



DAILY SITKA SENTINEL

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Sitka High School students rehearse a scene from the play “The Game’s Afoot” by Ken Ludwig, Wednesday night at the Performing Arts Center. The play, a whimsical murder mystery set in a Connecticut castle in Decem-

ber 1936, opens Friday at 7 p.m. Pictured are, from left, Lazaria Kubacki, Caellum Wentzel, Rita Christianson, Alex Callistini, Aiden LaFriniere and Naomi Capp. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)

‘The Game’s Afoot’ in SHS Mystery Staged at PAC

CATHY LI
Sentinel Staff Writer

This weekend the Performing Arts Center stage will be transformed into the 1930s era playhouse of an eccentric actor, whose weekend of fun quickly goes awry after one of his guests is murdered.

Deftly maneuvering among hidden rooms, mounted swords and an air of intrigue, eight Sitka High School students will star in the play “The Game’s Afoot” by Ken Ludwig, directed by Christian Litten and Sam McLaughlin.

The performances will be 7-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, with a Saturday matinee 2-4 p.m.. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students, available at the door.

“Because this is a murder mystery, it’s good to come in blind and know

that it’s going to be a good time,” Litten said. “I want people to see the show unwrap and be along for the ride without giving anything away.”

He highlighted the cast’s “amazing” dedication and ability to “take on challenging roles.” They have been rehearsing four times a week since early March, and this is the first time many in the cast have worked with Litten in a high school play.

Reagan Wingard, a Sitka High junior with a background in drama, debate and forensics, is making her first appearance in a school play. She plays Daria Chase, a newspaper columnist she describes as “a big personality.”

“My favorite memory from this entire production is all of the times that the whole cast and our directors have gotten

to sit down and go over everything, and to talk about our experiences both in the play and outside of it,” she said.

This is the play’s “tech week,” a period set aside for rehearsing with different components like costuming, lighting and set changes, but sophomore Alex Callistini, who plays Simon Bright, said the cast has a different nickname for it.

“Currently, it’s hell week,” Callistini said. “We have rehearsals every day.”

Wingard said this extra practice is helpful because it allows her “more time and space to work with all of [her] props.”

In addition to the performances, Litten also called attention to the play’s set design, which he conceptualized and built with Rebecca Poulson. It blends 1930s Art Deco with the whims of an avid weapons collector.

“This house that the play takes place in has a lot of weapons, which sets up the kind of suspense of a murder mystery,” Litten said. “It feels like at any one time, any one of those weapons could be used to kill somebody.”

He clarified that although most of the weapons are real, none are “the kind that will hurt anybody,” and they’ve all been securely mounted on the walls. His personal favorite is a prop gun that looks like a real shotgun.

“There are definitely a lot of fake weapons, definitely a lot of fun props,” said freshman Morgan Hames, who plays Inspector Goring. “I would say to look around the set and put your listening ears on. There are a lot of clues and small details and it’ll be exciting to see what the mystery will be. I’m very excited — it’s going to be super fun.”

Lawmakers Hold Back On Infrastructure Bill

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

The Alaska House of Representatives, following in the path of the state Senate, has approved a small construction and renovation budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1.

The vote on Senate Bill 57, the annual infrastructure bill — formally known as the capital budget — was 21-19, along caucus lines.

When oil prices and production are high, the Alaska Legislature pours hundreds of millions of dollars into new construction and maintenance projects. This spring, with the Legislature anticipating low oil prices and reduced federal funding, the House version of the capital budget proposes to spend just \$167.9 million in general-purpose dollars.

In comparison, the capital budget two years ago spent more than three-quarters of a billion dollars. The newly approved capital budget isn’t the smallest in recent history — in 2016, legislators approved just \$107 million — but spending is very limited by historical standards, noted Rep. Calvin Schrage, I-Anchorage, who oversaw the budget on the House Finance Committee.

“This was not a fun or easy year to be the capital budget co-chair,” Schrage said, “due to our state’s dire

fiscal picture. We had to say no — or at least not now — to a lot of good projects that would have benefited Alaskans. That said, we were still able to make some meaningful investments.”

A significant amount of the capital budget is being set aside for matching funds needed to unlock federal grants. For example, it allocates \$57.2 million in general-purpose money to the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, which gives the state access to over \$2 billion in transportation funding once federal money is considered.

It isn’t yet clear how federal budget cuts will affect that figure. The budget is set based on what is known as of today.

With general-purpose revenue limited, the House and Senate finance committees were mostly limited to assigning money to deferred maintenance projects at state facilities spread across Alaska.

For example, the Senate added \$19 million to the major maintenance list at public schools. The House added another \$19 million on top of that, enough to cover the top nine projects on the list.

“We basically had an agreement going in; we got half, they got half,” said Sen. Bert Stedman, R-Sitka and Senate Finance Committee co-chair.

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Rep. Jeremy Bynum, R-Ketchikan, speaks to Rep. Calvin Schrage, I-Anchorage, during a vote on amendments to the state’s capital budget on Monday, May 12. (Photo by James Brooks/Alaska Beacon)

State Gives Feds Info On Food Stamp Recipients

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

Following a request by the federal government, the state of Alaska has turned over the personal information of roughly 70,000 Alaskans enrolled in the federally funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly known as food stamps.

As first reported by NPR, the federal government normally collects information to determine a SNAP applicant’s financial eligibility for the program. The new request goes beyond that, to cover name, date of birth, address, contact information, Social Security number, citizenship status and information about people living in a recipient’s household.

It affects nearly 1 in 10 Alaska residents, who participate in the program.

In a May 6 memo, the USDA said it was requesting that information because of an executive order by President Donald Trump. Numerous news agencies have reported that the Department of Government Efficiency — part of the executive branch under Trump — has used that order to combine personal data collected from several agencies to help the federal government track and arrest immigrants they want to remove from the country.

“Alaska is complying with the federal government’s requirement to share the information as requested,” said Alex Huseman, a public information officer for the Alaska Department of Health.

“Per the USDA guidance on May 6, 2025 ... all data related to SNAP is being shared with the federal government,” he said. “This includes any information on a client’s application or renewal, any documentation sent in as part of their application or renewal, or other data acquired by DPA staff while processing applications and renewals.”

The USDA is specifically requesting “records sufficient to identify individuals as applicants for, or recipients of, SNAP benefits, including but not limited to personally identifiable information in the form of names, dates of birth, personal addresses used, and Social Security numbers.”

Huseman said the federal government has not requested that information before.

The Alaska Legislature has previously expressed concerns about the federal collection of Alaskans’ personal data but has not addressed the SNAP data-sharing arrangement.

In 2008, the Legislature forbade the state from spending money to implement the post-Sept. 11 REAL ID program, and only begrudgingly reversed course years later.

In 2017, lawmakers said they did not trust federal government data collection and requested additional privacy protections. Among those lawmakers was then-Sen. Mike Dunleavy, R-Wasilla.

“Federal contractors, businesses, everyone’s a victim here, of the federal government,” Dunleavy told the Anchorage Daily News about the REAL ID program.

https://alaskabeacon.com/james-brooks

Legislators OK All But 2 State Board Nominees

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

The Alaska Legislature on Wednesday approved almost all of Gov. Mike Dunleavy’s appointments to state boards and commissions during an annual joint session of the state House and Senate.

Of the 99 officials awaiting confirmation, the Legislature rejected only two: physician assistant Samantha Smith to the state medical board, and principal Kimberly Bergey to the Professional Teaching Practices Commission.

That rejection rate is not unusual, but one of the votes may have made legislative history.

Smith’s nomination was rejected by a 0-60 vote, something Senate President Gary Stevens, R-Kodiak, called “remarkable.”

Neither he nor any other member of the Legislature could recall a prior case when a nominee failed to receive a single vote in their favor. Stevens has been serving in the Legislature since 2000.

The Alaska Legislature’s library does not keep track of confirmation votes, the librarian said, and a search of online newspaper archives failed to find a similar vote.

Smith did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment.

Speaking during the joint session, lawmakers questioned Smith’s experience and said they had received overwhelming testimony against her.

Smith is a physician assistant at a chiropractic office, and that’s not representative of the work that most PAs do, said Rep. Andrew Gray, D-Anchorage and a physician assistant himself.

Rep. Zack Fields, D-Anchorage, said the Alaska Academy of Physician Assistants, which represents PAs across the state, wrote a letter opposing her confirmation, as did individual PAs across the state.

Multiple legislators said they were concerned about Smith’s performance



The Alaska Legislature voted unanimously against the nomination of Samantha Smith to the state medical board on Wednesday, May 14. (Photo by James Brooks/Alaska Beacon)

during confirmation hearings. In one hearing, Smith appeared to violate HIPAA, the federal health privacy act, Fields said.

“The hearings, I thought, were consistently troubling,” said Sen. Matt Claman, D-Anchorage.

He mentioned one example: Smith said she believes the state needs more attorneys able to file malpractice claims against doctors to keep them in line.

“If enthusiasm was a qualification, she has 150% of that. I was a little taken aback by some of the comments that she made,” said Rep. Mike Prax, R-North Pole.

After rejecting Smith, legislators

approved Brent Taylor for the medical board by a close 33-27 vote. Taylor is the board’s current chair.

Rep. Justin Ruffridge, R-Soldotna and a pharmacist, said Taylor has taken a “somewhat antagonistic” approach toward working with other licensed medical professionals.

The vast majority of nominations received no comment from legislators.

