



DAILY SITKA SENTINEL

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Volume 86 No.76

Sitka, Alaska

Monday, April 21, 2025

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Pope Francis Dies: Loved World's Poor

By NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis, history's first Latin American pontiff who charmed the world with his humble style and concern for the poor but alienated conservatives with critiques of capitalism and climate change, died today. He was 88.

The Vatican said Francis died of a stroke that put him into a coma and led to heart failure.

Bells tolled in Catholic churches from his native Argentina to the Philippines and across Rome as news spread around the world.

"At 7:35 this morning, the Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the home of the Father. His entire life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and of his Church," Cardinal Kevin Farrell said from the chapel of the Domus Santa Marta, where Francis lived.

Francis, who suffered from chronic lung disease and had part of one lung removed as a young man, was admitted to Gemelli hospital on Feb. 14, 2025, for a respiratory crisis that developed into double pneumonia. He spent 38 days there, the longest hospitalization of his 12-year papacy.

He made his last public appearance on Easter Sunday — a day before his death — to bless thousands of people in St. Peter's Square, drawing wild cheers and applause. Beforehand, he met U.S. Vice President JD Vance.

Francis performed the blessing from the same loggia where he was

introduced on March 13, 2013, as the 266th pope.

From his first greeting that night — a remarkably normal "Buonasera" ("Good evening") — to his embrace of refugees and the downtrodden, Francis signaled a very different tone for the papacy, stressing humility over hubris for a Catholic Church beset by scandal and accusations of indifference.

The Argentine-born Jorge Mario Bergoglio brought a breath of fresh air into a 2,000-year-old institution that had seen its influence wane during the troubled tenure of Pope Benedict XVI, whose surprise resignation led to Francis' election.

But Francis soon invited troubles of his own, and conservatives grew increasingly upset with his progressive bent, outreach to LGBTQ+ Catholics and crackdown on traditionalists. His greatest test came in 2018 when he botched a notorious case of clergy sexual abuse in Chile, and the scandal that festered under his predecessors erupted anew.

And then Francis, the crowd-loving, globe-trotting pope of the peripheries, navigated the unprecedented reality of leading a universal religion through the coronavirus pandemic from a locked-down Vatican City.

"We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented," Francis told an empty St. Peter's Square in March 2020. Calling for a rethink of the global economic

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Dancers from Keet Gooshi Heen Elementary School perform on stage at Harrigan Centennial Hall Saturday afternoon during a celebration of

the 50th anniversary of the Sitka Native Education Program. Hundreds turned out for the day-long event. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)

Rumors About ICE Circulate in Sitka

GARLAND KENNEDY
Sentinel Staff Writer

Federal immigration officials were active in Sitka in early March, but the increased law enforcement presence that some residents noticed last week was for unrelated purposes, Sitka Police Department says.

The activity last week centered on a training event for officers and other public safety personnel on the proper way to respond to an overdose fatality scene, and was not an active operation or investigation, Sitka Police Department spokesperson Serena Wild said Friday.

In early March, Immigration, Customs and Enforcement, an arm of the Department of Homeland Security, came to Sitka to enforce restrictions on visas and arrested one man, Wild told the Sentinel.

She said residents ICE interacted with were Mexican citizens, "who had visas, but they weren't work visas. So I believe ICE did go in and say, 'Hey, here's your notice that you aren't here legally to work. You can go and get the legal stuff and come back, but if you don't leave after you've been given this notice, and you try to apply later, or we find you later, then there could be negative consequences.' So it was more of a notice... They were here on visas, just not the proper type of visa," Wild said.

"I believe that they did detain one who was here illegally, who had a record, who has a violent record," she added.

On March 19 U.S. Customs and

Border Patrol Chief Patrol Agent Rosario Pete Vasquez tweeted about the arrest in Sitka of a man named Cipriano Guerrero.

"Guerrero, a Mexican citizen illegally present in the U.S., has a prior felony DUI arrest. He is currently being held for removal to Mexico," Vasquez said in the tweet.

Alaska court records show Guerrero was charged in 2023 with a felony driving under the influence here, and pleaded guilty the following year in the Sitka courthouse.

Wild said SPD has heard reports of further ICE activity in town more recently, but was unable to confirm details.

"We have rumors that they're here now, and I believe if they're here now, it's going to be the same stuff of just notices," Wild said. "They're not here to pull people, they're not going to go into the schools and be talking to the kids. They're here to give notices."

Rumors of immigration enforcement activity in town also reached local schools, and district Superintendent Deidre Jenson sent an email to district employees Friday telling them that in the event enforcement officers show up, they should be directed to the school district office.

"We're just doing our due diligence to make sure that students will be kept safe and confidential information is going to be kept confidential," Jenson told the Sentinel Friday. "... It

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Happy Event Recalls SNEP's Half Century

ANNA LAFFREY
Sentinel Staff

Hundreds crowded into Harrigan Centennial Hall Saturday for the Sitka Native Education Program's 50th Anniversary Celebration of Knowledge, a gathering in the form of a traditional Lingít koo.éex', with more than 12 hours of songs, speeches, gift distributions, meals, presentations and protocol honoring the first half-century since the program was founded.

The auditorium was standing room only for much of the celebration of SNEP, which was founded in the early 1970s by elders acting "in response to the urgent need to preserve and promote Tlingit language, dance, values and traditions among youth," a program for the event states.

Through the years SNEP has "supported transmission of traditional

knowledge through Lingít song and dance, regalia making, storytelling, subsistence harvesting and language learning," and has "empowered students with a strong identity and belonging" while also educating the greater Sitka community, the program says.

All aspects of Tlingit culture shone Saturday, with SNEP students, graduates and family members dancing with the Kéet Gooshi Héen Dancers, Gájaa Héen Dancers, Wooh.een Students and Xoots Elementary Dancers.

Sitka Tlingit violin program students performed along with adult participants, volunteers and instructors. SNEP drumming class and traditional arts studio students also demonstrated their work.

Traditional regalia was much on display, and members of the Eagle moiety sat opposite members of the Raven moiety throughout the event.

Much of the celebration honored the people who founded SNEP and served as instructors in the 1970s. "Through their tireless and committed work, these elders gave youth then, and now, the chance to learn about where they came from and who they are through the Lingít worldview," states the program.

SNEP founders and original instructors included Yeidikook'áa Isabella Brady, Kaalá'ik' Charlie Joseph Sr., Aanyáanx' Tláa Annie Joseph, Kaasnák Annie Dick, Kaat Shi Tláa Elizabeth Basco, Sgatoot Emma Duncan Davis, Alice Williams, Maria Guthrie, Vida Davis, and Daasdi-yáa Ethel Makinen, among many other elders and culture-bearers.

Saturday's program also held Sdi Sháa Mary Marks, Mary Perkins, Aanwugeex' Esther Littlefield and Daanaxi'ls'eik, Geisteen Chuck Miller, in loving memory.

The celebration honored SNEP staff and volunteers, parent advisory committee members, program graduates and many individuals and organizations for their support and contributions.

Between student performances, SNEP instructors and community leaders introduced and gave context for various Tlingit "hat songs," as well as "big songs" that tell the history of clans and "yeik utees" or spirit songs.

Leaders distributed fire dishes to honored guests, and piles of gifts to many attendees. Everybody shared a 4 p.m. meal that included salmon and herring egg salad.

Children, many of them students, circled the room offering refreshments to elders and clearing service items. Sitka Tribe of Alaska staff members volunteered to run the event, from the

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Next Steps Planned for Boatyard at Haulout

ANNA LAFFREY
Sentinel Staff Writer

Now that the Assembly has accepted a proposal from Highmark Marine LLC of Kodiak to operate the new haulout at Gary Paxton Industrial Park, local boat-related businesses are working with the GPIB board to make the most of the adjacent properties.

Despite broad opposition from the public to the Highmark deal, the Assembly voted 6-1 in March to direct city officials to negotiate an agreement with Highmark, to be brought back to the Assembly for approval.

The haulout is still under construction, and is scheduled to start hauling boats in late spring, GPIB Director Garry White said at a board meeting Thursday.

Development currently is held up, with builders waiting to apply a grout that needs to be set in temperatures above 45 degrees, and then cure for about a month.

The city also is awaiting delivery of the mobile boat lift, which is expected to arrive on May 6 and must be assembled with a crane once it arrives, White said.

With the project in process, local maritime tradespeople attending the Thursday meeting weighed in on long-term planning for lands and facilities near the haulout, where more boatyard service facilities could be developed.

