



DAILY SITKA SENTINEL

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FORECAST FOR APRIL 25

SHOWERS 48°
38°

SOUTH WIND 10-15 MPH

Funding Freeze Hits Sitka 4-H Program

GARLAND KENNEDY
Sentinel Staff Writer

As the Trump administration continues to cut federal spending in all kinds of areas, Sitka's 4-H program has received notice that the Department of Agriculture has terminated the grant that funds about half of the local 4-H budget.

In Sitka the 4-H Alaska Way of Life program is run by the nonprofit Sitka Conservation Society in collaboration with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, offering people ages 5 to 18 a chance to learn relevant outdoor skills such as boating and water safety, bicycling, deer and fish butchering and berry gathering.

"It's all about teaching skills for youth in Sitka to be the Alaskans of the future and build the state into it the next chapter," SCS executive director Andrew Thoms told the Sentinel. "But also taking on some of these challenges that you face in different settings than school, and getting youth outside of their comfort zones and developing skills that put them on life and career pathways."

4-H is a century-old American institution for youth development, funded by USDA Cooperative Extension Service grants as well as state, local, corporate and volunteer contributions. In Alaska, 4-H operates under the umbrella of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service.

Thoms said USDA notified the Conservation Society by email on April 18

that their \$250,000 USDA funding for 4-H was terminated, effective immediately. The notice was signed by Louis Aspey, USDA associate chief of natural resources conservation science. It alleged discrimination as a cause for ending the grant, and said the department is working to ensure grants are free of alleged "fraud, abuse, and duplication."

"It is a priority of the Department of Agriculture to eliminate discrimination in all forms... That priority includes ensuring that the Department's awards do not support programs or organizations that promote or take part in diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives," the letter continues.

Thoms said he had been hoping for a renewal of the grant from USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service, and was unsure how the agency determined there was discrimination in Sitka's 4-H programs.

"In this grant, we do talk about integrating traditional cultural values for living with the land and building community that are based on traditional Tlingit values, and bringing those together with values related to land management, forestry and civic values of being American and taking part in your community," Thoms said. "And I don't know if it was because of the cultural values that we got flagged."

Though 4-H in Sitka looks different than it does in the lower states, Thoms said the courses offered locally teach

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Katie Riley, deputy director of policy and programming at Sitka Conservation Society, writes on butcher paper this morning during the Sustainable Southeast Partnership Spring Retreat at Harrigan Centennial Hall. This was the final day

of the three-day program organized by Juneau-based Spruce Root Community Development organization. Spruce Root offers business loans and advisory services to Southeast businesses. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)

Senate Panel Proposes \$700 BSA for Schools

By JAMES BROOKS and CORINNE SMITH
Alaska Beacon

Five days after Gov. Mike Dunleavy vetoed a major increase to Alaska's per-student public school funding formula, a Senate committee has proposed a smaller increase.

On Wednesday, the Senate Finance Committee amended a bill related to regulating cell phones in schools by adding a \$700 increase to the base student allocation, core of the K-12 per-student funding formula.

The amended version of House Bill 57 remains in committee, which means it could be further amended to include policy changes advocated by the governor. It could also be advanced to a vote of the full Senate without further changes.

Policy differences between Dunleavy and legislators have repeatedly derailed efforts to permanently increase Alaska public school funding.

On Wednesday, Dunleavy reacted on social media, repeating his call for education policy changes in any school funding bill. "This bill is essentially a money-only bill," he said. "While this new bill currently does not have needed policy, there is still time to reach a compromise agreement that includes meaningful reforms. Once again, a bill that only increases funding without policy improvements is not something that I, or most Alaskans, can support."

On Thursday, Dunleavy vetoed House Bill 69, which would have permanently increased the BSA by \$1,000 to \$6,960, raising the base level of state education funding by \$253 million. On Tuesday, lawmakers failed to override the governor's veto.

Dunleavy has introduced new legislation, House Bill 204, which would provide a \$560 BSA increase plus an

additional \$35 million for specific programs and focus on his policy priorities, particularly for charter schools and homeschool programs. The bill was assigned to the House Finance Committee, but has not yet been scheduled to be heard.

Last year, lawmakers and Dunleavy authorized \$174 million in one-time bonus funding on top of the BSA, meaning that HB 69 would have represented a \$79 million year-over-year increase.

Members of the Senate majority declined to make a definitive statement about their plans for HB 57.

"We are negotiating with the other body right now," said Sen. Lyman Hoffman, D-Bethel and co-chair of the Senate Finance Committee, referring to the House. "It'll come out in the wash."

Rep. Zack Fields, D-Anchorage and the author of HB 57, said he supports the \$700 increase. He said the amount is insufficient, but a step forward in providing financial stability for school districts. "We need to restore a meaningful amount of funding within the BSA formula that has been lost to inflation over the last decade. \$700 is obviously insufficient," he said.

To match inflation since 2011, the BSA would have to be increased by more than \$1,800. Fields said that's far from what's been proposed in the new amendment. "It's about one third of the funding that's been lost," he said. "But we have an extremely challenging administration, so this is what it takes to have folks override a veto and provide a degree of stability for the next year, plus, then that's what we have to do."

Sen. Mike Cronk, R-Tok, a member of the Senate Finance Committee, expressed frustration in legislators putting forward another education funding

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New Exceptions For Receiving PF Dividends

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

Members of the federal government's ocean-mapping corps and Alaskans training for the merchant marine would continue to receive Permanent Fund dividends while away from the state, under a bill approved last week by the Alaska House of Representatives.

House Bill 75, from Rep. Jeremy Bynum, R-Ketchikan, is the first piece of legislation from a freshman lawmaker to pass either the House or Senate this year.

If approved by the Senate and signed by Gov. Mike Dunleavy, it would create new exceptions to the requirement that Alaskans be within the state in order to receive the dividend.

HB 75 would keep college students' spring breaks and fall breaks from counting against their allowable absences from the state, and members of the "uniformed services," rather than

just the U.S. military, would receive exceptions as well.

That changed definition would allow members of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Corps, which operates the federal government's fleet of mapping ships and conducts other scientific missions, to continue receiving dividends even if deployed away from the state.

HB 75 also allows the Permanent Fund Dividend Division to fingerprint its employees for federal criminal background checks and allows the general public to opt out of paper mailers for notices.

The House passed the bill 35-5, with five members of the Republican House minority opposed. None explained their reason during an eight-minute-long bill debate. It advances to the Senate for consideration.

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

SE Communities Join for Spruce Root Retreat

ANNA LAFFREY
Sentinel Staff Writer

One hundred and thirty-eight like-minded professionals convened here this week for three days of networking, field trips and group work on projects, at the Sustainable Southeast Partnership Spring Retreat. Today was the last day of the retreat.



Haley Goodman, Spruce Root Community Development Fellow, takes notes during today's conference. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)

Sustainable Southeast Partnership is a program of Spruce Root, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 2012 and designated by the U.S. Treasury as a Community Development Financial Institution.

Spruce Root administers the partnership as a "collective impact network" that involves more than 50 Southeast Alaska organizations in sectors such as renewable energy, natural resources, fisheries, food sovereignty, youth services and government.

A diverse array of partnership members work across their different fields "to ensure that this place is here for future generations," Spruce Root executive director Alana Peterson said in an interview today.

Network partners meet in person once each year for the spring retreat, and hold monthly, virtual calls throughout the year. Peterson said this is the eleventh or twelfth year of the retreat. "There were about ten of us" the first few years, she said.

Partnership work has "slowly grown over the years ... because people who show up find value in it, and find that this is a way for them to achieve some goal they have," Peterson said.

This year's retreat at Harrigan Centennial Hall drew Sitka organizations — such as the city Planning Department and Sitka Tribe of Alaska — and many others from Prince of Wales Island, Ketchikan, Angoon, Kake, Hoonah, Juneau, Haines, Klukwan, Skagway, Yakutat, Anchorage, and Homer, and from the states of Washington and Oregon.

There were guests representing Sealaska Inc., Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, The Nature Conservancy, SalmonState, Renewable Energy Alaska Project, EcoTrust, Wilburforce Foundation, and Patagonia's Home Planet Fund.

The retreat emphasizes a "specific

approach to collaboration that allows participants to bring their best knowledge and wisdom to the table and figure out how to show up in a good way and work together," Peterson said.

While in Sitka the partners are "building relationships and connections with each other, and identifying what kind of work people want to focus on," she said.

Small breakout groups are diving into project areas such as climate adaptation, research methods, community healing, and planning for cultural uses of wood.

Jamiann S'eiltin Hasselquist, the SSP Regional Healing Catalyst with the Juneau-based nonprofit Haa Tóoch Lichéesh, said she worked with a focus group this week to "define what healing is" in a way that could be employed throughout the region.

S'eiltin said her group decided to develop a common definition of healing that could draw people to address the "ripple effects of colonial harm" in order to be "lighter, and improve their work."

S'eiltin said she works year-round to raise awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People, promote truth and healing from the harms of residential boarding school institutions, restore Native cemeteries, and reconnect people with traditional plant medicines.

"Society tells us to continue to move forward, put on that thick skin and push through," but people need to "process traumas in order to move forward," S'eiltin said. "Healing should be woven into every single aspect, and

at the forefront of all subjects."

During this week's conference, S'eiltin also did some one-on-one healing work with conference participants and joined preparations for an upcoming local koo.éex'.

Participants also took field trips to learn from local workers at the Southeast Alaska Tribal Ocean Research lab, Outer Coast College, Selkie Snorkels, the Green Lake Hydroelectric Project dam, Sitka Trail Works, Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association, Sitka Native Education Program, Sitka Conservation Society, Sitka Sound Science Center, Sitka Public Library and the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association.

Edith Johnson's Our Town Catering provided food for the gathering and Allen Marine Tours provided a whale-watching cruise for participants.

Peterson said that federal grants have been the primary funding source for SSP over the past five or six years. Original SSP funders include Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies and he Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Many private funders still contribute to the partnership.

Peterson explained that much of the funding toward SSP doesn't actually pass through Spruce Root's books, but goes directly to the tribal government or organization hosting an SSP project or position.

Spruce Root does fund SSP's "backbone administration support," including food, rentals and all of the staff members who work on the spring retreat program, Peterson said.

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Giant Cabbage Headed to Be State Vegetable?

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

Thirteen years ago, Palmer farmer Scott Robb set a world record with a 138-pound cabbage he brought to the Alaska State Fair.

Not long afterward, Palmer's local visitor center dedicated a statue to the cabbage and the other colossal world-record vegetables grown in the area.

Now, at the urging of a leading visitor center volunteer, a state legislator from Palmer is proposing to enshrine Alaska's giant cabbages in state law as the official state vegetable.

If adopted by the House, Senate and Gov. Mike Dunleavy, House Bill 202 would declare that "Giant cabbage (Brassica oleracea var. capitata) is the official vegetable of the state."

Rep. DeLena Johnson, R-Palmer, introduced the bill, but it picked up bipartisan support almost immediately with the co-sponsorship of Rep. Genevieve Mina, D-Anchorage.

This is the third time Johnson has suggested honoring the giant cabbage. In 2020 and 2022, she introduced bills that would have declared it the state vegetable. Neither bill received a hearing despite bipartisan support.

It might be viewed as silly, but Johnson said the bill serves a legitimate tourism and economic development purpose.



