



DAILY SITKA SENTINEL

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Sitka Loses Teachers In Proposed Budget

Editor's Note: This morning, Gov. Dunleavy vetoed a bill which included a \$1,000 increase to the base student allocation for Alaska schools. See story on this page for details on the veto, and its implications for state education funding.

GARLAND KENNEDY
Sentinel Staff Writer

A school budget that would cut expenses by terminating up to four elementary school teaching positions was discussed by the School Board at a special work session Wednesday.

As proposed, the budget would cut two teaching positions at Keet Gooshi Heen Elementary and two at Xoots Elementary. With those changes the district would have a budget reserve of \$777,000 at the end of the 2026 fiscal year.

The cuts "are generally elementary teachers, because we have other staff that could be moved into those that have elementary certifications," district superintendent Deidre Jenson said. "If we're looking at other things, we're looking at programming, which would be counselors, specials, other certifications. There's more elementary teachers than there are specialized teachers."

On the revenue side, the proposal assumes a state funding increase of \$680 per student, the same figure as the one-time increase provided by the state last year. Following Gov. Dunleavy's veto of a school funding bill today, state funding for schools remains an open question for the coming fiscal year.

The total spending in the fiscal year 2026 budget under this plan would be \$23.7 million, up from \$22.1 million in the revised FY25 budget.

Jenson presented alternative plans, showing that cutting only two positions would leave reserves at \$557,000.

Keeping three would leave \$447,000 in reserves, and retaining all four would drop reserves to \$337,000.

Board member Steve Morse said "this is the most transparent budget I've ever seen, and it's balanced. And I think that what we've come up with is we would like some of the things put back in there, like positions for teaching."

He added that while he may support working to find money to keep teaching positions from being cut, a line item-by-line item discussion was not in the board's purview.

"I personally think that I'm real happy with this, and I would say that, in comparison to a lot of other school districts, they can't find this -- a balanced budget at this point in time in the school year. I think it's impressive," Morse concluded.

Board member Amanda Williams was concerned about the continual loss of staff year by year. The district cut 18 teaching positions in the FY25 budget cycle.

"I keep seeing this drop in teaching staff, and that's something that I'm definitely concerned about, especially when you're talking about 21 students in a kindergarten class," Williams said, citing a 31 percent drop in teaching staff between 2014 and the present. "That's a lot... We can see an actual increase in special ed teachers. We see an increase in specialists, we see an increase in admin, and we see counselors holding steady, but we see certified teachers dropping in each round of these budgets, and that's something that I don't feel comfortable voting for."

"I look through all of these line items, and I am wondering, well, maybe we can pinch a little here and pinch a little there, and \$65,000 here and

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\$1,000 Increase in BSA Vetoed by Dunleavy

**By JAMES BROOKS and
CORINNE SMITH**
Alaska Beacon

For the second year running, Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy vetoed an education funding bill on today, citing a lack of policy changes he supported.

House Bill 69 would have increased the base student allocation — the core of the state's per-student funding — by \$1,000 in the funding formula. The BSA has not been substantially increased for more than a decade, and public school advocates testified that inflation-driven cost increases have resulted in cuts to programs, school closures, and larger class sizes.

The governor's veto is subject to a vote of the Alaska Legislature. Under the Alaska Constitution, a vote to con-

firm or override the vote must be held "immediately," but multiple lawmakers have said that the bill lacks enough support for a veto override. Votes from 40 of 60 state legislators, meeting in joint session, are needed for an override.

Last year, the education funding bill included a \$680 per-student increase. That bill had broad bipartisan support, with only three Republican legislators voting against it. But after Dunleavy vetoed it, 20 Republicans voted to uphold the veto. This year, none of the 25 members of the two Republican minority caucuses voted for the bill. The three co-chairs of the Senate Finance Committee voted against it.

<https://alaskabeacon.com/james-brooks>
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Alaska Senate Passes Corporate Tax Update

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

A change to Alaska's corporate income tax structure is expected to add as much as \$65 million per year to the state treasury by diverting money from other states.

The Alaska Senate voted 16-4 on Tuesday to approve Senate Bill 113, which clarifies that online sales to Alaskans amount to business activity within the state.

If passed by the House and approved by Gov. Mike Dunleavy, it would be the state's first new revenue-generating law in years.

Sen. Bill Wielechowski, D-Anchorage and the sponsor of the bill, said that without the change, businesses can say that the location of an online sale is a server farm or warehouse outside of the state, making it ineligible for Alaska taxation.

Passing the bill is a step toward resolving a major budget deficit, he said, adding that the change won't have an impact on Alaskans and isn't a tax increase. Thirty-six other states have adopted similar tax rules.

"It's about as close as you can get to a unicorn bill to raise money for the

Correction

A story in the Wednesday edition of the Sentinel incorrectly stated the salary of City Administrator John Leach after the raise offered by the Assembly. The raise will make the administrator's salary \$170,000, not \$175,000 as erroneously stated in the Sentinel story. Also, the story had an error in the figure for Leach's starting salary in 2019, which was \$125,000, not \$140,000. The Sentinel regrets the errors.

state of Alaska," he said during a news conference on Tuesday.

"It's a bill that doesn't raise taxes on Alaskans, doesn't raise taxes on Alaskan businesses. It's not going to cost any more simply changing the structure of our corporate income tax. It will probably, quite frankly, shift money from other states to the state of Alaska, and so it'll be a unicorn. It's kind of a rarity. There's probably not too many of these out there," Wielechowski said.

Sen. Matt Claman, D-Anchorage, said the bill is necessary to modernize the state's tax system.

"You can get pretty much anything online and it comes to your door, and many of these companies that are doing business here in Alaska pay a little or no corporate income tax due due to what has become, I think, an outdated structure for how we assess companies that are primarily located out of state," he said.

Opposition came from four Republican members of the Senate minority, including Sen. Shelley Hughes, R-Palmer, who said she believes it is inappropriate to pass a new revenue measure without also considering changes to the state's spending cap.

Senate Minority Leader Mike Shower, R-Wasilla, also voted against the bill, saying he doubts Wielechowski's claims and believes costs will be passed to Alaskans.

"Somewhere, somebody's paying more money if we're raising taxes. The businesses are not charities," he said.

SB 113 has been referred to the House Finance Committee for further hearings.

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



Glass Field Trip

REACH Home School student Ruby Schalow, 8, twists and pulls molten glass Monday as Linda Barker Olsen, a 16-year glass sculptor, supervises Monday at Wild Arts Gallery & Glass Studio on Lincoln

Street. Barker Olsen's niece, the late Michelle Barker, opened the work space with her son Ryan Harris., who continues to make art at the studio. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)

House OKs Budget Plan With Deficit, \$1.4K PFD

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

The Alaska House of Representatives on Wednesday approved a \$6.2 billion draft state operating budget, putting Alaska on track for a significant deficit in the fiscal year that begins July 1.

If Wednesday's draft is added to a capital budget draft passed Tuesday by the Senate and a planned supplemental budget needed to fix a deficit in the current fiscal year, total general-purpose spending is near \$6.6 billion.

Meanwhile, the Alaska Department of Revenue expects \$6.1 billion in general-purpose revenue during the upcoming fiscal year. The House is proposing to spend from the Constitutional Budget Reserve, the state's main savings account, to balance the budget.

"This is the best our body can do right now," said House Majority Leader Chuck Kopp, R-Anchorage.

Kopp went on to say that the House-passed budget is preliminary and subject to change by the Senate.

An earlier version of the House budget included \$2.5 billion for the 2025 Permanent Fund dividend, enough to pay almost \$3,900 to every recipient. To reduce the size of the expected deficit, the House voted to cut PFD spending to \$950 million, a payout of about \$1,400 per recipient.

"Some may argue that we should cut the fat. What fat is there? We are at the bone," said Rep. Andy Josephson, D-Anchorage and co-chair of the House Finance Committee.

The one major increase in the budget is an \$86 million increase to K-12

public school funding, equivalent to a one-time \$1,000 increase to the base student allocation, core of the state's per-student funding formula.

Last year, lawmakers approved a one-time \$680 increase to the BSA.

"I want to celebrate today ... this is a pro-growth budget that puts our state on a path toward prosperity," said Rep. Zack Fields, D-Anchorage.

Wednesday's vote fell along caucus lines, as all 21 members of the House's coalition majority — 2 Republicans, 5 independents and 14 Democrats — voted in favor of the budget draft.

All 19 members of the House's Republican minority voted against it, with some citing the deficit.

"This budget is a bunch of lofty promises. That's what's so heartbreaking about it, because everybody here

knows they will not be kept," said Rep. Sarah Vance, R-Homer and a member of the minority.

Vance and other members of the minority said the budget is unsustainable because it relies on spending from savings. Even if the CBR — which contains \$2.8 billion — is sufficient to cover this year's deficit, it may not be enough to cover next year's projected gap, which is expected to be worse.

"This budget makes promises it can't keep," said Rep. DeLena Johnson, R-Palmer and a member of the minority.

"It will probably be the other body that takes on the responsibility that we have given up," she said, referring to the Senate.

Senate leaders have said through-

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AmeriCorps Announces Nationwide Job Cuts

EDITOR'S NOTE: See related story on this page about the AmeriCorps cutbacks as they affect Sitka.