Bergey, renominated to a board that oversees teacher performance, appeared to have few problems getting legislative approval until Sen. Bill Wielechowski, D-Anchorage, noted that she was not nominated for her seat by the state principals association, as required by law.

Bergey had the association’s nomination when she was originally appointed to the professional practices board, but not for her renomination.

“I do not believe this person meets the statutory requirements, and I believe we must reject this nomination,” Wielechowski said.

Legislators rejected her nomination with 33 legislators opposed.

Last year, legislators approved 78 of 81 nominees. In 2023, it was 77 of 78. Three years ago, the governor had a perfect score: The Legislature approved all of his nominees.

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CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE

NEXT SHIP

Friday, May 16
Passengers
2600 (capacity)

Grand Princess
Sitka Cruise Terminal
7am – 4pm

NOTE: All info based on data available at press time. Subject to change.

Letters to the Editor

Yes on 1 for Our Future

Dear Editor: Carbon emissions, wastewater discharges and vessel disturbances all have a cumulative impact on coastal marine ecosystems.

This year, the cruise ships that visit Sitka will consume roughly 2 million gallons of fuel.

A single ship with 3,600 passengers generates at least 2,800 tons of CO2 during a seven-day trip, equivalent to 600 gasoline-powered cars driving for an entire year.

On a seven-day journey, a ship of this size dumps 211,000 gallons of treated sewage and 1.7 million gallons of gray water. Some are allowed to dump treated sewage in Alaska waters, even at port; others are required to dump outside three miles.

These ships also dump scrubber wastewater all along their routes.

In 2020, the International Maritime Organization required all ships to either burn low-sulfur fuel or install exhaust cleaning systems (i.e. scrubbers) to remove pollutants from cheaper fuels.

Open-loop scrubbers spray sea water into the ship's exhaust to remove sulfur oxides, creating acidic wastewater

that's pumped back into the ocean.

Closed-loop systems use fresh water treated with chemicals, and deposit less, but more concentrated wastewater.

What doesn't go into the air, goes into the water as a pollutant. Scrubber discharge contributes to ocean acidification and contains heavy metals (like mercury and arsenic), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons that are toxic to marine organisms.

On each cruise, a 3,600-passenger ship will generate about 55 million gallons of acidic scrubber wastewater—equal to 84 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

All these effluent discharges are dumped in our waters. They are absorbed by fish, concentrated up the food chain, and some will be consumed by us.

Safeguarding Sitka means keeping our ocean, forests, fish and people safe, well, and thriving. I hope we can acknowledge the environmental consequences of overtourism and choose to throttle back.

I'm voting yes to reducing marine pollution in Sitka. We owe it to our home and to our future.

Devon Calvin, Sitka

AP Poll: Americans Split On Colleges, DEI Issue

By JOCELYN GECKER and LINLEY SANDERS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As President Donald Trump seeks to end diversity, equity and inclusion practices on college campuses, a new poll suggests that while the concept of DEI is divisive, some of the initiatives being affected by his administration's guidance are less controversial.

The poll, conducted earlier this month by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, found about 4 in 10 Americans "strongly" or "somewhat" favor DEI programs in colleges and universities, while about 3 in 10 oppose those initiatives and about 3 in 10 are neutral.

Support is higher for courses on racism and scholarships for students of color, among other services designed to help students from underrepresented groups.

The findings underscore that while "DEI" has become a politically toxic and unpopular term for many Americans, some components of DEI programs have much less opposition.

This is especially true among Republicans. While about 6 in 10 Republicans oppose DEI programs broadly, their opposition softens for many of their most common elements. Just under half of Republicans oppose courses that teach about racism. About one-third oppose scholarships for students from underrepresented groups. And roughly 3 in 10 oppose clubs and mentorship services for those students.

About 7 in 10 Democrats, by contrast, favor DEI programs on college campuses, with similar shares supporting courses that teach about racism and scholarships or extracurricular support services for students from underrepresented groups.

Divides reflect different views of DEI's meaning

Some of this tension may stem from differing perspectives on what DEI means.

"I'm dead set against DEI," says poll respondent Robert Ayala, an 81-year-old registered independent who leans Republican. His understanding of DEI is

"giving someone a free ride" or hiring people based on their skin color, as opposed to their skill set.

But Ayala says he fully supports scholarships and mentoring to help disadvantaged students. Ayala, who has Mexican ancestry, grew up poor in rural South Dakota, faced prejudice as a child and lacked career direction. "If I was offered a scholarship or training or had somebody to guide me, I might have found my way faster," says Ayala, who spent 22 years in the Navy, then went into contracting and is now retired near Palm Springs, California.

Trump, a Republican, has signed multiple executive orders to eliminate diversity practices in the federal government, private companies and in education, calling them "illegal" and "immoral." He has threatened to cut federal funding to campuses that defy him. Some of his orders are being challenged in court.

On campuses, students of color say colleges responding to the new guidance have cut back scholarships, diversity offices and mentors that made them feel welcome on predominantly white campuses.

"Everybody should have the same opportunities as everybody else," says Stanley Roberts, 61, a registered Republican near Knoxville, Tennessee. He is "somewhat" opposed to the idea of DEI and is "on the fence" about courses that teach about racism because he thinks dwelling on the past creates division. "What happened 200 years ago or 1,000 years ago shouldn't have happened," he says, "but if everybody would quit talking about it, it would be a whole lot less of a problem."

White adults are more likely to oppose DEI programs

The poll shows that white adults are more likely than Black and Hispanic adults to oppose DEI programs.

Black adults are more likely than U.S. adults overall to favor courses that teach about racism.

"I know this sounds cliché to say, but the reason I favor teaching about racism is so history doesn't repeat itself," says Nicole Martin, 34, a Black social worker in Idaho Falls, Idaho. "I hear a lot of, 'Oh, just get over it.' But I think, 'OK you don't want to talk about slavery. But we're still talking about the Holocaust and that's OK.'"

The poll found that women are more likely than men to say they support DEI programs on college campuses, as well as support services for students from underrepresented groups.

"Without DEI, I am not sure there are many chances for understanding other people's experiences," says Regina Cuddeback, 27, a Democrat in Cortland, New York, who says her support for DEI depends on the context.

Cuddeback does not think race should factor into college admissions but DEI programs on campuses are "completely fine," and she does not think the federal government should have a say in the courses colleges offer.

"Students have a right to take the classes they want to take," says Cuddeback, who is white and a registered Democrat. "For a college to remove a class and say you don't get to learn a certain subject anymore would be pretty abysmal."

Sitka Yesterday

20 YEARS AGO
May 2005

Sitka High School class of 1985 will hold its 20-year reunion in July. Those planning to attend are asked to send \$25 to one of the coordinators, Alicia Williams,Tammy (Wilkin) Mears, or Stephanie (Filler) Backus.

50 YEARS AGO
May 1975

From On the Go: At the risk of getting Al Brookman Sr. involved in more controversy, we would like to state that his wife Ollie makes the best Easter bread in town. That we've tasted. So far. ... One young mom we know made the mistake of telling her two-year-old a month ago that yes, when it snows again it will be Christmas. Talk fast, Mama.



Supporters of Judge Hannah Dugan protest outside the United States Federal Building and Courthouse in Milwaukee, Wis. today ahead of Dugan's arraignment on charges that she helped a man in the country illegally evade arrest by immigration authorities. (AP Photo/Todd Richmond)

Judge Pleads Not Guilty To Aiding Illegal Migrant

By TODD RICHMOND
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A Wisconsin judge pleaded not guilty today to charges accusing her of helping a man who is illegally in the country evade U.S. immigration authorities seeking to arrest him in her courthouse.

Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Hannah Dugan entered the plea during a brief arraignment in federal court. Magistrate Judge Stephen Dries scheduled a trial to begin July 21. Dugan's lead attorney, Steven Biskupic, told the judge that he expects the trial to last a week.

Dugan, her lawyers and prosecutors left the hearing without speaking to reporters.

The accusations against Dugan

She is charged with concealing an individual to prevent arrest and obstruction. Prosecutors say she escorted Eduardo Flores-Ruiz and his lawyer out of her courtroom through a back door on April 18 after learning that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents were in the courthouse seeking to arrest him for being in the country illegally. She could face up to six years in prison if convicted on both counts.

Her attorneys say she's innocent. They filed a motion Wednesday to dismiss the case, saying she was acting in her official capacity as a judge and therefore is immune to prosecution. They also maintain that the federal government violated Wisconsin's sovereignty by disrupting a state courtroom and prosecuting a state judge.

A public backlash
Dugan's arrest has inflamed tensions between Trump administration and Democrats over the president's sweeping immigration crackdown.

Dozens of demonstrators gathered outside the courthouse ahead of today's hearing, with some holding signs that read, "Only Fascists Arrest Judges -- Drop the Charges," "Department of Justice Over-Reach" and "Keep Your Hands Off Our Judges!!" The crowd chanted "Due process rights," "Hands off our freedom," and "Si se puede" — Spanish for "Yes, we can" — which is a rallying cry for immigrant rights

advocates.

One man stood alone across the street holding a Trump flag.

Nancy Camden, from suburban Mequon north of Milwaukee, was among the protesters calling for the case to be dismissed. She said she believes ICE shouldn't have tried to arrest Flores-Ruiz inside the courthouse and the Department of Justice "overreached" in charging Dugan.

"How they handled this and made a big show of arresting her and putting her in handcuffs, all of that was intimidation," Camden said. "And I'm not going to be intimidated. I'm fighting back."

Esther Cabrera, an organizer with the Milwaukee Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, said the charges against Dugan amount to "state-funded repression."