Most of the planning is centered on the city-owned Lot 15, a large parcel near the developing haulout.

The city is notifying all current tenants of Lot 15, which now is being used to store industrial materials, that they must vacate the property by the end of September to make way for uses that complement the haulout.

At the Thursday GPIB meeting White asked the board to give him direction on developing the property, as well as other lots nearby, so that he can provide more information in upcoming work sessions and meetings.

Board members focused conversation on how the city can design infrastructure and long-term leases to create space for local tradespeople.

The board also looked at developing a steel-plated "bridge" across the road that separates the haulout from Lot 15 so that the large lot could accommodate hauled out vessels "sooner than later."

In comments to the board, local shipwright Mike Nurco said that leases for future uses of Lot 15 should be designed for local vendors to provide a wide array of services that would comprise the "lifeblood of the yard."

Selling land at GPIB would be "to the detriment of the boatyard," while long-term leases would best serve users, Nurco said.

Nurco also asked the city to install electricity and invest in critical services like bathrooms near the boatyard.

He said that "the deck is stacked" in favor of Highmark, as the city is slated to lease them a warehouse near the haulout that has both electricity and bathrooms, which the company could limit to private uses.

Linda Behnken, director of the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association, encouraged the board to plan Lot 15 development with an eye towards "what it might look like to have a different operating model out there" in case Highmark eventually exits its contract.

Jeremy Serka also commented on development of Lot 15. He said that more storage space is needed in the marine trades, and that the lot could be a good place for "bait sheds and bigger

things that we can offload on the dock."

Serka also encouraged the city to consider appropriating funds for "a larger washpad instead of heated washpad." The city currently plans to spend \$500,000 on a concrete washdown pad with "heat trace" cable heating.

Local shipwrights clarified that, despite their objections to the Highmark deal throughout the city's bidding process, tradesmen are looking forward to doing business at the haulout and the surrounding GPIB facilities.

Board members discussed the haulout for about an hour, and settled on holding an extended "work session" regarding development ahead of their next regular meeting.

The work session is set to take place directly before the board's main meeting on May 15.

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53-Lot BIHA Subdivision Reviewed by Commission

By CATHY LI
Special to the Sentinel

A conceptual plan to result in 53 lots at 600 Yaw Drive, a minor subdivision at Ring Island, and a zoning text amendment to allow for onsite marijuana consumption facilities were approved by the Planning Commission at its regular meeting Wednesday.

The Commission also adopted findings about its denial of a variance request at 112 and 116 Nancy Court, last addressed in the April 2 meeting.

In her planning director's report, Amy Ainslie said the department will send out mail on Wednesdays instead of Fridays, after receiving reports of delays in mail notices sent to residents affected by agenda items.

All Commission members were present and voted unanimously.

Yaw Drive 53-Lot Conceptual Plan
The Commission reviewed preliminary plans filed by Lucas Goddard of Baranof Island Housing Authority for

turning a largely undeveloped 11-acre parcel at 600 Yaw Drive, in the R-2 MHP multifamily and mobile home district, into 53 lots.

Goddard testified that the project is in partnership with Sitka Tribe of Alaska, which would own half of the lots for its subsidized housing program for tribal citizens. BIHA would own the other lots, selling some and developing the rest for renting or selling.

The Commission identified trash management as the biggest area of concern. Goddard responded that he's managed trash responsibly by trimming nearby foliage and securing personal trash through use of clamps or bear trash cans.

Wendy Alderson and Stacy Mudry suggested a centralized trash collection system to avoid over-reliance on individual trash management.

Commissioners also brought up the property's proximity to the Cross

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EASTER FLYOVER — Hundreds of Sitkans make their way to the Keet Gooshi Heen ballfields Saturday for a community Easter egg hunt as a U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Sitka helicopter flies by. The free event was sponsored by the Assembly of God Church. Volunteers set out 10,000 plastic eggs filled with prizes for children to find. The event also included face painting, hot chocolate, hot dogs, and other activities. (Sentinel Photo)

Letters to the Editor

Base Student Allocation

Dear Editor: As you may know, Governor Mike Dunleavy vetoed House/Senate Bill 69 which included a \$1,000 increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA). He has countered with an increase to the BSA of \$560 with some additional one-time funding. House/Senate Bill 69 now returns to the Legislature where, on Tuesday, April 22, at 2 p.m., they will vote to override the governor's veto. Because this is an appropriation bill, the Legislature needs a three-quarter margin to override – that is 45 of the 60 members.

One of the Nay votes on HB/SB 69 was our own Sen. Bert Stedman. If you feel compelled to contact your elected Senator who voted NO on the increase to the Base Student Allocation his phone number at the capitol is 907 465-3873 or toll free 877 465-3873. His interim contact information is 907 225-8088 (in case he is away from the capitol). His email is Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov.

The Sitka School Board was presented a balanced budget last Wednesday based on an increase to the BSA of \$680 from the state and the city's generous offer to fund to the cap ALSO BASED ON THAT \$680 INCREASE. And while the budget was balanced, it was balanced by cutting four staff members on top of the 19 certified and six classified staff let go last year. It was balanced by cutting teaching supplies, curriculum, and technology. If we receive an increase to the BSA of \$560 we will have to look at further cuts.

Education has been flat funded for so long that it would take an increase to the BSA of \$1,460 to maintain our status quo in programming, class sizes, activities, and support staff, which is already bare bones. Inflation has not been flat over this same period. By raising the BSA \$1000 we have an opportunity to claw out of the deficit hole we have been thrown into. As a school district we cannot raise revenue. As a city, we have given the maximum allowable. It is at the state level where we have fallen short. It is constitutionally mandated that the state provide adequate funding to educate every Alaskan child. Please take a moment to contact Senator Stedman (Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov) and ask him to reconsider his vote on the \$1,000 BSA increase. Please take a moment to thank Rep. Himschoot for co-sponsoring HB 69 (Rep. Rebecca.Himschoot@akleg.gov). And if you have family in other communities, please consider asking them to contact their duly elected officials.

This is our opportunity to put our children's education first. This is our

chance to show our young people how much we value them. This is the time to say, "we cherish you above everything else".

**Phil Burdick,
Sitka School Board President**

High School Job Fair

Dear Editor: Day after day, Sitka High School benefits from the generosity of our community.

On behalf of the staff and students of SHS, I would like to thank 20 of our local businesses for their generous participation in our recent Job Fair. Your time, energy, and support made this event a meaningful experience for our students.

Those business include: Tongass Threads Consignment Store; Transportation Security Administration (TSA); Allen Marine Tours; Southeast Alaska Independent Living; Sitka Sport Caught Seafoods LLC; Alaska Department of Fish and Game Port Sampling Program; Kingfisher Charters & Lodge; Sitka Work & Rugged Gear Store; Sitka Conservation Society; Sitka Sound Science Center; Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska; High Output Tours; Sitka Fine Arts Camp; Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association; Theobroma Chocolate Company; BeAk Restaurant; Kings E-bike Rentals; and Sitka Tribe of Alaska.

The Job Fair provided students with valuable opportunities to learn about the business climate in Sitka, ask questions, and connect directly with owners and managers. It was a powerful way for young people to see the possibilities that exist right here in Sitka and to begin their summer work prospects and their more distant future plans with greater confidence.

We are incredibly grateful to each business, organization, and individual who took the time to set up a table, engage with students, and share insights about the working world. Some of you were actively looking for prospective employees, and others chose to come just to offer students insight into what they do and what they are looking for when interviewing. Your willingness to spend time with our young people helps build a strong bridge between education and career readiness – and it shows our students that they are supported as they take their first steps toward adulthood.

Thank you for investing in the future of our youth and for helping make the Sitka High School Job Fair such a success.

**Laura Rogers,
Sitka High School Interim Principal**



Climate Connection: Earth Week
Earth Day is tomorrow, April 22. It was established in 1970 and led to creation of the Environmental Protection Agency by a Republican president.

This is a grave time for the planet with indices contributing to global warming continuing to increase: CO2, nitrous oxide, methane, tropical forest loss, and fossil fuel use. As a result, indices of effect are increasing: surface temperature, ocean acidification, coastal nitrogen, biosphere degradation, species extinctions, and severe weather. We have exceeded 6 of 9 planetary boundaries and are now recognizing human chronic disease effects of one of them --novel entities such as microplastics.

The federal administration has diminished our governmental research capability for climate science, public health, medicine, oceanography, weather, and agriculture. Our science infrastructure in major research universities is being destroyed by freezing of grants and capping of overhead rates. Without pursuit of science, we are less able to adapt to conditions that human beings have never experienced in the past. Denial of what scientists have been telling decision makers since the 1950s about the consequences of burning fossil fuels cannot result in rational policy that protects the earth and us.