By HANNAH FINGERHUT
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Young volunteers who respond to natural disasters and help with community projects across the U.S. have been discharged as a result of the Trump administration's campaign to shrink

government workforce and services.

AmeriCorps' National Civilian Community Corps informed volunteers Tuesday that they would exit the program early "due to programmatic circumstances beyond your control," according to an email obtained by The Associated Press.

More than 2,000 people ages 18 to 26 serve for nearly a year, according to the program's website, and get assigned to projects with nonprofits and

community organizations or the Federal Emergency Management Agency. It celebrated its 30th year last year.

The volunteers are especially visible after natural disasters, including Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and Hurricane Helene last year. The organization said on social media last month that teams have served 8 million service hours on nearly 3,400 disaster projects since 1999.

Jordan Kinsler, 23, has worked with FEMA Corps for the last nine months, traveling from Minnesota communities impacted by floods to ones in North Carolina touched by Helene. He and his team were on their final project at FEMA headquarters in Washington when they got word Tuesday that they wouldn't be able to finish.

Kinsler, who is from Long Island, New York, said they packed that night and left Wednesday morning for their home base in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Kinsler said he's proud of the work he's done and had hoped to apply for a permanent position.

"To have this ripped right from us at

the very end, it felt insulting," he said.

A White House official said the Trump administration questioned using taxpayer money for the program. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly. The AP sent an email Wednesday seeking comment from AmeriCorps.

Funding for AmeriCorps and NCCC has long been included when there are talks in Congress of budget trims. The federal agency's budget showed NCCC funding amounted to nearly \$38 million last fiscal year.

The unsigned memo to members said NCCC's "ability to sustain program operations" was impacted by "new operational parameters" laid out by the Trump administration's priorities and President Donald Trump's executive order creating the Department of Government Efficiency. Members, who receive a living allowance and have basic expenses covered, would be paid through the end of April, according to the memo.

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Sitka AmeriCorps Jobs Not Affected by Cuts

ANNA LAFFREY
Sentinel Staff Writer

While the Trump administration has announced workforce reductions in the federal AmeriCorps program, the ten AmeriCorps volunteers in Sitka are not affected, local Program Director Sarah Lawrie said today.

Lawrie said the longstanding volunteer roles AmeriCorps volunteers play in Sitka are not affected by this week's federal reductions in force because the Sitka AmeriCorps program is administered at the state level, not the federal level.

Cuts to AmeriCorps are aimed at the federal agency's National Civilian Community Corps program that's "almost exclusively federally funded and operated" out of Washington, D.C., Lawrie said.

The AmeriCorps NCCC program provides volunteers for entities such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Forest Service, she explained.

Meanwhile, the State of Alaska administers the AmeriCorps program for Sitka through the Serve Alaska Commission. The state commission is funded by annual grants from the federal AmeriCorps agency.

As of today, the state commission has no plans for its current AmeriCorps positions to be terminated, Lawrie said.

"That's the messaging that we're getting from the upper echelons about the current situation," Lawrie said.

"That does not mean things will not change, but as of today, we're still good, at least through the end of this term for the current members who are currently serving."

The ten volunteers in Sitka's "multi-focus" AmeriCorps program this year have positions in the Sitka School District, Mt. Edgecumbe High School and various nonprofit organizations, Lawrie said.

Some of those positions will end in late May, and some will end in late July, Lawrie said.

While the volunteers can keep their jobs for now, "we cannot be naive as to what might be coming," Lawrie said. "Right now the focus of the Department of Government Efficiency is on staffing and reductions in force, and not grant-making."

Lawrie said that her program, including her position as director, is funded by the annual AmeriCorps grants.

Lawrie said grant funding for her volunteer program is uncertain.

"It's literally just a day-by-day, you know, 'What spotlight has DOGE decided to shine today?'"

"This would be a very good time for people to reach out to their congresspeople and, you know, share stories about how great AmeriCorps is in Sitka, and how wonderful the members are, and the personal experience with the impact that they have on the community," Lawrie said.



As President Barack Obama and former President Bill Clinton mark the 20th anniversary of the AmeriCorps national service program, hundreds of new volunteers are sworn in for duty at a ceremony in 2014, on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, file)

Letters to the Editor

Revenue Response

Dear Editor: I am writing in response to David Rice, who asked why more of the cruise ship head tax revenue is not being shared with the residents of Sitka.

In 2022, the Alaska Supreme Court ruled that head taxes must be used in a way that benefits the cruise ships themselves, not just the tourism industry or city infrastructure.

The court clearly said that using the head tax in any other way violates the Constitution. In other words, the city can't use the head tax to lower utility rates, fix potholes, or anything else that does not directly benefit the cruise ships without breaking the law.

I believe, for example, this is why the restroom trailer used around Lincoln Street in the summer is locked on days there are no ships in town, even

if Sitka is having a parade; it was purchased with head tax funds, and must be used only to benefit the cruise ships.

However, unlike the head tax, the extra sales tax revenue from tourists is being used for the general benefit of the citizens of Sitka. That extra revenue already helps pay to keep the city roads plowed, the utilities running, and the public safety departments funded, and the teachers employed. Imagine how much greater the tax burden would be on the citizens of Sitka if we weren't collecting sales tax revenue from tourists. This, of course, is in addition to the voter-approved 1% summer sales tax increase that pays for school maintenance.

Yes, the tourists are also helping to pay to keep our schools maintained, and I for one think that is great!

Chad Goeden, Sitka

Trump Threatens Powell On High Interest Rates

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, AAMER MADHANI, and JOSH BOAK**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump attacked Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell today for not cutting interest rates and said he could fire him if he wanted to, renewing a threat from his first term that could cause a major legal showdown over the issue of the central bank's long-standing political independence.

"If I want him out, he'll be out of there real fast, believe me," Trump said in the Oval Office while taking questions from reporters during a visit with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. "I'm not happy with him."

Trump's comments followed a posting on his social media site in which the Republican president called on Powell to lower the Fed's short-term interest rate and said, "Powell's termination cannot come fast enough!" The Fed chair's term ends in May 2026.

Powell was initially nominated by Trump in 2017 and was appointed to another four-year term by Democratic President Joe Biden in 2022. At a November news conference, Powell indicated he would not step down if Trump asked him to resign and in remarks Wednesday, made clear that "our independence is a matter of law." He added: "We're not removable except for cause. We serve very long terms, seemingly endless terms."

Trump's criticism stems from his view that, as he said today, "we have essentially no inflation." The Fed sharply raised rates in 2022 and 2023 to slow borrowing and spending and tame inflation, which dropped steadily from a peak of 9.1% in 2022 to 2.4% last month. Inflation is not far from the Fed's target of 2%. The Fed even cut rates three times at the end of last year.

But since then, Powell and most other Fed policymakers have underscored that they are keeping rates on hold because of the uncertainty created by Trump's sweeping tariffs, including a 10% tax on all imports and a 145% levy on imports from China.

In remarks Wednesday in Chicago, Powell reiterated that the Fed was waiting for greater clarity before making any moves and said the tariffs would likely worsen inflation.

Powell has steadfastly maintained that the Fed is independent from politics, a stance that Fed chairs have stressed since at least the 1970s. Back then, the Fed was widely seen as worsening a 15-year run of high inflation by giving in to demands from President Richard Nixon to keep interest rates low in the run-up to the 1972 election.

Economic research has suggested an independent central bank is more likely to keep inflation in check because it is more willing to do unpopular things, such as lift interest rates, to fight rising prices. Wall Street investors also largely prefer an independent Fed, though the stock market did not appear to react to Trump's comments.

Powell said Wednesday that the Fed will base its decisions solely on what's best for all Americans.

"That's the only thing we're ever

going to do," Powell said. "We're never going to be influenced by any political pressure."

He also suggested that the central bank will focus on fighting inflation in the wake of the tariffs, which would likely mean they would keep rates elevated.

Trump complained that interest rates are still rising "because we have a Federal Reserve chairman that is playing politics." Yet longer-term rates rose after Trump announced his trade penalties.

Trump and members of his economic team have said they would like longer-term interest rates to fall, which would make it cheaper for Americans to borrow to buy homes, cars and appliances. Yet the Fed controls a short-term rate and can only indirectly affect longer-term borrowing costs.

A case before the Supreme Court could make it easier for a president to fire top officials, such as the Fed chair, at independent agencies. At issue are two Trump firings, which the justice have let stand while they consider the case.

Powell said he is watching the case closely but that it might not apply to the Fed, given that the court has in the past carved out exemptions for the central bank. Lawyers for the Trump administration, seeking to narrow the focus of the case, have also argued that it does not involve the Fed.

In a 2024 campaign interview with Bloomberg News, Trump said he would allow Powell to serve out his term as chair. Earlier this month, Trump's top economic adviser, Kevin Hassett, said in a television interview that "there's not going to be any political coercion over the Fed, for sure."

Powell started Trump's second term in a relatively secure spot with a low unemployment rate and inflation progressing closer to the Fed's 2% target, conditions that could have spared him from the president's criticism.

But Trump's tariffs have increased the threat of a recession with higher inflationary pressures and slower growth, a tough spot for Powell, whose mandate is to stabilize prices and maximize employment. With the economy weakening because of Trump's moves, the president appears to be looking to pin the blame on Powell.