A 74-pound cabbage grown by Keevan Dinkel of Wasilla is displayed on Sept. 2, 2018, at the Alaska State Fair in Palmer. (Photo by Yereth Rosen/Alaska Beacon)

"Just like you have a state salmon, it's a fun fact and a way to point out something unique about Alaska," she said. "People throughout the world do not ever think about the fact that we have this amazing place to grow vegetables."

At the Palmer Visitor Center and Museum, Richard Estelle frequently fields vegetable-related questions from tourists.

He suggested the bill to Johnson, who introduced it at his request.

The son of a vegetable farmer,

Estelle said he was looking up various state symbols and "got a little incensed" when he realized that Alaska doesn't have a state vegetable.

"New Mexico has got two of them. They've got red chili and a green chili. And Idaho has the potato," he said.

Those vegetables are symbols of the state's agriculture industry, he said. Alaska recognizes mining with a state mineral, and fishing with a state fish. Why not agriculture?

"I thought agriculture in Alaska ought to get something. It's an important industry, and so we probably ought to have a state vegetable," he said.

After considering carrots and other options, he settled on the world-record cabbage.

While the Alaska State Fair has plenty of big vegetables, the cabbage takes center stage, Johnson said.

"The cabbage was the first one that became the big icon. And it's the iconic vegetable at the Alaska State Fair," she said.

"There's never been any other place in the country that's ever surpassed (the world record), and we will hold the record forever," Johnson said. "Now, there is someone in Wales currently that is trying to beat us, and they can't do it, but I'm keeping my eye on them."

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

Letters to the Editor

No on Ballot Measure 1

Dear Editor: As longtime Sitka residents of over 20 years, we're writing to express our deep concern about Ballot Measure 1 and its potential impact on families like ours.

My husband Sheldon and I have built our lives here in this beautiful community, raising our three boys amid Sitka's natural splendor and tight-knit community. Like many locals, we both work regular jobs to cover our basic expenses, but the truth is that without our tourism-dependent side hustles, we simply couldn't afford to continue calling Sitka home, support our kids' hobbies, take occasional family vacations, or contribute to local fundraisers and charities.

The cruise industry doesn't just benefit large corporations – it creates opportunities for everyday families like ours. Both of us maintain our primary jobs, but we've also developed several small tourism services that provide the additional income necessary to keep our family afloat in a community with an increasingly high cost of living. These side businesses aren't luxuries for us; they're essential financial lifelines that allow us to stay in the community we love.

The statistics tell the story: tourism supports over 900 jobs in Sitka, contributing \$42 million in annual earnings to our local economy. Those aren't just numbers – they represent families like ours who depend on visitor spending to make ends meet.

Beyond our immediate financial concerns, we worry about the community resources our boys rely on. Without tourism dollars flowing into Sitka, what happens to Parks and Recreation programs? School funding? Sports teams? The swimming pool? These aren't extras – they're fundamental to our children's development and well-being.

Over 200 business licenses were issued in Sitka last year, largely due to

cruise tourism. Each represents someone's dream, someone's livelihood. Without this economic engine, we fear many families will face the heartbreaking choice we're desperately trying to avoid: leaving Sitka for more affordable communities.

We understand the concerns about managing tourism growth, but Ballot Measure 1 takes the wrong approach. Instead of finding balance, it threatens to undermine the very economic foundation that allows working families like ours to remain here. We encourage others to support the City's Tourism Commission that is collaboratively trying to implement changes to find a balance that works for the entire community, and not just a select few.

For the sake of our three boys and all the children growing up in this special place, we urge our neighbors to vote NO on Ballot Measure 1. Let's work together to manage tourism thoughtfully without sacrificing the livelihoods of local families.

Importantly, if you don't show up to vote, your opinions won't be heard. Show up for Sitka! The special election on May 28 is coming up fast. Make a plan to vote NO on Ballot Measure 1 by ensuring you're registered to vote. If you're unsure of your voter registration status, check it online at myvoterportal.alaska.gov.

If you haven't registered yet, here's what to do:

Download and complete the Alaska Voter Registration Application: bit.ly/4innF4G

Submit it in person at the Sitka Municipal Clerk's Office (100 Lincoln Street), or at a DMV or other voter registration agency

Or mail it to a Division of Elections office – it must be postmarked by April 28.

Don't wait. Register now so you're ready to vote NO on May 28.

Meggan and Sheldon Turner
Sitka Residents for 20+ years

Airlines Cut Flights As Views On Economy Dim

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN
AP Business Writer

Major U.S. airlines are reducing their flight schedules and revising or withdrawing their profit outlooks for the year due to less domestic travel demand as sentiment about the national and global economies soured.

American Airlines pulled its financial guidance for 2025 today, joining rivals Southwest and Delta in declaring the economic outlook too uncertain to provide full-year forecasts. All three airlines cited weakening sales among economy class leisure travelers.

"We came off a strong fourth quarter, saw decent business in January, and really domestic leisure travel fell off considerably as we went into the February time frame," American Airlines CEO Robert Isom told CNBC. Consumer reluctance to book vacations would correspond with a new poll that showed many people fear the U.S. is being steered into a recession and that President Donald Trump's broad and haphazardly enforced tariffs will cause prices to rise.

There's also increasing concerns about international travelers. Michael Feroli, chief U.S. economist at J.P. Morgan, said in a client note that anti-American sentiment could be spurring a travel dropoff, with data showing that international visitors to the U.S. are running about 5% lower than a year ago.

"In recent weeks there have been numerous news stories about tourists canceling trips to the U.S. in protest of the perceived heavy-handedness of recent trade policies," he wrote. "This points to potentially another channel to consider in assessing the effects of tariffs on economic activity."

Some economic indicators point to expectations of a slowdown. Sales of previously occupied U.S. homes slowed in March, and U.S. consumer sentiment plunged in April, the fourth consecutive month of declines. However, fears of a downturn have not

translated into layoffs.

Trump announced sweeping tariffs on April 2 that triggered panic in financial markets and generated recession fears, leading consumers and businesses to start pulling back on spending, which includes travel. The president put a partial 90-day hold on the import taxes but increased his already steep tariffs against China.

Beijing increased its import tax on American goods to 125% in retaliation. Today China denied Trump's assertion that the two sides were involved in active negotiations to end or mitigate their trade war.

American Airlines said it would give an update on its full-year guidance "as the economic outlook becomes clearer." Airline executives said sales among business travelers and for premium seats on long-haul international flights remained solid.

Southwest Airlines reported late Wednesday that it would trim its flight schedule for the second half of the year due to lower demand. The company also said it could not reaffirm its 2025 and 2026 outlooks for earnings before interest and taxes, given "current macroeconomic uncertainty."

United Airlines last week gave two different financial forecasts for how it may perform this year, one if there's a recession and one if not. The airline said it planned to reduce its scheduled domestic flights by 4% starting in July in response to lower-than-expected demand for economy fare tickets.

"We think there is a reasonable chance things can weaken from here," United CEO Scott Kirby said.

Delta Air Lines, the nation's most profitable carrier, predicted as recently as January that the company was on track for the best financial year in its history. Earlier this month, the airline scratched its performance expectations for 2025 and said it was putting a planned flight schedule expansion on hold.

"With broad economic uncertainty around global trade, growth has largely stalled," Delta CEO Ed Bastian said at the time. "In this slower-growth environment, we are protecting margins and cash flow by focusing on what we can control. This includes reducing planned capacity growth in the second half of the year."

The parent companies of Frontier Airlines and Alaska Airlines also pulled their 2025 guidance.

Weather

Sitka Forecast

For tonight expect a low of 40 degrees with showers. On Friday expect a high of 48 degrees with showers and wind 10-15 mph, and an overnight low of 38 degrees with rain.

Sitka Weather

Temperatures ranged from 44 to 49 degrees, the wind gusted to 24 mph at 8:43 p.m., and 28 inches of rain was logged in the 24 hours ending at midnight last night, the National Weather Service says.



People work amid boxes of returned or overstocked clothing, shoes, boots, coats, packs and other items in a warehouse where the goods are cleaned or repaired before they are marketed on resale platforms in Englewood, Colo., on April 17. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

Poll: Most Expect Tariffs Will Bring Higher Prices

By JOSH BOAK and AMELIA THOMSON-DEVEAUX
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans' trust in President Donald Trump to bolster the U.S. economy appears to be faltering, with a new poll showing that many people fear the country is being steered into a recession and that the president's broad and haphazardly enforced tariffs will cause prices to rise.

Roughly half of U.S. adults say that Trump's trade policies will increase prices "a lot" and another 3 in 10 think prices could go up "somewhat," according to the poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

About half of Americans are "extremely" or "very" concerned about the possibility of the U.S. economy going into a recession in the next few months.

While skepticism about tariffs is increasing modestly, that doesn't mean the public is automatically rejecting Trump or his approach to trade. However, the wariness could cause problems for a president who promised voters he could quickly fix inflation.

Trump shows vulnerability on the economy

Three months into his second term, Trump's handling of the economy and tariffs is showing up as a potential weakness. About 4 in 10 Americans approve of the way the Republican president is handling the economy and trade negotiations. That's roughly in line with an AP-NORC poll conducted in March.

Matthew Wood, 41, said he's waiting to see how the tariffs play out, but he's feeling anxious.

"I'm not a huge fan of it, especially considering China and going back and forth with adjustments on both ends," said Wood, who lives in West Liberty, Kentucky, and is unemployed. "Personally, it hasn't affected me as of yet. But, generally, I don't know how this is going to come to an end, especially with the big countries involved."

Still, Wood said he changed his registration from Republican to independent, having been turned off by Trump's attitude and deference to billionaire adviser Elon Musk. Wood voted for Trump last year and said he's willing to give the president until the end of the year to deliver positive results on tariffs.

About half of U.S. adults, 52%, are against imposing tariffs on all goods brought into the U.S. from other countries. That's up slightly from January, when a poll found that 46% were against tariffs. Driving that small shift largely appears to be adults under age 30 who didn't previously have an opinion on tariffs.

Trump supporter Janice Manis, 63,

Sitka Yesterday

20 YEARS AGO
April 2005

Photo caption: Erika Laine McConkey, recently named Miss Teen Alaska 2005, will be competing in the Miss Teen International 2005 pageant in Chicago in July. McConkey, a 15-year-old Sitka High sophomore, thanked her parents, family and friends for their support.

50 YEARS AGO
April 1975

From On the Go: We never did hear what Porky Bickar's April Fool's Day stunt was this year. All we know is that in late March when someone asked him what he had in mind, he said, "Let me put it this way: don't drive down Sawmill Creek Road that day." We checked and Sawmill Creek Road's still there so what could it have been?

LETTERS POLICY

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

Trump Asks Court to OK Ban on Trans in Military

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's administration on today asked the Supreme Court to allow enforcement of a ban on transgender people in the military, while legal challenges proceed.

Without an order from the nation's highest court, the ban could not take effect for many months, Solicitor General D. John Sauer wrote, "a period far too long for the military to be forced to maintain a policy that it has determined, in its professional judgment, to be contrary to military readiness and the nation's interests."

The high court filing follows a brief order from a federal appeals court that kept in place a court order blocking the policy nationwide.

At the least, Sauer wrote, the court should allow the ban to take effect nationwide, except for the seven service members and one aspiring member of the military who sued.