"If we are going to go after judges, if we're going to go after mayors, we have to understand that they can come after anybody," she said. "And that's kind of why we wanted to make a presence out here today is to say that you can't come after everyone and it stops here."

The case background

According to court documents, Flores-Ruiz illegally reentered the U.S. after being deported in 2013. Online court records show he was charged with three counts of misdemeanor domestic abuse in Milwaukee County in March, and he was in Dugan's courtroom on April 18 for a hearing in that case.

According to an FBI affidavit, Dugan was alerted to the agents' presence by her clerk, who was informed by an attorney that the agents appeared to be in the hallway. Dugan was visibly angry and called the situation "absurd" before leaving the bench and retreating to her chambers, the affidavit contends. She and another judge later approached members of the arrest team in the courthouse with what witnesses described as a "confrontational, angry demeanor."

After a back-and-forth with the agents over the warrant for Flores-Ruiz, Dugan demanded they speak with the chief judge and led them from the courtroom, according to the affidavit.

Senate GOP Halts Dem Deportations Measure

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans have blocked a Democratic resolution to require more transparency from the Trump administration about deportations to El Salvador.

The vote today was the latest attempt by minority Democrats to force Senate votes disapproving of Trump administration policy. The Senate rejected, 45-50, the motion to discharge the resolution from committee and consider it immediately on the floor.

"This information is critical at a time when the Trump Administration has admitted to wrongfully deporting people to El Salvador, and after Trump has said he's also looking for ways to deport American citizens to the same terrible prisons," said Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine, the lead sponsor of the resolution.

The resolution blocked by Republicans would force administration officials to report to Congress about what steps it is taking to comply with courts that have ruled on the deportations. Democrats have highlighted the case of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, who was mistakenly deported to the Central American country and who a Maryland judge has said should be returned to the U.S.

Democrats want to put Republicans on record on that case and others while also pressuring the government of El Salvador, which is working with the Trump administration. The resolution would also require the Trump administration to reveal more information about money paid to El Salvador and assess the country's human rights record.

It's just the latest example of Democrats using the legislative tools available to them in the minority to try to challenge Trump's agenda.

The Senate in early April passed a

resolution that would have thwarted Trump's ability to impose tariffs on Canada, and Republicans narrowly blocked a similar resolution later that month that would have stalled Trump's global tariffs. Four Republicans voted with Democrats on the first tariff measure, and three Republicans voted with them on the second resolution. No Republicans joined Democrats on today's measure on El Salvador.

The Democrats are forcing the votes under different statutes that allow so-called "privileged" resolutions — legislation that must be brought up for a vote whether majority leadership wants to or not. The resolution rejected today was under the Foreign Assistance Act, which allows any senator to force a vote to request information on a country's human rights practices.

Separately, a group of Democrats led by Massachusetts Sen. Ed Markey wrote to Secretary of State Marco Rubio today to ask about the U.S. payment to El Salvador for the prisoners. The senators demanded a "detailed explanation from the Department of State as to whether, and if so how, it concluded that this payment was lawful."

The Democrats say they will continue to push for more votes. Also today, Kaine and several other Democrats filed a joint resolution of disapproval to try to block a \$1.9 billion arms sale to Qatar at the same time that the country is offering to donate a \$400 million luxury jet as Trump's Air Force One. If the Senate Foreign Relations Committee does not consider the resolution, Democrats could force another vote on the Senate floor.

"Unless Qatar rescinds their offer of a 'palace in the sky' or Trump turns it down, I will move to block this arms sale," said Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy, a member of the Foreign Relations panel who is leading the effort with Kaine and others.

Walmart Has Warnings: Higher Prices Coming

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Walmart, which became the nation's largest retailer by making low prices a priority, has found itself in a place it's rarely been: Warning customers that prices will rise for goods ranging from bananas to car seats.

Executives at the \$750 billion company told industry analysts today that they're doing everything in their power to absorb the higher costs from tariffs ordered by President Donald Trump.

Given the magnitude of the duties, however, the highest since the 1930s, higher prices are unavoidable, and they will hurt Walmart customers already buffeted by inflation over the past three years.

Trump's threatened 145% import taxes on Chinese goods were reduced to 30% in a deal announced Monday, with some of the higher tariffs on pause for 90 days.

Those higher prices began to appear on Walmart shelves in late April and accelerated this month, Walmart executives said today. However, a larger sting will start to be felt in June and July when the back-to-school shopping season goes into high gear.

"We're wired to keep prices low, but there's a limit to what we can bear, or any retailer for that matter," Chief Financial Officer John David Rainey told The Associated Press on Thursday after the company reported strong first-quarter sales.

Rainey emphasized that prices are rising not just for discretionary items such as patio furniture and trendy fashions, but for basic necessities as well. The price of bananas, imported from Costa Rica, rose from 50 cents per pound, to 54 cents. He thinks car seats made in China that currently sell for \$350 at Walmart will likely cost customers another \$100. Baby strollers are also sourced from China, Rainey said.

Higher prices arrive as many Americans pull back on spending as they grow increasingly uneasy about the economy. A slew of companies including toy manufacturer Mattel, toolmaker Stanley Black & Decker and consumer products giant Procter & Gamble have announced higher prices or plans to raise prices.

But Walmart's moves are even more significant given its outsized power in the retailing landscape. Walmart says that 90% of American households rely on the retailer for a range of products, and more than 150 million customers shop on its website or in its stores every week. Analysts will dissect the earnings reports from other retailers including Target and Home Depot, set to be released next week.

Government data today revealed slowing sales growth for retailers. Walmart says that its consumers have become cautious and selective.

Tariffs on China and other countries are threatening the low-price model at the core of Walmart's success.

The full impact of tariff costs had been delayed as companies tried to beat the clock by bringing in foreign goods before Trump's tariffs took effect. Retailers and importers had also largely halted shipments of shoes, clothes, toys, and other items due to new tariffs, but many are resuming imports from China in the narrow window that opened during the temporary "truce" this week,

hoping to avoid sparse shelves this fall.

Yet retailers, already operating on thin margins, say they have no choice but to raise prices to offset higher costs from tariffs. And they are also bracing for higher shipping costs fueled by a surge of companies scrambling to get their goods on ships to the U.S.

Rainey told The Associated Press that the retailer did not pause shipments from China as a result of the tariffs like others because it didn't want to hurt its suppliers and wanted to keep merchandise flowing. It has built in hedges against some tariff threats. Two-thirds of Walmart's merchandise is sourced in the U.S., with groceries now accounting for roughly 60% of Walmart's U.S. business.

Still, Walmart isn't immune.

CEO Doug McMillon told analysts today that Walmart imports general merchandise from dozens of countries. But China, in particular, represents a big chunk of volume in certain categories like electronics and toys.

Tariffs on countries like Costa Rica, Peru and Colombia are raising costs on groceries like avocados, coffee and roses, in addition to bananas, company executives said. In some cases, Walmart is absorbing costs on general merchandise within departments or a category and not simply passing on a tariff cost attributable to each item individually, executives said.

Walmart is also asking suppliers to swap input materials for components if possible, for example, using fiberglass instead of aluminum, which Trump hit with tariffs in early March.

"We're very dependent upon imports for these types of products," Rainey told The Associated Press.

He said there are some goods for which Walmart simply can't shift production or produce easily in the United States.

McMillon, who was among a select group of CEOs of major retailers who met with Trump at the White House late last month to discuss tariffs, told analysts today that he's hoping tariffs would be further reduced.

Walmart earned \$4.45 billion, or 56 cents per share, in the quarter ended April 30, down from \$5.10 billion, or 63 cents per share, in the same period last year.

Adjusted earnings per share were 61 cents, exceeding the 58 cent projections from industry analysts, according to FactSet.

Revenue rose 2.5% to \$165.61 billion, just short of analyst estimates.

Walmart's U.S. comparable sales — those from established physical stores and online channels — rose 4.5% in the second quarter, though that's slowed from a 4.6% bump in the previous quarter, and a 5.3% increase in the third quarter of 2024. .

Business was fueled by health and wellness items as well as groceries. Sales were weaker in home and sporting good, which was offset by robust sales of toys, automotive goods and kid's clothing, the company said.

Global e-commerce sales rose 22%.

Walmart said it expects sales growth of 3.5% to 4.5% in the second quarter.

Like many other U.S. companies, however, it did not issue a profit outlook for the quarter because of the chaotic environment, with stated U.S. tariff policies changing constantly. The company maintained its full-year guidance issued in February.

Audit: In Custody Deaths In Md. Were Homicides

By BRIAN WITTE and LEA SKENE
Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — An audit of Maryland autopsies has uncovered at least 36 deaths in police custody that should have been considered homicides, state officials announced today following a comprehensive review of such cases spurred by widespread concerns about the former state medical examiner's testimony in the death of George Floyd.

Medical examiners under Dr. David Fowler displayed racial and pro-police bias, according to the review. They were "especially unlikely to classify a death as a homicide if the decedent was Black, or if they died after being restrained by police," Attorney General Anthony Brown said during a news conference.

"These findings have profound implications across our justice system," Brown said. "They speak to systemic issues rather than individual conduct."

The auditors reviewed 87 in-custody death cases after medical experts called Fowler's work into question because he testified that police weren't responsible for Floyd's death. The Maryland team focused on cases in which people died suddenly after being restrained, often by police, officials said.

Three-person panels evaluated each autopsy and, in 36 cases, they unanimously concluded that the deaths should have been classified as homicides but were not. In five more cases, two of the three reviewers came to that conclusion.