On April 2, Trump rolled out increased tariff hikes backed off U.S. trade deficits with other nations, causing a financial market backlash that almost immediately led him to announce a 90-day pause.

Wall Street banks such as Goldman Sachs have raised their odds that a recession could start. Consumers are increasingly pessimistic in surveys about their job prospects and fearful that inflation will shoot up as the cost of the import taxes get passed along to them.

The Budget Lab at Yale University estimated that the increased inflationary pressures from the tariffs would be equal to the loss of \$4,900 in an average U.S. household.

Weather

Sitka Forecast

For tonight expect a low of 39 degrees with rain. On Friday, a high of 46 degrees, an overnight low of 38 degrees, with rain and wind 10-15 mph.

Sitka Weather

Temperatures ranged from 38 to 46 degrees, winds were fairly calm, and no rain fell in the 24 hours ending at midnight last night.

LETTERS POLICY

The Sentinel welcomes Letters to the Editor on issues of local interest. Letters should be 500 words or fewer. A letter should be addressed to the editor, and not be a copy of a letter to a third party. Letters must be signed with the writer's name. Anonymous letters or those written under a pseudonym will not be considered. No more than one letter per person per month, please. Letters may be edited for length or content. A phone number must be provided for verification purposes, but it will not be printed. Letters from local residents will be given preference.



Visitors stop at the statue of John Harvard in Harvard Yard at Harvard University, Tuesday, in Cambridge, Mass. (AP Photo/Charles Krupa)

Trump Steps Up Attack On Harvard, Students

By **ANNIE MA, FATIMA HUSEIN and ALIA WONG**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's administration has escalated its ongoing battle with Harvard, threatening to revoke the university's ability to host international students as the president called for withdrawing Harvard's tax-exempt status.

The moves raise the stakes of the showdown between the White House and the nation's oldest, wealthiest and arguably most prestigious university, which on Monday became the first to openly defy the administration's demands related to activism on campus, antisemitism and diversity.

The Department of Homeland Security ordered Harvard late Tuesday to turn over "detailed records" of its foreign student visa holders "illegal and violent activities" by April 30. The department also said it was canceling two grants to the school totaling \$2.7 million.

By taking action against international students and the school's tax status, the administration struck at two pillars of Harvard, where international students make up 27% of the campus, and the majority of the student body is in graduate school, often conducting nationally prominent research. Furthermore, the school has risen to distinction by attracting the world's top talent and large, tax-deductible gifts from the country's richest donors.

The federal government has already frozen more than \$2 billion in grants and contracts to the Ivy League institution.

Leo Gerdén, a senior from Sweden, said many international students at Harvard are "scared of speaking up" because they feel merely attending the school has put a target on their back.

"It's incredibly scary for people," Gerdén said. "All student visas right now at Harvard are at risk, and what the Trump administration is trying to do is divide us."

"Harvard without its international community is simply not Harvard," added Gerdén, who is studying economics and government. If the institution were unable to admit people from abroad, "it would be incredibly tough for this university, for its students, for its academic community. So we should really fight with whatever means we have to make sure that doesn't happen."

The threat to Harvard's ability to host international students comes as the administration has quietly deleted the records and ended the legal status of international students at schools across the country. The students have been left with no clear recourse on how to regain their legal status in the U.S. while fearing deportation.

At least 1,024 students at 160 colleges, universities and university systems have had their visas revoked or their legal status terminated since late March, according to an Associated Press review of university statements, correspondence with school officials and court records.

White House suggests tax status was under review before Trump's post

The White House suggested IRS scrutiny of Harvard's tax status predated the president's post on Truth Social. Federal tax law prohibits senior members of the executive branch from requesting that an IRS employee conduct or terminate an audit or investigation.

"Any forthcoming actions by the IRS will be conducted independently of the President, and investigations into any institution's violations of its tax status were initiated prior to the President's TRUTH!" White House spokesman Harrison Fields said.

But a person familiar with the matter said the Treasury Department directed Andrew De Mello, the IRS's acting chief counsel, to begin the process of revoking Harvard's tax-exempt status shortly after Trump's post. The person spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal matters.

Tax exemptions enable universities to receive large donations from major funders who want to decrease their tax burdens, which was instrumental in helping Harvard amass the nation's largest university endowment at \$53 billion.

The hold on federal money for research at Harvard marked the seventh time the administration has taken such a step at one of the nation's most elite colleges. The government is attempting to force compliance with Trump's political agenda at schools he accuses of pushing "woke" policies and allowing antisemitism to fester.

In a letter to Harvard on Friday, Trump's administration called for broad government and leadership reforms at the university, plus changes to its admissions policies. It also demanded that the university audit views of diversity on campus and stop recognizing some student clubs.

Separately, the House Oversight Committee said today that it would open an investigation into Harvard, accusing the school of a "lack of compliance with civil rights laws."

Harvard president says school will not submit to the administration's orders

Harvard President Alan Garber said Monday that the university would not bend to the government's demands. Later that day, the White House announced the freeze of more than \$2.2 billion in multi-year grants and \$60 million in contracts.

In a statement issued today, the university said the latest threats follow "on the heels of our statement that Harvard will not surrender its independence or relinquish its constitutional rights."

The school sticks by its stance and "will continue to comply with the law and expect the Administration to do the same."

Any federal action taken against a Harvard-affiliated individual should "be based on clear evidence, follow established legal procedures and respect the constitutional rights afforded to all individuals," the Thursday statement added.

Conservative strategist Christopher Rufo said the government should respond to Harvard's defiance by cutting all federal money and stripping non-profit status at Harvard and other Ivies that defy federal orders. Rufo urged the government to use the same tools it used during the Civil Rights Movement to force desegregation.

"Trump needs to follow through on his threat to defund one of the Ivy League universities," Rufo said Tuesday on social media. "Cut the funding and watch the university implode."

Rufo said Harvard has discriminated against white and Asian American students, citing events such as graduation celebrations specific to certain ethnic groups, along with a 2021 theater performance exclusively "for Black-identifying audience members."

Nonprofit status, which is required for donations to be tax deductible, is contingent on an organization following IRS rules governing lobbying, political campaign activity and annual reporting obligations, among other requirements.

While "it's easy for a 501(c)(3) organization to maintain its tax exempt status," according to IRS publications, it "can be just as easy to lose it."

Former Harvard President Larry Summers, who also served as treasury secretary under former President Bill Clinton, decried the threat to remove Harvard's status.

"Any self-respecting Treasury Secretary would resign rather have the Department be complicit in the weaponization of the IRS against a political adversary of the President," he said on social media.

For the Trump administration, Harvard presents the first major hurdle in its attempt to force change at universities that Republicans say have become hotbeds of liberalism and antisemitism.

Trump's campaign started at Columbia University, which initially agreed to several demands from the Trump administration but took a more emboldened tone after Harvard's defiance. Columbia's acting president, Claire Shipman, said in a campus message Monday that some of the demands "are not subject to negotiation" and that she read of Harvard's rejection with "great interest."

Trump has targeted schools accused of tolerating antisemitism amid a wave of pro-Palestinian protests on U.S. campuses. Some of the government's demands touch directly on that activism, calling on Harvard to impose tougher discipline on protesters and to screen international students for those who are "hostile to the American values."

Archon Fung, a professor of democracy at Harvard, called for "friends of academic freedom" and higher education to stand together.

"The government has an enormous amount of power — taxing power, investigatory power," Fung said. "I don't know who wins that struggle in the end."

Judge to Hear Lawsuits Against Elections Order

By **ALI SWENSON**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge today said she would wait to decide whether to grant a preliminary injunction to national Democrats and voting rights groups that are challenging President Donald Trump's recent executive order on elections.

U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly in Washington, D.C., said she would consider each party's responses to her questions and aim for a ruling in the next week.

The Democratic National Committee, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the League of Women Voters Education Fund and others are seeking to block Trump's sweeping overhaul of federal election processes, which, among other changes, would require proof of citizenship to register to vote in federal elections.

The Republican president's executive order says the U.S. has failed "to enforce basic and necessary election protections" and calls on states to work with federal agencies to share voter lists and prosecute election crimes. It threatens to pull federal funding from states where election officials don't comply.

It also aims to mandate major changes to election processes, including adding a proof-of-citizenship requirement to the federal voter registration form and requiring all mail ballots to be received, rather than just postmarked, by Election Day nationwide.

The plaintiffs argue Trump's order is illegal because it asserts power that he does not have over an independent agency. That agency, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, sets voluntary voting system guidelines and maintains the federal voter registration form.

The plaintiffs also argue the order violates the Constitution, which says that states — not the president — get to decide the "times, places and manner" of how elections are run. The Constitution's so-called Elections Clause also gives Congress the power to "make or alter" election regulations, at least for federal office, but it doesn't mention any presidential authority over election administration.

During the hearing, Danielle Lang,

counsel for the nonpartisan groups suing the Trump administration, said requiring citizenship proof would complicate her clients' voter registration drives at grocery stores and other public places.

It would make them "far more cumbersome, far more difficult, and far less effective," she said.

Aria Branch, counsel for the Democrats, said her clients would face similar harms. She also argued a provision in the executive order to tighten mail ballot deadlines would irreparably harm her clients by forcing them to reallocate resources to help voters navigate the changes.

"That's time, money and organizational resources and strategy that can't be recouped," she said. "And with elections, I'm sure your honor knows, every single day is important."