The court gave lawyers for the service members challenging the ban a week to respond.

Just after beginning his second term in January, Trump moved aggressively to roll back the rights of transgender people. Among the Republican president's actions was an executive order that claims the sexual identity of transgender service members "conflicts with a soldier's commitment to an honorable, truthful, and disciplined lifestyle, even in one's personal life" and is harmful to military readiness.

In response, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth issued a policy that presumptively disqualifies transgender people from military service.

But in March, U.S. District Court Judge Benjamin Settle in Tacoma, Washington, ruled for several long-serving transgender military members who say that the ban is insulting and discriminatory and that their firing would cause lasting damage to their careers and reputations.

Judge: Trump Can't Deny 'Sanctuary' Cities Funds

By JANIE HAR
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal judge in California today barred the Trump administration from denying or conditioning the use of federal funds to "sanctuary" jurisdictions, saying that portions of President Donald Trump's executive orders were unconstitutional.

U.S. District Judge William Orrick issued the injunction sought by San Francisco and more than a dozen other municipalities that limit cooperation with federal immigration efforts.

Orrick wrote that defendants are prohibited "from directly or indirectly taking any action to withhold, freeze, or condition federal funds" and the administration must provide written notice of his order to all federal departments and agencies by Monday.

One executive order issued by Trump directs Attorney General Pam Bondi and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem to withhold federal money to sanctuary jurisdictions. The second order directs every federal agency to ensure that payments to state and local governments do not "abet so-called 'sanctuary' policies that seek to shield illegal aliens from deportation."

At a hearing Wednesday, Justice Department lawyers argued that it was much too early for the judge to grant an injunction when the government had not taken any action to withhold specific amounts or to lay out conditions on specific grants.

But Orrick, who was nominated by President Barack Obama, said this was essentially what government lawyers

The Trump administration offered no explanation as to why transgender troops, who have been able to serve openly over the past four years with no evidence of problems, should suddenly be banned, Settle wrote. The judge is an appointee of Republican President George W. Bush and is a former captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Corps.

In 2016, during Barack Obama's presidency, a Defense Department policy permitted transgender people to serve openly in the military. During Trump's first term in the White House, the Republican issued a directive to ban transgender service members, with an exception for some of those who had already started transitioning under more lenient rules that were in effect during Obama's Democratic administration.

The Supreme Court allowed that ban to take effect. President Joe Biden, a Democrat, scrapped it when he took office.

The rules the Defense Department wants to enforce contain no exceptions. Sauer said the policy during Trump's first term and the one that has been blocked are "materially indistinguishable."

Thousands of transgender people serve in the military, but they represent less than 1% of the total number of active-duty service members.

The policy also has been blocked by a federal judge in the nation's capital, but that ruling has been temporarily halted by a federal appeals court, which heard arguments on Tuesday. The three-judge panel, which includes two judges appointed by Trump during his first term, appeared to be in favor of the administration's position.

In a more limited ruling, a judge in New Jersey also has barred the Air Force from removing two transgender men, saying they showed their separation would cause lasting damage to their careers and reputations that no monetary settlement could repair.

argued during Trump's first term when the Republican issued a similar order.

"Their well-founded fear of enforcement is even stronger than it was in 2017," Orrick wrote, citing the executive orders as well as directives from Bondi, other federal agencies and Justice Department lawsuits filed against Chicago and New York.

San Francisco successfully challenged the 2017 Trump order and the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with the lower court that the president exceeded his authority when he signed an executive order threatening to cut funding for "sanctuary cities."

There is no strict definition for sanctuary policies or sanctuary cities, but the terms generally describe limited cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ICE enforces immigration laws nationwide but seeks state and local help in alerting federal authorities of immigrants wanted for deportation and holding that person until federal officers take custody.

Leaders of sanctuary jurisdictions say their communities are safer because immigrants feel they can communicate with local police without fear of deportation. It is also a way for municipalities to focus their dollars on crime locally, they say.

Besides San Francisco and Santa Clara County, which includes a third plaintiff, the city of San José, there are 13 other plaintiffs in the lawsuit, which include Seattle and King County, Washington; Portland, Oregon; Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota; New Haven, Connecticut; and Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Stock Market Rallies As Company Profits Go Up

By STAN CHOE
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks are rallying further today as better-than-expected profits for U.S. companies pile up, though CEOs say they're unsure whether it will last because of uncertainty created by President Donald Trump's trade war.

The S&P 500 was 1.9% higher in late trading and back within 11% of its record set earlier this year. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 450 points, or 1.1%, with an hour remaining in trading, and the Nasdaq composite was 2.5% higher.

ServiceNow helped drive the market higher after the AI platform company delivered a stronger profit for the start of 2025 than analysts expected. The company, whose AI agents help clients manage their customers, saw its stock jump 15.8% after it also gave a forecasted range for upcoming subscription revenue that was above what some analysts expected.

Southwest Airlines likewise reported stronger results for the first three months of the year than analysts expected. But its stock flipped between gains and losses through the morning after it also became the latest U.S. carrier to say the outlook for the economy looks so cloudy that it's pulling some of its financial forecasts for the year.

CEO Bob Jordan said the company is "controlling what we can control," and it's cutting how much flying it will do in the

second half of the year. Southwest's stock eventually pulled higher in afternoon trading and was most recently up 3.2%.

Rival American Airlines, meanwhile, pulled its financial forecasts for the full year and said it plans to provide an update when "the economic outlook becomes clearer." Its stock rose 3.3% after beating profit expectations for the latest quarter.

Companies across industries have been talking about how difficult it is to give financial forecasts for the year, as Wall Street typically expects them to do, because of the on-again-off-again rollout of Trump's tariffs.

U.S. stocks rallied the last two days on hopes that Trump was softening his approach on tariffs and his criticism of the Federal Reserve, which had earlier shaken markets. But China, the world's second-largest economy, today denied it's involved in active negotiations with the United States over tariffs, saying that any suggestion of progress in this matter was as groundless as "trying to catch the wind."

Calling Trump's policy announcements "headline turbulence," Tan Jing Yi of the Asia & Oceania Treasury Department at Mizuho Bank warned that global economies could be hurt in the long run, adding: "Sentiments swing from hopes of intense relief to inflicted economic gloom."

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KEYSTONE KOPS. We are looking for local Sitka women to come & have some fun! Participate: Parades, Hang with the Pipers, Visit schools / hospital. Contact Laurie @ 907-738-6919 for application & interview.

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

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Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
TM Rentals LLC dba Sitka Mini Storage Company will hold a public auction on Saturday, April 26th at 1:30 pm at 310 Jarvis St. All bidders must complete a bid application by Tuesday, April 22nd at 5:00 pm. The units being auctioned are held on account for Samuel Kane, 3408 Halibut Point Rd.; Serge Eonne, 706 Monastery st apt 8; Jeannie Emanoff, 405 DeArmond Street Apt D; Christopher Brown, PO Box 712, of Sitka. Sarah Kunaknana-Ahyakak, 330 W. 76th Ave. B of Anchorage. Ramon Hernandez, PO Box 34592 of Juneau. Call 747-8595 or stop by the office at 310 Jarvis (11-5, M-F) for questions. **PUBLISH: April 18 and 24, 2025**

BHV Announces Online Auction

Brave Heart Volunteers Alaska Getaways online auction will run April 22-27. Individuals can bid on wildlife tours, retreats, a cruise and other items. It's completely online, and every bid ensures BHV can continue providing free-of-charge end-of-life care, grief support, and companionship to Sitkans in need. Find the link at braveheartvolunteers.org.

Calendar of Events

THURSDAY

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

SATURDAY

9 a.m.-noon Spring Gun and Outdoor Gear Swap, 5211 Halibut Point Road
10 a.m. STA Kayaani Family Walks, Anna at 907-966-9662
10 a.m.-2 p.m. 3 to 5 Preschool's Big Rig spring fundraiser, Mt. Edgumbe High School parking lot
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Drug Take Back Day collection, Harrigan Centennial Hall
10:30 a.m. Family Yoga Event, STA-sponsored, Sitka Public Library
Noon AA, St. Peter's basement, call AA hotline 747-8866 for information
Noon-4 p.m. Salvation Army Little Store open
Noon-3 p.m. White Elephant Shop open
1-4 p.m. Class on Sitka's History, Harrigan Centennial Hall
6:30 p.m. Aerial Artistry Show, Sitka Cirque Studio, 207 Smith Street
7 p.m. Teen Night, Blatchley Middle School
7 p.m. Young Performers Theater play, "Failure: A Love Story," Odess Theater
7 p.m. AA, St. Peter's Church basement, call 907-747-8866, potluck upstairs at 6 p.m. on last Saturday of the month

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

April 24, 2025
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
PO Box 101020
Anchorage, AK 99510-1020
(907) 338-6100,
toll free (800) 478-2432
These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC)
REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS
On or about May 9, 2025, AHFC will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of \$2,170,000 in Community Project Funding (Funding Opportunity B-24-CP-AK-0028), authorized under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-42) (the FY2024 Act) and the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-47). This program is administered under HUD's Economic Development Initiative – Community Project Funding (CFP) Grants Program and the funds will be used to construct a six-unit apartment building in Sitka, AK.
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AHFC has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at AHFC at 4300 Boniface Parkway, Anchorage, AK 99504 and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:00A.M to 5:00P.M.
PUBLIC COMMENTS
Anyone may submit written comments on the ERR to AHFC. All comments received by May 9, 2025, will be considered by AHFC prior to submission of a request for release of funds to HUD. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.
ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION
The AHFC certifies to HUD that Bryan Butcher in his capacity as the Certifying Officer consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the AHFC to use Program funds.
OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS
HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the AHFC's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (which-ever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of AHFC; (b) AHFC has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD Anchorage Field Office at 3000 C Street Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99503. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.
PUBLISH: April 24, 2025

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 gaylen@travels@yahoo.com. Completed application forms should be returned no later than May 5.

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

Big Rig Event Set for April 26

3 to 5 Preschool's Big Rig spring fundraiser will be 10 a.m.-2 p.m. April 26 at the Mt. Edgumbe High School parking lot – rain or shine.

The community event is for all ages. Admission is \$5 a person or \$20 for a family of four or more. Attendees may pay by cash, check or credit card.

Big Rig T-shirts for children (youth XS and SM) and adults will be available in fluorescent lime and orange and, new this year, hot pink. They will be sold at the admission table for \$15 and \$20, or may be purchased ahead of time at the preschool. Call 747-6898 for details on how to purchase.

Food from Uptown Dogs and Shrimp Etouffee n Gumbo will be available, along with treats by The Donut Lady and Sitka Swirls.

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

Contact Marcia Hirai at marciahirai@gmail.com or 360-481-1505 to help in some way.

Those attending may sign up for a raffle. At the end of the event the winner can invite four others for a ride on the Sitka fire department's ladder truck. (Winner need not be present to win.)

Sponsors and donors for the event are Arrowhead Transfer, Emblem Club 142, Hard Rock Construction, Market Center, Pacific Services, Prewitt Enterprises, Secon-SE Alaska, Sea Mart, Sitka Swirls, and Tongass FCU.

To be a donor for the event, call Lisa at 907 747-6898.

The money helps with operations of the school, including its scholarship fund.

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 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.

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.



