

# DAILY SITKA SENTINEL

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\$1

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6 Pages



## Welcome Mat

Avari Frank, 8, right, and Aurora Armer, 7, cut a ribbon with the help of Sitka Parks and Rec Coordinator Kevin Knox Friday evening at the Keet Gooshee Heen Elementary School gym during a free open gym event to celebrate the new Gymnastics Airfloor. Parents and children were able to try out the

\$18,000 25x40-foot, 4-inch-thick 600-pound air mat made for use in gymnastics and tumbling exercises. The Airfloor was donated by the Sitka Recreation Foundation with contributions from Sitka Sound Slayers, the White Elephant Shop and individual donors. (Sentinel Photo By James Poulson)

## Murkowski Defends Renewable Energy Projects

By YERETH ROSEN  
Alaska Beacon

In a political environment where the president and his administration are pushing for more fossil fuel development and scorning alternative energy, Alaska's senior U.S. senator is defending renewable projects in the rural areas of her state.

U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, speaking at an Anchorage conference on Tuesday, recounted her efforts to convince Interior Secretary Doug Burgum that wind, solar and other sources of renewable energy are valuable even in oil-producing Alaska.

In a phone call Monday that lasted

more than an hour and in which Burgum reiterated the administration's support for more extraction of oil, gas and coal and its opposition to wind energy, Murkowski said she made a pitch for renewable projects in Alaska that were previously awarded grants but are now in limbo because of Trump administration funding freezes.

"We're coming to the department and saying, 'I know that you put on pause funding for clean energy resources. If you don't like the vernacular that we're using, that's fine, but look at it from the perspective of energy independence for these small communi-

ties and what independence means and looks like for them,'" Murkowski said at the Alaska Infrastructure Development Symposium.

The three-day symposium is sponsored by the state, the Alaska Municipal League, the Alaska Federation of Natives and other organizations.

Murkowski urged conference attendees to help educate officials from the Department of the Interior and other federal departments about rural Alaska communities' situations. Unlike communities in the Lower 48 states, rural Alaska communities are unconnected to larger energy grids and often struggle with expensive and difficult-to-store diesel fuel, making renewables a practical alternative, she noted.

Even a long-desired natural gas pipeline megaproject from Alaska's North Slope, which President Donald Trump and others are enthusiastically backing, would not do much to help rural Alaska communities that lie outside of any large power grid.

"It's not going to do a spur out to Togiak. It's not going to do a spur out to Kobuk," Murkowski said, naming a Yup'ik village in Western Alaska and an Inupiat village in Northwest Alaska. "So I said, 'Please, please don't forget the opportunities that come to our more rural communities that are more isolated who need to be able to access those resources that are there. And those resources may be a little bit of wind, it may be a little bit of solar, it may be a little bit of the of the run of river, it may be a little bit of geothermal.'"

Murkowski's defense of renewable energy comes as hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of planned rural Alaska projects are in doubt because of Trump administration actions. The administration has frozen much of the infrastructure funding that was awarded during the Biden administration, including funding for renewable energy development.

Last month, the Alaska Public Interest Research Group said it had calculated that over \$1 billion of Alaska



Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, speaks on Tuesday at the Alaska Infrastructure Development Symposium in Anchorage. (Photo by Yereth Rosen/Alaska Beacon)

energy and other infrastructure projects were affected. As a result, some local governments, tribes and other organizations have delayed planned projects because they are uncertain about reimbursement. Such delays in rural Alaska can put projects at least a year behind schedule because construction work depends on delivery of heavy equipment and material by barges that can travel only in ice-free conditions.

As of yet, there has been little clarity on which projects will actually get funded and which will have to be canceled, said Murkowski and municipal officials attending the symposium.

Murkowski said at least a couple of Trump administration department secretaries are planning trips to Alaska in June, and that might present an educational opportunity. She did not specify which cabinet members may be visiting.

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## Assembly Approves Budgets, Land Lease

ANNA LAFFREY  
Sentinel Staff Writer

The Assembly Tuesday adopted the city's general fund and enterprise fund budgets for fiscal year 2026, amended the city code governing parks and recreation facilities, and approved the first reading of a lease agreement for a community garden.

Following several months of meetings on the budget with city staff, the Assembly voted unanimously to approve both budget ordinances on second reading.

The ordinance making changes to city code on parks and recreation also earned unanimous support from the Assembly on second reading. The ordinance deals with expansion in the city P&R division's scope of responsibilities, as well as increased usage of city parks and recreation areas, and formalizes the city's partnership with the Sitka School District for uses of many parks facilities.

Code updates will alter the scheduling and permit procedures for city facilities, allowing for more online bookings, and restricting reservations of the Tom Young Cabin to Sitka residents.

### Community Gardens

Near the end of the meeting, the Assembly unanimously approved on first reading a lease for a half-acre of city-owned land on Jarvis Street to the Sitka Community Gardens Association for development of 48 horticulture plots.

The city's lease of the garden site follows a nearly year-long process between

the city and the Community Gardens group, which is a joint project between the local nonprofits Transition Sitka and the Sitka Local Food Networks.

The garden property is adjacent to the land where the Sitka Homeless Coalition is developing a group of small houses for unhoused Sitkans.

After receiving a request from Community Gardens to lease land for a garden, the city put out a request for proposals for the Jarvis Street Horticulture Site. Community Gardens was the only respondent, proposing a development with 45 10-foot by 20-foot garden plots, as well as two 3-foot by 20-foot raised plots that would be ADA accessible.

In January, the Assembly directed city staff to develop a lease with the group.

With the Assembly's approval on first reading, the lease ordinance will be up for final approval at the May 13 Assembly meeting.

It calls for an initial lease term of three years with five five-year extensions available if mutually agreed to by the Community Gardens as well as the Assembly.

Community Gardens would pay one dollar per year for the lease, and would be responsible for all development, utilities, and care for the land.

Joel Hanson, project manager for the Community Gardens group, said the Gardens team is "committing to this long-term plan and long-term project, and we really appreciate the opportunity"

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## Legislators Uphold Veto Of School Funding Bill

By CORINNE SMITH and  
JAMES BROOKS

Alaska Beacon

The Alaska Legislature has voted to uphold Gov. Mike Dunleavy's veto of a bill that would have significantly increased the funding formula for Alaska's K-12 public schools.

Dunleavy vetoed House Bill 69 last week, citing cost concerns and the lack of policy measures he endorsed. With the House and Senate meeting in joint session, the vote to override Dunleavy was 33-27, sustaining the veto. Forty of the Legislature's 60 members were needed for an override.

Sen. Bert Stedman, R-Sitka, voted against overriding; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot, I-Sitka, the bill's sponsor, voted for overriding.

In its final version, HB 69 would have increased the state's base student allocation, core of the K-12 funding formula, by \$1,000 per student. That would have resulted in \$253 million more per year for public schools, if fully funded.

Last year, the Legislature voted overwhelmingly in favor of a smaller,

\$174 million formula increase. Dunleavy vetoed that bill as well. Lawmakers then failed by a single vote to override the governor's decision.

Unlike in 2024, when education supporters packed the Capitol to urge an override, there was no major protest accompanying the override vote. A single pro-override sign-waver stood outside the Capitol for about 30 minutes during lunchtime, then departed amid a light drizzle.

As the joint session got underway, Sen. Lyman Hoffman, D-Bethel and co-chair of the Senate Finance Committee, spoke first.

"It is with great reluctance that I stand here today to support the governor's veto," he said. "As everyone is well aware we have a major budget deficit. Not only in the current year that we are in, some \$150 million, but we also have a substantial amount for the coming fiscal year."

Hoffman said that while he supports a \$1,000 BSA increase, lawmakers must address raising new revenues

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## May 28 Special Election Absentee Voting Starts

ANNA LAFFREY  
Sentinel Staff Writer

The city clerk's office is offering absentee in-person voting in the May 28 special election to those who are leaving town or are unable to vote in the latter half of May. Municipal Clerk Sara Peterson said today.

Ballots for the special election arrived last week, and several people have voted over the last few days, Peterson said.

On May 13, early in-person voting at regular hours will start at Harrigan Centennial Hall. Anyone who needs to vote prior to that date can contact the clerk's office to make an appointment to cast an in-person absentee ballot.