The judge asked Michael Gates, counsel for the Trump administration, if it would constitute harm if a federal voter registration agency declined to provide a voter registration form to an eligible person because they could not immediately assume citizenship.

"They can go down the street to the DMV," Gates said. "Inconvenience is not a harm."

Also at issue during the hearing was whether the government has already begun implementing the documentary proof-of-citizenship requirement in the order. The plaintiffs pointed to an April 11 letter from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to states "seeking consultation" on how they would want to see it implemented.

Gates said the official process to implement the provision hasn't begun.

"The executive order hasn't been implemented, and the federal form won't be updated for many, many, many months," he said. "That alone undermines the need for an injunction."

The hearing comes as other lawsuits against Trump's executive order are pending.

Earlier this month, 19 Democratic attorneys general asked the court to reject Trump's executive order. The following day, Washington and Oregon, two states that hold all-mail elections, followed up with their own lawsuit against the order.

High Court Keeps Hold On Trump Citizenship Ruling

By **MARK SHERMAN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court today kept on hold President Donald Trump's restrictions on birthright citizenship but agreed to hear arguments on the issue in May.

Trump's executive order to end birthright citizenship for the children of people who are in the U.S. illegally has been halted nationwide by three district courts around the country. Appeals courts have declined to disturb those rulings.

The Republican administration had sought to narrow those orders to allow for the policy to take effect in parts or most of the country while court challenges play out. That is expected to be the focus of the high court arguments on May 15.

Birthright citizenship automatically makes anyone born in the United States an American citizen, including children born to mothers in the country illegally. The right was enshrined soon after the Civil War in the Constitution's 14th Amendment.

Trump and his supporters have argued that there should be tougher standards for becoming an American citizen, which he called "a priceless and profound gift" in the executive order he signed soon after becoming president again in January.

The Trump administration has asserted that children of noncitizens are not "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States, a phrase used in the amendment, and therefore are not entitled to citizenship.

Trump said he is "so happy" the Supreme Court will hear arguments. "I think the case has been so misunderstood," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office.

He noted that the 14th Amendment, granting automatic citizenship to people born in the U.S., was ratified right after the Civil War. He suggested that means it is "all about slavery."

"If you look at it that way, we would win that case," Trump said.

But states, immigrants and rights groups that have sued to block the executive order have accused the administration of trying to unsettle the broader understanding of birthright citizenship that has been accepted since the amendment's adoption.

Reacting to the court's order today, New Jersey Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin, leading one of the lawsuits, said birthright citizenship "cannot be turned on or off at the whims of a single man."

Judges so far have uniformly ruled against the administration.

The Justice Department argues that individual judges lack the power to give nationwide effect to their rulings.

The administration instead wants the justices to allow Trump's plan to go into effect for everyone except the handful of people and groups that

sued. Failing that, the administration says that the plan could remain blocked for now in the 22 states that sued. New Hampshire is covered by a separate order that is not at issue in this case.

As a further fallback, the administration asked "at a minimum" to be allowed to make public announcements about how it plans to carry out the policy if it eventually is allowed to take effect.

However, while the emergency appeal is not directly focused on the validity of the order, the justices probably will find it hard to avoid that underlying issue.

If the court is inclined to agree with the administration, it risks creating a confusing patchwork of rules in which the state in which a child is born could determine whether citizenship is granted automatically.

Several justices have raised concerns in the past about nationwide, or universal, injunctions, but the court has never ruled on the matter.

The administration made a similar argument in Trump's first term, including in the Supreme Court fight over his ban on travel to the U.S. from several Muslim majority countries.

The court eventually upheld Trump's policy, but did not take up the issue of nationwide injunctions.

The Justice Department has complained that the use of these broad court orders "thwart the Executive Branch's crucial policies on matters ranging from border security, to international relations, to national security, to military readiness."

The administration faces more than 150 lawsuits over Trump's fast-paced efforts to reshape the federal government. Judges have issued dozens of orders delaying the president's agenda.

Sitka Yesterday

20 YEARS AGO

April 2005

Scores of picnickers were asked to leave Halibut Point Recreation Area Sunday when a bear was sighted in the park and officials couldn't scare it away. Trooper Shaun Kuzakin said the bear doesn't appear to have learned to eat trash and is feeding on natural food such as herring eggs and skunk cabbage.

50 YEARS AGO

April 1975

"The New Way," under the direction of Linda Hope, consists of 14 vocalists and four instrumentalists from Blatchley Junior High, Sitka High School and Sheldon Jackson College. They will put on the folk musical "Tell It Like It Is," at the Presbyterian Church. There is no charge.

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Marine Cruise for MMIR Month Set

In observance of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Month, Sitka Tribe of Alaska invites the community to a free Allen Marine Wildlife Cruise 3:30-6:30 p.m. Friday, May 9.

The boat will depart from Crescent Harbor. Participants are asked to arrive early.

"This is a chance to come together, reflect, and connect with the community while surrounded by the beauty of our lands and waters," STA said.

Space is limited. Register at <https://forms.gle/4UzKwnH9bnKm7UT17>.

Those who are unable to attend the cruise, but would like to share the names of lost relatives to be read aloud on the boat during the remembrance, can use the registration form to do so.

For more information, contact Harper Glazer at 907 747-7152 or harper.glazer@sitkatriben-sn.gov.

Calendar of Events

THURSDAY

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, 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 Kwaan 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

SATURDAY

9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Open Practice, Sitka Sportsman's Association indoor pistol range

10 a.m.-2 p.m. ANS Spring Bazaar, ANB Founders Hall

10:30 a.m. Outdoor Trap and Skeet, Sitka Sportsman's Association

11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sitka Native Education Program 50th anniversary celebration, Harrigan Centennial Hall

Noon Community Easter Egg Hunt, Keet Gooshi Heen playground

Noon Sitka Tribe of Alaska honoring presentation for SNEP, Harrigan Centennial Hall

Noon AA, St. Peter's basement, call AA hotline 747-8866 for information

Noon-4 p.m. Salvation Army Little Store open

Noon-3 p.m. White Elephant Shop open

5 p.m. Paleo Inspired workshop, St. Peter's See House, register at <https://bit.ly/SitkaNutrition>.

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 Church basement, call 907-747-8866

Sitka Rose Awards Event April 25

Sitkans Against Family Violence will hold its second Sitka Rose Awards 7 p.m. Friday, April 25, at the Sheet'ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi.

To be honored are youth winners (age 13-19) Tristynn DeBell, Gale McCrary and Jasmine Wolfe; young adults (20-34) Denise Schaffer, Michael Mausbach and Kristina Tirman; and adults (35 and older) Dr. Alice Nunes, Gail Peterson and Krista Ozawa.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and food vendors – the Fresh Fish and the Donut Shack – will be at the Totem Square parking lot next to ANB Harbor. The evening will include music and dance

Police Blotter

Sitka Police Department logged the following calls in the 24 hours ending 8 a.m. today.

April 16

At 7:48 a.m. two drivers were reported to have backed into each other in a parking lot on Seward Street. They exchanged information.

A caller wanted it documented that a woman had run toward him and his dad in the 700 block of HPR, yelling at them and at one point throwing a bottle at them.

At 5:28 p.m. a man was reported lying on the side of the road on HPR. He was taken to the hospital.

At 10:53 p.m. a caller reported hearing a woman on DeGroff Street talking and crying as she walked. An officer was unable to locate her.

April 17

At 12:04 a.m. the woman and a man were found on Lake Street. Both denied fighting.

At 3:02 a.m. a man reported a bear was by the mailboxes at Indian River Road. The bear was gone when an officer arrived.

At 6:25 a.m. a man whose girlfriend hadn't allowed him to see his son was reported to have taken one of the girlfriend's chickens. Police were unable to locate the man.

Emergency Calls

Sitka Fire Department received six ambulance calls Wednesday.

Medicare in Alaska Topic of Program

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

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

The free program is open to the public.

Annual Quilt Show Dates Announced

Ocean Wave Quilt Guild will host its 42nd annual Quilt Show May 10-18 at Fraser Hall on the SJ Campus. This year's theme is "Sassy!"

The show opens 5-8 p.m. Friday, May 9.

Daily show hours will be 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, May 10, through Saturday, May 17.

The Mother's Day Tea is planned noon-4 p.m. Sunday, May 11.

The last day of the show is Sunday, May 18, with 10 a.m.-3 p.m. hours.

Wildlife Cruise Tickets are Ready

Sitka Rotary Club and Allen Marine will hold the club's eighth Wildlife Cruise on the waters surrounding Sitka May 17. The three-hour midday event starts at noon. Participants should arrive at 11:30 a.m. at Crescent Harbor.

Ticket prices for the limited-seating event are: under age 5 with adult free; 5-18, \$35; and 18 and older, \$55. Call (907) 738-2014 for tickets, or stop by Old Harbor Books.

The cruise is sponsored by Allen Marine Tours.

performances by local women and queer folks, hosted by Mel Beadle.

Award winners were chosen by how well they align with SAFV's fundamental values of safety, respect and community.

Individuals in three age groups were selected: youth (13 to 19, young adults (20 to 34), and adults (35 and over).