WHITE ELEPHANT GRANT – Brigit Wentworth, left, White Elephant Shop employee, presents a check for \$1,300 to Jade Newman, Kenwa Karate employee, at the White Elephant Shop recently. (Photo provided)

Police Blotter

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

April 23

At 8 a.m. a caller reported finding an injured eagle in her yard on O'Cain Street. The Raptor Center was called.

At 11:08 a.m. a caller asked to have it documented that a neighbor's dogs had charged her, and the neighbor had yelled at her.

At 2:05 p.m. a medical facility asked for a welfare check on a man. He was located at 4:08 p.m., and voluntarily went to the hospital.

At 11:58 p.m. a caller reported a driver was speeding and not stopping at stop signs on DeGroff Street. Officers were advised.

Sitka Police

Hector Bojorquez, 35, was charged Wednesday with violating a protection order, a class A misdemeanor.

Emergency Calls

Sitka Fire Department received three ambulance calls Wednesday.

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 premiertrainingak@gmail.com.

Aerial Artistry Production Set

Friends of Sitka Circus Arts invites the public to the 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 at the Sitka Cirque Studio, 207 Smith Street, April 26-27 and May 3-4. 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, and free for under 6 years. Purchase tickets at sitkacirque.com.

Summer Hours At SJ Museum

Sheldon Jackson Museum will move to summer hours – 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. – on Thursday, May 1.

Admission is \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors, and free for ages 18 and under and active-duty military and their families (with an ID).

Call 907 747-8981 with questions.

Mini Quilt Exhibit At Backdoor Cafe

Ocean Wave Quilters will display guild members' mini quilts throughout May at the Backdoor Cafe.

Quakers Offer Silent Worship

The public is invited for silent worship in the style of Quakers (Society of Friends) 3:15 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at Yaw Chapel on the SJ Campus.

This is an LGBTQ+ affirming faith space. Call or text Maggie with questions, 907 623-8239.

Osteoarthritis Topic of Talk

A free workshop on knee and hip osteoarthritis will be held noon-1 p.m. Friday at 311 Price Street.

Alicia Haseltine, PT, will cover some basic education, common exercises and modifications, as well as treatment for OA. Sign up online at www.medicinebymovementwellness.com or 907-623-8708.

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 Ozawa. 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.

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, email recreation@cityofsitka.org or 907 747-4031.

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Alaska Getaways
ONLINE AUCTION

April 22nd-27th, 2025

Your chance to win wildlife tours, cozy retreats, a once-in-a-lifetime dream cruise, and so much more! Every bid ensures that we're able to continue providing free of charge end-of-life care, grief support, and companionship to Sitkans in need.

Link @ braveheartvolunteers.org

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SENTINEL SPORTS

Cavaliers Set 3-Point NBA Playoff Record

By JOE REEDY
AP Sports Writer
CLEVELAND (AP) — The Cleveland Cavaliers came into the NBA playoffs as one of four teams tied for the most 3-pointers in a quarter.

On Wednesday night, they took the record for themselves.

The Cavaliers set the postseason mark with 11 3-pointers during the second period against the Miami Heat in Game 2 of their Eastern Conference first-round series.

Cleveland was 11 of 16 from beyond the arc in the quarter as it jumped out to a 68-51 lead at halftime after leading by only one point at the end of the first period. The top-seeded Cavaliers were up by 19 late in the third quarter but had to survive a Heat rally en route to a 121-112 victory and 2-0 series lead.

“We’ve had a lot of moments like that this year because we have highly skilled players that can shoot. Everybody was shooting it,” coach Kenny Atkinson said. “It was beautiful to watch. We’ve got good passers, good connectors. There’s spacing and running and dirty work involved and then the skill work takes over.”

Max Strus made three 3s while Sam



Cavaliers guard Max Strus (1) shouts in front of Miami Heat guard Davion Mitchell (45) and forward Nikola Jovic (5) after hitting a three-point basket in the first half, Wednesday in Cleveland. (AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)

Merrill, De’Andre Hunter and Donovan Mitchell had two apiece. Mitchell had five assists in the quarter, all on 3-pointers.

“It worked exactly in my head how

I thought it was gonna go. When you envision what you take from Game 1 to Game 2, I thought, yeah, if I get to the paint, guys are gonna collapse. And then to see guys continually hit shots, I

mean that’s just a special group,” said Mitchell, who had 30 points and seven 3-pointers. “When you have versatility like that from the 3-point line, it really makes it tough on the guard. And that’s what you saw in the second quarter.”

The Cavaliers were one of four teams to share the previous record of 10, which happened during a second-round series against Atlanta in 2016. Milwaukee, Phoenix and Utah also sank 10 during postseason games in 2021. Mitchell was on that Jazz team.

The regular-season record for 3s in a quarter is 12, which has happened six times.

Cleveland, the top seed in the East, was second in the league in 3-pointers behind Boston and second in 3-point field goal percentage behind Milwaukee during the regular season.

The Cavaliers finished 22 of 45 from beyond the arc, tied for sixth most in a playoff game.

“When that happens, you have to stay the course and become even more stubborn. There were four of them that we defended really well, but once it got to seven or eight, I think we got discouraged a little bit,” Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Belichick to Boost UNC Football - in Dublin

By AARON BEARD
AP Sports Writer
CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — Bill Belichick had a quick chuckle as he recalled the unusual practice settings when he took the NFL’s New England Patriots to play in London. That included holding a walk-through practice in the middle of the public Hyde Park.

“People were walking by, walking their dogs and doing their thing and all that,” Belichick said with a grin Wednesday.

It’s a moment that lingers with Belichick more than a dozen years on now as a first-time college coach at North Carolina. It’s the kind of unique memory he pointed to when discussing the Tar Heels playing TCU in Ireland to open the 2026 season, along with illustrating why the school has bet big on the six-time Super Bowl-winning head coach.

“This game is just another example of the kind of profile, the kind of opportunities that we’re hoping to have through our investment in the football program,” chancellor Lee Roberts said at a campus news conference, the day after the game was announced.

More specifically, the investment Roberts cited is on Belichick, who turned 73 last week.

UNC hired him in December while committing to more spending on coaches and staff positions, notably with Belichick due to make \$10 million for each of the next three seasons in guaranteed base and supplemental salary alone. The hope is that Belichick builds a winner in football — the revenue-driver when it comes to college sports and TV deals — at a school



North Carolina coach Bill Belichick arrives for an NCAA college football press conference, March 5 in Chapel Hill, N.C. (AP Photo/Chris Seward, file)

best known for its blueblood men’s basketball program.

Belichick’s arrival has, at the least, elevated the Tar Heels’ football profile. That’s partly due to his success at the sport’s highest level. But it’s also based on the curiosity of seeing him toil through the chaotically changing landscape of college athletics, where rosters can turn over seemingly overnight with players constantly on the move through the transfer portal compared to a more structured and contract-driven stability that comes in the NFL.

His first game comes against TCU at home on Labor Day in a college version of Monday Night Football. Now

the return game in what was to be a home-and-home series is headed to Dublin for August 2026, potentially a well-timed showcase event as the Atlantic Coast Conference moves to a revised revenue-distribution model with schools earning more money for generating higher TV ratings.

Consider: Georgia Tech’s win against Florida State in Dublin last August marked the most-watched “Week Zero” game since 2019 and top college-football draw on cable all season.

“I do think the success the program has had, the hiring of Coach Belichick, the timing of it’s perfect,” athletic director Bubba Cunningham said, noting the Tar Heels had sold out their season

Judge Delays NCAA Ruling over Roster Limits

By EDDIE PELLAS and ERIC OLSON
AP Sports Writers

The judge overseeing the rewriting of the college sports rulebook threw a potentially deal-wrecking roadblock into the mix Wednesday, insisting parties in the \$2.8 billion antitrust lawsuit redo the part of the proposed settlement involving roster limits that many schools are already putting in motion.

“Any disruption that may occur is a problem of Defendants’ and NCAA members schools’ own making,” U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken wrote in a pointed five-page order in which she gave no weight to the argument that a reworking of the proposal could throw college sports into chaos.

She gave the sides 14 days to contact their mediator and return to the bargaining table.

The settlement in the landmark class-action lawsuit called for schools to no longer be bound by scholarship limits for their teams, but rather by roster limits in which everyone would be eligible for aid.

It figured to ultimately weed out walk-ons, athletes on partial scholarships and, in extreme cases, entire teams. In preparing for the settlement to be approved, schools across the country have been busy cutting players who, in turn, were finding spots on new teams.

Attorneys argued that undoing all those moves would add even more tur-

bulence to an already tumultuous landscape.

Not her problem, Wilken said, in insisting both sides jumped the gun in making the moves.

“The fact that the Court granted preliminary approval of the settlement agreement should not have been interpreted as an indication that it was certain that the Court would grant final approval,” Wilken said of the preliminary nod she gave back in October that set these transactions in motion.

While the attorneys look for a Plan B, the clock is ticking. Terms of the settlement were supposed to go into effect July 1. Football practice starts soon after. Whether rosters will come in at around the old average (128) or the newly prescribed limit (105) is an open question.

One of the plaintiff attorneys, working virtually in lockstep with the NCAA and conferences since this settlement was (all but) locked in, released a daunting statement.

“We will work hard to convince the NCAA and the conferences to address the court’s concerns,” Steve Berman said. “If we are unable to do so, then we are off to trial and we will return to fighting the NCAA in court with next steps.”

The NCAA and five defendant conferences released a joint statement saying they were closely reviewing the order.

“Our focus continues to be on securing approval of this significant

agreement, which aims to create more opportunities than ever before for student-athletes while fostering much-needed stability and fairness in college sports,” it said.

Steven Molo, an attorney who represented more than 190 athletes at Wilken’s hearing earlier this month, viewed the order as a victory of sorts.

“We’re grateful the court understood the pain the proposed settlement has been inflicting on many student-athletes who’ve dedicated themselves to their sports,” Molo said. “The tremendous unfairness of the arbitrary roster limits must be addressed.”

As for the rest of the settlement — including the \$2.8 billion in back damages and the \$20.5 million many schools can dole out to their athletes — Wilken said she’s ready to go.

But this has been portrayed all along as an all-or-nothing deal, and though it was a mere matter of routine, Wilken’s release of a pretrial schedule — with some hearings scheduled out through September — underscored the idea that, indeed, there’s at least a chance this lawsuit could be resolved with a trial.

Not that any of this should have surprised the attorneys.

Wilken made clear toward the end of the daylong settlement hearing April 7 that she would like the parties to find a way to gradually implement the roster-limit rules. She suggested “grandfathering in” athletes who already had roster spots. In her order Wednesday,

she insisted that wasn’t as impossible as the attorneys made it sound.

“One way of achieving that could be to modify the settlement agreement to ensure that no (athletes) who have or had a roster spot will lose it as a result of the immediate implementation of the settlement agreement,” she wrote. “Limits could be accomplished gradually by attrition.”

Wilken also rejected attorneys’ arguments that, essentially, the good being done for thousands of athletes who can now get paid (and who might have a previously unavailable shot at a scholarship) offsets whatever damage takes place to the players who find themselves at new schools — or no school at all.

“The Court can approve the settlement agreement only if it is fair, reasonable, and adequate after considering, in relevant part, whether it ‘treats class members equitably relative to each other,’” Wilken wrote, in quoting a previous ruling.