Fowler didn't immediately respond to messages seeking comment.

State officials could reopen death investigations

Democratic Gov. Wes Moore said he has signed an executive order di-

recting Brown to review the 41 cases and determine if any should be reopened for investigation.

Moore acknowledged the families whose loved ones have died in police custody, some of whom have been "screaming for this type of analysis — and have been met with silence." He also acknowledged the many members of law enforcement who do their jobs honorably and protect the public.

Moore said he has also created a statewide task force to study the deaths of people restrained in law enforcement custody. He said the state won't shy away from rooting out misconduct and working to create a more equitable justice system.

Among a list of recommendations, the review suggested better training for law enforcement officers on the dangers of improper restraint techniques. It also directed the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to create standardized procedures for investigating restraint-related deaths.

The governor described the review as the first of its kind in the nation, saying he hopes it will provide a model for similar investigations elsewhere.

In a national investigation published last year, The Associated Press and its reporting partners found that medical examiners and coroners, whose rulings have huge consequences in the courts, can face pressure from law enforcement to exonerate officers. Some medical officials based their decisions not on physical evidence, but instead on whether they believed police intended to kill.

When deaths are ruled accidental, prosecutions of officers are exceedingly rare — of 443 cases that were ruled accidental, just two resulted in criminal charges. A family's chances of winning a wrongful death lawsuit also become much tougher.

Weather

Sitka Forecast

For tonight expect a low of 46 degrees with rain and wind 5-10 mph. For Friday: a high of 52 degrees and an overnight low of 44, with rain.

Sitka Weather

Temperatures ranged from 35 to 50 degrees, the wind gusted to 23 mph at 4:53 p.m. and 2:53 p.m., and no rain was logged in the 24 hours ending at midnight last night, the National Weather Service says.

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SITKA ELKS #1662 is hiring P-T Servers and Bartenders. Please contact Becky, Club Mgr, 907-747-3511.

SUMMER TUTORING services available. Get prepared for next school year! Contact Jennifer Tulloh @254-245-1042.

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

Sitka Tells Tales About Place

Sitka Tells Tales, the local live storytelling series, will present the radio broadcast premiere of “About Place: Stories of Seeing and Celebrating the Tongass” 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 20. It will air and stream on Raven Radio, kCAW.org.

Stories will be by Naomi Jones, Dan Evans, Bob Sam, Selena Zhao, Jacque Foss and Mitchell Feske.

The presentation will be hosted by Artchange Inc., Sitka Conservation Society and the Skipper Science Partnership. For information and to hear past episodes of Sitka Tells Tales go to www.artchangeinc.org.

Summer Program For Babies, Books

Sitka Babies and Books will celebrate the beginning of the Early Literacy Summer Reading Program with a kickoff party 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 17, at the Sitka Public Library for babies, toddlers and preschoolers.

“Color Our World!” is the annual Summer Reading Program theme for all ages. During the event families may register their children up to 5 years old for the Early Literacy Summer Reading Program.

The program will run through Aug. 2. The event doesn’t require pre-registration and is open to the public.

For information call 907 747-4020 or e-mail Maite at maite.lorente@city-ofsitka.org

Calendar of Events

THURSDAY

3 p.m. Gary Paxton Industrial Park board, Harrigan Centennial Hall
5 p.m. School Policy Panel, Sitka School District boardroom
6 p.m. Adult Game Night, Sitka Public Library
6:30 p.m. Sitka Tribe of Alaska Natural Resources Committee, at STA
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

6-8 a.m. MEHS Aquatic Center pool open
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Quilt Show, Fraser Hall on SJ Campus
Noon-2 p.m. MEHS Aquatic Center pool open
Noon AA, St. Peter’s basement, call AA hotline 907-747-8866 for information
1:30 p.m. Bingocize, Swan Lake Senior Center
5:30 p.m. NA Meeting, St. Peter’s Church basement
5:30 p.m. Family Game Night, STA, 204 Signika Way
5:30 p.m. STA Zumba, Blatchley school
7 p.m. JACK Quartet, Sitka Music Festival concert, Odess Theater on SJ Campus
7 p.m. AA, St. Peter’s basement, 611 Lincoln Street, hotline 907-747-8866

SATURDAY

8:30 a.m. Julie Hughes Triathlon, Blatchley Middle School, register at juliehughes@tri.com
9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Open Practice, Sitka Sportsman’s Association indoor pistol range
10 a.m. STA Kayaani Walk, 907-966-9662
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Annual Quilt Show, Fraser Hall on the SJ Campus
10:30 a.m. Early Literacy Summer Reading Program kickoff party, sponsored by Sitka Babies and Books, Sitka Public Library
10:30 a.m. Outdoor Trap and Skeet, Sitka Sportsman’s Association
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 p.m. Sitka Community Gardens ground-breaking, upper end of Jarvis Street, info: 907 738-3557 or 907 738-1033
2 p.m. Pacific High School Graduation, Sheet’ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi
7 p.m. Free Community Barn Dance, Odess Theater on SJ Campus
7 p.m. AA, St. Peter’s Church basement, call 907-747-8866

Marine for Sale

208 YAMAHA 50HP hi-thrust 4 stroke. 600 hours, controls, extras. Call Peter 907-738-2434

Deer-A-Palooza Event Tonight

The Mount Edgecumbe Chapter of the Blacktail Deer Foundation will host a Deer-A-Palooza 6-8 p.m. tonight at the Sitka Elks Lodge 1662.

A raffle is planned to raise funds for the foundation. It is the first Blacktail Deer Foundation event to be held in Sitka. All are invited; however, events held at the Elks Lodge are for members and invited guests.

The Blacktail Deer Foundation is a new division of the Mule Deer Foundation (MDF), created specifically to focus on the conservation of two species of black-tailed deer: the Sitka black-tailed deer and the Columbian black-tailed deer.

SHS Class of 1975 Set to Celebrate

The Sitka High School class of 1975 will celebrate its 50th class reunion over the 4th of July holiday.

All are invited to join the parade followed by a picnic at Halibut Point Recreation Area – “the rec.”

“We would love any 1970s classes to join us – name tags provided,” organizers said.

Those with questions can email trish.white75@gmail.com.

Wildlife Cruise Set for May 17

Sitka Rotary Club and Allen Marine will host a three-hour wildlife cruise on the waters surrounding Sitka May 17.

Participants should plan to embark at noon, and should arrive on the boat by 11:30 a.m. sharp at Crescent Harbor. Ticket prices are: under age 5 with adult free; ages 5-18, \$35 each; and 18 and older, \$55. The boat has limited seating. Call (907) 738-2014 for tickets, or purchase them at Old Harbor Books.

The event is sponsored by Allen Marine Tours, supporting Southeast Alaska through tourism.

Comments Invited on Hunting, Trapping Regulation Changes

The Federal Subsistence Board is accepting public comment on proposed changes to federal subsistence hunting and trapping regulations.

They would affect seasons, harvest limits, methods and means, and customary and traditional use determinations for the taking of wildlife for the 2026–2028 regulatory years (July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028).

The board will accept written comments through June 30.

Also, the board is accepting public comments on existing wildlife closures that will be reviewed by the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils and the board during the wildlife cycle. Closures are being reviewed to determine whether the original justifications for closure continue to apply.

The proposals and wildlife closures are available on the Federal Subsistence Management Program’s website at https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/wildlife/2026-2028_Proposals_and_Closure_Reviews.

Comments should reference the proposal number or wildlife closure review number and should be emailed to subsistence@ios.doi.gov by June 30, 2025.

Those without email access may mail comments to: Federal Subsistence Board, Attn: Justin Koller, Office of Subsistence Management, 1011 East Tudor Road, MS-121, Anchorage, AK 99503-6199.

Members of the public are also welcome to testify at any fall 2025 Councils’ meetings. The councils’ meeting schedule is available at <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions>.

The public can give testimony at the board wildlife regulatory meeting in April 2026; call the Office of Subsistence Management at (800) 478-1456; or email subsistence@ios.doi.gov with questions.

Reading Buddies Applications Ready

Adult Reading Buddies are being sought for the summer program at Sitka Public Library.

Those who enjoy reading with a child can sign up to participate in a program that promotes literature among children. Buddies meet up to one hour each week with an assigned first- or second-grader.

The program runs from June 7-Aug. 2 with time off for vacation.

Applications are available at the library. E-mail Maite at maite.lorente@cityofsitka.org for more information. Applications are due May 16.

Police Blotter

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

May 13

Police talked to a caller about options of dealing with a protection order violation.

At 11:03 a.m. a person aboard a cruise ship at the HPR terminal dialed 911, intending to get the ship’s emergency line, not Sitka’s.

At 12:49 p.m. a hit and run was reported in the 400 block of Lake Street. Police opened a case.

At 2:06 p.m. a bus was reported to have broken down at American and Lincoln streets, causing a parking problem.

At 3:13 p.m. a driver was reported to have backed into another vehicle on Signika Way then left. Police opened a case.

At 3:56 p.m. a bullet was reported found onboard a cruise ship at the HPR terminal. Police took custody of it.

The animal control officer picked up a dog on DeGroff Street and gave the owner a citation for allowing the dog to run at large.

At 9:18 p.m. three bears were seen on Sharon Drive, and later on Sand Dollar Drive, off HPR.

Emergency Calls

Sitka Fire Department received five ambulance calls Wednesday.