Door prizes will be given, and SAFV will provide beverages and desserts. Attendants can purchase raffle tickets for a cash prize of \$1,000 for \$10 each, with the drawing on May 4. Event tickets are available at the door for \$5, and donations are welcome. Nobody will be turned away for lack of funds, SAFV said. For information, email info@safv.org or call 907 738-0161.

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.

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.

Sitka History Class Offered April 26

Sitka Maritime Heritage Society will offer a class on Sitka's history for tour guides and other interested members of the public 1-4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at Harrigan Centennial Hall.

The class, taught by Rebecca Poulson, will give an overview of Sitka's history with a focus on the late 1700s to the late 1800s and will include slides and artifacts.

Also it will include a handout of milestone events in Sitka's history.

The cost of the class is \$40 and tickets can be purchased online at sitkamaritime.org, at Old Harbor Books, or at the door if space is available.

For information email sitkamaritime@gmail.com.

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.

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.

Victor D. Jones Sr. Dies; Celebration of Life April 19

A celebration of the life of Victor D. Jones Sr. will be held 2 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at the Sheet'ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi community house, 200 Katlian Street.

Following the service and refreshments, a potluck barbeque will be held at Pioneer Park, in the 1800 block of Halibut Point Road.

Victor, of Juneau, died November 5, 2024, in Anchorage. He was 59.

He was born February 20, 1965, in Detroit, Michigan, the third of five children born to Roslyn Jones and Harvey D. Jones II. He and his siblings, Jewel-ia, Harvey, Bonnie and Kathy, grew up attending Miller Memorial Church of God in Christ, Pentecostal.

In 1983, Victor came to Sitka from Detroit to attend Sheldon Jackson College. There he met then married Marie Gordon.

Victor worked in the fishing industry in Sitka, then eventually moved to Juneau. While attending school for asbestos he worked at the Juneau sawmill, Juneau Lift Ride, and then at Bartlett Hospital as a security enforcement officer, until his passing.

Victor was preceded in death by his wife, Marie Gordon, and a daughter, Kasondra Jones.

He is survived by son Victor D.

Holy Week, Easter At Episcopal Church

Holy Week and Easter services at St. Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church have been scheduled at 611 Lincoln Street.

–April 13, Palm Sunday Service at 9 a.m., in person and on Zoom

–April 18, Good Friday at noon, in person

–April 19, Holy Saturday at 9 a.m., on Zoom only

–April 20, Easter Vigil service at 6 a.m., on Zoom only

–April 20, Principal Easter service at 9 a.m., in person and on Zoom.

For information, contact the church at stpetersbytheseak@gmail.com or 907 747-3977 and leave a message for a call back. The church is open every day to stop in for a time of quiet, prayer and rest.

Easter Egg Hunt Set for April 19

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

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

It is sponsored by Assembly of God Church.

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.

Recreational Boating Class Set in Sitka

Alaska Marine Safety Education Association will offer a recreational boating course in Sitka 9 a.m.-5 p.m. April 19, at NSRAA, 1308 Sawmill Creek Road.

The cost is \$125. Register online at www.amsae.org or call 907 747-3287.

Participants will learn how to enjoy Sitka from the water with friends and family by gaining knowledge and skills in and around marine safety in this hands-on course.

The class will cover trip planning, weather and risk assessment, distress signals and mayday calls, personal flotation devices, cold-water survival skills, person overboard recovery, the seven steps to survival, basic shore survival, engine breakdowns, tying knots and docking techniques.



Victor D. Jones Sr.

Jones Jr. and daughters Dorothy Gordon and Marcia Gordon Cook.

The Jones family expressed thanks to "everyone, friends and family, for all your thoughts and prayers."

Kindergarten Sets Sneak Peek Day

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

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

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

Holy Week Services At Methodist Church

The United Methodist Church invites the public to gather and observe Holy Week.

"It is the most sacred period of our Christian faith, the church said. "It is a time when we gather together as a faith community to walk with Jesus during the hardest part of his journey starting with Palm/Passion Sunday, Good Friday and then Resurrection Sunday. Come and join us for all of it, if you can, remembering that without the Holy Week, Easter loses its deep meaning."

Scheduled services include:

–Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13, 10 a.m.

–Good Friday service, April 18, 5:30 p.m.

–Easter service, April 20, 10 a.m.

Lutherans Schedule Holy Week, Easter

Sitka Lutheran Church invites the community to celebrate Holy Week and Easter.

All are invited to participate in the following gatherings:

–Maundy Thursday service 6:30 p.m. April 17.

–Good Friday service 6:30 p.m. April 18.

–Easter celebration on Sunday, April 20, with Easter breakfast at 9 a.m. and worship service at 10:30 a.m.

Paleo Inspired Cooking on Tap

A paleo-inspired meal cooking workshop with Paula Veshti, a dietetics student at the University of Alaska Anchorage, will be held 5-7 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at the See House, 611 Lincoln Street behind St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

Participants will create a paleo inspired meal, along with dessert. This way of eating is gluten-free, dairy-free, refined sugar-free, refined oil-free and seen as anti-inflammatory. The cost of the workshop is \$35. Register at: <https://bit.ly/SitkaNutrition>. For information, contact Jasmine Shaw at jdshaw2@alaska.edu or 907 747-9440.



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SENTINEL SPORTS

NBA Playoffs Likely to be Wide Open Race

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

There was Toronto in 2019, the Los Angeles Lakers in 2020, Milwaukee in 2021, Golden State in 2022, Denver in 2023 and Boston in 2024.

Six different seasons, six different champions. A run of parity like none other in NBA history.

And now the Celtics get their turn at bucking that trend. Boston will try to win back-to-back NBA titles, something no franchise has managed since Golden State did it in 2017 and 2018. The NBA playoffs start Saturday with four Game 1s, continue Sunday with four more Game 1s and just like that a 16-team, two-month journey will be off and running.

“It’s the best time of the year,” Golden State coach Steve Kerr said.

Favored to win the title, according to BetMGM Sportsbook, are the 68-win Oklahoma City Thunder, the top overall seed and No. 1 seed in the Western Conference — a team that set an NBA record this season by outscoring teams by 12.9 points per game. Their fellow No. 1 seed out of the Eastern Conference: the 64-win Cleveland Cavaliers, a group that put together the second-best regular season in franchise history.

The Thunder haven’t been to the NBA Finals since 2012. The Cavaliers haven’t been there since the end of LeBron James’ second era in Cleveland in 2018. Over the last six seasons, nine different franchises have made at least one finals appearance — further speaking to the parity leaguewide right now, and the Thunder and Cavs both have eyes on adding to that list.

“This is what you compete for, is to be able to compete on the biggest stages,” Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said. “We’re now entering that. We’ve earned the opportunity to be there just like everybody else. We’re certainly excited.”



Fans react as Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) celebrates after making a 3-point basket in San Francisco, Tuesday. (AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

The Cavs aren’t even favored to win the East; oddsmakers list Boston as the pick to represent that side of the league in the NBA Finals. Cleveland — a team that led the NBA in scoring this season and finished second in field-goal percentage — may be turning that into fuel.

“I think I’ve been saying we’re humble and hungry,” Cleveland coach Kenny Atkinson said. “I don’t know if that rings, but it’s kind of who we are. ... Within the humility, there’s a hunger in that locker room. They want to prove people wrong.”

Among the others in the playoff field: James and the Lakers, Stephen Curry and the Warriors, Giannis Antetokounmpo and Milwaukee, Nikola Jokic and Denver. All past MVPs, all past champions, and all of them looking to do what Boston did last year.

“We’re not defending a championship. We won last year. Can’t nobody take it from us,” Celtics forward Jay-

son Tatum said. “But last year was last season. That’s out the window. We’re not worried about anything besides the Magic right now.”

Most of the matchups are set. It’s Boston vs. Orlando, New York vs. Detroit and Indiana vs. Milwaukee in the East, with Cleveland set to meet either Atlanta or Miami. In the West, it’s Houston vs. Golden State, the Lakers vs. Minnesota and Denver vs. the Los Angeles Clippers, with Oklahoma City awaiting the winner of Memphis and Dallas.

James and Curry have four titles apiece. Nobody has gotten to five as a player since Tim Duncan in 2014, when San Antonio won its most recent title. And both have to believe they have a realistic chance of getting through a loaded Western Conference — James and the Lakers bolstered by the addition of Luka Doncic, Curry and the Warriors bolstered by the addition of Jimmy Butler.

“Means a lot to match up against him,” Minnesota star Anthony Edwards said of facing James, his Olympic teammate last summer, in Round 1. “Probably goes down as the greatest player to ever play basketball. So, trying to get putting him out of the playoffs under my belt is going to be a tough one — but it’s going to be a fun road.”

There’s one Round 1 rematch from last season: Milwaukee vs. Indiana. The Pacers took advantage of a hobbled Bucks team last year and won in six games, and this year they’ll be facing a Bucks team that doesn’t have Damian Lillard — sidelined by a blood clot.

“We’re always going to get their best shot. They’re always going to get our best shot,” Pacers guard Tyrese Haliburton said. “Plain and simple, we don’t like each other.”

There are tons of other storylines.

Denver is seeking its second title in three years, only this time with interim coach David Adelman — who replaced Michael Malone with three games left — at the helm, and the Nuggets open against Kawhi Leonard, James Harden and the airtight defense that the Clippers bring. Detroit is back in the playoffs, now with eyes on ending a 14-game postseason losing streak that goes back to 2008. Houston is back in the field, ending a five-year drought and climbing all the way to the No. 2 seed out West.