It is not clear how many roster spots across hundreds of schools will vanish under the settlement, though some estimates have pegged the number in the thousands.

What is sure is that this ruling shoves the schools’ attempts at getting ready for 2025-26 a step deeper into a black hole of uncertainty. Also clear: the judge is every bit as concerned about the hundreds of athletes losing roster spots as she is with the multibillion-dollar industry they inhabit.

on the 10-day IL before the game after he suffered right hip discomfort during Wednesday’s 8-5 victory.

The A’s scored four runs in the first inning and are batting .304 in the first inning this season, third highest in MLB.

RHP Jacob deGrom (0-1, 3.32) makes his fifth start for the Rangers in Thursday’s rubber game of the three-game series against RHP J.T. Ginn (1-1, 3.60), making his third start for the Athletics.

City League Finale Nears

By Sentinel Staff
The YAPPERS defeated Yellow Jersey 2-0 in another round of the City League volleyball tournament’s competitive division bracket, Wednesday evening at the Blatchley gym.

In the final game of the tourney, the YAPPERS will face Ludvig’s

Lancers Sunday afternoon at either 1 or 5 p.m. — the time hasn’t yet been undetermined.

In the recreational bracket, DeeZ Netz faces the SEARHC Slammers tonight at 7:45 p.m. The championship title match between the winner of that match and Wildflower Cookie Monsters is set for Sunday as well.

Swiatek Rallies to Avoid Upset

MADRID (AP) — This time, Iga Swiatek had the answers against teenage sensation Alexandra Eala.

After a quarterfinal loss to the rising star from the Philippines last month in Miami, Swiatek rallied to a 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory in the second round of the Madrid Open today.

The second-ranked Swiatek, who is the defending Madrid champion, is trying to reach her first final of the season.

The 19-year-old Eala, a product of Rafael Nadal’s academy, defeated Swiatek in straight sets during her run in Miami.

Eala broke Swiatek’s serve early and cruised to victory in the first set at the Caja Magica center court, but the former No. 1 regained her control for the rest of the match, taking advantage of a meltdown by her young opponent.

Swiatek made three semifinal appearances this year, including at the Australian Open and in Indian Wells. She lost her second match in Stuttgart last week, falling against Jelena Ostapenko in three sets.

Before beating Swiatek in Miami, the left-handed Eala had also defeated two other Grand Slam winners — Ostapenko and Madison Keys. Her run ended in the semifinals after a loss to Jessica Pegula.

The last-four appearance in Miami al-

lowed Eala to become the first Filipina to be ranked inside the top 100. She is currently the No. 72.

Earlier Thursday, world No. 7 Mirra Andreeva, who will turn 18 on Tuesday, reached the third round by defeating Marie Bouzkova 6-3, 6-4, while Brazil’s Bia Haddad Maia rallied to beat Bernard Pera 2-6, 6-3, 6-1. American Katie Volynets lost 6-1, 6-2 to Diana Shnaider, and countrywoman Emma Navarro won 7-5, 7-5 against Maya Joint.

In the men’s side, former world No. 4 Kei Nishikori defeated Alexandar Vukic 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 for his 450th tour-level win. The 64th-ranked Japanese was a 2014 finalist in Madrid.

“I had no idea,” the 35-year-old Nishikori said about his milestone. “I just try to play one match at a time. It’s a lot, yes... I have played for 18 years now, hopefully I can reach 500 (wins).”

He will play 29th-seed Denis Shapovalov in the second round.

David Goffin had to retire while losing 1-0 in the third set against Alexandre Muller, while Lorenzo Sonego beat Miomir Kecmanovic 6-4, 7-6 (5).

Third-ranked Carlos Alcaraz withdrew from the tournament today, citing muscle injuries.

Fmr. Seahawk Lockett Joins Titans

(AP) - Longtime Seattle Seahawks receiver Tyler Lockett announced on social media Wednesday night that he is joining the Tennessee Titans.

In 10 NFL seasons, all with the Seahawks, Lockett had 661 catches for 8,594 yards and 61 touchdowns.

ESPN reports that Lockett has agreed to a one-year deal with a base value of \$4 million. Incentives could push that to \$6 million.

Seattle released Lockett last month. He was a first-team All-Pro pick in 2015 and a second-team choice in 2016 and 2017. He was a Pro Bowl selection in 2016.

Lockett will give the Titans an experienced target to fill the role vacated by Tyler Boyd. He’ll likely team up with quarterback Cam Ward, who is expected to go to Tennessee with the first pick in today’s NFL draft.

Celtics Overcome Magic by 9

BOSTON (AP) — As it became evident that All-Star Jayson Tatum would have to sit out Game 2 of the Celtics’ first-round playoff series against the Orlando Magic, Jaylen Brown wanted Boston coach Joe Mazzulla to know something.

“He came in saying he was going to do everything it takes to win,” Mazzulla said.

Brown came through on that promise. And his teammates followed his lead.

Brown had 36 points, 10 rebounds and five assists, Kristaps Porzingis returned to the game after getting a bloody gash to the forehead and finished with 20 points, and the Celtics beat the Magic 109-100 on

Wednesday night. Boston took a 2-0 series lead while playing without Tatum, who has a bone bruise in his right wrist and missed a play-off game for the first time in his career.

“Obviously, JT is the offensive leader, and we play off of him,” Brown said. “But any given night I can rise to the occasion.”

Boston led by 15 points in the second half, then held off a late push by Orlando. The Celtics hit 12 3-pointers and went 25 of 33 from the free-throw line. Derrick White and Brown had 17 of Boston’s 28 points in the final period; White finished with 17.

Alpine Adventure Run

Registration for the seven-mile mountain run is open. 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.

MEHS Field Public Notice

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

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

Medvejie Solstice Run

June 21 at 9 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Langeliers, Butler Push Athletics past Rangers

WEST SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Shea Langeliers had four hits and Nick Kurtz drove in a run with a base hit his first time up in his major-league debut to help the Athletics beat Texas 5-2 Wednesday on a night that saw the Rangers’ Joc Pederson end a 0-for-41 slump with a pinch-hit double.

Lawrence Butler homered — his fourth — to center field leading off the first on a 3-2 pitch from Rangers starter Kumar Rocker (1-3) to ignite a four-run outburst. Tyler Soderstrom

doubled and scored on a hit by Langeliers. Kurtz, the fourth pick in last year’s draft, made it 3-0 with a two-out single and Gio Urshela added an RBI double.

Rocker was done after a two-out walk to Soderstrom and a base hit by Langeliers in the second. Jacob Latz entered and walked JJ Bleday and Jacob Wilson to make it 5-0. Rocker allowed five runs on seven hits and a walk.

JP Sears (3-2) gave up two runs on five hits with a walk and five strike-

outs over five innings for the Athletics. The 29-year-old left-hander is 5-1 all-time against Rangers and has won four straight against the club.

The Rangers scored on Wyatt Langford’s sixth homer — a solo shot in the fourth. Kevin Pillar singled and scored on a groundout by Adolis Garcia in the sixth.

Mason Miller allowed the Pederson double in the ninth before striking out the side for his seventh save.

The Rangers put SS Corey Seage r

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My friend "Alma" has a handicapped parking permit. I never asked her why she has it. We regularly go for long walks, and she seems perfectly able-bodied. Alma did share with me once that she got the tag after an accident left her with some intermittent long-term pain. She said most days she doesn't need the accessible parking and doesn't use it, but that when her pain flares up, it's helpful to be able to utilize a handicapped parking space.

However, I have been with Alma in situations where there is limited parking and she suggests using a handicapped space. I'm uncomfortable taking a space away from someone who may need it, but also uncomfortable questioning whether Alma needs it or if it's just for convenience. What is the proper etiquette here? -- EMPATHETIC IN TEXAS

DEAR EMPATHETIC: The proper etiquette would be to tell your friend Alma (with a smile) that unless she's having pain that day, you would prefer to park a little farther away in a regular parking spot.

DEAR ABBY: I have a set of Chippendale-style dining chairs that are more than 100 years old. They are of sentimental value to me because I grew up with them. Recently, at considerable expense, I had them repaired and reupholstered. My husband's son-in-law, "Isaac," whom I love very much, weighs between 450 and 500 pounds. When the family is dining, he uses one of the chairs. They are not intended to hold such weight.

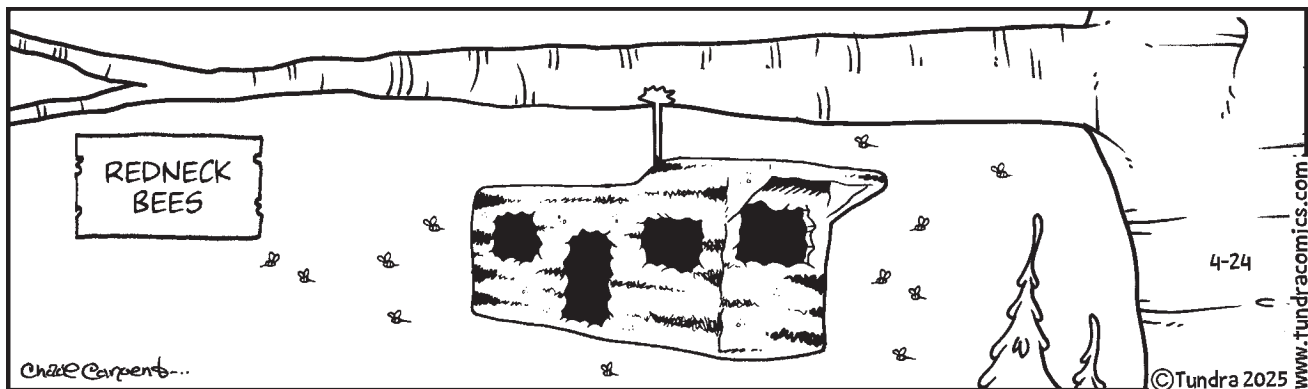
My husband and I agree that we should buy a heavy-duty chair that can accommodate Isaac's weight. However, I don't know how to convey to Isaac that the new chair is for him without causing offense or hurt feelings. Do you have a suggestion? -- TREADING LIGHTLY

DEAR TREADING: Your husband should explain the potential problem to his daughter so SHE can point out to her husband that a special dining room chair has been acquired for him to use at family dinners.