The clerk's office provided the following information about the election.

Only registered voters may cast ballots in the special election. Those not registered can do so online, or at city hall prior to the close of business on Monday, April 28.

Early in-person voting at Centennial Hall will start at 8:30 a.m. May 13, and continue on weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. through May 27. Early voting at Centennial Hall also will be offered on Saturdays May 17 and May 24 from 9 a.m. to noon. Polls will be closed on Memorial Day, May 26.

A personal representative may pick up a ballot for another person during the same hours that early voting is open at Centennial Hall, or on Election Day. Those ballots will be due back at the hall by 8 p.m. on May 28.

Mail-in ballots are available in the special election. The last day to submit

an application for a ballot to vote by mail is 5 p.m. on May 21. Ballots will be mailed out to voters starting this week, Peterson said.

All mail-in ballots must be postmarked no later than May 28 and must be received by the clerk's office by May 30, or may be hand-delivered to the clerk's office by 5 p.m. on May 28.

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## F&G Agent Kills Bear

ANNA LAFFREY  
Sentinel Staff Writer

Fish and Game Wildlife Biologist Steve Bethune shot a bear on Andrew Hope Street early this morning, following reports of a destructive bear in the Indian River Subdivision.

Police reported Saturday that a bear tore the door off a shed to get to a garbage can, and on Sunday a bear in the same area tore through a garage door to get to the garbage stored inside.

Bethune said today that after receiving a text message from police with a picture of a garage door that had been broken down by a bear, he gave the "green light" to police, Alaska State Troopers and his own agency to shoot the bear.

The residential break-ins presented "a pretty specific public safety issue" that prompted the decision to kill the bear, Bethune said.

On Monday and Tuesday nights, Bethune "posted up during the night"

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## Community Orchestra Concert Set For Friday

KAT RHOADS  
Youth Arts Press  
Special to the Sentinel

Sitka Community Orchestra, an inter-generational ensemble, is playing its annual concert at the Performing Arts Center, 7 p.m. Friday night.

Admission is free for the orchestra's hour-long performance of music that span different centuries of orchestral music. Local musicians will be playing strings, brass, woodwind and percussion instruments in the performance.

The concert will begin with choral pieces from the Baroque Period, SCO Director Drew Larson said. The orchestra will then transport audiences to the Classical Period with Beethoven, compositions from the Romantic period, and ending with a 20th-century musical theater piece.

Larson says the ensemble stands out because it features local musicians of all ages.

"Whenever you have a group that's across-ages, the people who want to be there are there because they really love what they're doing," Larson said in a recent interview.

Sitka Community Orchestra started several decades ago, originally as a youth orchestra.

Over the years, the organization has morphed into an ensemble of 35 members of all ages, from middle schoolers to retirees.

Larson said that since he took on the role of director in 2020, he's seen more adults have joined the orchestra. Following the pandemic, "people are just looking for a way to engage with one another not through electronics ... especially through the dark days of winter," Larson said.

He said the low-stress environment creates a welcoming, positive atmosphere and a connected community.



Members of the Sitka Community Orchestra play at the Performing Arts Center in 2024. This year's free concert is Friday. (Sentinel Photo By James Poulson)

Sitka Community Orchestra meets every Tuesday, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., from mid-January to late-April.

Anyone interested in joining next

year can contact the Sitka Parks and Recreation Division — or show up on the first day of rehearsal with a bow and a smile or a horn and a grin.







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

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### Spring Gun, Gear Swap April 26

The Sitka Sportsman's Association will hold its Spring Gun and Outdoor Gear Swap 9 a.m.-noon April 26, at 5211 Halibut Point Road.

Sellers tables for rent are \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members. Both individuals and businesses can sell at this event and only sellers may arrive at 8 a.m. to set up. Sellers must reserve a table by contacting Chad at 907-623-0908 or email [premiertrainin-gak@gmail.com](mailto:premiertrainin-gak@gmail.com).

### DKG Mini Grants Now Available

Iota chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma is offering mini-grants to professional educators in Sitka to be used for classroom projects for which budgeted funding is not available.

The grant amount will be \$50 or up to \$250 per application.

For information, contact Gina Lawson at 907-738-1068 or Gaylen Needham at 907-752-2304. To request or submit an application email [gaylentrawels@yahoo.com](mailto:gaylentrawels@yahoo.com).

Completed application forms should be returned no later than May 5.

### '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.

### 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](mailto:info@safv.org) or call 907-738-0161.

### Play Presentation By SFAC on Stage

Sitka Fine Arts Camp's Young Performers Theater will present "Failure: A Love Story" 7 p.m. Saturday, April 26, and 2 p.m. April 27 at Odess Theater at Allen Hall on the SJ Campus.

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

### 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.

### 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.

### Animal Shelter Event May 4

Friends of Sitka Animal Shelter will host a family friendly, community-driven event to help shape the future of animal services in Sitka 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 4, at the Mean Queen Dungeon.

It will include free pizza, live music and raffle prizes.



**BIG RIG FUN** – Students from 3 to 5 Preschool stand in front of the fire truck that will be at the Big Rig fundraising event 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at Mt. Edgecumbe High School parking lot. Attendees may place their name into a fire truck piñata for a raffle. The winner (and four others) will get to ride on the fire truck

at a later time. A wide variety of vehicles will be available to view, and to climb on with support of the many businesses and individuals. Admission is \$5 per person or \$20 for a family of four or more. The T-shirts the preschoolers are wearing will be for sale at the event. Food will be available. (Photo provided to the Sentinel)

### Police Blotter

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

#### April 22

At 8:25 a.m. a caller said a cat was stuck in a boat hangar on Granite Creek Road. The animal control officer was notified.

Police were asked to check on the welfare of a woman who had missed a medical appointment. Officers located the woman, who was fine.

At 11:57 a.m. a vehicle was reported broken down and causing a traffic hazard at HPR and Erler Street. It was moved from the roadway.

At 12:04 p.m. a man was reported smoking marijuana in his vehicle under the O'Connell Bridge. Officers were unable to locate a vehicle matching the description.

At 4:22 p.m. a vehicle was reported speeding and crossing no-passing lines, in the SMC-Price Street area. Police were unable to locate the vehicle.

At 4:27 p.m. a caller said teens were running around Eliason Harbor. Police found they were from a school and were looking at sea lions.

At 10:06 p.m. a caller said people were shouting loudly in the 200 block of Katlian Street. All was quiet when an officer arrived.

At 10:09 p.m. a caller said someone in a vehicle parked in the 3800 block of HPR appeared to be hiding when the caller drove by.

#### April 23

At 4 a.m. a Fish & Game employee shot and killed a bear on Andrew Hope Street in the Indian River Subdivision.

### Emergency Calls

Sitka Fire Department received three ambulance calls Tuesday.

### Lunch and Learn With Sitka Tribe

Sitka Tribe of Alaska and the State of Alaska Office of Children's Services will host an educational "mandatory reporting" training for adults who are connected/working with youths.

The workshop is 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. April 24 at Sheet'ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi. Topics are recognizing the signs of child abuse/neglect, current trends, responding to a disclosure, and reporting. Lunch will be provided to attendees at this free event. Register at <https://forms.gle/ADkFGVVR9CtGsW78>.

### 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](mailto:margot.oconnell@cityofsitka.org).

### 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. 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](http://sitkamaritime.org), at Old Harbor Books, or at the door if space is available.

For information email [sitkamaritime@gmail.com](mailto:sitkamaritime@gmail.com).