The Thunder are the favorite. The Cavs and Celtics both won 60-plus games. The Lakers, Warriors and Nuggets certainly have reasons for confidence. The Timberwolves were the surprise team that made a deep run last year. The Pacers might be that team this year.

Parity may reign again. “We have something to look forward to now,” Curry said. “And I’m excited about the challenge.”

looming next week.

“This entire time I haven’t felt like I owed anybody a decision at any point,” he said. “(I told them) if you need to move on, need to do something, by all means, nothing but love and respect if that’s a decision to be made.”

Rodgers has also been in contact with Minnesota coach Kevin O’Connell and talked to New York Giants coach Brian Daboll, whom Rodgers said has a “beautiful football mind.”

Rodgers indicated he has kept the lines of communication open, but is prioritizing his personal life at the moment.

“I don’t think it was fair to the Steelers or anyone to make a decision while I’m dealing with a lot off the field,” he said.

and linebacker in desperate need of upgrades. Penn State edge rusher Abdul Carter, Georgia linebacker Jalon Walker and Michigan defensive tackle Mason Graham could be options at No. 5.

Offensively, Jacksonville took steps to build around quarterback Trevor Lawrence in free agency by signing center Robert Hainsey, guard Patrick Mekari and receiver Dyami Brown. But no one would be surprised to see Gladstone draft a running back, a receiver a tight end and an offensive lineman or two. Boise State running back Ashton Jeanty and LSU left tackle Will Campbell will be in the mix at 5.

They seem set at quarterback after signing journeyman Nick Mullens to a two-year, \$4.5 million deal that included \$3 million guaranteed. He will serve as Lawrence’s backup. They also don’t need any specialists after rookie kicker Cam Little hit 25 of his final 26 field-goal attempts, and punter Logan Cooke and long snapper Ross Maticcik made the Pro Bowl.

The last-place Rockies went 0-6 on their Southern California road trip, dropping to 3-15 this season.

Tanner Scott allowed a single but struck out three Rockies in the ninth for his sixth save. He threw all 11 of his pitches for strikes.

Colorado scored more runs than it managed in the first five games of this trip combined (5).

Yoshinobu Yamamoto (2-1, 1.23 ERA) pitches for the Dodgers at Texas on Friday. Chase Dollander (1-1, 5.06) starts for the Rockies at home against Washington.

Volleyball Tourney Ongoing

By Sentinel Staff

Playing in another round of the City League volleyball championship bracket, Ludvig’s Lancers overcame Yellow Jersey 2-0 in a competitive division match, Wednesday at the Blatchley gymnasium. In the competitive division’s consolation bracket — where a single loss would mean elimination from the tourney — the YAPPERS ended the Beak Brunchers’ season with a 2-0 victory.

The next competitive game is set for Monday, while recreational division teams will face off this evening.

Mariners Surpass Reds 5-3



Mariners’ Julio Rodríguez, left, celebrates with Seattle Mariners Luke Raley, right, after scoring on a double, Wednesday in Cincinnati. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

CINCINNATI (AP) — Cal Raleigh hit two more homers and Bryce Miller pitched five sharp innings, helping the Seattle Mariners beat the Cincinnati Reds 5-3 on Wednesday night.

Raleigh hit a solo drive from each side of the plate. The catcher has five homers in his last five games, giving him 100 for his career.

Dylan Moore had two hits and scored two runs for the Mariners in their fifth win in six games. Randy Arozarena and J.P. Crawford each had two hits and drove in a run.

Arozarena has reached base safely in 14 consecutive games, including five doubles and 10 RBIs.

Miller (1-2) allowed three hits, struck out eight and walked two. Andrés Muñoz handled the ninth for his seventh save.

Cincinnati had won four in a row and six of seven overall.

Reds right-hander Nick Martinez (0-3) permitted four runs — three earned — and

seven hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Cincinnati trailed 5-0 before rallying for three runs in the seventh. Christian Encarnacion-Strand hit a two-run double and scored on Jose Trevino’s single.

But Carlos Vargas escaped the jam when he got Matt McLain to bounce into an inning-ending double play.

Raleigh also made a few key defensive plays. He grabbed a soft second-inning grounder by Austin Hays with his bare hand and sent a shovel pass to Rowdy Tellez at first.

Trevino doubled with two outs in the third for Cincinnati’s first hit of the game. He tried to score on TJ Friedl’s single, but he was thrown out on Luke Raley’s dart to Raleigh.

It was Raleigh’s fourth career game homering from both sides of the plate.

Seattle right-hander Bryan Woo (2-0, 2.84 ERA) goes against Cincinnati right-hander Brady Singer (3-0, 3.18 ERA) today.

Dolphins Hope Draft Fills Gaps

(AP) - Dolphins general manager Chris Grier took a conservative approach to free agency this year.

With limited salary cap space, Grier doled out modest, team-friendly contracts to a few complementary players the Dolphins hope can contribute to a swift turnaround in 2025.

That leaves a lot of heavy lifting needing to be done with the Dolphins’ 10 picks in the NFL draft. They have the No. 13 overall pick, second and third-rounders, and they’ll make seven selections on the final day of the draft.

“We’re going to need NFL-ready players,” Grier said. “There’s no ‘Hey, let’s hope this guy’s ready.’ These guys are going to be forced in to play. We have to be right on the person and character of the guys that we bring here.”

The Dolphins fell way short of expectations in 2024, going 8-9 and missing the

playoffs, and their offense took a noticeable step back from their 2023 group that led the NFL in yards.

Many of Miami’s offensive inefficiencies were because of its offensive line, which Grier has addressed in free agency but will need to bolster in the draft.

Behind-the-scenes culture problems such as player tardiness were also an issue.

Dolphins coach Mike McDaniel said that will be addressed among the players on the roster, and the goal in the draft is to bring in players to fit a new culture of accountability he’s trying to institute.

“We’re trying to get the right guys to develop as professionals,” McDaniel said, “and their core value has to be team football, football-winning and they really have to get joy out of that. That was a component that was consistent among the different personalities we drafted last year; all of these guys were living and breathing football.”

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.

Aaron Rodgers Ponders His NFL Future

(AP) - Aaron Rodgers is in no rush to make a decision about his future.

The free-agent quarterback said during an appearance on “The Pat McAfee Show” today that he is “not holding anybody hostage” as he weighs whether to return for a 21st season.

Rodgers was released by the New York Jets in March. The 41-year-old four-time NFL MVP has visited the Pittsburgh Steelers and talked with the Minnesota Vikings in recent weeks, but said there are certain things going on in his personal life that are currently taking precedence over anything related to football.

“I have a couple people in my inner circle that are battling some difficult stuff,” Rodgers said. “I have a lot of things that are taking my attention and have, beginning in January, away

from football.”

Rodgers added that committing to a team is a “big thing” and indicated he will only do so when he’s ready to be all-in. He did cut down rumors that he was holding out for a multi-year contract or a big payday, saying that \$10 million for one season would be enough to get him to sign.

“I told every single one of the teams I talked to (that) it wasn’t about the money,” Rodgers said.

The Steelers currently have plenty of cap space and plenty of room on the roster for Rodgers. Mason Rudolph and Skylar Thompson are the only two quarterbacks currently under contract. Rodgers tried to surreptitiously visit Pittsburgh’s facility last month, flying into a regional airport and renting a Chevy Malibu in an effort not to draw attention to himself.

New-Look Jaguars Alter Their Draft Approach

By MARK LONG
AP Pro Football Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — With a new general manager and a new head coach, the Jacksonville Jaguars are taking a new approach to the NFL draft.

And it’s far from traditional, even though it’s modeled after the Los Angeles Rams.

General manager James Gladstone and coach Liam Coen didn’t host any top-30 visits, didn’t attend any college pro days and didn’t hold a scouting event for local players. They did travel to the NFL combine in Indianapolis in February, but there’s a chance they won’t return in future years.

“There’s a lot of layers to not doing those facility visits,” Gladstone said Tuesday.

The 34-year-old, first-time GM said recency bias could be a factor, pointing out players who visit closer to the draft might potentially have a leg up over those who came in earlier. The Jaguars also noted how players prep for those interviews and are

typically on their best behavior.

“The sourced intel from those who have lived with these individuals is likely to be more accurate than me sitting down with a prospect for a short period of time and attempting to dissect what that human being is,” Gladstone said. “I don’t view myself as having this extreme superpower of deciphering the complexity of a person in an hour, right? ...

“There are other mechanisms that we tend to lean into to help us determine whether or not a player is, in fact, a fit for us, more than just a singular touch point that would be a top-30 visit.”

Gladstone also said prospect visits — whether they’re in Jacksonville, at college pro days or at the combine — could tip the team’s hand before or during the draft.

“We have a lot of additional mechanisms that we deploy that don’t necessarily put us at risk for the rest of the world to know what direction we’re heading,” he said.

Jacksonville has 10 picks in next week’s draft, including the fifth over-

all selection and six of the top 130 choices. The crop should provide a launching point for the franchise’s new regime that also includes a first-time executive vice president: Hall of Fame left tackle Tony Boselli.