Some financial leaders in insurance are recognizing that we are in a new

precarious era of unprecedented environmental conditions. Meanwhile, the major banks have withdrawn from international agreements to support climate-protective investments. They continue to support more lucrative fossil fuel investments. They have determined that the temperature goals of keeping global warming to 1.5 or 2.0 degrees C are dead because of the governmental setbacks to decarbonization.

As climate-related extreme weather threatens all assets, those assets become uninsurable. At 2 degrees C, two estimates of the number of U.S. communities that will be spared are 14 and 25%. At 3 degrees, it is unclear if any community will be safe, and relative safety will be the world's most valuable asset. Without insurance, all financial services fail, and capitalism is no longer viable. This is one aspect of what is meant by collapse of civilization. Devaluation of what has been valuable in the past is beginning (e.g., coastal property). The capacity of communities, states, and countries to repair damages from floods, fires, and drought may be overwhelmed. In the U.S., the crippling of the Federal Emergency Management Agency contributes to our vulnerability.

The economic chaos unleashed by recent tariff decisions and reversals may open eyes to previously unquestioned assumptions about the stability of our social world. Perhaps realization of the magnitude of changes in both environmental and political worlds will shake citizens from the inertia that prevents us from participating in creation of a world that serves all of us --within the physical boundaries of our planet and the best attributes of human nature.

---Kay Kreiss, Transition Sitka

Sitka Yesterday

20 YEARS AGO

April 2005

Photo caption: People talk about sexual assault and the impact of sexual violence during a Take Back the Night candlelight vigil at the Sheet'ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi. The event, sponsored by Sitkans Against Family Violence, included a march from SJIC to the community house.

50 YEARS AGO

April 1975

"Chamber Music," a one-act play, will be on stage tonight at the Centennial Building. It's directed by Jan Craddock, and performers are Vicki Baggen, Caroline Breiding, Marilyn Hays, De Ingwerson, Frances Mandel, Moya Melody, Margie Peterson and Margaret Robertson.



A polar bear is spotted on a multiyear ice floe in the Beaufort Sea on Aug. 13, 2023. The Trump administration is planning to designate a new "High Arctic" region off Alaska for offshore oil and gas leasing. (Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Scott Bice/U.S. Coast Guard)

Offshore Lease Sales Planned in High Arctic

By YERETH ROSEN
Alaska Beacon

The Trump administration plans to create a new designated region for offshore oil leasing in Arctic waters off Alaska, an area where past exploration attempts have failed amid extremely high costs, logistical challenges and safety problems.

The Department of the Interior said it will soon release a new five-year national plan for offshore oil and gas leasing in federal water, and it will include a new High Arctic planning area. Details will be provided in an upcoming notice in the Federal Register and in information posted on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's website, the department said in its statement.

"Launching the process to develop the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Program marks a decisive step toward securing American Energy Dominance," Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said in the statement. "Through a transparent and inclusive public engagement process, we are reinforcing our commitment to responsible offshore energy development—driving job creation, bolstering economic growth and strengthening American energy independence. Under President Donald J. Trump's leadership, we are unlocking the full potential of our offshore resources to benefit the American people for generations to come."

Further information was not provided by the department.

Most federal Arctic waters were previously put off-limits to oil leasing by former Presidents Barack Obama and Joe Biden.

President Trump attempted in his first term to open Arctic areas that Obama had withdrawn from the leasing program, but that attempt was struck down by a federal court.

A more recent Trump attempt to open withdrawn waters to oil leasing is now being challenged, as the first attempt was. A coalition of environmental groups sued the Trump administration in February over his efforts to overturn protections in the Northern Bering Sea and areas of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Environmentalists on Friday criticized the newly announced plans for more offshore oil leasing, including in

the Arctic.

"Drilling in the Arctic is a disaster waiting to happen. There's no way to clean up an oil spill there and it will harm polar bears and bowhead whales. Oil companies should think twice about drilling in the Arctic, as it has been plagued with challenges," Natalie Jones of the Center for Biological Diversity said by email.

The Center for Biological Diversity is one of the environmental groups that sued the Trump administration in February.

Despite some sporadic attempts to explore for oil in federal Arctic waters off Alaska, there has never been any commercial oil production there or in any federal waters off Alaska, except for a small portion of the Hilcorp-operated Northstar field, which lies mostly on state territory.

The field that was expected to become the first producing site located entirely in federal waters off Alaska, the Liberty project, has languished for decades without development. BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. discovered it in the 1990s and drew up two separate development plans but wound up dropping those. Hilcorp acquired full ownership of Liberty in 2020, but its lack of progress on the project led to expiration of the leases earlier this year.

The last oil exploration attempt in federal Arctic waters was a Royal Dutch Shell campaign abandoned in 2015 after the company spent over \$7 billion on it.

That campaign was beset with trouble — most notably, the wreck of a mobile drill rig that escaped its tow and grounded during a storm on Dec. 31, 2012. The rig, the Kulluk, had been used for Shell's exploration in the Beaufort Sea, the portion of the Arctic Ocean east of Point Barrow. Shell used a separate drill ship in the Chukchi Sea, west of Point Barrow and north of the Bering Strait. That ship, the Noble Discoverer, also had numerous operational and environmental problems.

Shell wound up completing just one well, which was in the Chukchi, and the company concluded that it found too little oil there to justify further development.

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

Student Loans in Default To Face Debt Collection

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Education Department will begin collection next month on student loans that are in default, including the garnishing of wages for potentially millions of borrowers, officials said today.

Currently, roughly 5.3 million borrowers are in default on their federal student loans.

The Trump administration 's announcement marks an end to a period of leniency that began during the COVID-19 pandemic. No federal student loans have been referred for collection since March 2020, including those in default. Under President Joe Biden, the Education Department tried multiple times to forgive millions of people's student loans, only to be stopped by courts.

"American taxpayers will no longer be forced to serve as collateral for irresponsible student loan policies," Education Secretary Linda McMahon said.

Beginning May 5, the department will begin involuntary collection through the Treasury Department's offset program, which withholds payments from the government — including tax refunds, federal salaries and other benefits — from people with past-due debts to the government. After a 30-day notice, the department will also begin garnishing wages for borrowers in default.

Weather

Sitka Forecast

Expect a low of 41 degrees and showers tonight.On Tuesday, a high of 48 degrees and an overnight low of 40 are forecast, along with showers.

Sitka Weather

Temperatures ranged from 37 to 48 degrees, winds were calm and no rain fell in the 24 hours ending at midnight last night, Sitka Flight Service Station reports.

Wall Street, Dollar Drop On Worries About U.S.

By STAN CHOE
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street weakened today as investors worldwide get more skeptical about U.S. investments because of President Donald Trump's trade war and his criticism of the Federal Reserve, which are shaking the traditional order.

The S&P 500 sank 2.4% in another wipeout. That yanked the index that's at the center of many 401(k) accounts 16% below its record set two months ago.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 971 points, or 2.5%, while losses for Tesla and Nvidia helped drag the Nasdaq composite down 2.6%.

Perhaps more worryingly, U.S. government bonds and the value of the U.S. dollar also sank as prices retreated across U.S. markets. It's an unusual move because Treasurys and the dollar have historically strengthened during episodes of nervousness. This time around, though, it's policies directly from Washington that are causing the fear and potentially weakening their reputations as some of the world's safest investments.

Trump continued his tough talk on global trade as economists and investors continue to say his stiff proposed tariffs could cause a recession if they're not rolled back. U.S. talks last week with Japan failed to reach a quick deal that could lower tariffs and protect the economy, and they're seen as a "test case," according to Thierry Wizman, a strategist at Macquarie.

"The golden rule of negotiating and success: He who has the gold makes the rules," Trump said in all capitalized letters on his Truth Social Network. He also said that "the businessmen who criticize tariffs are bad at business, but really bad at politics," likewise in all caps.

Trump has recently focused more on China, the world's second-largest economy, which has also been keeping up its rhetoric. China today warned other countries against making trade deals with the United States "at the expense of China's interest" as Japan, South Korea and others try to negotiate agreements.

"If this happens, China will never accept it and will resolutely take countermeasures in a reciprocal manner," China's Commerce Ministry said in a statement.

Also hanging over the market are worries about Trump's anger at Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell. Trump last week criticized Powell again for not cutting interest rates sooner to give the economy more juice.