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### Calendar of Events

#### WEDNESDAY

4:30 p.m. Sitka Parkinson's Support Group, 1212 Seward Ave. (the old BOQ) 907-747-3461

5-8 p.m. Gift-making for Yaaw Koo. eex' at ANB Hall. Info: [herringprotectors@gmail.com](mailto:herringprotectors@gmail.com)

5:30-8 p.m. Graduation Lei-making workshop, STA, register at <https://forms.gle/dfpLVufPHGED5jeN6>

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

#### THURSDAY

6-8 a.m. MEHS Aquatic Center pool open

10:30 a.m. Baby Raven Reads, story time, Sitka Public Library

10:30 a.m. SAIL Senior Hiking Club, Indian River Trail head

11-2 Salvation Army Little Store open

11:30 a.m. STA Lunch-and-Learn, mandatory reporting, Sheet'ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi

Noon AA, St. Peter's basement, AA hotline 907-747-8866 for information

Noon Alanon Zoom, [sitkaalanon@gmail.com](mailto:sitkaalanon@gmail.com), for login info

Noon White Elephant Shop open

5:30-8 p.m. Graduation Lei-making workshop, STA, register at <https://forms.gle/dfpLVufPHGED5jeN6>

6:30 p.m. Autism Respite Care presentation, Sitka Public Library

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 STA Health and Human Services Committee, 204 Siginaka Way

Noon Osteoarthritis Workshop, free, 311 Price Street

Noon MEHS Aquatic Center pool open

Noon AA, St. Peter's basement, call AA hotline 907-747-8866 for information

5:30 p.m. NA Meeting, St. Peter's Church basement

7 p.m. Sitka Rose Awards, sponsored by Sitkans Against Family Violence, Sheet'ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi

7 p.m. Sitka Community Orchestra Concert, Sitka Performing Arts Center

7 p.m. AA, St. Peter's basement, 611 Lincoln Street, hotline 907-747-8866



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SENTINEL SPORTS

Mullin Competes With Top Runners in LA

By GARLAND KENNEDY  
Sentinel Sports Editor

Clare Mullin, one of the top runners at Sitka High, set new personal records and demonstrated again that she can compete with the best athletes around the country last week at an invitational meet at Mt. San Antonio College in California.

Mullin was the only Sitka High athlete on the track over the weekend as the rest of the Wolves track and field team had a bye.

The one-mile race was Mullin's first event at the Mt. SAC invitational, and the Sitka High School senior placed eighth, at 4:54, in a field of 39.

"That was just very, very chaotic for me. There was a ton of people in my heat, and definitely not something I'm super used to," Mullin told the Sentinel Tuesday. "And it was just elbow to elbow, shoulder to shoulder the whole time, just constantly trying to fight through people to get to a good spot. So that was definitely challenging in a way that I'm not really used to. Normally, when races are challenging for me, it's really just trying to grit through it. But this was very mentally challenging as far as strategy and stuff. I felt like that was good, and I learned a lot from that race, so that I felt more confident going into the start of my 800."

Mullin's mile time was her fastest ever, about 3 seconds quicker than her previous PR set at the Nike Outdoor National track meet in Oregon last June. Charlotte Hopkins, from California's Arcadia High School, won the mile in a blistering 4:49.

Mullin had another personal best in the 800 meter race, finishing fourth at 2:10.73.

"I feel like getting to the space that I needed to be right from the beginning really helped me in that race, and I felt much more confident the whole time because I knew I was in the right spot," Mullin said.

She has the Alaska state record for the girls 800 in her sights this year; that record is presently 2:10.4.

The next meet for the Sitka Wolves



Clare Mullin competes for Sitka High School in 2024 at Lower Moller Field. The senior has signed to run with Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, starting in the fall. (Sentinel photo)

will be in Juneau, Friday and Saturday.

The 800 at Mt. SAC "went exactly how I planned it, which was really nice," Mullin said. "I think it was good

to have people around me to race, and I knew that I was fit enough to run a 2:10 so just being able to execute that was good. And I feel like it set me up

really well for this season. As far as my goal of breaking the state record; I'm just point three seconds off."

Mullin noted that she chose the Mt. SAC meet in part because other options conflicted with different track events this spring, and Mt. SAC splits the 800 and mile onto different days. The meet ran from last Wednesday through Saturday. The college is in the town of Walnut, 25 miles east of Los Angeles.

Though Mullin was aiming for a time that would best the Alaska high school record for the 800, she said she's looking forward to doing that in Alaska, when her teammates are present.

"I was so close. But also, when I do run that, I think it would be really good to run it in Alaska on an Alaskan track," Mullin said. "I feel like that would just make it more official, and I'd be able to celebrate it with my teammates and my coaches there."

Her mother was her only hometown supporter at the California meet.

Because of how Mt. SAC runs their meet, Mullin added, she wasn't sure which heat she'd be in until only days prior to the races. As it turns out, she ran with the fastest athletes.

"I didn't know I was going to be in the fastest heat of this until a couple days before, actually," she said. "But really it's just times — they take the top 16 in the 800 and however many in the mile, and that's the invitational heat."

Along with her goal of taking the state record in the 800, Mullin would like to notch another top performance at the Nike Outdoor National meet in Eugene, Oregon, in June to close out her high school running career.

"I would like to finish in the top 10 at nationals as All-American honors. That'd be awesome," Mullin said. "That's kind of the big goal... and really focusing down on the eight, because I feel like that is my strongest event. So I've been doing a lot of speed work for that."

Mullin has already signed to run with Gonzaga University in Spokane, an NCAA Division I school, starting in the fall.

Volleyball Tourney Continues

By Sentinel Staff

Deez Netz made it to another round in the City League competitive division volleyball championship consolation bracket with a 2-0 win over the Diggity Dogs, Tuesday evening at the Blatchley gym. The Netz face the SEARHC Slammers Thursday at 7:45 p.m. The champion-

ship title match between the winner of that match and Wildflower Cookie Monsters is set for Sunday 2 p.m.

In the recreational bracket, the YAPPERS beat Subway 2-0. The YAPPERS will play Yellow Jersey this evening, with the recreational championship match scheduled for Monday, April 28.

Bello Leads Red Sox over Mariners

BOSTON (AP) — Brayan Bello allowed one run over five innings in his season debut, Triston Casas hit a three-run homer in the seventh and the Boston Red Sox beat the Seattle Mariners 8-3 on Tuesday night for their sixth win in seven games.

Alex Bregman hit a pair of RBI doubles for the Red Sox.

Jorge Polanco hit a solo homer in the first for Seattle and J.P. Crawford hit a two-run single in the sixth as Seattle closed to 4-3.

Bello (1-0), who had been sidelined by a strained right shoulder, followed Polanco's homer with a walk and two hit batters before Rowdy Tellez grounded into a 3-6-1 double play. Bello threw 97 pitches,

giving up four hits and three walks with three strikeouts.

Bryce Miller (1-3) allowed four runs, five hits and four walks in 4 2/3 innings. Seattle lost for just the third time in 11 games.

With runners on first and second and one out in the seventh, Casas homered on an 0-1 curveball from Trent Thornton.

Jarren Duran extended his hitting streak to nine games when he tripled leading off the first. It was the second triple of the season for Duran, who led the AL in 2024 with 14.

Mariners RHP Emerson Hancock (0-1, 12.71 ERA) faces LHP Sean Newcomb (0-2, 3.63) of Boston today night.

Mixed Results for Lillard in Return

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — All-Star guard Damian Lillard wanted to give the Milwaukee Bucks a lift Tuesday night.

So he called coach Doc Rivers in the morning and told him he would return for Game 2 of their first-round playoff series after missing the past month because of a health scare. Rivers didn't argue with his team down 1-0.

Lillard gave it everything he could in Indianapolis, finishing with 14 points on 4-of-13 shooting while playing 37 minutes in a 123-115 in a Game 2 loss.

"It felt pretty good given the fact that I haven't played in so long," Lillard said. "Jumping back into a playoff game, I'd say it felt pretty good. I felt pretty solid."

Clearly, he wasn't himself after battling deep vein thrombosis in his right calf. He only practice three times since last playing March 18 and couldn't even do much cardio work to stay in game shape.

It showed. While there were flashes of his pre-absence play, such as the 3 he made with 2:31 left to get the Bucks within 115-113, his explosiveness was not there. And he appeared to wear down in the second half when he was 1 of 7 from the field and 1 of 6 on 3s.

"I got a little winded, but I think everyone got a little winded," Lillard said. "I wasn't really thinking about if I was tired, it was just like I'm out here and I've got to do what I got to do."

Just getting back on the court this quickly was a major victory for Lillard, though.

The blood-clotting disorder usually keeps players out months, not weeks, something Rivers feared may happen after learning the ailment was more serious than the initial diagnoses.

Lillard even opted to take a little extra time to get his body back in shape for the rigors of the postseason.