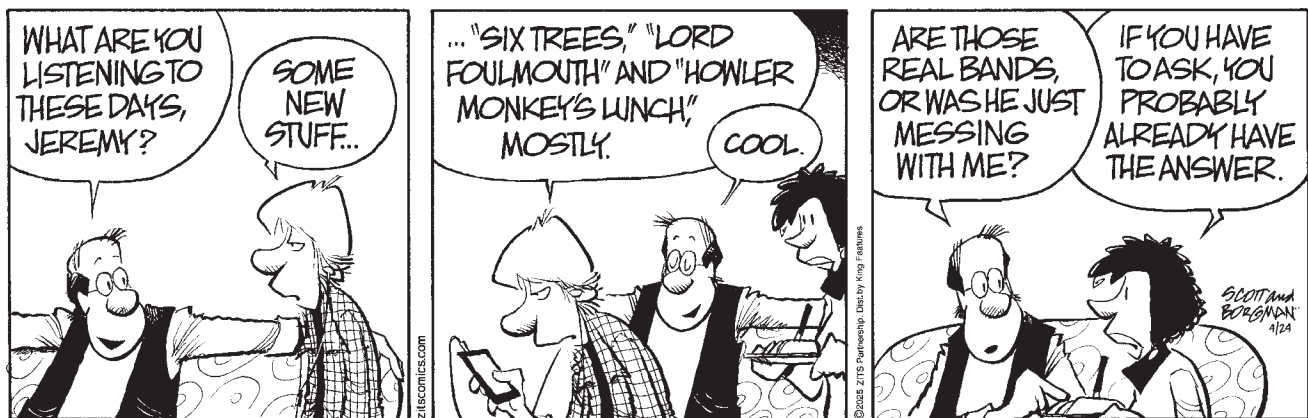
DEAR ABBY: My son works two jobs and takes college classes. His deadbeat girlfriend doesn't work. They broke up briefly, and she moved in with another guy, but he refused to support her, so she got back with my son again. She knows I have her number, so we do not get along, which puts a strain on my relationship with my son. He deserves a better life partner, but he doesn't see it that way. Is there anything I can do to wake him up? -- PLAIN AS DAY IN WASHINGTON

DEAR PLAIN: Your son is young and hasn't had time to gain much experience about romantic relationships. If he didn't pick up on the fact that his girlfriend left him because she thought she had found another meal ticket, and that she returned only when the guy refused to support her, nothing you can say (that you haven't already said, I'm sure) will dissuade him from having to learn a painful lesson on his own.

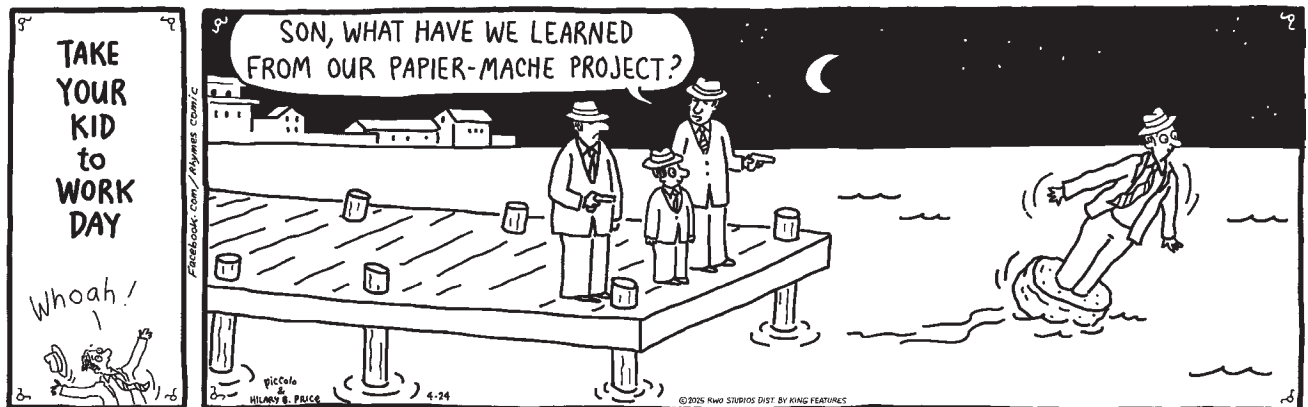
TUNDRA



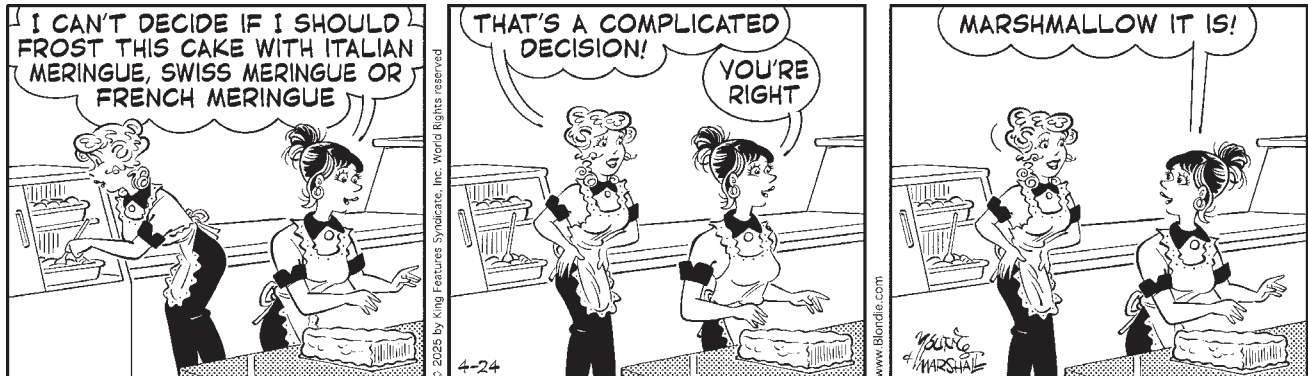
ZITS



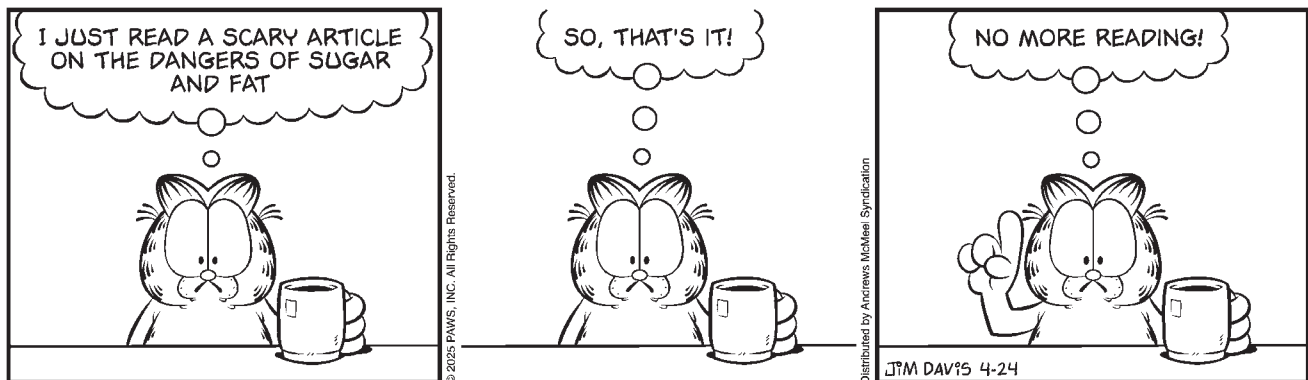
RHYMES WITH ORANGE



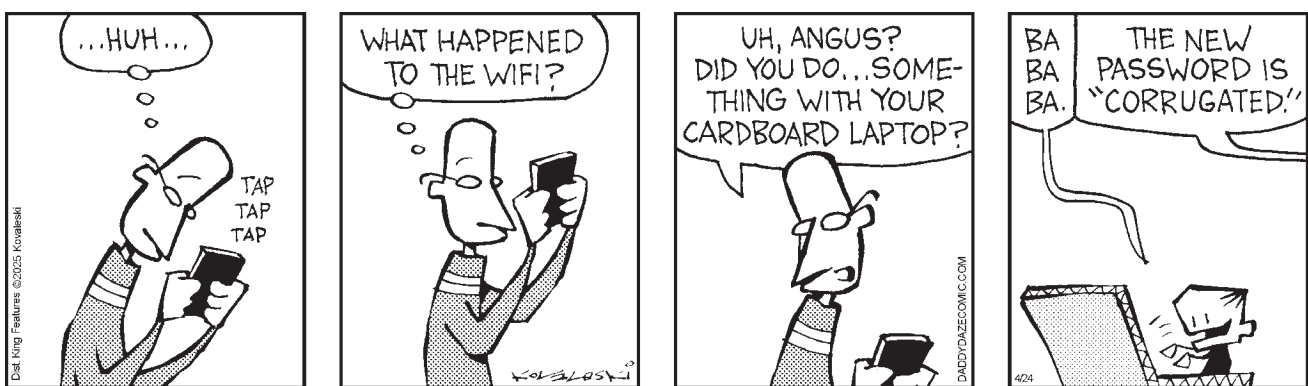
BLONDIE



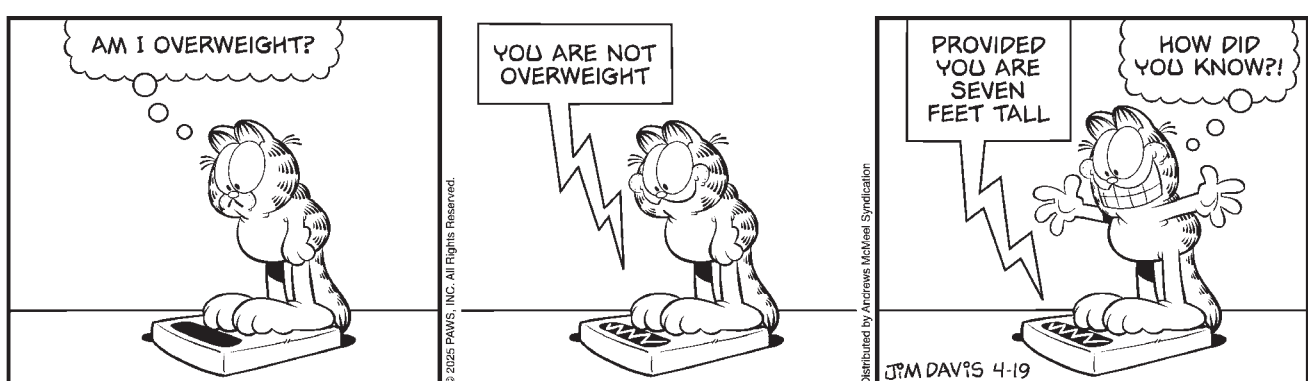
GARFIELD



DADDY DAZE



SATURDAY'S CARTOON...



CROSSWORD

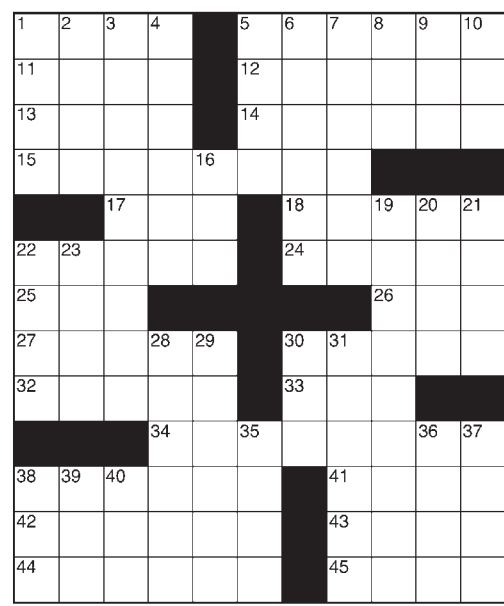
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Cook's creation
5 Concur
11 Cuzco native
12 Resentful
13 Rating unit
14 Chide
15 DNA testing might reopen one
17 Zodiac cat
18 Lab work
22 Hard to see
24 Top story
25 Swelled head
26 Hoopla
27 Scout shelters
30 Parking pro
32 Useful skill
33 Poorly
34 Swimmers of myth
38 Thick shake
41 Ticked off
42 Leave hanging
43 Be sure
44 Start a new paragraph
45 Nile serpents

DOWN

- 1 Coin, essentially
2 Wild about
3 Long-necked onions
4 Solidify
5 "Fer-nando" group
6 Afternoon break
7 Parade site
8 Greek vowel
9 Court divider
10 Uno plus due
16 Guest's bed
19 Mares' mates
20 Ocean motion
21 Edinburgh native
22 Goat cheese
23 A long time of worship
29 Trample
30 Lively spirit
31 Sitka setting
35 Tenant's fee
36 Plummet
37 Uses a needle
38 G-man's org.
39 Made a rush
40 Help out



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.