STA Elders Given Notice

Sitka Tribe of Alaska enrolled elders – age 65 and older living in Sitka – who missed the Honoring Tribal Elders luncheon in February can still receive an elder gift bag and vest.

Gift bags and vests can be picked up at STA Social Services department 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. May 12-16. Each elder will receive one vest and one gift bag.

Pacific High Sets Graduation Event

Pacific High School will hold its class of 2025 graduation ceremony 2 p.m. May 17 at the Sheet’ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi.

Graduating seniors are Avianna Rioux, Georgianna Sam, Gus Maxwell, Henrey Ward, Katie Elder, Michael Howard, Qiana Fletcher and Tristynn Jackson

Coffee, tea and light refreshments will be served. The public is invited.

Tickets Available For Friday Cruise

Southeast Alaska Independent Living will offer a cruise 5:30 p.m. Friday, May 16, departing from Crescent Harbor.

Boarding begins at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$50. All proceeds go directly to the Sitka SAIL office. To purchase tickets or arrange accommodations call 888-500-7245 or email sitka@sailinc.org.

Scholarships are available and food and drinks will be available on board.

Adult Game Nights At Public Library

Sitka Public Library and City of Sitka Parks and Recreation will host free adult game nights in the Sitka Public Library multipurpose room, 6-8 p.m. May 15.

Games from the library collection are available; however, games from home also are welcome. Individuals and groups of all skill levels are welcome. For information, call Margot at 907 747-4020 or email margot.oconnell@cityofsitka.org.

Special Municipal Election May 28

A special municipal election is scheduled Wednesday, May 28.

Eligible voters may choose to vote using one of these options: early voting in person at Harrigan Centennial Hall on weekdays May 13-27 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) and Saturdays, May 17 and 24 (9:00 a.m. to noon); absentee voting by mail, fax or email; personal representative; and in person on Election Day at Harrigan Centennial Hall, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Completed applications to vote absentee by mail must be received by the Municipal Clerk’s Office no later than 5 p.m. on May 21. To vote by email, voters need access to a printer and scanner.

For a sample ballot, absentee ballot request, and other election resources, visit <https://www.cityofsitka.com/SpecialMunicipalElection> or contact the Municipal Clerk’s office at 907 747-1826 or 907 747-1811.

Family Kayaani Walk Planned

Sitka Tribe of Alaska will host family spring Kayaani walk May 17 to explore plant identification and respectful harvesting practices. The event is open to families with children ages 7 and older, and younger kids who can be carried are welcome, the group said.

Registration is required. The walk location will be given at sign up.

For information or to register, contact Anna at 907 966-9662, or sign up: <https://forms.gle/wsrVH2bxgIrvz3f9>



PROJECT UPDATE – Sitka Homeless Coalition members hold a banner at the site of the Community Hítx’i Sáani site on Jarvis Street recently. Board members, volunteers and supportive community members joined with Chris Balovich, CBC Construction owner, to talk about work done over the last month and plans moving forward.

Sitka Homeless Coalition staff and Board members spoke about ongoing community program offerings and services. More community walks will be hosted throughout the summer to continue informing the public of the progress for Sitka’s first permanent supportive housing project. (Photo provided)

Sheenák Offering Locals Day Event

Sheenák Park/Sheet’ká Treetop Adventures will offer a locals day event noon-3 p.m. May 18 at 4951 Halibut Point Road, just past the cruise terminal.

Event highlights include a cultural welcome and ribbon cutting, noon-12:45 p.m.; barbecue lunch, 12:45 p.m. until gone; and free aerial adventures.

Parking is at the ferry terminal where shuttles will run to Sheenak Park every 15 minutes beginning at 11:45 a.m. Limited parking is available on-site for elders and those with limited mobility.

Those with questions can email tonia@sheeatika.com.

Hatchery Tours, Salmon Bake Set

NSRAA will again offer its summer hatchery tour and salmon bake lunch at Medvejie Hatchery Saturday, July 12.

Attendees will see king salmon returning to the hatchery and hear about the fisheries enhancement program.

Transportation will be provided by Allen Marine for the two tours. The first tour will depart Crescent Harbor at 9 a.m., arriving back at Crescent Harbor at 12:15 p.m.

The second tour will depart Crescent Harbor at 12:30 p.m. and arrive back at 4 p.m. The boat ride to and from the hatchery is approximately 30 minutes each way. Space is limited.

Tickets are \$15 per person, cash only, at the NSRAA office located at 1308 Sawmill Creek Road. Office hours are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. For information call 907 747-6850

Sitka Historical Walking Tour Set

Sitka Maritime Heritage Society will offer an hour-and-a-half-long walking tour on Japonski Island 1 p.m. Saturday, May 24.

The tour will start at the Japonski Island Boathouse, across the O’Connell Bridge, and go to the remains of the WWII Naval Air Base and U.S. Army Coast Defenses. Tour guides will tell about their role in the war.

The tour includes the background of this place in the context of Tlingit Aani or Tlingit America and how it got to be part of the U.S.A., with Russians and the circumstances of the transfer of 1867, and more, organizer said.

The tour costs \$49 for adults, \$39 for teens, and free for children.

Participants are invited to arrive early to see the progress on the rehabilitation of the historic boathouse. For information go to: sitkamaritime.org

Rites of Passage At Blatchley Set

Blatchley Middle School will hold its annual Rites of Passage ceremony 11 a.m.-1 p.m. May 21 at Sitka High School gymnasium.

Parents and guests are asked to park at the front of the building and enter through the gym door.

Students will be dismissed from the high school.

Path of Hope Cleanup on Tap

Sitka Cancer Survivor’s Society invites the public to help with a spring cleanup event at the Path of Hope noon Saturday, May 31.

“We trim, rake, clean, shine and enjoy each other’s company,” organizers said. “So bring your gear and join us next to Lower Moller Field.”

Zumba Class Offered Fridays

Sitka Tribe of Alaska will offer free Zumba classes with Harper and Anna throughout May at Blatchley Middle School in the multipurpose room.

Classes are held 5:30-6:15 on Fridays.

Plant Sale Today At Pacific High

A pop-up plant sale at the Pacific High greenhouse will be 3-6 p.m. today.

Plants are \$5 per 4-inch pot or \$75/flat of seedlings; and \$10 for a 6-inch potted tomato. Cash, checks and cards will be accepted.

Proceeds benefit the Garden to Cafeteria Program.”

JACK Quartet to Perform Friday

Sitka Music Festival will present the award-winning JACK Quartet 7 p.m. Friday, May 16, at the Odess Theater at Allen Hall on the SJ Campus.

The concert will feature a premiere by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer, and former Alaskan resident, John Luther Adams. Tickets are on sale at www.sitkamusicfestival.org



GRANT AWARD – Lisa Hodges, left, manager of the Center for Community Early Learning Program, receive a \$1,500 grant award from Carol Voisin, White Elephant Shop volunteer. (Photo provided to the Sentinel)

No Tobacco Day Marked May 30

SEARHC is teaming up with the Sitka HOPE Coalition for a community event to observe World No Tobacco Day.

The organizations will be set up outside AC Lakeside Grocery 4-6 p.m. Friday, May 30, with prize giveaways, quit resources, information on the health harms of smoking and vaping, and a visit from Ciggy Butts to interact with passersby.

This event is part of SEARHC’s year-round commitment to supporting Southeast Alaskans who wish to quit tobacco and raise awareness about smoking and vaping risks, especially among youths.

One in four Alaska high schoolers has used e-cigarettes, and cigarette smoking is more common among American Indian and Alaska Native people than almost any other racial or ethnic group in the United States, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statistics cite.

“This highlights the critical need for culturally sensitive, accessible cessation resources like the Alaska Tobacco Quit Line,” a press release from organizers said.

Community Garden Ground-Breaking Set

Sitka Community Gardens announces its long-awaited groundbreaking 1-1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 17, at the upper end of Jarvis Street.

All are invited to attend to learn more about the planned garden and membership structure, and to sign up for a plot. Volunteers are needed to help with the initial construction phase of the garden, which will begin immediately, organizers said.

Three demonstration plots are planned for this summer’s growing season, with full garden operation slated for 2026. Call 907 738-3557 or 907 738-1033 or email: transitionsitka@gmail.com for more information.

Annual Quilt Show On SJ Campus

Ocean Wave Quilt Guild will host its 42nd annual Quilt Show through May 18 at Fraser Hall on the SJ Campus. This year’s theme is “Sassy!”

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

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



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SENTINEL SPORTS

Judge Powers Yanks past Seattle



Yankees’ Aaron Judge hits a solo home run during the eighth of a baseball game against the Mariners, Wednesday in Seattle. (AP Photo/Stephen Brashear)

SEATTLE (AP) — Aaron Judge hit a go-ahead home run in the eighth inning as the Yankees beat the Mariners 3-2 on Wednesday.

The Yankees trailed for most of the contest thanks to a couple strong plays from Seattle’s Julio Rodriguez. The Mariners’ center fielder robbed Trent Grisham of a leadoff home run and then drove in a pair of runs in the third inning.

Seattle starting pitcher Luis Castillo allowed one run on six hits over six innings. But the Yankees evened the score at two apiece in the seventh inning when Paul Goldschmidt delivered a pinch-hit, game-tying home run.

The stage was then set for Judge in the following inning, and MLB’s batting average and home run leader delivered. Judge got a slider from Carlos Vargas (1-3) and pounced.

Nats Beat Braves to End Skid

ATLANTA (AP) — James Wood’s eighth-inning double drove in the go-ahead run and the Washington Nationals rallied to beat the Atlanta Braves 5-4 on Wednesday night and end their seven-game losing streak.