Still, Rivers and Lillard said they would

both be monitoring his health during the game and Rivers told reporters before the game he would pull Lillard out if he noticed fatigue. But when the Bucks needed a late push to get within striking distance of evening the series, Rivers thought it was better to keep his nine-time All-Star on the court.

That led to some late-game jawing between Lillard and Pacers guard Tyrese Haliburton as the Bucks lost for the fifth time in their last six postseason games against Indiana.

"Down the stretch I just kept him in, I used it sort of as conditioning," Rivers said. "He was exhausted and I saw that, and I thought just let him blow it because we've got two days to recover. That's basically why I kept him in."

Game 3 is Friday in Milwaukee, and the Bucks certainly could use Lillard's help — if he can be as effective as he was before being held out.

Lillard averaged 18.3 points, 9.3 assists and 5.5 rebounds while shooting 35.5% overall and 38.9% from 3-point range in four regular-season games against Indiana this season. In last year's first-round series, he averaged 31.3 points against the Pacers, who won the series 4-2.

Two-time league MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo missed all six of those games with a calf injury but scored 36 points and had 12 rebounds in Game 1 and followed that with 34 points, 18 rebounds and seven assists. It was the first playoff game Antetokounmpo and Lillard played together.

Now comes what could prove the harder part — protect their home court, clawing their way back into the series and avoiding a third straight first-round exit without knowing whether Lillard will be ready to play in Game 3.

"The biggest question for us is the recovery," Rivers said. "The trick is trying not to get him into that point of exhaustion because then it's hard to come back. So that's the trick we were doing tonight."

McCutchen Leads Pirates over LA

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Andrew McCutchen hit a three-run homer and the Pittsburgh Pirates had 18 hits for the first time in two years in a 9-3 win over the Los Angeles Angels on Tuesday night that stopped a three-game losing streak.

Bryan Reynolds and Isiah Kiner-Falefa each had three hits with two RBIs as the Pirates won the opener of a three-game series. The 18 hits were the Pirates' most since April 19, 2023, at Colorado, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Pirates starter Bailey Falter left after four innings with lower back tightness.

Chase Shugart (1-0) pitched two hitless innings with three strikeouts to win his first major league decision as the Pirates improved to 9-15.

Taylor Ward homered and Jo Adell had an RBI double for the Angels, who lost for the sixth time in eight games and

dropped back to .500 at 11-11.

José Soriano (2-3) allowed five runs and eight hits in 3 1/3 innings, one start after giving up a career-high 10 hits at Texas.

Pittsburgh took a 2-0 lead in the third inning on RBI singles from Joey Bart and Ke'Bryan Hayes. Ward hit his sixth home run in the bottom half and McCutchen hit his 321st homer in the bottom half for a 5-1 lead.

Falter struck out Kyren Paris to strand a runner at second base in the fourth, his final batter. McCutchen's 237th career home runs with the Pirates moved him three behind Roberto Clemente for third place, Willie Stargell leads with 475, followed by Ralph Kiner with 301.

Pirates LHP Andrew Heaney (1-1, 2.13 ERA) starts tonight against his former team, which sends RHP Jack Kochanowicz (1-2, 6.20) to the mound.

MEHS Field Public Notice

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

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

Medvejie Solstice Run

June 21 at 9 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Lakers Muscle Past Timberwolves, Even Series

By GREG BEACHAM  
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rui Hachimura got smacked in the face early in Game 2, and he headed to the Los Angeles Lakers' locker room with a bleeding nose. He was back on the court just one quarter later wearing a mask, which he discarded shortly afterward because it annoyed him.

The Lakers said they collectively got smacked in the mouth by the blowout loss to the Minnesota Timberwolves in their first-round series opener. Game 2 was all about their response — and LeBron James loved his team's tenacity.

Luka Doncic had 31 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists, and the Lakers fought back to even their series with Minnesota with a 94-85 victory Tuesday night.

"We looked at what we didn't do so well, which is a lot of things in Game 1," said James, who scored 21 points and made a key steal in the fourth quarter. "We took it to heart, held each other accountable and had a much better result."

Game 3 is Friday night in Minneapolis.

Austin Reaves added 16 for the

third-seeded Lakers, who jumped out to an early 22-point lead and hung on through a physical matchup with sixth-seeded Minnesota.

Los Angeles scored only 60 points in the final three quarters, but the Wolves never got closer than nine points. Coach JJ Redick was proud of his players' response — even if he had to unload on them in the fourth quarter during a profanity-laden timeout to maintain their focus down the stretch.

"I think tonight was just more about getting that urgency button switched back on," Redick said.

Julius Randle scored 27 points and Anthony Edwards had 25 for the Timberwolves, who lost most of their offensive fluidity from Game 1. Edwards said the Lakers' defensive adjustments made it "kind of hard" on him.

"The way that they're guarding us, when I catch the ball, they kind of go zone, and when I try to attack a gap, it's like three people," Edwards said. "I've just got to make my decisions a little quicker, and we'll be all right."

James added 11 rebounds and seven assists for the Lakers, who never lost control of a chippy, choppy game with 46 personal fouls and multiple video reviews. James and Hachimura



Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards (5) and Los Angeles Lakers guard Luka Doncic (77) interact in Los Angeles, Tuesday. (AP Photo/Eric Thayer)

both took hard shots to the face, and Hachimura donned a second mask after halftime.

The Wolves hit 21 3-pointers while blowing out the Lakers 117-95 in Game 1. Los Angeles went up by 19 in the first quarter of Game 2 while Doncic

exploited isolations on Rudy Gobert.

"We knew they would come with high intensity, with energy," Randle said. "We knew it was going to be physical. ... We were stagnant, missed open looks, missed layups. They were just in a rhythm."

"The difference was that we started seriously competing in the third quarter and basically played them to a tie after that," Memphis interim coach Tommaso Luomo said.

"But it's against a team of this caliber, we need that for the whole 48 minutes right from the get go. And we've got to have an attack mindset right from the start and not take any steps back."

Oklahoma City's Cason Wallace faked out Zach Edey, then went baseline for a one-handed jam that put the Thunder up 97-79 and brought the crowd to its feet.

The Thunder held Memphis scoreless for nearly four minutes to start the fourth. It was the second straight game that Memphis failed to score at least 100 points.

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Thunder Roll past Grizzlies to Take 2-0 Lead

By CLIFF BRUNT  
AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 27 points, and the Oklahoma City Thunder dominated the Memphis Grizzlies 118-99 on Tuesday night to take a 2-0 lead in their first-round playoff series.

Oklahoma City delivered a strong follow-up to its record-setting 131-80 win on Sunday in the series opener. Though Memphis was the team with something to prove, the Thunder came out with the energy. Oklahoma City opened with a 9-0 run and held Memphis scoreless for the first 3 1/2 minutes as the Grizzlies missed their first 10 shots.

The Thunder led 32-17 at the end of the first quarter and never trailed.

"We never underestimate our opponent, no matter what," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "Obviously they're a very good team. They wouldn't be here if they weren't. And we just wanted to make an emphasis to come out and win that first quarter, set the tone for the night."

Jalen Williams added 24 points and Chet Holmgren had 20 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks for the top-seeded Thunder.

Oklahoma City's offense produced, despite Gilgeous-Alexander making just 10 of 29 shots.

"Everybody that touched the court played with confidence, played the right way, and we're going to need that," Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said. "You know, in all these games,

Maple Leafs Take 2-0 Lead in Battle of Ontario

TORONTO (AP) — Max Domi scored at 3:09 of overtime as the Toronto Maple Leafs survived a blown 2-0 lead to defeat the Ottawa Senators 3-2 and go up 2-0 in their first-round playoff series Tuesday night.

The winger moved into the offensive zone in the extra period and ripped his first of the post-season upstairs past Linus Ullmark.

"Unreal," Leafs centre John Tavares said. "Great for him, great for our team."

Tavares, with a goal and an assist, and Morgan Rielly provided the rest of the offense for Toronto. Anthony Stolarz made 26 saves.

"Just pure jubilation," Stolarz said of Domi's winner that set off wild celebrations inside and outside Scotiabank

Arena. "He's a hell of a teammate in the room, and to see someone like that get rewarded, hopefully it's the start of something big."