The Fed has been resistant to lowering rates too quickly because it does not want to allow inflation to reaccelerate after slowing nearly all the way down to its 2% goal from more than 9% three years ago.

Trump talked today about a slowdown for the U.S. economy that could be coming unless "Mr. Too Late, a major loser, lowers interest rates, NOW."

A move by Trump to fire Powell would likely send a bolt of fear through fi

nancial markets. While Wall Street loves lower rates, largely because they boost stock prices, the bigger worry would be that a less independent Fed would be less effective at keeping inflation under control. Such a move could further weaken, if not kill, the United States' reputation as the world's safest place to keep cash.

All the uncertainty striking pillars at the center of financial markets means some investors say they're having to rethink the fundamentals of how to invest.

"We can no longer extrapolate from past trends or rely on long-term assumptions to anchor portfolios," strategists at BlackRock Investment Institute said in a report. "The distinction between tactical and strategic asset allocation is blurred. Instead, we need to constantly reassess the long-term trajectory and be dynamic with asset allocation as we learn more about the future state of the global system."

That in turn could push investors outside the United States to keep more of their money in their home markets, according to the strategists led by Jean Boivin.

On Wall Street, Big Tech stocks helped lead indexes lower ahead of their latest earnings reports due later this week.

Tesla sank 5.7%. The electric vehicle maker's stock has more than halved from its record set in December on criticism that the stock price had gone too high and that CEO Elon Musk's role in leading the U.S. government's efforts to cut spending is damaging the brand.

Nvidia fell 4.5% for a third straight drop after disclosing that U.S. export limits on chips to China could hurt its first-quarter results by \$5.5 billion.

They led another wipeout on Wall Street, and 92% of the stocks within the S&P 500 fell.

Among the few gainers were Discover Financial Services and Capital One Financial, which climbed after the U.S. government approved their proposed merger. Discover rose 3.6%, while Capital One added 1.5%.

All told, the S&P 500 fell 124.50 points to 5,158.20. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 971.82 to 38,170.41, and the Nasdaq composite tumbled 415.55 to 15,870.90.

Gold also climbed to burnish its reputation as a safe-haven investment, unlike some others.

In the bond market, shorter-term Treasury yields fell as investors expect the Fed to cut its main overnight interest rate later this year to support the economy.

But longer-term yields rose with doubts about the United States' standing in the global economy. The yield on the 10-year Treasury climbed to 4.40%, up from 4.34% at the end of last week and from just about 4% earlier this month. That's a substantial move for the bond market.

The U.S. dollar's value, meanwhile, fell against the euro, Japanese yen, the Swiss franc and other currencies.

Wis. Gov's Guidance On ICE Draws GOP Protest

By SCOTT BAUER
The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Guidance from the Democratic governor of Wisconsin's administration to state employees about what to do if immigration officials or other federal agents show up at their workplace drew fire today from Republicans, who said it was in defiance of the law and President Donald Trump.

The memo from Gov. Tony Evers' administration sent Friday afternoon comes as Trump's administration has ramped up efforts to deport people living in the country illegally, setting off a string of lawsuits and resistance among Democrats.

Here are things to know about what Evers did in Wisconsin.

The memo details how to respond to ICE

Anne Hanson, deputy secretary at Evers' Department of Administration, said in the email to state employees that the guidance was sent after receiving questions about how to respond if Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents or other federal agents show up at their workplace.

The five-point memo tells state employees to remain calm and immediately notify their supervisor. After asking agents to identify themselves and to present documentation of why they are there, the guidance says the state worker should contact their office's attorney.

The memo advises state employees not to answer questions from agents, not to give them permission to enter non-public areas and not to give them access to paper files or computer systems without first talking with an attorney.

Every Wisconsin state employee has a responsibility to protect confidential data and information, the memo said.

"Because of this, state employees may not grant ICE or another agent access to any such data or information absent authorization from their legal counsel pursuant to a valid judicial warrant," the guidance concludes.

The memo offers standard advice

Hanson, the Evers official, says that the guidance was offered similar to what other public entities have done.

The recommendations are similar to guidance that Connecticut's Democratic governor issued in January. The

guidelines also mirror what the National Immigration Law Center and other advocacy groups have said should be done when immigration officials show up at a workplace.

Similar to the Wisconsin guidance, the National Immigration Law Center advises employees to contact an attorney, not speak to federal agents and not allow them into a private part of the workplace unless they have a judicial warrant.

Republicans accuse governor of defying the law

Republicans tried to use the memo against Evers, who has yet to say whether he will seek a third term next year in the swing state.

U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany, who represents northern Wisconsin and is considering a run for governor in 2026, said the memo amounts to "ordering state employees to block ICE from doing their job."

"Wisconsin deserves better," Tiffany posted on X. He copied U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi on his message.

Wisconsin Republican Party Chairman Brian Schimming called it an order to "impede justice."

"This blatant defiance of law and order, in direct opposition to the Trump administration's focus on public safety, puts our communities, families, and children at risk," Schimming said in a statement.

Dueling approaches to immigration enforcement

The memo comes as Republicans who control the Wisconsin Legislature and minority Democrats are taking opposite sides on how to handle immigration enforcement.

The Wisconsin Assembly last month passed a bill requiring county sheriffs to comply with federal immigration authorities. Evers has said he is likely to veto the measure.

Democrats introduced a competing proposal that would block state and local government officials from cooperating with federal deportation efforts unless there is a judicial warrant. But that bill will go nowhere in the GOP-controlled Legislature.

The Evers memo was first made public today in a social media post by conservative talk radio host Dan O'Donnell.

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

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

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

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

Mailing address:
Daily Sitka Sentinel
112 Barracks Street
Sitka, AK 99835
Phone: (907) 747-3219
Fax: (907) 747-8898

<http://www.sitkasentinel.com>

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

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

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Help Wanted

Help Wanted



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

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



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

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

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Respite Care Presentation Set

Occupational therapist Jamilee Seavey will give a presentation on the importance of respite care for caregivers of children with autism spectrum disorder and other disabilities 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24, at Sitka Public Library.

The event is free and open to the public. For information, contact Margot at 907 747-4020 or email margot.oconnell@cityofsitka.org.

CITY & BOROUGH OF SITKA

PUBLIC NOTICE INVITATION TO BID EQUIPMENT - 53'x 6' STEEL GANGWAY

The City and Borough of Sitka will receive sealed bids no later than **2:00:00 p.m. local time, May 2, 2025** at the office of the Harbormaster, 617 Katlian Street, Sitka, Alaska 99835 where the bids will be publicly opened. Minimum bid is one hundred fifty (\$150.00) dollars. Bids received later than 2:00:00 p.m. will be rejected.

The GANGWAY can be inspected between **8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday** at the Gary Paxton Industrial Park lot 9B, across from the Gary Paxton Industrial Park dock, Sitka, Alaska. This item is being sold where is, as is. Bidders must satisfy themselves of the condition of this item and the city offers no warranties. Inquiries can be made through the Harbor Department at (907) 747-4017.

The bidding documents for these items are available free of charge at the office of the Harbormaster, 617 Katlian Street, Sitka, AK 99835; (907) 747-4017. The bidding document must be signed and all applicable spaces shall be completed.

The City and Borough of Sitka reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities.

Stan Eliason, Harbormaster

Published: April 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE Police & Fire Commission

The Police & Fire Commission will meet **5:30pm Wednesday, April 23** in Harrigan Centennial Hall. Items on the agenda include Approval of February Meeting Minutes, Parking Citation Hearing Board and Police Department Body Camera Discussion. This meeting is open to the public.
Published: April 21, 2025

Sitka High Principal Candidates at Today's Meet and Greet

The Sitka School District is holding a meet and greet for Sitka High School principal finalist candidates 6 p.m. today at the SHS commons area.

Finalists are Wade Crissman, Laura Rogers and Charles TenBroeck. Students, staff and members of the public are welcome to attend.

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.

Blessing of Fleet Slated for May 4

The public is invited to the annual Blessing of the Fleet and Mariners Memorial 2 p.m. Sunday, May 4, at the Crescent Harbor Shelter.

The ceremony includes the U.S. Coast Guard Color Guard, local musicians, scripture readings and blessings by local clergy, bell-ringing, and the reading of mariners' names who have passed since last year's ceremony.

A wreath and flowers will be taken out to sea by the Sitka Harbor Department to honor the departed.

The blessing is sponsored by Southeast Alaska Women in Fisheries and Sitka Lutheran Church. Call Bronwyn Walton at 505 269-0906 with any questions.

'Baby Raven Reads' Story Time Thurs.