Atlanta led 4-1 after Bryce Elder allowed five hits and one run in six innings. The Braves were let down by their bullpen as Aaron Bummer allowed two unearned runs in the seventh before Enyel De Los Santos (1-2) lost the lead in the eighth.

Amed Rosario’s single drove in C.J. Abrams to tie the game. Wood added the double to right field off De Los Santos to drive in pinch-runner Nasim Nuñez with the go-ahead run.

Marcell Ozuna doubled in two runs on

Reliever Ian Hamilton (1-0) notched his first victory of the year and closer Luke Weaver earned his fourth save of the season.

The Mariners had a chance to draw back even in the bottom of the eighth after Judge’s solo shot. Cal Raleigh and Randy Arozarena were aboard for Dylan Moore with one out. But Moore feebly hit the first pitch he saw from reliever Fernando Cruz for a double play, which ended the Mariners’ last real offensive threat.

Judge has reached base multiple times in 33 of the Yankees’ 43 games this season, leading all MLB hitters.

Both the Yankees and Mariners are off today. Yankees left-hander Carlos Rodon (4-3, 3.29 ERA) starts Friday against the Mets. Mariners right-hander Logan Evans (1-1, 6.60) gets the ball Friday to begin a three-game set against the San Diego Padres.

White Helps Celtics Avoid Elimination vs. Knicks

By KYLE HIGHTOWER
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Before the Boston Celtics took the floor without their biggest star on a night they had to win, Joe Mazzulla implored his players to just pour everything they had into winning one game.

They did, and the defending NBA champions earned another chance to extend their season.

Derrick White had 34 points, including seven 3-pointers, to lead the Celtics to a 127-102 Game 5 win over the New York Knicks on Wednesday night that kept them alive in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

“We did what was necessary to do what we needed to do to get it back to New York,” Mazzulla said. “You don’t get to pick the test that you have, you pick how you respond to them.”

The Celtics connected on 22 3-pointers to post their first home victory of the series and first without Jayson Tatum following his season-ending Achilles tendon injury.

“Losing JT is tough,” White said. “But we’ve got a lot of guys that are highly competitive, and we didn’t want the season to end tonight.”

The Knicks will try again to win the series Friday in New York. If the Celtics win, Game 7 would be in Boston on Monday.



Celtics guard Derrick White (9) drives to the basket againstKnicks guard Cameron Payne (1) during the first half, Wednesday in Boston. (AP Photo/Charles Krupa)

Payton Pritchard had 17 points and five 3-pointers. Luke Kornet finished with 10 points, nine rebounds and seven blocks. He started the second half for Kristaps Porzingis, who played just 12 minutes. Mazzulla said Porzingis was having trouble breathing

as he continues to deal with a lingering viral illness.

The Celtics are looking to become just the 14th team in NBA history to come back from a 3-1 deficit in 294 attempts.

Josh Hart led the Knicks with 24 points despite briefly leaving the game late in the first quarter to close a bloody

WNBA Soars, But Salaries Remain a Barrier

By ALANIS THAMES
AP Sports Writer

Breanna Stewart will start her ninth WNBA season in a few days. The New York Liberty All-Star and WNBA champ has been around the league long enough to watch her peers fight for visibility. She’s seen only a small uptick in player salaries over the years amid the WNBA’s meteoric rise in popularity.

Stewart has been a part of negotiations for two collective bargaining agreements as a member of the WNBA’s players union. A third round of negotiations is ongoing, perhaps the most important of Stewart’s career. By the end, she hopes to see player salaries grow to unprecedented numbers.

“It’s been going up incrementally,” Stewart said. “But hopefully with the new TV deal that’s coming, it’ll really kind of boost itself into a category of its own.”

That’s what WNBA players were hoping for when they opted out of the current CBA two years before its expiration. The WNBA is bringing in more money than ever from sponsors and ticket sales, and will bring in much more from its 11-year media rights deal, worth around \$200 million per year starting in 2026.

With its expanding reach, the WNBA’s progress has come in a few areas: More teams are being added to the league, meaning more roster spots. Full-time charter flights were added last season after years of players lobbying for better travel.

But as the league booms, players are looking for a larger share in that growth. WNBA players currently earn only a small fraction of the league’s revenue share.

Player salaries have been a longstanding point of contention between the NBA — which owns about 60% of the WNBA and leads CBA negotiations — and women’s basketball players. It’s one of the biggest financial hurdles the league still faces, and

players have said they’re willing to sit out games if negotiations don’t lead to a pay structure they feel is fair.

“The talent is there, the product is there,” Dallas Wings guard Arike Ogunbowale said. “Now we need to be compensated for it.”

The current WNBA CBA, which was signed before the 2020 season, boosted the maximum salaries for star players from \$117,500 in 2019 to \$215,000 in 2020.

But that was long before the league’s recent popularity burst, before star players like Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese brought in record numbers of fans.

“The league has only soared since” 2020, said Risa Isard, an assistant sports management professor at UConn. “And so this is the chance for the players to kind of recoup all of the value that they’ve produced in the last five years that they hadn’t gotten to see themselves so directly.”

What WNBA players are paid compared to NBA players

Paige Bueckers, the No. 1 pick in last month’s WNBA draft, signed a rookie deal that will be worth just over \$78,000 in base salary, which is around what Clark received as the No. 1 pick a year ago. They’ll make much more in marketing deals and performance bonuses.

Both are considered generational talents. Both are regarded as franchise-altering players. Both will make significantly less in base salary than most players in other leagues who have been just as hyped for their potential to change the trajectory of their teams.

That’s true for established stars like Stewart and three-time MVP A’ja Wilson, too. Players of their caliber can make at most around \$240,000.

The minimum salary for NBA players is \$1,157,153. Victor Wembanyama, the superstar San Antonio Spurs center drafted No. 1 in 2023, earned \$12.2 million as part of his \$55 million rookie contract.

The NBA’s numbers are much bigger in part because of the huge difference in profit margins of both leagues. The NBA generated around \$11 billion in revenue last season. The WNBA does not publicly release its revenue numbers, though Bloomberg reported the league made around \$200 million in 2023.

WNBA player salaries are also significantly less than what the NBA paid its players when it last generated around \$300 million — \$200 million today, when adjusted for inflation — in the early 1970s, said David Berri, an economics professor at Southern Utah University. It’s top players then were making around \$300,000, which today would be roughly \$2 million, he said.

“They’re paying the women today so very, very little relative to what they were paying the men 50 years ago,” Berri added, “and the explanation of that to me, (is) you’re obviously just treating the women differently than the men.”

How much WNBA player salaries could increase

How much of a salary increase players receive remains to be seen. Berri said a 50% share of \$200 million revenue earnings would equal an average player salary of at least \$1 million, with max salaries going anywhere from \$3 million to \$5 million.

That’s easier said than done, he added.

“Is the NBA going to acknowledge how little they were paying them?” Berri said, “and suddenly just come out with an agreement and say, ‘Oh, we’re going to pay you \$5 million now?’”

No WNBA player has ever earned close to \$1 million in salary, but Stewart said reaching that number could set an important precedent.

“There are players in this league that are valued at more than \$1 million,” Stewart said. “That’s just the reality of what it is. But for everyone else, seeing that number and realizing that, OK —

gash over his eye after he took an inadvertent elbow.

Jalen Brunson added 22 points before fouling out with 7:19 to play in the game.

Boston closed the third quarter on a 23-9 run and took a 91-76 lead to the fourth. Brunson spent the final 2:45 of the third on the bench after picking up his fifth foul.

“They came out with a sense of urgency that we need,” Brunson said.

The Celtics kept it going in the final period, pushing their lead as high as 28 points.

The game was highly physical throughout and included a brief face-to-face skirmish between Hart and Brown.

That energy carried over offensively. The Celtics came out hot, getting five 3s from White and 12 total in the opening 24 minutes.

“We’ve got to play desperate. I don’t think we did that,” Knicks guard Mikal Bridges said.

But the Knicks held as much as a nine-point lead, connecting on eight 3s of their own and getting 10 second-chance points. Mitchell Robinson also converted on all four of his free throw attempts in the first half, nullifying the series-long intentional foul strategy Boston employed on him.

now by that point, the league will be probably 30 years into it — and look what we’ve done.”

Pros and cons of WNBA players sitting out games

CBA negotiations have never led to WNBA players sitting out games, and many are hoping that it doesn’t come to that point.

Though the WNBA, which is only 29 years old, has experienced a financial boom, it is still very small in terms of revenue compared to the NBA, which has been around for 80 years. That means WNBA players’ leverage is limited if they decide to sit out games, Berri said.

“Because if you walk off the job and don’t show up, the owners, the NBA owners are like, you’re actually not costing me much money,” he added.

Berri pointed to the U.S. women’s national soccer team’s fight for equal pay as a blueprint for potential success. Many of those players constantly brought attention to the gender pay gap in soccer through the media and their own online accounts. It ended in the U.S. House passing an equal pay bill in 2022, and Berri expects WNBA players could use similar methods.

If players do decide to sit out games, Isard, the UConn professor, said it wouldn’t be surprising given their history of standing up for causes they believe in.

“Often, they’re really selfless in what those causes are,” Isard said, “and they’re looking out for everyone and anyone else and the community, and what is happening in the Senate race, and what’s happening in reproductive justice and what’s happening in gun legislation — so many ways that they stand up for so many populations across this country.”