Brady Tkachuk and Adam Gaudette scored for Ottawa. Ullmark stopped 18 shots.

The best-of-seven Battle of Ontario now shifts to the nation's capital for Games 3 and 4 beginning Thursday at the Canadian Tire Centre.

The Leafs, who took Sunday's opener 6-2, lead a post-season series 2-0 for the first time since 2002.

In the playoffs for the first time in eight years following a long rebuild, the Senators limp home looking for answers.

"We're looking forward to getting home," Tkachuk said. "And honestly,

there's not one ounce of panic."

Toronto, which beat Ottawa four times in five postseason matchups in the early 2000s, is 10-0 all-time in series where the club wins the first two games at home, and has a two-game playoff edge for just the second time in 10 tries across the Auston Matthews-Mitch Marner era.

After scoring three quick-strike goals on the man advantage in Game 1 against an inexperienced and undisciplined opponent, Toronto capitalized 18 seconds into its first opportunity when Tavares sent a puck into the crease that deflected in off Ottawa defenseman Nick Jensen on the home side's fourth shot at 8:20.

Stolarz decked Senators forward Ridly Greig, who slid into the net-



## Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My oldest daughter, "Alexa," is breaking my heart. She's engaged to a nice enough man she's been with for five years, but she has cast aside every single wedding tradition that's important to us.

Alexa won't wear an engagement ring because diamonds are "ugly" and not politically correct. She has refused to have either an engagement party or a bridal shower. Because they are forgoing a registry, my friends have no idea what to get them for wedding gifts. (Turns out, none of my friends are invited to the wedding -- only their friends and family.) She also refuses to have a bridal party, so her sisters are hurt because they wanted to be bridesmaids.

I was so looking forward to shopping with her for her bridal gown, but she doesn't want to wear one. (She bought a plain white dress instead.) Worst of all, her father can't walk her down the aisle because, in her words, she's not property to be given away. There will be no reception -- just champagne and wedding cake in the basement of the church. There's no wedding dinner, not even appetizers, and no wedding toasts. There won't be a first dance because there's no band.

I understand that she watched her younger sister turn into a bridezilla, but her sister did have a gorgeous wedding that we paid for. We're willing to pay for hers too, but she and her fiancé are refusing to do ANYTHING we want. They are both doctors and can pay for whatever they want. Her father is ready to stay home rather than be ignored,

and I'm not sure I want to be there either. How do we navigate this without alienating our daughter? -- RUINED WEDDING IN NEW YORK

DEAR RUINED WEDDING: You and your husband navigate this by reminding yourselves that Alexa's wedding is hers, not yours. You have already had two weddings -- your own and your younger daughter's. Comfort yourselves with the knowledge that you and your husband can spend the money you would have blown on this shindig on a luxury vacation for yourselves.

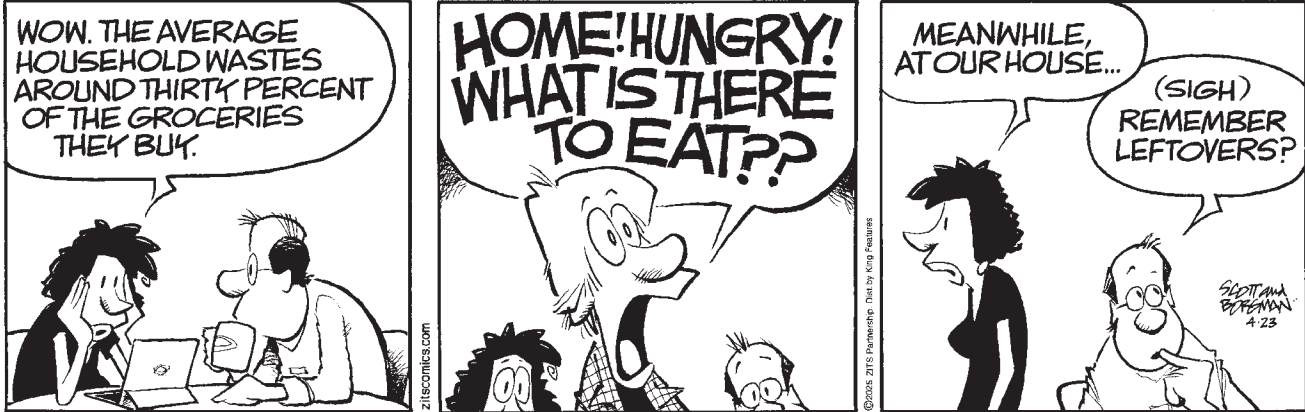
DEAR ABBY: What do you think about some relatives who asked to come and stay with us while they relocated to our state, and brought a handgun and ammunition into our home without our knowledge? We have a 7-year-old daughter! They don't think they did anything wrong and claim they were not obligated to inform us because it was locked and the ammunition was stored apart from it. -- THREATENED IN OREGON

DEAR THREATENED: From what you have written, your relatives practice gun safety. Their weapon is locked, and the ammunition is stored separately. I will assume that your child did not find or handle their weapon. That said, NO ONE has the "right" to bring a gun into someone else's home without their permission. If your relatives can't immediately find other lodging, they should check what the Oregon gun laws are and consider storing their weapon away from your house in the trunk of their vehicle.