"Picking Berries," a Baby Raven Reads cultural story time, will be at Sitka Public Library 10:30 a.m. Thursday, April 24.

The program will be led by culture bearer Gloria Wolfe, and includes a read aloud, followed by literacy activities related to the featured book, "Picking Berries," by Hanah Lindoff.

For information call 907 747-4020.

School Board Sets Budget Hearing

The Sitka School Board will hold a work session and community hearing on the 2025-2026 budget 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, in the Sitka High School Library.

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

Calendar of Events

MONDAY

4 p.m. Parade of the Species, line up at Totem Square, games follow at Crescent Harbor shelter, 907-623-2015

5:30-6:30 p.m. AA, Sitka Pioneers Home Recreation Kitchen, call AA hotline 747-8866 for information
6 p.m. White Elephant Shop open
7 p.m. Sitka Sportsman's Association board meeting

TUESDAY

All Day, Earth Day cleanup, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, along Indian River Road
6-8 a.m. MEHS Aquatic Center pool open

10:30 a.m. Sitka Sprouts, ages 3-5 years and caregivers, Sitka Sound Science Center
Noon AA, St. Peter's basement, call AA hotline 747-8866 for information
Noon Rotary Club, Misfit Island Cafe
3:30 p.m. Stay and Play, Sitka Public Library
6 p.m. Assembly, Centennial Hall
7-8 p.m. Sitka Tells Tales storytelling event, Harbor Mountain Brewery Co.

WEDNESDAY

10 a.m. Tongass Tots Playgroup, ages 0-3, St. Peter's See House
11-2 Salvation Army Little Store open
Noon MEHS Aquatic Center pool open

Noon White Elephant Shop open
Noon AA, St. Peter's basement, call AA hotline 747-8866 for information
Noon STA Tribal Council, via Tele-conference
2 p.m. Balance class for seniors, ANB founders Hall
4:30 p.m. Sitka Parkinson's Support Group, 1212 Seward Ave. (the old BOQ) 907 747-3461

5:30-8 p.m. Graduation Lei-making workshop, STA, register at <https://forms.gle/dfpLvufPHGEDSjeN6>
5:30 p.m. School Budget Workshop and community hearing, Sitka High library
5:30 p.m. Police and Fire Commission, Harrigan Centennial Hall
7 p.m. Sitka Sportsman's Association Indoor Range open
7 p.m. AA, St. Gregory's Church, 606 Etolin Street, info: 907-747-8866

Police Blotter

Sitka Police Department received the following calls as of 8 a.m. today.

April 18

At 12:21 p.m. a man was reported to have fallen off a bike at Erler and DeArmond streets. He left his bike there and at 12:46 p.m. he was found at DeGroff Street and Hollywood Way, and was taken to the hospital.

At 5:16 p.m. a truck was reported speeding on Lake Street. Officers didn't find a truck matching the description.

April 19

At 12:02 a.m. an officer saw a vehicle with all its doors open parked at Lincoln Street and Cathedral Way. The driver was found inside a nearby eatery and was told an officer had closed the doors.

At 5:39 a.m. TSA asked police to verify an identity at the airport.

At 8:26 a.m. a worker on Granite Creek Road reported a bear was in the area.

At 10:13 a.m. a caller said two men were smoking marijuana in the Castle Hill parking lot. An officer didn't find any marijuana smokers in the area.

A man's new girlfriend was reported making harassing phone calls to one of the man's former girlfriends. The two women were given their options and told to stay apart from one another.

At 12:35 p.m. a caller said a bear had torn the door off a shed and dragged out a garbage can in the Indian River Subdivision at 2 a.m. that morning.

At 12:42 p.m. police told a man standing in the center part of the SMC-HPR roundabout that people weren't allowed to be there.

Sitka Tells Tales 'About Place'

Sitka Tells Tales, the local live storytelling series, will present an Earth Day event "About Place: Stories of Seeing and Celebrating the Tongass" 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, at Harbor Mountain Brewery Co.

It will be hosted by Artchange Inc., Skipper Science and Sitka Conservation Society. About Place will air on Raven Radio on May 20. For information call 907 738-2174.

Prescription Drug 'Take Back' Listed

The 28th National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, led by the Drug Enforcement Administration, will be 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at the Sitka Public Library.

Hosted by Sitka Counseling and the HOPE Coalition, the event offers "a respectful, confidential and judgment-free space for community members to safely dispose of unused or expired prescription medications," the organizers said. "By removing medications that are no longer needed, we reduce the risk of accidental use, misuse, and environmental harm."

The event is centered on protecting health, promoting safety, and supporting individuals and families in making informed, empowered choices.

Appreciation is extended to Harry Race Pharmacy, the Sitka Police Department, and the Sitka Public Library for their commitment to this effort, organizers said.

Community Orchestra Concert Staged April 25

The City and Borough of Sitka Parks and Recreation division welcomes the public to the Sitka Community Orchestra Concert 7 p.m. Friday, April 25, at the Sitka Performing Arts Center.

The orchestra is conducted by Drew Larson. Sitkans of all ages will play the music they have been rehearsing since January.

Entry is free; doors open at 6:30 p.m.

For information, contact City of Sitka Parks and Recreation at recreation@cityofsitka.org or 907 747-4031.

Sitka Rose Awards Event Set 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 Oza-wa. Alicia Porter will receive the Sitka Rose Icon Award.

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 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.

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SENTINEL SPORTS

Sports World Honors Pope Francis

By ANDREW DAMPF
AP Sports Writer

ROME (AP) — Top-flight soccer matches in Italy and Argentina were postponed after the death of Pope Francis today.

The Buenos Aires club that the Argentine pontiff supported throughout his life was also mourning its most famous fan.

The wider soccer and sports world paid homage after Francis died at 88.

All sports events scheduled for Easter Monday in Italy were postponed, including four Serie A games: Torino vs. Udinese, Cagliari vs. Fiorentina, Genoa vs. Lazio and Parma vs. Juventus. The games will now be played on Wednesday.

Likewise, three top-flight games in Argentina were postponed from today to Tuesday: Tigre vs. Belgrano, Argentinos Juniors vs. Barracas Central and Independiente Rivadavia vs. Aldosivi. The games will be preceded by a minute of silence to mourn Francis, who was the Archbishop of Buenos Aires before being elected pope.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino said he was “deeply saddened” over the pope’s death.

“I was privileged enough to spend some time with him on a couple of occasions, and he always shared his enthusiasm for football and stressed the important role our sport plays in society,” Infantino said on Instagram. “All the prayers of the whole football world are with him.”

Tennis great Rafael Nadal expressed his “sincere condolences” for Francis in a post on X in Spanish.

Pope and Maradona

Francis’ passion for soccer became known almost immediately after he was elected as the first pope from Latin America in 2013 when the Argentine club San Lorenzo tweeted a photo of him holding up the team’s crest. He was even a card-carrying member of the club, with San Lorenzo ID No. 88,235.

San Lorenzo is nicknamed “the Saints.”

“He was always one of us,” San Lorenzo said in tribute on Instagram, remembering how Francis watched its 1946 championship team as a boy.

San Lorenzo performed well after Francis was elected as the 266th pope



Pope Francis twirls a soccer ball he was presented by a member of the Circus of Cuba, during his weekly general audience in the Pope Paul VI hall, at the Vatican Jan. 2, 2019. (AP Photo/Andrew Medichini, file)

in March 2013. The team won a national title in 2013 and claimed the Copa Libertadores for the first time a year later. Club officials traveled twice to the Vatican carrying trophies to thank Francis for his support.

A planned new San Lorenzo stadium is to be named for Francis.

In Italy, there were also suggestions that Francis supported Juventus since his family came from the Piedmont region where the Turin club is based. Francis’ father, Mario Bergoglio, was a basketball player.

Pope and Maradona

Francis met countryman Diego Maradona twice as pope. There was a special audience in connection with a charity soccer match in 2014 when Maradona presented the pontiff with a soccer jersey, emblazoned with the name “Francisco” — Spanish for Francis — and Maradona’s No. 10.

“We all now realize he’s a (star),” Maradona said after another meeting in 2015. “I’m Francis’ top fan.”

When Maradona died in 2020, Francis remembered the soccer great in his prayers.

“A different, approachable, Argentine pope,” Lionel Messi, another Argentina soccer great, said on Instagram.