4-24 CRYPTOQUOTE
B O R V ' S S G B V Q Z V E O Z E B D
C R F S G U B P B V X C B S G R K S
S G B V Q B V X Z J R K S C G Z S E R K ' F N
X R B V X S R N Z S V N M S Z S Z U U
S B H N D . — V R F Z N W G F R V
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I AM NO LONGER
ACCEPTING THE THINGS I CANNOT CHANGE. I
AM CHANGING THE THINGS I CANNOT ACCEPT.
— ANGELA DAVIS



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: FAMOUS NICKNAMES

Provide the person's nickname.
(e.g., Albert DeSalvo (murderer).
Answer: Boston Strangler.)

FRESHMAN LEVEL
1. William Frederick Cody (show-
man)
Answer _____
2. Graham Kerr (TV chef)
Answer _____
3. Theodor S. Geisel (author)
Answer _____

GRADUATE LEVEL
4. Joseph "John" Merrick (physical
unfortunate)
Answer _____
5. Manfred von Richthofen (fighter
pilot)
Answer _____
6. Robert Stroud (convict)
Answer _____

PH.D. LEVEL
7. Peter Sutcliffe (serial killer)
Answer _____
8. Henry McCarty (alias William H.
Bonney; outlaw)
Answer _____
9. Edward Teach (pirate)
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?

ANSWERS: 1. Buffalo Bill, 2.
Ripper, 8. Billy the Kid, 9. Black-
Briar, 4. Alcatraz, 5. Red Baron, 6.
Galloping Gourmet, 3. Dr. Seuss.

Sitka by the Stars

For Friday, April 25, 2025

It's an excellent day for doing anything
that calls on us to be confident, daring
or creative. We're encouraged to come
up with fresh ideas and seek new ex-
periences. There's an abundance of
motivation to go around, which can be
especially helpful for completing chal-
lenging tasks. We can expect time to
move at lightning speed, aiding us in get-
ting through the workday as quickly as
possible. Meanwhile, the evening bodes
well for romance, celebrations, and ac-
tion-packed entertainment like a sports
game or a blockbuster movie.

ARIES

(March 21 to April 19)

Your natural charisma enables you
to shine like the star you are! You
can make a positive impression on
someone today.

TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20)

There's a time for work and getting
stuff done, and there's a time for rest
and ease. Choose the latter, even if
you must block out space for it in your
schedule.

GEMINI

(May 21 to June 20)

You can get a lot accomplished by
working with a group instead of doing
everything yourself. Also, make a
plan to hang out or connect with
friends.

CANCER

(June 21 to July 22)

The hard work you put in now will
bring rewards later, namely if you're
working on a project or goal that you
believe in.

LEO

(July 23 to Aug. 22)

Commit to learning and exploration.
Broaden your mind and your hori-
zons.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

If a project or opportunity isn't right
for you, it's better to admit it now and
cut your losses rather than wasting
valuable resources, time or energy.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

The day is ideal for brainstorming or
planning meetings with your partner
or team.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

What changes do you need to make
to your daily routine so that you can
stay productive without sacrificing
your well-being?

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

You may get a much-needed boost of
creativity or joy. Use it wisely!

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

Do something good for your mental
health, like taking a bath or going on
a walk.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

If there's something you want, make
your pitch, send the proposal, or start
the discussion!

PISCES

(Feb. 19 to March 20)

Expect promising developments or
a happy resolution with a money
matter.

FOR TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

You're a gentle soul, but you're no push-
over. You'll dig your heels in and stand by
your convictions before you even consid-
er budging on your beliefs. While some
may call you stubborn, you would say that
you're dedicated. You often get what you
want because you're so persistent. How-
ever, learning to be a bit more flexible at
times can keep you from being stagnant
or holding on too long to things that you've
outgrown. This year, your mission is to
learn the art of surrendering and how to
better go with the flow.



ANSWER TO
YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

Difficulty: ★★★

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

4/24

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.

China: No Active Talks With U.S. Over Tariffs

By HUIZHONG WU
Associated Press
BANGKOK (AP) — China on today denied any suggestion that it was in active negotiations with the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump over tariffs, saying that any notion of progress in the matter was as groundless as “trying to catch the wind.”

China’s comments come after Trump said Tuesday that things were going “fine with China” and that the final tariff rate on Chinese exports would come down “substantially” from the current 145%.

Guo Jiakun, a spokesman for China’s Foreign Ministry, said during a daily briefing today that, “For all I know, China and the U.S. are not having any consultation or negotiation on tariffs, still less reaching a deal.”

“China’s position is consistent, and we are open to consultations and dialogues, but any form of consultations and negotiations must be conducted on the basis of mutual respect and in an equal manner,” Commerce Ministry spokesman He Yadong said.

“Any claims about the progress of China-U.S. trade negotiations are groundless as trying to catch the wind and have no factual basis,” the spokesman said.

Trump had told reporters earlier in the week that “everything’s active” when asked if he was engaging with China, although his treasury secretary had said there were no formal negotiations.

Asked today about China denying there were any conversations ongoing

with the United States, Trump said, “They had a meeting this morning,” before adding, “it doesn’t matter who they is.”

The U.S. president, a Republican, has expressed interest in a way to climb down from his massive retaliatory tariffs on Chinese imports to the U.S. There are mounting business and consumer concerns that the taxes will drive up inflation and potentially send the economy into a recession.

The Trump administration throughout today continued to send mixed signals.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said he had a “very successful bilateral meeting” today with South Korea, indicating that the two countries could settle on the “technical terms” for an agreement as early as next week.

Yet within minutes of Bessent saying that, Trump fell back on his argument from Wednesday and said it would be “physically impossible” to go through negotiations with dozens of countries and “we are going to, at some point, just set prices for deals.”

“Some will be tariffed,” Trump said. “Some treated us very unfairly. They’ll be tariffed higher than others.”

Trump had put 145% tariffs on imports from China, while China hit back with 125% tariffs on U.S. products. While Trump has given other countries a 90-day pause on the tariffs, as their leaders pledged to negotiate with the U.S., China remained the exception. Instead, Beijing raised its own tariffs and deployed other economic measures in response while vowing to “fight to the end.”



Ukrainian police officers stand near a damaged building after a Russian ballistic missile attack in Kyiv, Ukraine, early today. (AP Photo/Efrem Lukatsky)

After Kyiv Hit, Trump Urges Putin to ‘STOP!’

By AAMER MADHANI and SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump today offered rare criticism of Vladimir Putin, urging the Russian leader to “STOP!” after a deadly barrage of attacks on Kyiv, Ukraine’s capital.

“I am not happy with the Russian strikes on KYIV. Not necessary, and very bad timing. Vladimir, STOP! 5000 soldiers a week are dying,” Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform. “Lets get the Peace Deal DONE!”

Russia struck Kyiv with an hours-long barrage of missiles and drones. At least 12 people were killed and 90 were injured in the deadliest assault on the city since last July.

Trump’s frustration is growing as a U.S.-led effort to get a peace agreement between Ukraine and Russia has not made progress.

The comments about Putin came after Trump lashed out at Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Wednesday and accused him of prolonging the “killing field” by refusing to surrender the Russia-occupied Crimean Peninsula as part of a possible deal. Russia illegally annexed that area in 2014.

With his assertion that Putin demonstrated “very bad timing” with the massive attack, Trump appeared to suggest that the Russian leader was doing himself no favors toward achieving the Kremlin’s demand that any peace agreement include Russia keeping control of Crimea as well as Ukrainian territory in the Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions it has seized since invading in February 2022.

Later today during an Oval Office meeting with Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre, Trump said that Crimea was taken from Ukraine without a fight. He also noted that annexation of the Black Sea peninsula happened under President Barack

Obama’s watch.

Asked what Putin is doing now to help forge a peace deal, Trump responded, “stopping taking the whole country, pretty big concession.”

But the notion is one that Ukraine and much of Europe have fiercely pushed back against, arguing that Russia pausing a land grab is hardly a concession.

Zelenskyy has repeated many times that recognizing occupied territory as Russia’s is a red line for Ukraine. He noted today that Ukraine had agreed to a U.S. ceasefire proposal 44 days ago as a first step to a negotiated peace, but that Moscow’s attacks had continued.

Trump’s criticism of Putin is notable because Trump has repeatedly said Russia is more willing than Ukraine to get a deal done.

“I didn’t like last night,” Trump said of Russia’s massive attack on Kyiv. “I wasn’t happy with it.”

In his dealings with Zelenskyy and Putin, Trump has focused on which leader has leverage. Putin has “the cards” and Zelenskyy does not, Trump has said repeatedly. At the same time, the new Republican administration has taken steps toward a more cooperative line with Putin, for whom Trump has long shown admiration.

Trump in his meeting with Norway’s Gahr Støre discussed the war in Ukraine, U.S. tariffs and other issues.

Norway, a member of NATO and strong supporter of Ukraine, shares a roughly 123-mile (198-kilometer) border with Russia.

Gahr Støre said “both parties have to know that they have to deliver.” He also suggested that Trump is pushing the two sides to come to an agreement.

“To move towards an end of this war, U.S engagement is critical, and President Trump made that possible,” he said. “That is clear”

Meanwhile, French President Emmanuel Macron said Putin should “stop lying” when he claims to want “peace” while continuing to bomb Ukraine.

4-H . . .

Continued from Page 1

essential Alaskan skill sets that prime kids to be members of the community.

“These programs down south are heavily funded by the state contributions and others for getting kids into career pathways like dairy farming and crops and farming,” he said. “In Southeast Alaska, the skills our kids need are how to hunt and fish, how to be safe on the water, and how to go into the career pathways that we might need for forestry, commercial fishing, local food production, business management. All of those are skills 4-H teaches, which is why we’re invested in part of that program.”

The USDA grant made up half of the annual budget for 4-H, with the remainder from local matching funds.

Those local funds will keep 4-H summer camps open to Sitka kids this year.

“We’ve been able to raise some money to keep summer camps going and find some other sources of funding that you know will get us a little bit further, like local funding,” he said. “This program had a one-to-one match, so we put in for every dollar that we got, we put in one dollar and that was from funding sources, from local businesses, sponsors, individual donations and other private sources.”

Since the grant requires those matching funds, there is still \$250,000 of local money left in the coffers with the federal money withdrawn, Thoms said.

The Sitka program is run by an SCS employee, Allie Prokosch, and a Jesuit Volunteer, Kolby Sirowich, and coordinates with groups such as Sitka Trail Works and the Sitka Native Education Program, as well as Pacific High School and local businesses. On UAF’s side, Jasmine Shaw works with the program from the Cooperative Extension Service’s Sitka office. Shaw confirmed today that UAF funding for 4-H programs around the state has not been impacted by last week’s grant cancellation.

The cutback in federal funding will likely push 4-H to rely more heavily on volunteerism, Prokosch said.