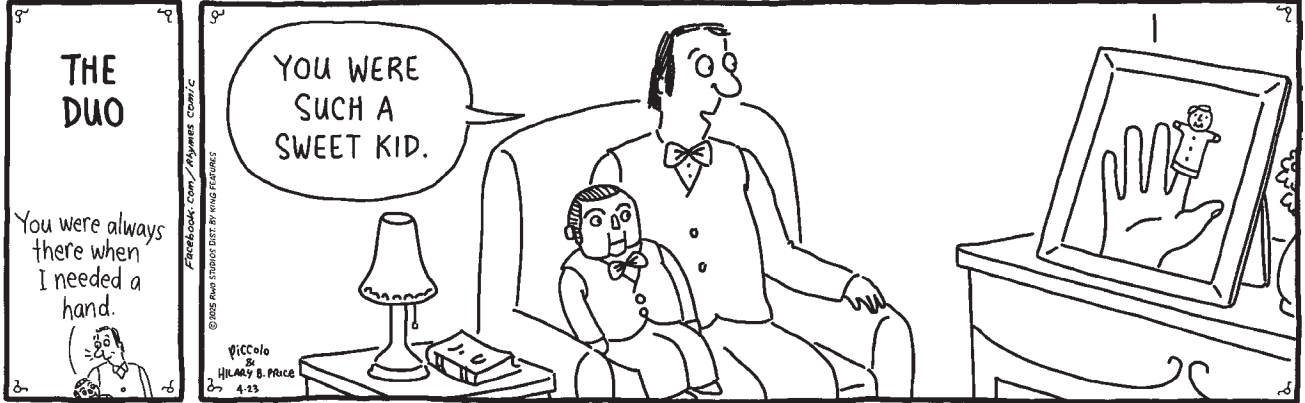
### TUNDRA



### ZITS



### RHYMES WITH ORANGE



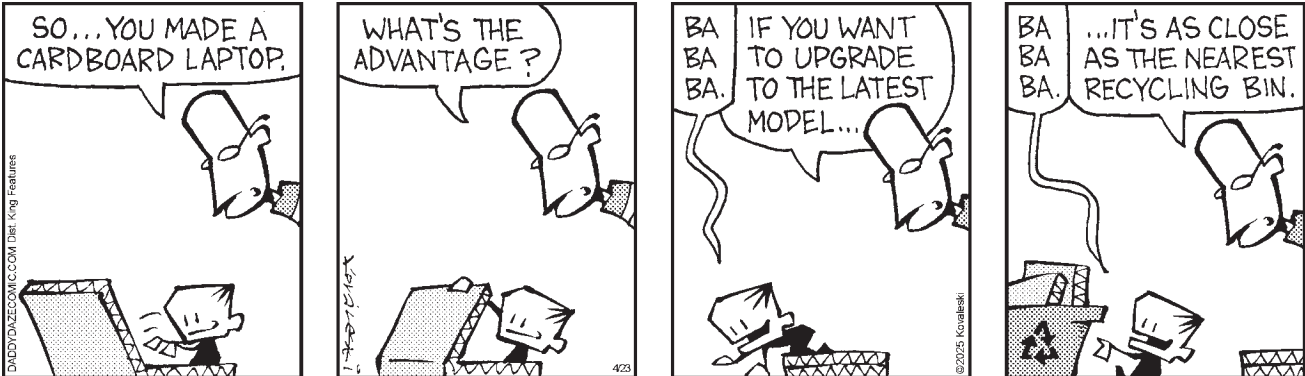
### BLONDIE



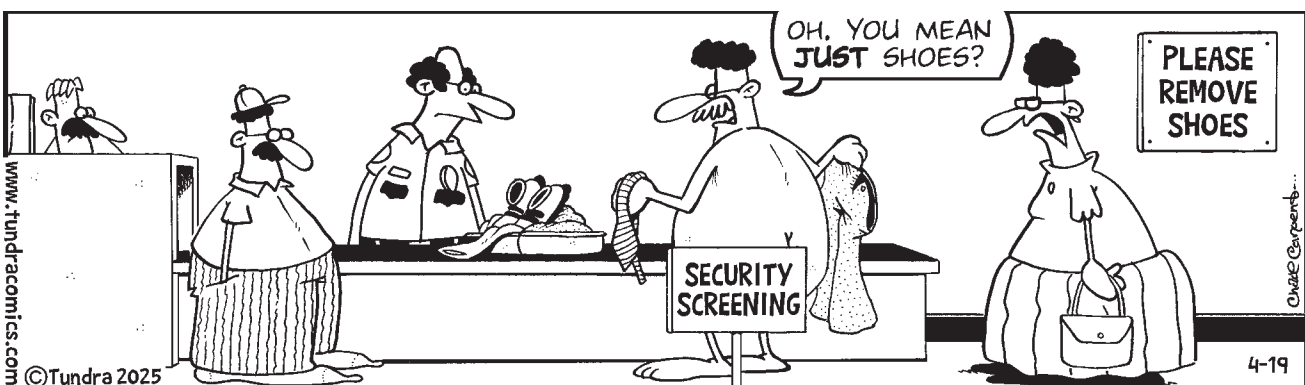
### GARFIELD



### DADDY DAZE



### SATURDAY'S CARTOON...



## CROSSWORD

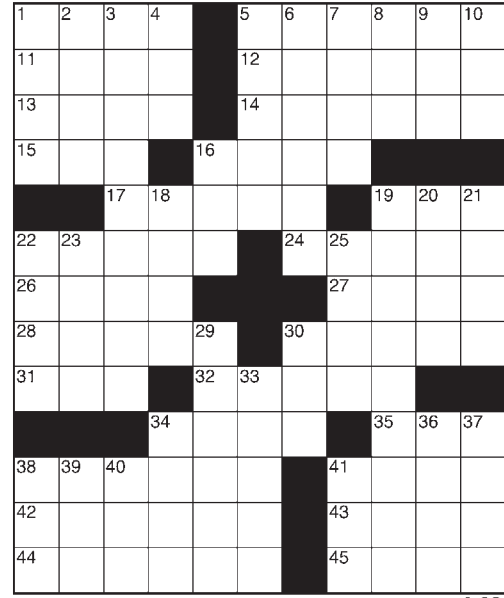
By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

- 1 Reduced amount  
5 Lowers  
11 Spoken  
12 Musical handicap  
13 Ethereal  
14 Directors Tony and Ridley  
15 Badminton need  
16 Spotted  
17 Like draft beer  
19 Tango need  
22 Feared eel  
24 Brawl  
26 Do copy work  
27 Own  
28 Yertle's creator  
30 Turn red, maybe  
31 Braying beast  
32 UV stopper  
34 Downhill glider  
35 Buddhist school  
38 Lets up  
41 Kingly address  
42 Canoe type  
43 Mystique  
44 Nodding, maybe  
45 Sibilant summons

### DOWN

- 1 Bank offering  
2 Huron neighbor  
3 Thigh muscle  
4 Shrewd  
5 Bewildered  
6 Forearm muscle  
7 Shortly, in poems  
8 Harden  
9 Chow down  
10 Fourth-yr. students  
16 Pig's place  
18 D.C. team, familiarly  
19 Upper back muscle  
20 Surfer's ride  
21 Ready for customers  
22 Monument Valley sight  
23 Lofty poems  
25 Goatee setting  
29 Lower calf muscle  
30 Piston connector  
33 Piquant  
34 Put away  
36 Blunders  
37 Orderly  
38 Say further  
39 Chestnut case  
40 Previously  
41 Tree flow



Yesterday's answer

## CRYPTOQUOTE

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

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

4-23 CRYPTOQUOTE  
D Y F I N E N I H J G Y M M J Z W D I H  
W C J W C D I H V D M Y I I N W  
M C Y I H J . D Y F M C Y I H D I H  
W C J W C D I H V D M Y I I N W  
Y M M J Z W . — Y I H J E Y O Y B D V  
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WE DO NOT INHERIT THE EARTH FROM OUR ANCESTORS; WE BORROW IT FROM OUR CHILDREN. — NATIVE AMERICAN PROVERB



## ARROWHEAD PRESS

For all your printing needs



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

Subject: WHAT NEXT?

What comes next in the series? (e.g., Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, \_\_\_\_\_. Answer: Donald Trump (U.S. presidents).)

### FRESHMAN LEVEL

1. J, F, M, A, \_\_\_\_\_. Answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
2. Pacific, Mountain, Central, \_\_\_\_\_. Answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
3. Triangle, quadrilateral, pentagon, \_\_\_\_\_. Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### GRADUATE LEVEL

4. Million, billion, trillion, \_\_\_\_\_. Answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
5. O, T, T, F, \_\_\_\_\_. Answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
6. British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, \_\_\_\_\_. Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### PH.D. LEVEL

7. Species, genus, family, \_\_\_\_\_. Answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
8. Gordon Brown, David Cameron, Theresa May, \_\_\_\_\_. Answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
9. Alpha, beta, gamma, \_\_\_\_\_. Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

SCORING:  
18 points -- congratulations, doctor;  
15 to 17 points -- honors graduate;  
10 to 14 points -- you're plenty smart, but no grind; 4 to 9 points -- you really should hit the books harder; 1 point to 3 points -- enroll in remedial courses immediately; 0 points -- who reads the questions to you?to you?

ANSWERS: 1. M (months of the year); 2. Eastern (U.S. time zones west to east); 3. Hexagon (polygons); 4. Quadrillion (names of large numbers); 5. F (first letter of provinces west to east); 6. Manitoba (Canadian provinces); 7. Order (biological classification); 8. Boris Johnson (U.K. prime ministers); 9. Delta (Greek alphabet).

## Sitka by the Stars

For Thursday, April 24, 2025

The power of innovation is spotlighted today as we're encouraged to tap into our creative minds. Since intuition will also be heightened, the timing is ideal for engaging in self-reflection or other meditative activities to harness our inner wisdom. Meanwhile, relationships are also emphasized as the cosmos call on us to foster lasting connections with others. Additionally, we can use the day for strengthening the bonds we have, as well as for helping people near and far. Today could also reveal the need for better boundaries within certain relationships.

### ARIES

(March 21 to April 19)  
Create space in your schedule to enjoy some peaceful solitude. Use it to reignite your creativity.

### TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20)  
Doing something kind on behalf of others is good for you, too.

### GEMINI

(May 21 to June 20)  
You can lead by example by staying true to your ethics or core values.

### CANCER

(June 21 to July 22)  
You can be realistic while also holding space for the most positive outcome you desire.

### LEO

(July 23 to Aug. 22)  
A joint venture or financial partnership could be successful in business or in love.

### VIRGO

(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)  
If you don't have a support system for yourself, it's time to start building one.

### LIBRA

(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

You may need to scale back on how much you're doing to create more balance in your life.

### SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)  
Teaming up with others for creative purposes can lead to success. Romance looks promising, too!

### SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)  
It's a good day for handling concerns related to your home or family life. A resolution is possible.

### CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)  
If you need to have a serious conversation with someone, now's a good time. The day is also advantageous for business meetings and networking.

### AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)  
Be choosy about where you decide to spend your dollars.

### PISCES

(Feb. 19 to March 20)  
Self-approval is all the approval that you need right now. Give yourself the validation that you're seeking elsewhere.