MAYORAL FIRST PITCH -- Sitka mayor and businessman Steven Eisenbeisz throws out the first softball of the season Saturday on Moller Field during opening day ceremonies. (Sentinel photo by James Poulson)



LEADING OFF LITTLE LEAGUE -- Chris McGraw, manager of Sitka Sound Cruise Terminal, throws out the first baseball of the Little League season Saturday on Moller Field. Hundreds of children, coaches and parents turned out on a partially sunny morning for the opening day ceremony. Players and coaches were individually introduced and Joe Montagna, musician and Xóots Elementary School gym teacher, played the Jimi Hendrix version of the National Anthem on electric guitar at the ceremony. (Sentinel photo)

Lokedi Breaks Boston Marathon Record

By JIMMY GOLEN
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Sharon Lokedi broke the Boston Marathon course record, and fellow Kenyan John Korir joined his brother as a race champion today as the city celebrated the 250th anniversary of the start of the Revolutionary War.

Lokedi outran two-time defending champion Hellen Obiri over the final mile a year after losing a sprint down Boylston Street to her in one of the closest finishes in race history. Lokedi finished in an unofficial 2 hours, 17 minutes, 22 seconds — 19 seconds ahead of Obiri and more than 2 1/2 minutes faster than the previous Boston best.

Six months after winning Chicago, Korir finished in 2:04:45 — the second-fastest winning time in race history.

tory as the runners took advantage of perfect marathon weather to conquer the 26.2 miles from Hopkinton to Boston’s Copley Square.

After crossing the line, Korir was greeted by his older brother, 2012 Boston winner Wesley Korir. Although the race has been won by a pair of unrelated John Kelleys and two different Robert Cheruiyots, the Korirs are the first brothers — or relatives of any kind — to win the world’s oldest and most prestigious annual marathon.

Conner Mantz of Provo, Utah, finished fourth after losing a three-way sprint to the finish with Alphonse Felix Simbu of Tanzania and Cybrian Kotut of Kenya. Simbu was second and Kotut was third.

Korir ran without his bib showing, pulling it out of his running tights as he sprinted down Boylston Street.

Reenactors on horseback, accompanied by a fife and drum playing “Yankee Doodle,” helped start the festivities and add a bit of levity when Paul Revere’s horse was spooked by the finish line decal on the street and stopped. The actor portraying the colonial silversmith and patriot had to hop off and walk the last few steps himself as the small early crowd laughed and clapped.

After reading a proclamation, Revere gently tugged the horse the rest of the way before riding off to more ceremonies commemorating the midnight ride on April 19, 1775, that warned the colonists in Lexington and Concord that the British were on the march.

Marcel Hug of Switzerland had no such trouble completing the course, zooming into Copley Square in 1:21:34 for his eighth Boston wheelchair title.

He beat two-time winner Daniel Romanchuk by more than four minutes in the 50th anniversary of Bob Hall’s pioneering push to add a wheelchair division to the race.

“It means a lot to win this year, 50 years of wheelchairs in Boston,” Hug said. “For me, it will take some time to realize what it means, eight times wins. It’s such an incredible number.”

Susannah Scaroni of the United States won the women’s wheelchair race for the second time, finishing in 1:35:20. Her victory guaranteed that the “Star-Spangled Banner” would play on Boylston Street in Copley Square on Patriots’ Day, the state holiday that commemorates the first shots of the Revolutionary War 250 years ago Saturday.

Wolves Sweep Kayhi in Series

By Sentinel Staff

In the first regular baseball games of the season, Sitka High scored three victories over the Ketchikan Kings, Thursday and Friday on the turf at Moller Field.

Sitka first won in a 10-0 blowout Thursday, but struggled in Friday’s first game, eventually winning 3-2 after the Kings couldn’t manage to tie the game despite a seventh inning rally attempt.

The Wolves won the third game of the series 17-0.

A full story on the baseball games will appear in Tuesday’s Sentinel.

Correction: City League Scores

By Sentinel Staff

In Friday’s story on City League volleyball gameplay, it was wrongly stated that the SEARHC Slammers beat the Wildflower Cookie Monsters 2-1 in the competitive division bracket. In truth, Wildflower beat the Slammers 2-1 to progress to the championship match, Sunday, April 28, at the Blatchley gym. The Sentinel regrets the error.

Homers Blast Mariners past Blue Jays 8-3

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

TORONTO (AP) — Cal Raleigh and Rowdy Tellez each hit two-run homers, Dylan Moore added a solo shot and the Seattle Mariners beat the Toronto Blue Jays 8-3 on Sunday to win their three-game series.

Raleigh has nine home runs, tying him with Athletics first baseman Tyler Soderstrom for the major league lead.

The Mariners are 3-0 in series-deciding games.

Luis Castillo (2-2) matched a career high by allowing 10 hits in five innings but won for the first time in three starts. Castillo allowed three runs, walked two and struck out five.

Seattle needed eight pitches to take a 3-0 lead before Toronto recorded an out in the first inning. Moore homered to begin the game, his fifth, and Julio Rodríguez doubled before Raleigh connected.

In the second, Randy Arozarena had a two-run single and Mitch Garver’s base

hit made it 6-0.

Blue Jays left-hander Easton Lucas (2-2) allowed six runs in 1 2/3 innings, before right-hander Paxton Schultz came on and struck out eight in 4 1/3 shutout innings, matching a major league record for strikeouts by a reliever making his debut.

Schultz was selected from Triple-A Buffalo before Sunday’s game. Toronto also recalled right-hander Dillon Tate, who gave up Tellez’s homer in the seventh.

Tellez homered against his former team in all three games of the series. His only other homer this season came April 11 against Texas.

Arozarena slid into the wall in the left field corner to retire Andrés Giménez for the final out of the second as Toronto left the bases loaded.

Mariners: Seattle had not named a starter for Tuesday’s game at Boston.

Blue Jays: RHP Kevin Gausman (2-1, 2.49) is scheduled to start at Houston today against RHP Hunter Brown (2-1, 1.50).



Mariners’ Julio Rodriguez (44) slides safely into second base ahead of a tag by Toronto Blue Jays shortstop Bo Bichette (11) after a throwing error on a dropped third strike in the fourth inning in Toronto on Sunday. (Jon Blacker/The Canadian Press via AP)

Steph Curry Scores 31 in Warriors’ Victory

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Draymond Green easily boiled down the key to Golden State’s victory over the Houston Rockets in Game 1 of the first-round playoff series Sunday night.

“In order for us to win basketball games it requires Steph Curry to be great,” Green said. “And he was just that.”

Curry scored 31 points and the Warriors built a huge lead and held on to beat the Rockets 95-85.

Curry was 12 of 19 from the field, hitting 5 of 9 3-pointers. He wowed his teammates with a couple of circus shots that caused the bench to go wild.

Jimmy Butler added 25 points, seven rebounds, six assists and five steals in his playoff debut for the Warriors after joining them in a trade from Miami in February.

“(Curry) just made some amazing plays and obviously carried us offensively along with Jimmy,” coach Steve Kerr said.

The seventh-seeded Warriors led by 23 in the third quarter, but second-seeded Houston cut it to 69-60 entering the fourth.

A basket by Amen Thompson with about 5 1/2 minutes remaining got the Rockets within four. Curry hit his fifth 3-pointer of the night a few seconds later to make it 82-75.

The Rockets cut it to four again with about 2 1/2 minutes left on a 3 by Fred VanVleet. This time Moses Moody hit a 3-pointer to start a 7-0 run that made it 91-80 and sent fans streaming for the exits.

Game 2 of the best-of-seven series is Wednesday night in Houston.

The Warriors got the win despite Houston having a 22-6 advantage on the offensive boards.

“I think we can play a lot better,” Green said. “That’s the encouraging part about it. I don’t think we played very well at all.”

It was the 100th career playoff coaching victory for Kerr, who moved into a tie with Larry Brown for sixth-most playoff wins.

“I’m lucky to coach the guys that I do,” Kerr said. “Players win games. It’s our job to try to help them along a little bit here and there.”

The Rockets, who returned to the playoffs for the first time since 2020, got 26 points from Alperen Sengun in his first

career postseason game. But VanVleet and Jalen Green struggled, making just 7 of 34 shots.

“We just didn’t execute,” VanVleet said. “Maybe the physicality was an issue, but I thought we matched that for the most part.”

VanVleet was 2 of 13 from 3-point range on a night Houston made just 6 of 29 3-pointers and was 11 for 20 on free throws.

The Warriors got a spot in the playoffs with a 121-116 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies on Tuesday night in the Play-In

MEHS Field Public Notice

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

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

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.