“And I guess when I hear them say, ‘We would consider that,’ What I hear them say is, ‘Why wouldn’t we stand up for ourselves? We stand up for everyone. So us, too.’”

Reds Pay Tribute to Reinstated Pete Rose

By JAY COHEN
AP Baseball Writer

CINCINNATI (AP) — Pete Rose was celebrated by the Cincinnati Reds on Wednesday night, a day after baseball’s career hits leader was posthumously removed from Major League Baseball’s permanent ineligibility list.

There were chants of “Pete! Pete!” at Great American Ball Park. There was a pregame moment of silence, and a choir from Rose’s Cincinnati high school performed the national anthem. And No. 14 was everywhere, from the replica jerseys in the stands to the high-lights shown on the videoboard.

It was the type of all-out effort that Rose himself would have appreciated.

“This city was my dad,” Rose’s daughter, Fawn, said.

Hall of Fame shortstop Barry Larkin and Eric Davis — who played for Rose when he managed the Reds — shared stories about their former manager during a pregame panel, joined by former Rose teammate George Foster. Members of Rose’s family delivered the game ball before Cincinnati’s 4-2 loss to the Chicago White Sox.

“He played baseball with as much passion and competitive enjoyment as you ever could,” said Reds manager Terry Francona, who played with Rose with Montreal and played for him with Cincinnati. “You wanted to be on his team.”

Rose, who died in September at age 83, played for the Reds in 19 of his 24 seasons, winning two of his three World Series championships with his hometown team. His career was tarnished by a gambling scandal that led to a permanent ban on Aug. 23, 1989.

An investigation commissioned by Major League Baseball concluded Rose — a 17-time All-Star who finished with 4,256 hits — repeatedly bet on the Reds as a player and manager of the team from 1985-87, a violation of a long-standing MLB rule.

Commissioner Rob Manfred announced Tuesday he was changing the league’s policy on permanent ineligibility, saying bans would expire at death. Manfred met with Fawn Rose and Jeffrey Lenkov, a lawyer who represented Pete Rose, on Dec. 17.

Manfred “was gracious, kind,” Fawn Rose said. “Really gave me a forum to talk about my dad, not the baseball player, but the father, the grandfather and really what he means to the (fans) of Cincinnati.”

Pete Rose Jr., who appeared in 11 games with Cincinnati in 1997, said he was angry when he first heard about Manfred’s decision because he couldn’t call his father. But he called the change a step in the right direction.

“Hate to say this, but it’s not going to bring him back,” he said. “If they would have said you’re not going to be taken off the list, but you’re coming back, hey bring him back. But nothing but positives today.”

While Rose’s gambling ban made him a baseball pariah, that was never the case in a city that proudly embraces its status as the home of the oldest major league team. He was almost uniformly beloved in his hometown for his relentless playing style and his connection to the Big Red Machine — the dominant Reds teams in the mid-1970s.

“My dad used to tell me all the stories of how hard he played every time,”

said Reds reliever Brent Suter, a Cincinnati native. “You know, never took a play off, always was running hard 90 (feet), sliding headfirst, you know, getting dirty every game. ... This was a guy who just embodied toughness, grit.”

There were long lines at several gates as the crowd of 43,585 filed into the ballpark. A steady stream of fans stopped in front of Rose’s statue for pictures before going inside the stadium.

There was a black tarp with the No. 14 over the pitcher’s mound as the players took batting practice.

“I remember his hustle. The head-first slides. He was a person with not a lot of talent, but he worked so hard,” said Bob Wunder, 65, of Dayton.

Wunder expressed his frustration with the timing of Manfred’s decision.

“It’s awful. They should have done it when he was alive,” he said. “If I was the (Rose) family, I would say ‘Thanks, but no thanks.’ I’m upset that it had to wait until he passed away.”

The change in Rose’s status makes him eligible for the Baseball Hall of Fame — long a sore spot for Rose’s most ardent supporters — but his Cooperstown induction is far from a given.

Rose’s case would be considered by the Hall’s Classic Baseball Era committee, which next meets to consider players in December 2027. A 10-person panel selects eight ballot candidates with the approval of the Hall’s board, and the group is considered by 16 members at the winter meetings, with a 75% or higher vote needed.

“I know I oversimplify things. But what Pete did as a player, if he’s not in, there is no Hall of Fame,” Francona said. “But I get it. There are some things that ... I’m glad I don’t have to make (those) decisions.”

Jerry Casebolt, 80, of Florence, Kentucky, stopped to get his photo taken in front of the Rose statue before the game. He said he was at the 1970 All-Star Game when Rose bowled over Ray Fosse in a memorable play at the plate, and he also attended the game when Rose broke Ty Cobb’s hits record.

The removal of Rose from the ineligible list was meaningful for him.

“It was great to hear the news,” he said. “Just opening up the gates (to the Hall of Fame), but it’s still questionable. Hope he gets in. Shame he didn’t get to see it.”

SPORTS CALENDAR

BASEBALL at Moller Field
FRIDAY Sitka v. Petersburg
4 p.m. Junior varsity
7 p.m. Varsity

SATURDAY Sitka v. Petersburg
1 p.m. Junior varsity
4 p.m. Varsity
7 p.m. Varsity

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.

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.

Alpine Adventure Run Wait List Open

All 125 limited entry spaces for the Alpine Adventure Run are filled. Wait list registration is open. Email christinemariehoran@gmail.com and request entry. A registration form will be sent to you. Your completed registration form and entry fee of \$50 will place you on the wait list in the order your forms and fees are turned in.

The race will take place on July 19, 2025. Wait listed runners move into the race when confirmed runners cancel. Entry fees are held and returned in full in the event you don’t get into the run.

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 and be at least 15 years old. Registration costs \$50 and includes a t-shirt. For further information contact Chris Horan at christinemariehoran@gmail.com or call 907-747-6471.

The Alpine Adventure Run is conducted under a Special Use Permit with the Tongass National Forest.

Julie Hughes Triathlon
May 17

The annual Julie Hughes triathlon is set for Saturday, May 17 here and registration is open now online at juliehughestri.com. The 41st running of the event will start at 8:30 a.m. at Blatchley Middle School.

The race includes a 5 mile run, 14 mile bike ride and 1,000 yard swim, though the youth course is shortened to a 1.5 mile run, 6 mile bike ride and 500 yard swim.

The triathlon began in 1985 in honor of Julie Hughes, who died of cancer months before the first event, which was held as a memorial.

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My father's wife, "Carole," loves to thrift-shop. She enjoys hunting for a good deal, particularly if she can find things for our 5-year-old daughter, "Liana." It's sweet how excited she gets when she brings over a pile of new clothes.

The problem is, Carole has really different taste than my husband and I do, and most of her purchases aren't appropriate for a little girl to be wearing. (I'm talking hot pants, tiny tank tops, sequin midriff shirts and leopard miniskirts.) These outfits don't pass the school dress code or the Mama dress code.

We have told Liana she can wear these things only at home and made a "dress up" box for them. She's OK with that, but I'm not sure what to tell Carole when she asks why Liana isn't wearing her new clothes. Several times, I've had to intervene when she's told our daughter to change into the things she's brought before we go out. I've said things like, "We like Liana to be more covered up," but it's like Carole can't hear me.

How can I spare Carole's feelings while enforcing our standards? This isn't something I'm going to budge on. -- MODEST MAMA IN THE MIDWEST

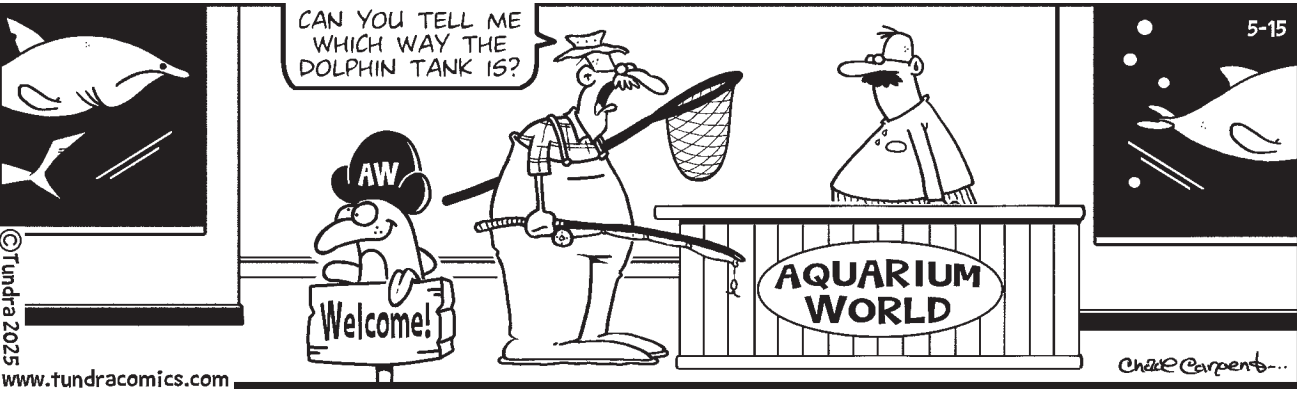
DEAR MAMA: You have tried the oblique approach. Carole doesn't get the message. Now it's time for you to step up and be a mom. Tell Carole you are grateful for her generosity, but you do not want your daughter "overexposed" in public. Tell her you want Liana to concentrate on her intellectual growth

rather than on glitz and glamor, which is why you feel sequin midriff shirts, hot pants and leopard print clothing are not appropriate. Then give her back the items you feel are objectionable so she can donate them again.