“It is exciting,” said the 39-year-old Coen, who expects to rely on several rookies in 2025. “It’s definitely something we’re going to lean into.” Seeking ‘intangibly rich’ players

Gladstone continues to use the phrase “intangibly rich” when describing players he wants to draft. He offered some insight into its meaning, saying physical and mental toughness would fall into that category.

“Those two elements will be top of mind,” he said. “When you look at our draft-day call sheet, the items that we’re bucketing in that intangibly rich category are the largest, brightest number and color on our call sheet. It’s because that’s where we start.”

The Jaguars have needs at nearly every position. But their defense seems to have the biggest holes, with defensive line, cornerback, safety

first.

But right-hander Bobby Miller struggled in his Dodgers season debut. The touted prospect who couldn’t seize a golden chance to make LA’s injury-plagued rotation last season yielded six runs and eight hits in three innings against Colorado, striking out seven.

Toglia interrupted his dismal start to the season with his second career slam in the third, and Moniak added a solo shot four pitches later.

Ben Casparius (1-0) pitched three innings of two-hit relief.

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.

SPORTS CALENDAR

BASEBALL at Moller Field

TODAY
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

Trump Says ‘No Rush’ To Make Tariffs Deals

By **JOSH BOAK and COLLEN BARRY**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said today he is in “no rush” to reach any trade deals because he views tariffs as making the United States wealthy. But he suggested while meeting with Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni that it would be easy to find an agreement with the European Union and others.

Trump played down the likelihood of an accelerated timeline to wrap up deals, saying other countries “want to make deals more than I do.”

“We’re in no rush,” said Trump, hinting he has leverage because other countries want access to U.S. consumers.

Even though Trump has a warm relationship with Meloni, she was unable in their meeting to change his mind on tariffs.

“No, tariffs are making us rich. We were losing a lot of money under Biden,” Trump said of his predecessor, Democrat Joe Biden. “And now that whole tide is turned.”

Trump is convinced that his devotion to tariffs will yield unprecedented wealth for his country even as the stock market has dropped, interest on U.S. debt has risen and CEOs are warning of price increases and job losses in what increasingly looks like a threat to the existing structure of the world economy.

A bond market panic was enough for Trump to partially pull back on his tariffs, causing him to pause his 20% import taxes on the EU for 90 days and charge a baseline 10% instead. Meloni’s visit showed the challenge faced even by leaders who enjoy a rapport with Trump.

After they met, Trump told reporters that trade talks were easier than other business negotiations such as mergers. He said he had spoken with Chinese officials about tariffs “a lot” and the amount of his import taxes could be influenced by China approving a sale of the social media site TikTok. He also seemed to contradict his previous statement this morning about being in no rush to make trade deals “over the next three or four weeks.”

Even then, Trump showed no interest in fully severing his tariffs. “Tariff negotiations are actual-

ly simpler than everyone has said,” Trump said. “A number of people are going to pay that number or they’re going to decide to go elsewhere if there is such a place. There really is no else-where.”

Meloni had, in a sense, been “knighted” to represent the EU at a critical juncture in the fast-evolving trade war that has stoked recession fears. The U.S. administration has belittled its European counterparts for not doing enough on national security while threatening their economies with tariffs, sparking deep uncertainty about the future of the trans-Atlantic alliance.

She sought to portray the U.S. and Europe as natural allies in Western civilization and said it was important to “try to sit down and find solution” to tensions over trade and national security.

“The goal for me is to make the West great again,” Meloni told Trump.

The EU is defending what it calls “the most important commercial relationship in the world,” with annual trade with the U.S. totaling 1.6 trillion euros (\$1.8 trillion). It was unclear, based on Meloni’s public interactions with Trump, whether the premier has a clear understanding of what Trump wants as part of an agreement.

His administration has said its tariffs would enable trade negotiations that would box out China, the world’s dominant manufacturer. But Trump maintains that rivals and allies alike have taken advantage of the U.S. on trade, a position that has frustrated long-standing partners and raised concerns about whether Trump is a trustworthy dealmaker.

Trump tried to push back against claims that his tariffs are harming the economy, saying that gasoline and egg prices are already dropping. The president blamed the Federal Reserve for interest rates rising on U.S. debt. Rates largely increased because investors were worried about Trump’s tariff plans and they became less willing to buy Treasury notes, while the central bank has held steady on its own benchmark rates because of economic uncertainty.

“We have very little inflation,” Trump said. “I would say we have essentially no inflation.”



The Susitna River is seen from the air in 2024 at the point where it flows into Cook Inlet. The Susitna is threatened by the West Susitna Access Project, according to this year’s report released by the conservation group American Rivers. (Photo provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Alaska ShoreZone program)

Report: Susitna at Risk From State’s Road Plan

By **YERETH ROSEN**
Alaska Beacon

Southcentral Alaska’s Susitna River is one of the nation’s most endangered rivers because of a state plan to build a 100-mile road into its uplands to encourage mining, oil and gas drilling, logging and other development, according to a report released Wednesday.

The Susitna ranked eighth on a list of 10 threatened waterways cited in the annual report issued by the conservation group American Rivers.

The 10 sites in the report, titled America’s Most Endangered Rivers of 2025, were chosen according to their ecological and community importance, the magnitude of the threats from pollution, development or other factors and the opportunities for the public to sway pending policy decisions.

For the Susitna, the threat comes from the West Susitna Access Project, according to the report. The project, being pursued by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, proposes a road linking the Parks Highway north of Anchorage to the roadless upstream area of the Skwentna River, a Susitna River tributary that runs along the base of the Tordrillo Mountains.

The road would cross 180 streams, degrading hunting, fishing and wildlife habitat, and the mining, drilling and other resource extraction enabled by the road would contaminate the river’s water and the air above it, the report said. That, in turn, would threaten fishing-related businesses and harvesters, local tourism and communities, including Alaska Native communities dependent on the river’s resources for subsistence food-gathering, the report said.

The report urges the public to join the campaign against the road project by submitting comments during the ongoing environmental review process to oppose any U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit approval. The report also urges the public to campaign against any federal funding of the project.

Organizations that advised American Rivers on the Susitna River’s status included the Susitna River Coalition, Cook Inletkeeper and the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, a Tribal government.

“The West Susitna Industrial Access Road will bring sweeping changes to our region—transforming fish and wildlife habitat, altering subsistence resources, decimating sustainable economies, and reshaping the outdoor experiences that Alaskans and visitors from around the world cherish,” Margaret Stern, program and communications director for the Susitna River Coalition, said in a statement released by

American Rivers. “This boondoggle project would open the door to large-scale industrial development in one of the world’s last truly wild places. We must ensure that local communities, hunters, anglers, and all advocates for wild spaces make their voices heard in ensuring the future of this unique region.”

Officials from the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and AIDEA did not immediately respond to questions about the American Rivers report.

The West Susitna Access Project stretches back more than a decade.

Supporters say it would unlock economic opportunities for the state. That argument is made in a short video posted on AIDEA’s website.

“Millions of acres of state lands lie west of the Susitna River, providing new opportunities to Alaskans for outdoor recreation, jobs and economic growth. These lands hold critical minerals and other stranded resources that are vital for Alaska’s economic future,” the video’s narrator says.

The project was originally proposed in 2013 as part of then-Gov. Sean Parnell’s Roads to Resources program, which envisioned numerous new roads that would enable resource extraction in remote areas of the state.

In 2023, the project was split in two, with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities in charge of the envisioned first 22 miles and AIDEA leading development plans for the remaining miles.

The state transportation department, which would use a combination of state and federal funding for the project, has launched an environmental review process needed to obtain a wetlands-development permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

However, Gov. Mike Dunleavy’s request for \$2.5 million to help move the project along was omitted from the state capital budget that the Alaska Senate passed unanimously on Tuesday.

Other Alaska rivers have made the annual list in past years, including the Kobuk River, which was in the 2024 report because of the proposed Ambler Access Project, which proposes an industrial road of about 200 miles into the Brooks Range foothills.

Other U.S. rivers listed in this year’s report as being among the 10 most endangered are in different parts of the Lower 48 states.

The Mississippi River, which passes through several states, topped the endangered list. American Rivers based that status on increased flooding and what it categorized as inadequate flood prevention and response.

<https://alaskabeacon.com/yereth-rosen>

AmeriCorps . . .

Continued from Front Page

The program also provides members who complete their 1,700-hour service term with funding for future education expenses or to apply to certain student loans. That benefit was worth about \$7,300 this service year.

The memo stated that those who have completed 15% or more of their term would be eligible for a prorated amount, but those that have completed less would not be eligible.

There’s always been “bipartisan support” of NCCC — “and bipartisan criticism,” said Kate Raftery, who was NCCC director from 2011 to 2014.

Raftery said the abrupt departure of these service teams would have lasting damage both on the NCCC members who were gaining education and launching careers as well as the organizations that depend on them and the neighborhoods where they served.

“It was a very unique mixture of incredible heartbreak and incredible rage, outrage,” Raftery said of her reaction to the news. “The two were battling themselves most of the day.”

Bud Maynard, mayor of Vinton, Iowa, which is home to a regional NCCC campus, said the program “has been without a doubt, a blessing for Vinton” and celebrated the opportunity to host “hundreds of people over the years with an unmatched passion and selflessness to want to help others.”