Gaza Rescuers Dismiss Israeli Probe of Killings

CAIRO (AP) — The main Palestinian rescue service in Gaza today condemned Israel's probe into the killings of 15 medical workers last month, calling it a "fabricated investigation."

The army announced the results of its investigation on Sunday, saying it had found "professional failures" and dismissing a deputy commander in what it described as an accident.

A total of 15 people were killed in the March 23 incident — including eight medics with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, six members of the Hamas government's Civil Defense unit and a United Nations staffer. Troops bulldozed over the bodies along with their mangled vehicles, burying them in a mass grave. U.N. and rescue workers were only able to reach the site a week later.

In a statement, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society said the investigation underscores "the occupation's persistence in shielding the truth from the world."

It accused Israel of making "fallacious allegations" that medical rescue teams are part of Hamas and asked why Israel continues to detain a paramedic who survived the attack.

"We call on the international community to abstain from validating the results of the occupation's fabricated investigation," it said.

Israel at first claimed the medics' vehicles were acting suspiciously and did not have emergency signals on when troops opened fire. But the army later backtracked after cellphone video recovered from one medic showed the ambulances had lights flashing and logos visible as they pulled up to help another ambulance that earlier came under fire.

The military said six of those killed were Hamas militants, but has given little evidenced to support the claim.

The shootings outraged many in the international community, with some calling the killings a war crime.

Hegseth Accused of 2nd Shared Signal Message

By TARA COPP and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House expressed support today for Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth following media reports that he shared sensitive military details in another Signal messaging chat, this time with his wife and brother.

Neither the White House nor Hegseth denied that he had shared such information in a second chat, instead focusing their responses on what they called the disgruntled workers whom they blamed for leaking to the media and insisting that no classified information had been disclosed.

what was communicated in the already disclosed chain with Trump administration officials.

A person familiar with the contents and those who received the messages, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters, confirmed the second chat to The Associated Press. The person said it included 13 people and was dubbed "Defense 'Team Huddle.'"

White House officials first learned of the second Signal chat from news reports Sunday, according to an official familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal conversations.

Hegseth, talking to reporters while attending the White House Easter Egg Roll, didn't address the substance of the allegations or the national security implications they raised but assailed the media.

"They take anonymous sources from disgruntled former employees and then they try to slash and burn people and ruin their reputations," Hegseth said. "Not going to work with me. Because we're changing the Defense Department, putting the Pentagon back in the hands of warfighters. And anonymous smears from disgruntled former employees on old news doesn't matter."

Republican Sen. Tom Cotton, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, struck a similar tone, writing on Sunday night on X: "Secretary Hegseth is busy implementing President Trump's America First agenda, while these leakers are trying to undermine them both. Shameful."

The Trump administration's response on the use of Signal

The Trump administration has struggled in its public explanations about senior officials' use of Signal, a commercially available app not authorized to be used to communicate sensitive or classified national defense information.

The first chat, set up by national security adviser Mike Waltz, included a number of Cabinet members and came to light because Jeffrey Goldberg, editor-in-chief of The Atlantic, was added to the group.

Officials have repeatedly insisted that the information shared on Signal was not classified, though the contents of that chat, which The Atlantic published, shows that Hegseth listed weapons systems and a timeline for the attack on the Iran-backed Houthis last month.

Multiple current and former military officials say launch times and munitions drop times are classified information and putting those details on an unsecured channel could have put those pilots at risk.



Pope Francis receives U.S. Vice President JD Vance, right, before bestowing the Urbi et Orbi (Latin for to the city and the world) blessing in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Sunday. (Vatican Media via AP, HO)

JD Vance Among Pope's Last Visitors Easter Day

By CHRIS MEGERIAN The Associated Press WASHINGTON (AP) — One of Pope Francis' final encounters before his death was with U.S. Vice President JD Vance, who visited the Vatican over the weekend.

The meeting took place on Easter Sunday. Vance, a Catholic convert, entered the room and reached down for the pope's hand. "Hello," the vice president said. "So good to see you."

Francis was sitting in a wheelchair, and his words were inaudible in a video released by the Vatican.

"I know you've not been feeling great, but it's good see you in better health," Vance said.

A priest serving as a translator spoke for the pope.

"These are for your children," the priest said as someone presented Vance with chocolate eggs. Next came a tray of additional gifts, including rosaries and a Vatican tie.

"Thank you," Vance said as he held the dark tie. "So beautiful."

They posed for a photo, Vance standing to the pope's right before bidding him farewell.

"I pray for you every day," Vance said. "God bless you."

Vance's visit was not without political sensitivities, and he met with Cardinal Pietro Parolin on Saturday for what the Vatican described as "an exchange of opinions." The Catholic Church, under Francis' leadership, has championed the rights of migrants, while Vance and President Donald Trump have advocated for crackdowns.

Vance's office said the vice president and the cardinal "discussed their shared religious faith, Catholicism in the United States, the plight of persecuted Christian communities around the world, and President Trump's commitment to restoring world peace."

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters that she had spoken to members of Vance's team on

today morning after Francis' death.

"They expressed how excited and grateful they were for the opportunity to have met with the pope just yesterday," she said.

Leavitt added that Francis "touched millions of lives throughout his tenure as the head of the Catholic Church and so it's a solemn day for Catholics around the world and we are praying for all those who loved the pope and believed in him."

Trump issued a statement on Truth Social: "Rest in Peace Pope Francis! May God Bless him and all who loved him!"

At the White House Easter Egg Roll today, Trump said he signed an executive order for U.S. flags to fly at half-staff in the pope's honor.

"He was a good man," the president told reporters. "He loved the world and it's an honor to do that."

Vance, who continued on to India after Italy, posted additional thoughts on social media.

"I just learned of the passing of Pope Francis. My heart goes out to the millions of Christians all over the world who loved him," he wrote on X. "I was happy to see him yesterday, though he was obviously very ill."

Vance shared a link to remarks that Francis gave on March 27, 2020, as COVID-19 was spreading around the globe.

"I'll always remember him for the below homily he gave in the very early days of COVID," Vance wrote. "It was really quite beautiful."

Francis had spoken from St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

"Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities," he said. "It has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void."

He encouraged people to rely on their faith to help them endure "because with God life never dies."

Pope . . .

Continued from Page 1

framework, he said the pandemic showed the need for "all of us to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other."

World leaders on Monday extolled Francis' commitment to the marginalized. French President Emmanuel Macron, whose country is largely Catholic, wrote on X: "From Buenos Aires to Rome, Pope Francis wanted the church to bring joy and hope to the poorest. ... May this hope forever outlast him."

Flags flew at half-staff in Italy, and crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square. When the great bells of St. Peter's Basilica began tolling, tourists stopped in their tracks to record the moment on their phones.

Johann Xavier, who traveled from Australia, hoped to see the pope during his visit. "But then we heard about it when we came in here. It pretty much devastated all of us," he said.

Francis' death sets off a weeks-long process of allowing the faithful to pay their final respects, first for Vatican officials in the Santa Marta chapel and then in St. Peter's for the general public, followed by a funeral and a conclave to elect a new pope.

As the sun was setting on Monday evening, the Vatican held a Rosary prayer in St. Peter's Square in its first public commemoration.

In his final will, Francis confirmed he will be buried in St. Mary Major Basilica in a simple underground tomb with only "Franciscus" written on it. The basilica, which sits outside the Vatican, is home to Francis' favorite icon of the Virgin Mary, to whom Francis was particularly devoted.

Reforming the Vatican

Francis was elected on a mandate to reform the Vatican bureaucracy and finances but went further in shaking up the church without changing its core doctrine. "Who am I to judge?" he replied when asked about a purportedly gay priest.

The comment sent a message of welcome to the LGBTQ+ community and those who felt shunned by a church that had stressed sexual propriety over unconditional love. "Being homosexual is not a crime," he told The Associated Press in 2023, urging an end to civil laws that criminalize it.

Stressing mercy, Francis changed the church's position on the death penalty,

Ukraine Says Russians Didn't Mark Ceasefire

By ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian attacks during the 30-hour Easter ceasefire unilaterally declared by President Vladimir Putin over the weekend killed three people in Ukraine's southern Kherson region, a regional official said today.

Oleksandr Prokudin, the head of Kherson's administration, wrote on Telegram that the casualties occurred over the last 24 hours, adding that three others were wounded in the region, parts of which are occupied by Russia.

After Putin declared the move on Saturday, Ukraine responded by voicing readiness to reciprocate any genuine ceasefire but said the Russian attacks continued. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Russia violated the ceasefire more than 2,900 times.