### FOR TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

You're affectionate, easy to get along with, and generous. You cherish strong, long-lasting bonds with others, and you take your time in building relationships. While you may pride yourself on your self-determination, you're learning that you flourish the most when you have a solid support system that you can call on when needed. You work hard so that you can get the chance to play hard. Being surrounded by beauty, nature, or anything else that pleases your senses is a must. This year, being surrounded by the love and support of your friends and community will also be a requisite.



ANSWER TO  
YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE



Difficulty: ★★ 4/22

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

### King Classic Sudoku



Difficulty: ★★★ 4/23





A survey marker near the end of Jarvis Street, pictured today, shows the corner of a half-acre lot where the Sitka Local Foods Network plans to create a community garden. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)

# Assembly . . .

Continued from Page 1

Hanson said he is traveling to Juneau on Thursday to attend an annual meeting of the Juneau Community Garden Association for advice “on what is actually involved in organizing the project.” The Juneau group has been operating their garden more than 20 years.

Hanson’s proposal describes how the community group will be modeled, and how it will develop the project with funding from grants and donations.

To begin, the Gardens group will rally significant volunteer efforts to clear and prepare the land, build small, temporary structures and erect a 6-foot-tall fence reinforced with three strands of electric fence wires to deter large predators.

Gardeners will work with volunteers and contractors over the course of about three years to level the site, design drainage, and develop a parking lot, a ten-foot by 16-foot garden shed, a 15-foot by 20-foot open-sided work shelter, and a single-stall unisex ADA-accessible restroom.

The group hopes to acquire donations of bulk garden materials including topsoil, compost, mulch and raised-bed framing lumber, and purchase materials as necessary, “to prepare a substantial number of plots for use beginning in spring of 2026.”

Hanson said some demonstration plots could be set up this summer, with “a lot more next summer.” Of the 45 ground-level plots planned for the Jarvis Street site, 43 or 44 have been spoken for by local gardeners.

“We’re ready to work on the project, on the ground,” Hanson said.

# Energy . . .

Continued from Page 1

Trump has been dismissive of renewable energy and, in particular, hostile to wind energy for several years. He has claimed, without evidence, that wind turbines cause cancer, drastically depress property values and kill massive numbers of whales. His disdain for wind energy dates back at least to 2012, when he fought unsuccessfully against a wind farm off the coast of a golf course he owned in Scotland.

One of his Inauguration Day executive orders earlier this year halted federal funding and permitting for all wind projects, both offshore and onshore.

Wind energy has been important to rural Alaska communities, where diesel-fueled energy costs are extremely high.

Kotzebue, a mostly Inupiat community, is an example. The Northwest Arctic hub, home to about 3,000 people, has been using wind energy since the 1990s. The system has grown over the years, and by 2020, wind was supplying a fifth of annual local power needs, according to the Kotzebue Electric Association. That displaced the annual need for 250,000 to 300,000 gallons of diesel fuel each year, according to the utility.

The community has also been using solar energy since 2020, and it has a longer-term goal of using renewables for 50% of its power, according to the

utility.

Kotzebue, the Northwest Arctic Borough and several surrounding villages are among the communities with planned energy projects that have been paused because of Trump administration actions. Last year, during the Biden administration, the U.S. Department of Energy awarded \$58.4 million in grants to local governments and other entities in the region to develop more solar arrays, an energy-storing battery system, heat pumps and other projects.

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

## Aerial Show at Sitka Cirque

Friends of Sitka Circus Arts invites the public to its spring production “Magic, Morals, and Movement,” an evening of aerial artistry bringing to life fairy tales from around the world.

The performance features artists of all ages on a variety of aerial equipment. It will be April 26-27 and May 3-4 at Sitka Cirque Studio, 207 Smith Street. Saturday performances begin at 6:30 p.m.; Sunday’s at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$15 for youths and seniors (no charge for under 6 years) and can be purchased at sitka-cirque.com.

# Veto . . .

Continued from Page 1

first. The Senate is currently considering revenue measures, including changes to the state’s oil tax and corporate taxes.

Hoffman said revenue measures could make a \$1,000 BSA increase affordable.

“If we truly say that education is our No. 1 priority, we should stand behind it fiscally,” he said.

Rep. Andrew Gray, D-Anchorage, spoke in support of overriding the veto to provide much-needed school funding.

“Year after year of flat funding is resulting in harm to our children. We are punishing them for the mistakes that we as a Legislature have made, and it is not fair,” he said.

Many lawmakers spoke of school districts facing severe budget deficits, staff and program cuts, and school closures.

“The consequences of underfunding are being felt deeply. A meaningful increase to the BSA would help prevent the devastating cuts our districts are now being forced to make,” said Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson, D-Anchorage, who supported the veto override. “Funding public education is not a game.”

Other lawmakers objected to the lack of education policy reforms in the bill, as Dunleavy pressed for during a news conference announcing the veto on Thursday.

“I’m objecting to forcing people to contribute more without any discussion of performance measures,” said Rep. Mike Prax, R-North Pole, who voted to sustain the veto.

Rep. Nellie Jimmie, D-Toksook Bay, spoke in support of overriding the veto, protecting the Permanent Fund dividend, and raising new state revenue.

“This bill is expensive, and it still isn’t enough. With the frozen funding and grants running dry, the future is uncertain, but we can’t build our future on deficit spending either,” she said. “We can’t take the PFD, which is often a matter of life and death in rural Alaska. When our savings run out of money, Alaska, lights go dark. It is time to stop hoping for high oil prices or more visitors on cruise ships who will save us. We are out of options. It is time to ask without fear, how will we pay for this? And it’s time to clearly say, we need to raise new revenues, and we shouldn’t be scared of that.”

During his speech against the override, Hoffman said that the state’s Constitutional Budget Reserve — the largest remaining state savings account — was not intended to pay for recurring expenses.

Rep. Andy Josephson, D-Anchorage and co-chair of the House Finance Committee, argued against Hoffman’s statement a few minutes later.

“There’s been esteemed members of the Legislature who’ve noted that this is an affordability question, and I don’t agree with that,” he said.

The House’s version of the operating budget — including a \$1,000 BSA increase — has a deficit of \$67 million, Josephson said. In contrast, the CBR has a balance of \$2.8 billion.

“That’s 2.4%. So I can’t go to my constituents and say, this is just unaffordable. Because it’s not. It’s just a question of will, that’s all,” Josephson said, arguing that savings can be used to pay for education.

The deficit in the House’s draft budget may be larger than Josephson stated, because it contains a cut whose constitutionality has been questioned, and it does not include deficits in the capital budget or the supplemental budget, two separate documents.

After more than an hour of speeches, members of the House and Senate voted 33-27 to sustain the governor’s veto of House Bill 69.

The override vote was almost identical to the votes on the original bill, which passed the House and Senate by a combined vote of 32-25.

Reps. Elxie Moore, R-Wasilla; Will Stapp, R-Fairbanks; and Mike Prax, R-North Pole, were absent from the original House vote and acted to sustain the veto. Sen. Donny Olson, D-Golovin, voted against the original bill but in favor of the override.

Afterward, he walked past reporters and did not answer questions about why he changed his vote.

The tally fell along caucus lines for members of the House, with members of the House’s bipartisan majority — two Republicans, five independents and 14 Democrats — voting to override and all 19 members of the House’s all-Republican minority voting to sustain.

Among members of the Senate, Sens. Lyman Hoffman, D-Bethel, and Bert Stedman, R-Sitka, voted to sustain the veto alongside all six members of the Senate’s minority caucus. The remaining 12 members of the Senate’s bipartisan majority voted to override.

After the vote, the bill’s sponsor, Rep. Rebecca Himschoot, I-Sitka, spoke with reporters and expressed her disappointment with the Legislature’s failure to override the governor’s veto for the second year in a row.

“Previously, when we had the funds, we lacked the political will,” she said. “I believe that there is great political will at this point to try to do

something about how we’re funding our schools, or failing to fund our schools, and we lack the funds. So I think this outcome was somewhat predictable, but that doesn’t make it any less disappointing.”

In a statement on social media, Dunleavy thanked lawmakers for voting to sustain his veto.