“All of Vinton should never forget

AP, Gov’t Argue Over Issue of Media Access

By **DAVID BAUDER**
AP Media Writer

The Associated Press and the Trump administration returned to a courtroom today — and will be in another on Friday — as part of the high-stakes battle over who can control which journalists are able to question the president.

Lawyers argued before a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals about putting in place a lower court order last week that the administration stop excluding AP from covering events in places like the Oval Office and Air Force One. It’s not clear when those judges will make their determination.

On Friday, the two sides will go before the author of last week’s decision, U.S. District Court Judge Trevor N. McFadden. The AP has asked him to enforce his ruling.

AP reporters and photographers have been blocked since President Trump objected to the outlet’s decision not to rename the Gulf of Mexico. McFadden said last week the AP shouldn’t be excluded just because Trump disagrees with them. Since then, AP says the White House is ignoring the order and continuing to keep its journalists out; Trump’s team says it has put a new rotation system in place for these events, and it hasn’t been AP’s turn yet.

Through Eric McArthur, deputy assistant attorney general, the administration argued that access to the Oval Office is up to the president, just like he can invite Laura Ingraham of Fox News Channel in for a personal interview and not MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow.

Charles Tobin, the AP’s lawyer, said the president can’t be ordered by a court to speak or answer a specific news outlet’s questions. But when he invites reporters to cover him in a public setting covered by a predetermined “pool” of journalists, he can’t discriminate on the basis of viewpoint.

“The White House has conceded this is all about trying to control a message, trying to control the viewpoint of The Associated Press,” he said.

Illustrating a fine line the judges will be asked to walk, Tobin conceded that a president is welcome to invite 20 reporters whose viewpoints he agrees with in for a talk. “Isn’t that awfully close to what is happening here?” asked Judge Gregory Katsai, a Trump appointee.

The difference is in excluding rather than inviting people, Tobin said — a point leaped upon by his opponent.

“President Trump is under no obligation to run the press pool the way his predecessors did or even the way he did during his first term,” McArthur said. “If he can choose 20 people because of viewpoint, he can certainly exclude them because of viewpoint.”

Judges also expressed some worry that courts may be called upon to micromanage what journalists get to cover the president and who can’t.

Tobin returned to the idea put forth in McFadden’s decision that it’s a violation of the First Amendment for Trump to exclude the AP because he disagreed with some of its reporting.

“The president of the United States does not have discretion to violate the U.S. Constitution,” he said.

Pa. Gov. Recounts Night Arsonist Got Into Home

By **MARK SCOLFORO**
Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro today provided new details about the arson fire early Sunday that prompted his family’s evacuation from the governor’s official residence in Harrisburg, recounting how wife and four kids and their two dogs — Bo and Bentley — were awakened by state police and guided to safety.

Shapiro spoke to reporters after his family served a catered lunch to Harrisburg firefighters in thanks for their role in responding to the blaze that is estimated to have caused millions in damage to the building and its contents. No one was hurt.

A suspect has been charged, and the motive is under investigation.

Shapiro is a first-term Democrat considered a potential candidate for president in 2028.

Here’s what Shapiro had to say about the attack, which burned the same room where his family and guests had a Passover Seder a few hours earlier.

A fire hours after holiday meal

“We concluded our Seder may be around 10ish or so at night,” and guests, family and others were in private areas on the first floor, he said.

“Everybody was just enjoying one another and spending time celebrating not just the holiday but each other and enjoying each other’s company,” he said. Around midnight, they went upstairs and “spent an hour yelling at the kids to go to bed and they didn’t

listen.”

“Said goodnight to the kids, got the dogs situated, and I’d say probably fell asleep around 1 o’clock in the morning,” Shapiro said.

Banging on the door

“Less than an hour later, I heard yelling in the hallway, which was not like our kids’ voices. It was one of the state troopers running down the hallway, and he banged on the door. I don’t know how he did it, but it wasn’t a knock. It was more of a bang,” he said.

Shapiro said he and his wife, Lori, were told there was a fire and they had to evacuate immediately.

“I would say within just a few seconds we ran to each of the doors in the hallway, to open them up and get the kids up, get the dogs up and usher everybody down a back stairwell,” he said. “And we followed the troopers out to the driveway area, and we were asked multiple times if everyone was present and accounted for. They were. Troopers and Capitol Police kept us safe.” Firefighters converged on the property.

Shapiro said first responders repeatedly made sure no one was missing.

Cold and misty, in pajamas

“I remember it being a cold and kind of misty night. We were all a little chilly. Everybody was in their pajamas. And we just kind of huddled up and just tried to keep the kids calm and keep everybody calm,” he said. They did not realize from where they were just how much damage had been done to the other side of the house.

Israel’s Food Blockade In Gaza Sets Off Alarms

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Aid groups are raising new alarm over Israel’s blockade of the war-ravaged Gaza Strip, where it has barred entry of all food and other goods for more than six weeks. Thousands of children have become malnourished, and most people are barely eating one meal a day as stocks dwindle, the United Nations says.

The warning came as Israeli strikes overnight and into Thursday killed at least 27 people, including at least six women and 15 children.

The humanitarian aid system in Gaza “is facing total collapse,” the heads of 12 independent aid organizations warned in a joint statement. They said many groups have shut down operations because Israel’s resumed bombardment the past month has made it too dangerous.

No food, fuel, medicine or any other supplies have entered Gaza since Israel imposed its blockade on March 2. It renewed its bombardment on March 18, breaking a ceasefire, and seized large parts of the territory, saying it aims to push Hamas to release more hostages. Hundreds have been killed, and more than 400,000 Palestinians have been forced to flee their shelters in the latest of multiple displacements.

A strike in the southern city of Khan Younis killed a family of 10, including five children, four women and a man, according to Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies. Strikes in northern Gaza killed two other couples with nine children, according to the Indonesian Hospital.

A later strike hit a school sheltering displaced people in the northern district of Jabaliya, killing three people and a child. The blast left walls in rubble and classrooms strewn with debris, charred

mattresses and scattered cans of food.

The Israeli military strikes homes, shelters and public areas daily, saying it is targeting Hamas militants, and blames militants for civilian deaths because they operate there. It says it tries to limit civilian casualties. There was no immediate comment on the latest strikes.

The U.N. humanitarian office, known as OCHA, said almost all of Gaza’s more than 2 million people now rely on charity kitchens, which can prepare only 1 million meals a day. The meals mainly consist of rice or pasta with no fresh vegetables or meat.

Other food distribution programs have shut down for lack of supplies, and the U.N. and other aid groups have been sending their remaining stocks to the charity kitchens.

In markets — the only other place to find food in Gaza — prices are spiraling and shortages are widespread, with fresh foods nearly non-existent. As a result, humanitarian aid is the primary food source for 80% of the population, the World Food Program said in its monthly report for April.

“The Gaza Strip is now likely facing the worst humanitarian crisis in the 18 months” since the war began, OCHA said.

“Kids are eating less than a meal a day and struggling to find their next meal,” said Bushra Khalil, policy head at Oxfam. “Everyone is purely eating canned food. . . . Malnutrition and pockets of famine are definitely occurring in Gaza.”

Hani Almadhoun, co-founder of Gaza Soup Kitchen, said his kitchen has food for about three more weeks. Already, he said, up to one in five of those who come to his kitchen for food leave empty-handed.

Teachers . . .

Continued from Front Page

\$60,000 there. That’s one teacher,” she said.

The Legislature approved a permanent \$1,000 BSA increase this year — the first such permanent adjustment in the BSA in nearly a decade — but Gov. Dunleavy vetoed it today.

The budget considered Wednesday night also would cut district curriculum spending from \$557,598 to \$466,376 and reduce technology funding from \$150,000 to \$60,000.

Wednesday’s meeting did not include a public comment period and no vote was taken by the board. But board president Phil Burdick said members will soon have to decide on the cuts.

“We’ve got the fund balance down to \$777,000, my question is for the board, really... is, are we still good with where these cuts have been made, and how we want to move forward? Not hoping that the literacy grant is going to come back for the librarians or the media specialists, or hoping that the federal Forest Service money comes through,” Burdick said, referring to the Secure Rural Schools Act which has not been reauthorized by the U.S. Congress this year and normally provides \$360,000 to the local school district. The current budget proposal does not assume the arrival of SRS funds.

Jenson said that regardless of the funding situation, the district would need \$1,460 more in per pupil funding to make ends meet in the coming year without cuts.

“We’re looking at getting half of what we... actually needed in order to balance the budget status quo... If we want to keep the things that are listed here, then what are we going to cut somewhere else,” Jenson said. She added that the current budget plan does not cut counselors, programs or elective classes.

In recent years, the district has often found that some budgeted items go unspent, leaving a larger reserve at the end of the year. SSD business manager Kathryn Hollis-Buchanan told the board she found some of those gaps and closed them, which helped district staff provide a tight, balanced budget to the board.

“I looked back into the last three years on every single line item. And there are many line items that were just dragged over. I don’t know why we never spent them, or we never got them. So some of these big changes are because we didn’t spend it before; we’re not spending it now,” Hollis-Buchanan said.

Because of this work, superintendent Jenson expects the budget to be much closer to true expenditures than it has been in the past.

“A lot of the changes in this budget are because we’re reconciling and truing things up,” Jenson said. Taking these unspent funds out of the budget means “we may not have the fund balance that we have seen historically... and actually how much is that cushion that we would generally rely on.”