Zelenskyy said that Russian forces carried out 96 assault operations along the front line, shelled Ukrainian positions more than 1,800 times and used hundreds of drones during the course of the ceasefire. "The nature of Ukrainian actions will continue to be mirror-like: we will respond to silence with silence, and our blows will be a defense against Russian blows. Actions always speak

louder than words," he said.

The Russian Defense Ministry, for its part, listed 4,900 Ukrainian violations of the ceasefire. It charged that Moscow's forces "strictly observed the ceasefire and remained at previously occupied lines and positions."

Speaking today, Putin said that the fighting resumed after the ceasefire expired at midnight (2100 GMT). Commenting on Zelenskyy's call for a comprehensive 30-day ceasefire or, at least, a halt on strikes on civilian facilities, the Russian leader noted that Kyiv was trying to "seize the initiative," adding that "we must think about it, carefully assess everything and look at the results of the ceasefire."

The Russian leader has previously made a full ceasefire conditional on halting Western arms supplies to Kyiv and Ukraine's mobilization effort — demands rejected by Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters today that Russia would inform "all the interested parties" about the Ukrainian violations of the ceasefire.

Peskov said that Russia "remains open to searching for a peaceful settlement and is continuing to work with the American side," adding that "we certainly hope that this work will produce results."

Gunman Who Killed 23 In Texas Pleads Guilty

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Maribel Hernandez and her husband, Leonardo Campos, were shopping at a Walmart in a Texas border city in 2019 when a gunman who wanted to stop what he believed was a Hispanic invasion opened fire, killing them and 21 others.

Today, Hernandez's daughter, Yvonne Loya Gonzalez, spoke directly to the gunman, Patrick Crusius, after he pleaded guilty to capital murder in the El Paso massacre: "Their absence in my life has left a deep void in my heart."

The statements by family members and victims that began today afternoon are expected to continue through Wednesday. Some, including Gonzalez, told Crusius they have forgiven him.

"I have no more room for hate in my heart," she said.

Crusius, a white 26-year-old community college dropout, did not address the families while accepting the plea deal, which he made after local prosecutors agreed to take the death penalty off the table. He had already been sentenced to 90 consecutive life terms on federal hate crime charges. His accepting of the plea agreement ends six years of efforts to punish him by state and federal authorities.

Crusius, who wore a striped jumpsuit, shackles and a protective vest

during the hearing, drove more than 700 miles from his home near Dallas to carry out the shooting on Aug. 3, 2019.

"You came to inflict terror, to take innocent lives and to shatter a community that had done nothing but stand for kindness, unity and love. You slaughtered fathers, mothers, sons and daughters," State District Judge Sam Medrano said.

"Now as you begin the rest of your life locked away, remember this: your mission failed," he continued. "You did not divide this city, you strengthened it. You did not silence its voice, you made it louder. You did not instill fear, you inspired unity. El Paso rose, stronger and braver."

Medrano sentenced Crusius to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

While one of his lawyers, Joe Spencer, told the court, "We offer our deepest condolences," Crusius did not explicitly apologize today for his actions.

Crusius also pleaded guilty today to 22 counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, which were enhanced with violence and prejudice findings, in relation to the 22 people who were injured but survived the shooting. He was sentenced to 22 additional life sentences on those counts.

BIHA . . .

Continued from Page 1

Trail. Goddard said the property intersects with an easement of the Cross Trail, which is not an official section of the trail, but Katie Riley said that it's still used as part of the Cross Trail, and she would like to see "some thought go into a solution here."

In a public comment, Thomas Young Circle resident Beau Hendrick said he's concerned about BIHA running out of money halfway through the project and leaving the area in worse condition than before. He also said BIHA currently owns undeveloped lots in that area, so he doesn't see the need for an additional 53 lots.

Cliff Richter, BIHA's executive director, told Hendrick that BIHA is waiting for bids from contractors before presenting a final plan. BIHA is "not going to put a shovel in the ground until we have an idea of what we can afford," Richter said. "We will not bite off more than we can chew."

Goddard also noted that the undeveloped lots are intentionally left vacant so BIHA can sell them to finance the Yaw Drive development.

The conceptual plat was approved, and BIHA representatives will meet with the city regularly moving forward to finalize their proposal.

Ring Island Minor Subdivision

Paul Blankenship and Justin Brown filed a preliminary plat to subdivide their co-owned property at Ring Island, in the General Island district, into three lots.

All three lots would have access to power and water lines, and a proposed septic system would service Lots 1 and 2. Only Lots 1 and 2 have dock access, which worried commissioners in case Lot 3 is sold to a different owner in the future.

After city staff said they would work with applicants in developing easement policies if needed, the preliminary plat was granted.

On-site Marijuana Consumption Zoning Text Amendment

Elizabeth and Marty Martin applied to allow for on-site marijuana consumption facilities in the zoning code. They plan on constructing a marijuana retail facility with an outdoor on-site consumption area, though that was not included in the agenda item.

The legal guidance includes the 2019 Alaska state law that allowed for on-site marijuana consumption facilities, which Sitka has not adopted. It includes daily serving limits and the

stipulation that people can use only marijuana products purchased from the facility that day.

Sitka's current code prohibits the public consumption of marijuana, so the proposed change would establish an exception for on-site marijuana facilities. The commission agreed on such facilities' benefit to public health by reducing illegal marijuana consumption in public spaces, especially during the tourist season.

The text change was approved and will be sent to the Assembly for review.

ICE . . .

Continued from Page 1

would work like any other information that needs to be shared. Just because someone says they work for a certain agency doesn't mean that we can give them whatever; we have to have the legal documentation that we legally are able to provide that information."

A warrant would be required for officers to conduct a search, she said.

The district does not keep track of students' immigration status, she added.

People, including migrants, have the right under the Fifth Amendment to remain silent when spoken to by police, the nonprofit Immigrant Legal Resource Center says on its website.

In a separate event last week which triggered a flurry of rumors of ICE activity, local law enforcement officers and others from across the region flew to Sitka for training in a Western States Information Network seminar on ways to approach the scene of an overdose death with an eye to future prosecution of dealers.

The multi-agency event was held at Centennial Hall Wednesday and Thursday. At the Sitka Police Department, Serena Wild said the training pertained to "investigating overdose cases and the pursuit of distribution of a controlled substance relating in death prosecutions. They're learning how best to approach ODs to capture the scene to then later on, maybe, be able to use for prosecution on the dealers and the higher ups."

About 30 officers, including three from the Sitka department, along with some medical personnel attended. WISN is a regional arm of the Regional Information Sharing Systems program, a federally funded but regionally managed police consortium.

Haulout . . .

Continued from Page 1

"Our focus in every meeting going forward is development of the remaining properties (at GPIIP) and how we're going to line all this out," White said.

Other business

Also during Thursday's meeting, the Board recommended adjustments to port tariffs at GPIIP to align with the city small boat harbor moorage rates, which will increase by 4 percent starting July 1.

The board directed White to make some tweaks to the tariff plan that will go to the Assembly for approval.

Board members also discussed the idea of creating a long-term lease for a small parcel of land (Lot 9B) adjacent to the old water bottling plant, where Serka runs Pacific Jewel Marine. He is asking to lease the small parcel to eventually build a covered, 60-foot-tall boathouse along the exterior of the warehouse building.

The GPIIP board backed Serka's idea, as it supports the mission of the park, and gave direction to White to negotiate the terms of a lease with Serka.

Board members also supported the idea of granting short-term leases to both Silver Bay Seafoods for a portion of Lot 9C where it seeks to house temporary workers in camper trailers, and to K&E Construction for a portion of Lot 15 to be used as storage.

SNEP . . .

Continued from Page 1

check-in station to kitchen crew.

Following the community meal, student dance groups gave performances.

Protocol continued in the evening with clan adoptions, as people received Tlingit names with witnesses present.

As the event approached its close around midnight, people held an honoring of Keet Tl'áa Anne Johnson, one of the founding instructors who continues as an active instructor five decades later.

"A lot of young kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews are still being taught by her," SNEP graduate and former instructor Ethel Williams said of Johnson. "She did such an awesome job for all of us."

People also honored L'eiwtu Êesh Herman Davis, who had a hand in the beginning of the program and continues as an active community leader today.

Williams joked that as children first entered the SNEP program "we were scared, (the instructors) were loud. But by the end of it, look what has come about, look what is here. Look what you guys are seeing. To see those kids up there today."

"To see Larry Garrity working on dance with those young men," Williams said. "To see the girls doing the Tlingit sway. ... We can't give enough credit for what we have that's instilled in us, what we have in our heart."