“Their action shows a clear understanding of our fiscal situation and the fact that the bill had zero policy to create a better educational outcome for our students,” he wrote. He added that legislators now have “a clear path” to consider an alternative bill he proposed on Friday.

The governor’s bill includes a smaller funding increase and policy provisions he prefers.

“We’ve got 30 days to get the job done. Let’s finish it. We can do this,” said Senate Minority Leader Mike Shower, R-Wasilla.

Members of the House minority also offered comments in support of the governor’s alternative.

“We still have a lot of airstrip left,” said Rep. Bill Elam, R-Nikiski and a vote to sustain the veto. “We haven’t completely landed all of this. We can continue. We have some opportunities.”

But Sen. Bill Wielechowski, D-Anchorage and the Senate majority’s lead negotiator with the governor, said that at least some of the governor’s ideas are nonstarters.

Speaking to reporters, he offered an example: a section of the bill that would allow first-come, first-served open enrollment at public schools. That doesn’t make sense, Wielechowski said, because it could keep local students from enrolling at the school closest to them.

More broadly and significantly, Wielechowski said there appears to be a fundamental disagreement in multiple sections of the bill about the amount of control the executive branch should have over local schools.

“I don’t know how we can get over that,” he said.

Last week, Speaker of the House Bryce Edgmon, I-Dillingham, told reporters that in his view, it’s significant that school districts are not requesting the kinds of policy changes that the governor is seeking.

“There are some things in there that we can coalesce around, but we still have a ways to go and be able to reconcile policy differences,” he said.

If the failed override does mean no permanent funding increase this year, a one-year funding bonus remains possible. The House’s draft operating budget includes a one-time, \$253 million funding bonus equivalent to the vetoed formula.

That would be \$79 million more than last year’s budget, which contained a \$174 million one-time bonus, but the House’s proposed amount is subject to approval by the Senate and Dunleavy, who has line-item veto power. Senate budget leaders have said they plan to pass a budget without a deficit.

In a news conference last week, the governor said that if lawmakers present a deficit-free budget with one-time funding, he’d be willing to discuss the issue.

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

### How Senators voted

In favor:

Jesse Bjorkman, R-Nikiski  
Matt Claman, D-Anchorage  
Forrest Dunbar, D-Anchorage  
Cathy Giesel, R-Anchorage  
Elvi Gray-Jackson, D-Anchorage  
Scott Kawasick, D-Fairbanks  
Jesse Kiehl, D-Juneau  
Kelly Merrick, R-Eagle River  
Donny Olson, D-Golovin  
Gary Stevens, R-Kodiak  
Loki Tobin, D-Anchorage  
Bill Wielechowski, D-Anchorage

Against:

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

### How representatives voted

In favor:

Robyn Niayug Burke, D-Utqiagvik  
Ashley Carrick, D-Fairbanks  
Maxine Dibert, D-Fairbanks  
Bryce Edgmon, I-Dillingham  
Ted Eischeid, D-Anchorage  
Zack Fields, D-Anchorage  
Neal Foster, D-Nome  
Alyse Galvin, I-Anchorage  
Andrew Gray, D-Anchorage  
Carolyn Hall, D-Anchorage  
Sara Hannan, D-Juneau  
Rebecca Himschoot, I-Sitka  
Ky Holland, I-Anchorage  
Nellie Unangiq Jimmie, D-Toksook Bay  
Andy Josephson, D-Anchorage  
Chuck Kopp, R-Anchorage  
Donna Mears, D-Anchorage  
Genevieve Mina, D-Anchorage  
Calvin Schrage, I-Anchorage  
Andi Story, D-Juneau  
Louise Stutes, R-Kodiak

Against:

Jamie Allard, R-Eagle River  
Jeremy Bynum, R-Ketchikan  
Mia Costello, R-Anchorage  
Julie Coulombe, R-Anchorage  
Bill Elam, R-Nikiski  
DeLena Johnson, R-Palmer  
Kevin McCabe, R-Big Lake  
Elxie Moore, R-Wasilla  
David Nelson, R-Anchorage  
Mike Prax, R-North Pole  
George Rauscher, R-Sutton  
Justin Ruffridge, R-Soldotna  
Dan Saddler, R-Eagle River  
Rebecca Schwanke, R-Glennallen  
Will Stapp, R-Fairbanks  
Cathy Tilton, R-Wasilla  
Frank Tomaszewski, R-Fairbanks  
Jubilee Underwood, R-Wasilla  
Sarah Vance, R-Homer

# Trump Says Zelenskyy Is Prolonging the War

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — President Donald Trump today lashed out at Ukraine’s president, saying Volodymyr Zelenskyy is prolonging the “killing field” after pushing back on ceding Crimea to Russia as part of a potential peace plan.

Zelenskyy on Tuesday ruled out ceding territory to Russia in any deal before talks set for today in London among U.S., European and Ukrainian officials. “There is nothing to talk about. It is our land, the land of the Ukrainian people,” Zelenskyy said.

During similar talks last week in Paris, U.S. officials presented a proposal that included allowing Russia to keep control of occupied Ukrainian territory as part of a deal, according to a European official familiar with the matter who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. **Trump called Zelenky’s pushback “very harmful” to talks.**

“Nobody is asking Zelenskyy to recognize Crimea as Russian Territory but, if he wants Crimea, why didn’t they fight for it eleven years ago when it was handed over to Russia without a shot being fired?” he wrote on social media.

Russia annexed Crimea in 2014 after sending troops to overrun it. Weeks later, Moscow-backed separatists launched an uprising in eastern Ukraine, battling Kyiv’s forces.

Trump also asserted they were close to a deal and that Ukraine’s leader can have peace or “he can fight for another three years before losing the whole Country,” adding that Zelenskyy’s statement “will do nothing but prolong the ‘killing field,’ and nobody wants that!”

**‘A very fair proposal’**

Today’s meeting was pared back at the last minute, while Vice President JD Vance said negotiations are reaching a moment of truth.

# Voting . . .

Continued from Page 1

Applications to vote by fax or email are due on May 28. People using this option will waive some of their ballot privacy rights. Fax or email votes must be returned by May 30, and email votes must be completed by using a printer and a scanning device.

On election day polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Centennial Hall.

Peterson said people can register online with the Division of Elections, or stop by city clerk’s office by 5 p.m. Monday with identification to get assistance filling out a state registration form. Sitka Public Library also is offering assistance with voter registration.

The May 28 special election is on a citizen initiative to limit cruise tourism in Sitka.

# Edgecumbe . . .

Continued from Page 1

During the pandemic, the school received additional federal funding through COVID-19 relief programs, which has since expired. As a result, MEHS is readjusting to pre-pandemic staffing levels while maintaining a strong focus on student success,” Bishop wrote.

About three-quarters of Mt. Edgecumbe’s annual budget comes through the state. In February, Huntington delivered a budget proposal to the state board of education, which oversees school operations, in which she proposed cutting about half of the high school’s staff. Her proposal assumed flat state funding with a base student allocation amount of \$5,960. Though the Legislature passed a boost to that funding a month ago, Gov. Dunleavy vetoed the additional funding earlier this month, and the attempted legislative override failed.

# TBMP PUBLIC MEETING

HOSTED BY THE

City & Borough of Sitka

TOURISM COMMISSION

## WHAT IS TBMP?

Tourism Best Management Practices (TBMP) is a voluntary program that defines and incentivizes best practices for tourism-related businesses that promote community goals/needs and a high-quality visitor experience. TBMP programs have been used throughout Southeast Alaska as a way to manage tourism in their communities.

Please join us to review and give feedback on the draft TBMP guidelines before they are implemented in this summer’s pilot of the program. There will be opening comments at 6:00, and members of the public will be able to give their feedback on the draft guidelines through a written survey or by leaving comments with Commissioners present at the meeting. Commission members will be available throughout the session to give additional information to anyone who missed the opening comments.

**WEDNESDAY**  
4/30/2025

**MEETING TIME**  
6:00PM - 9:00PM

**HARRIGAN CENTENNIAL HALL**

**REVIEW THE DRAFT TBMP GUIDELINES NOW!**

**Visit Our Website**  
[cityofsitka.com/TourismCommission](http://cityofsitka.com/TourismCommission)