“The whole program... is just connecting youth to the outdoors and supporting programs so more youth have

Judges Slow Ed Dept. In Enforcing DEI Ban

By SHAUNEEN MIRAND
Alaska Beacon
A federal judge in Maryland ordered the Trump administration today to pause enforcement of a new U.S. Education Department ban on diversity, equity and inclusion practices.

The order came as another federal judge in New Hampshire issued a preliminary injunction temporarily blocking the Trump administration from yanking federal funding from many schools.



Linda McMahon. (Photo by Win McNamee/Getty Images)

The New Hampshire order, though, only applied to schools that employ members of the National Education Association — the country’s largest labor union, which brought the case challenging the ban — or the Center for Black Educator Development.

The rulings used different legal logic but arrived at the same conclusion: The administration’s ban on race-conscious practices is not valid.

In Maryland, U.S. District Judge Stephanie A. Gallagher said she ruled not on the merits of the policy, but the way the Trump administration developed it.

“This Court takes no view as to whether the policies at issue here are good or bad, prudent or foolish, fair or unfair. But this Court is constitutionally required to closely scrutinize whether the government went about creating and implementing them in the manner the law requires,” she wrote. “The government did not.”

Gallagher’s order pauses the enforcement of a Feb. 14 letter to school districts from Craig Trainor, the department’s acting assistant secretary for civil rights, that threatened to rescind federal funds for schools that use race-conscious practices in programming, admissions, scholarships and other aspects of student life.

In New Hampshire, U.S. District Judge Landya McCafferty wrote that “the loss of federal funding would cripple the operations of many educational institutions.”

McCafferty’s order has a nationwide effect, but McCafferty limited it to schools that employ NEA members, rejecting the union’s attempt to completely halt the policies outlined in the letter.

Teachers unions sued

The Feb. 14 letter drew swift legal action, and the National Education Association brought the suit in New Hampshire against the administration alongside the Center for Black Educator Development.

The American Federation of Teachers — one of the largest teachers unions in the country — filed a complaint in February alongside its affiliate, AFT-Maryland. The American Sociological Association and a public school district in Oregon also sued over the letter.

“Today the court confirmed the importance of our job as educators to foster opportunity, dignity, and engagement,” Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, said in a statement after the Maryland ruling.

“The court agreed that this vague and clearly unconstitutional requirement is a grave attack on students, our profession, honest history, and

knowledge itself,” she added. “It would hamper efforts to extend access to education, and dash the promise of equal opportunity for all, a central tenet of the United States since its founding.”

NEA also celebrated the preliminary injunction granted in its case today, and the union’s president, Becky Pringle, said in a statement “today’s ruling allows educators and schools to continue to be guided by what’s best for students, not by the threat of illegal restrictions and punishment.”

The statement said President Donald Trump, billionaire head of the U.S. DOGE Service Elon Musk and Education Secretary Linda McMahon were responsible for an “attack” on public education.

“The fact is that Donald Trump, Elon Musk, and Linda McMahon are using politically motivated attacks and harmful and vague directives to stifle speech and erase critical lessons to attack public education, as they work to dismantle public schools,” Pringle said. “This is why educators, parents, and community leaders are organizing, mobilizing, and using every tool available to protect our students and their futures.”

The Education Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment today.

Letter raised questions

In the February letter, Trainor offered a wide-ranging interpretation of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in 2023 involving Harvard University and the University of North Carolina, which struck down the use of affirmative action in college admissions.

Trainor wrote that though the ruling “addressed admissions decisions, the Supreme Court’s holding applies more broadly.”

The four-page letter raised a slew of questions for schools across pre-K through college over what fell within the requirements, and the department later released a Frequently Asked Questions document on the letter in an attempt to provide more guidance.

Earlier this month, the Education Department gave state education leaders just days to certify all K-12 schools in their states were complying with the letter in order to keep receiving federal financial assistance. The department and the groups suing in the New Hampshire case later reached an agreement that paused enforcement.

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Judge Blocks Parts Of Trump Election Order

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge on today blocked the Trump administration from immediately enacting certain changes to how federal elections are run, including adding a proof-of-citizenship requirement to the federal voter registration form.

The decision is a setback for President Donald Trump, who has argued the requirement is needed to restore public confidence in elections. But the judge allowed other parts of Trump’s sweeping executive order on U.S. elections to go forward for now, including a directive to tighten mail ballot deadlines around the country.

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Trump’s March executive order overhauling how U.S. elections are run prompted swift lawsuits from the League of United Latin American Citizens, the League of Women Voters Education Fund, the Democratic National Committee and others, who called it unconstitutional.

U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly in Washington sided with voting rights groups and Democrats, saying that the Constitution gives the power to regulate federal elections to states and Congress — not the president. She noted federal lawmakers are currently working on their own legislation to require proof of citizenship to vote.

In a 120-page decision on Thursday, she said the plaintiffs had proven that the proof-of-citizenship requirement would cause their clients irreparable harm and go against the public interest, while the government had offered “almost no defense of the President’s order on the merits.”

Accordingly, she granted a preliminary injunction to stop the citizenship requirement from moving forward while the lawsuit plays out.

The judge also blocked part of the Republican president’s order requiring public assistance enrollees to have their citizenship assessed before getting access to the federal voter registration

form.

But she denied other requests from a group of Democratic plaintiffs, including refusing to block Trump’s order to require all mailed ballots to be received by Election Day nationwide. She also did not touch Trump’s order to open certain databases to billionaire Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency to allow it to review state voter lists to search for noncitizens. The judge said those arguments brought by Democrats were either premature or should be brought by states instead.

The plaintiffs had argued Trump’s proof-of-citizenship requirement violated the Constitution’s so-called Elections Clause, which gives states and Congress the authority to determine how elections are run.

They also argued that Trump’s order asserts power that he does not have over an independent agency. That agency, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, sets voluntary voting system guidelines and maintains the federal voter registration form.

During an April 17 hearing, attorneys for the plaintiffs had said requiring proof of citizenship on the federal voter registration form would complicate their clients’ voter registration drives at grocery stores and other public places.

Aria Branch, counsel for the Democratic National Committee and other Democratic plaintiffs, also argued the executive order’s effort to tighten mail ballot deadlines would irreparably harm her clients by forcing them to reallocate resources to help voters navigate the changes.

“That’s time, money and organizational resources and strategy that can’t be recouped,” she said.

Michael Gates, counsel for the Trump administration, said in the hearing a preliminary injunction wasn’t warranted because the order hadn’t been implemented and a citizenship requirement would not be on the federal voter registration form for many months.

Court Decides Seizure Of Bootlegger’s Plane Legal

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon
When the state of Alaska seized a bootlegger’s plane, it did not violate the U.S. Constitution’s excessive fines clause, the Alaska Supreme Court has ruled.

The ruling, published Friday, involves a 13-year-old dispute that followed the conviction of Kenneth Jouppi for attempting to transport beer from Fairbanks to Beaver, an Interior Alaska town that has outlawed the importation, sale and possession of alcohol.

Jouppi operated an air service and was transporting a passenger who had loaded 72 cans of beer as cargo. Troopers said Jouppi was aware of at least one six-pack and thus knowingly transported alcohol, something Jouppi contested at trial.

The state attempted to seize Jouppi’s airplane as a result of the conviction, but the trial court denied that seizure, citing state law. The state appealed, and the Alaska Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the seizure, remanding the case back to the trial court.

The trial court again declined to rule in favor of the seizure, this time citing the U.S. Constitution, and the state appealed to the Supreme Court.

“We hold, as a matter of law, that the owner of the airplane failed to establish that forfeiture would be unconstitutionally excessive,” wrote Justice Jude Pate on behalf of the court, which ruled unanimously.

“Forfeiture of the airplane constituted a fine within the meaning of the Excessive Fines Clause, and ... the forfeiture is not grossly disproportional to the gravity of the harm caused by the offense,” he wrote.

The decision was based upon a U.S. Supreme Court case known as United States v.ajakajian, which set

up a two-part test to determine whether a fine is excessive: The fine must be intended as punishment, and it cannot be disproportional to the crime.

Citing legislative debates, the Alaska Supreme Court’s new ruling says that lawmakers intended aircraft-related smuggling to be subject to greater penalties than other ways of bootlegging.

In addition, the ruling says that the harm caused by alcohol to rural Alaska means that severe punishment is not disproportionate.

“Alcohol abuse in rural Alaska leads to increased crime; disorders, such as alcoholism; conditions, such as fetal alcohol spectrum disorder; and death, imposing substantial costs on public health and the administration of justice. Within this context, it is clear that the illegal importation of even a six-pack of beer causes grave societal harm,” the ruling states. “This factor strongly suggests that the forfeiture is not grossly disproportional.”

The Alaska Supreme Court’s ruling sends the case back to the Court of Appeals for further work.

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Conference . . .

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She said federal funding cutbacks are reaching SSP, citing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s recent freeze of a \$2.9 million “Community Change” grant for Spruce Root and the Organized Village of Kake.

The grant was meant to fund climate-related projects in Kake, as well as the next two years of SSP’s work, including the spring retreats.

As it happens, SSP is well-prepared to deal with federal funding cutbacks, Peterson said.

“About seven or eight years ago we thought, ‘We need our own funding source, we can’t rely on federal funding or private philanthropy forever,’” she said.

So, Spruce Root built the Seacoast Trust, an endowment-like fund which currently has a fund balance of \$27 or \$28 million.

“We knew there would be a reason to have our own funding so that we could make our own decisions and be self-determining as a region about where we think funds should be prioritized for,” Peterson said.

Sealaska jump-started the fund with a \$10 million commitment, and the Nature Conservancy contributed another \$8 million in matching funds.

Spruce Root has continued “fund-raising hard” for over the past five or six years, and with a target of a \$100 million balance in the Seacoast Trust.

Spruce Root holds the funds, which are designated “to fund this program, the Sustainable Southeast Partnership work,” Peterson said.

The SSP Steering Committee establishes program strategy and priorities for the Seacoast Trust. Committee members are nominated by SSP participants during each spring retreat, and are confirmed by the Spruce Root Board of Directors.

Spruce Root runs two main programs besides SSP. It administers a lending program for small businesses and entrepreneurs, and also runs a technical assistance program called Path to Prosperity, Peterson said.

BSA . . .

Continued from Page 1

bill without some of the governor’s priority policy changes, at risk of another veto. “Are we just going to throw a BSA (increase) in there with no policy?” he said. “Then we’re going to be in the same boat in the summertime when the governor vetoes it out of the budget, right? I mean, that’s really frustrating to me.”

Cronk said he hoped to see additional policy changes added to the bill. “I’m hoping they did this to say, ‘Hey, we have something we can work on,’ before the end of the year, you know, 30 days,” he said, referring to the May 21 deadline to end the legislative session. “Being an optimist, I guess.”

Sen. James Kaufman, R-Anchorage, and another Senate Finance committee member, echoed a similar frustration. “Doing these fake victory laps on passing something out (of the Legislature) when you know that it’s going to die from a veto — you’ve got to just quit doing that,” he said. “And just come to an agreement.”

Kaufman said he remains hopeful an agreement can be reached with the governor.

“I just hope there’s room to do something realistic that can be durable,” he said. “He’s got the stick there. People need to come up with the carrots that’ll allow him to accept the legislation that we put out.”

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