school year, facing a deficit of several hundred thousand dollars to match revenues with spending. Wrangell schools have been draining their reserves for several years amid flat state funding and lower enrollment numbers than before the pandemic.


State funding, which covers more than half of the school district budget, is based on enrollment.

Even with a significant boost in state and/or municipal funding, the district will have to cut spending for the next school year to avoid completely draining its reserve fund.

istration last month not to deport anyone in its custody under the Alien Enemies Act after Trump invoked the 1798 wartime law over what he claimed was an invasion by the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua.


When Boasberg was told there were already planes in the air headed to El Salvador, which has agreed to house deported migrants in a notorious prison, the judge said the aircraft needed to be returned to the United States. But hours later, El Salvador's president, Nayib Bukele, announced that the deportees had arrived in his country. In a social media post, he said, "Oopsie...too late" above an article referencing Boasberg's order.

The administration has argued it did not violate any orders, noted the judge did not include the turnaround directive in his written order and said the planes had already left the U.S. by the time that order came down.



Sitka Native Education Program

Celebrating 50 Years
1974-2024



SNEP staff learn new things too. Part of the program funds went to teaching instructors first aid in case of emergencies. Here Yeidikook'áa (Isabella Brady) and Dr. Kéet Tláa (Anne Johnson) perform CPR on a dummy in 1984.

Sitka Native Education Program is celebrating 50 years of reclaiming Haa Kusteeyí, our way of life.

Join us on April 19th, 2025 from Noon to 9PM at the Harrigan Centennial Hall for our 50th Celebration Event.


All are welcome!


Why Wait???




NORTHERN LIGHTS
INDOOR GARDENS

Come see us at Northern Lights Indoor Gardens on 4/19 and 4/20

 Special prices on 14 new flower strains!

 Discounts on selected Edibles!

 Drawings for door prizes!!!

Sawmill Creek Plaza

1321 Sawmill Creek Road, Suites M-P, all the way at the end!