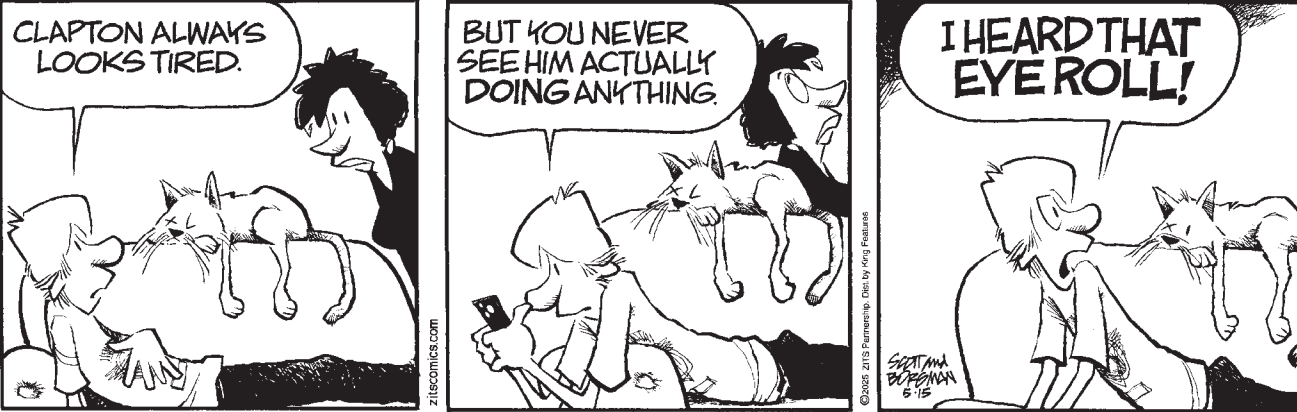
DEAR ABBY: My son is 65 and has been dating a 25-year-old he met in his art class. I keep hearing from him that she says she loves him. I tell him it is ridiculous. He lives with me and wants to know if they can move in with me. I am 86, and he has been living with me for 10 years, which I am blessed and thankful for. I told him no way! I can't believe that her mother is even allowing this. Am I too old-fashioned, or is this the new fad? -- DIS-APPROVING IN ARIZONA

DEAR DISAPPROVING: You are thinking pragmatically. Your son thinks he's in love. At 25, a young woman is considered an adult and capable of making her own choices in romance -- even May-December ones. It's possible that she loves your son. (There is more than one kind of love.) Before drawing a line in the sand, make an effort to get to know her. With time, she may grow tired of being with both of you and decide to move on. If you are adamant that you can't tolerate another woman living in your home, you are right to refuse. But I caution you: If you do, you may find your son will move out to be with her.

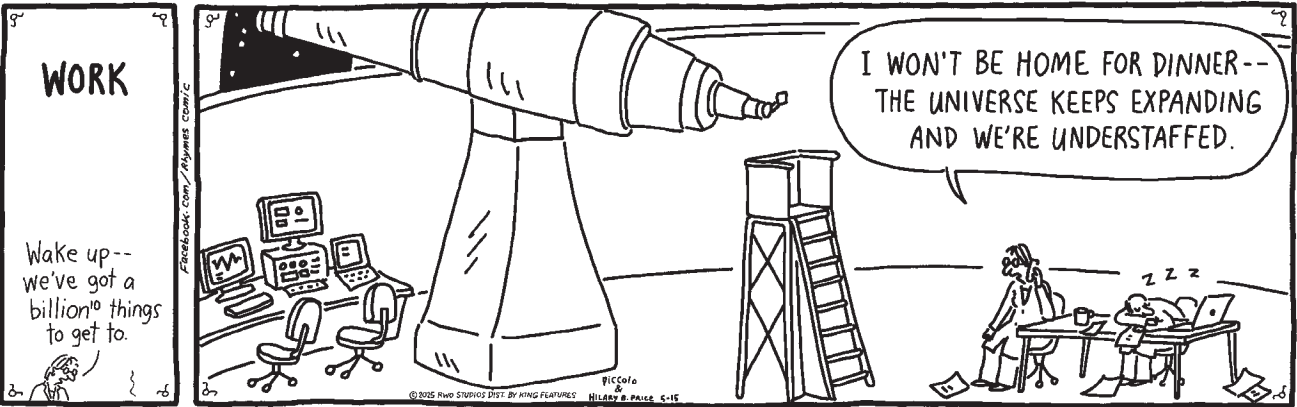
TUNDRA



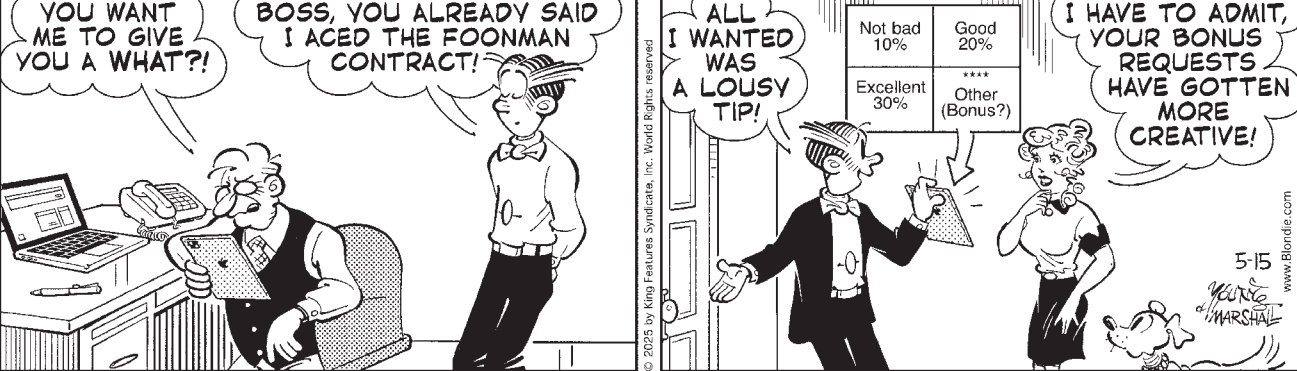
ZITS



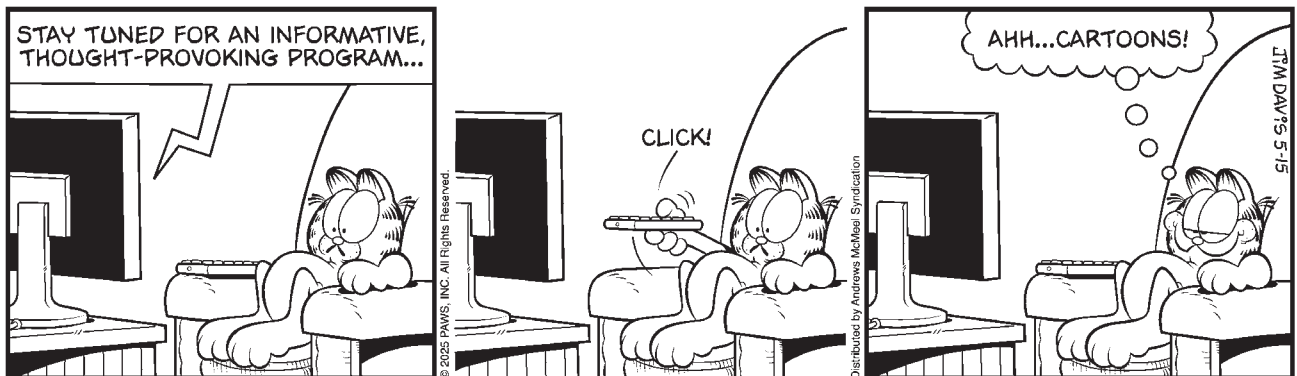
RHYMES WITH ORANGE



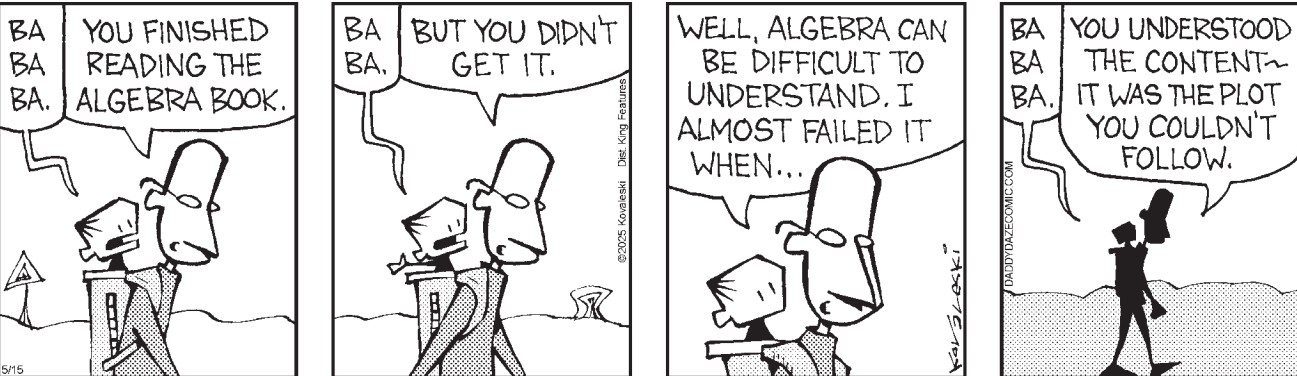
BLONDIE



GARFIELD



DADDY DAZE



SATURDAY'S CARTOON...



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

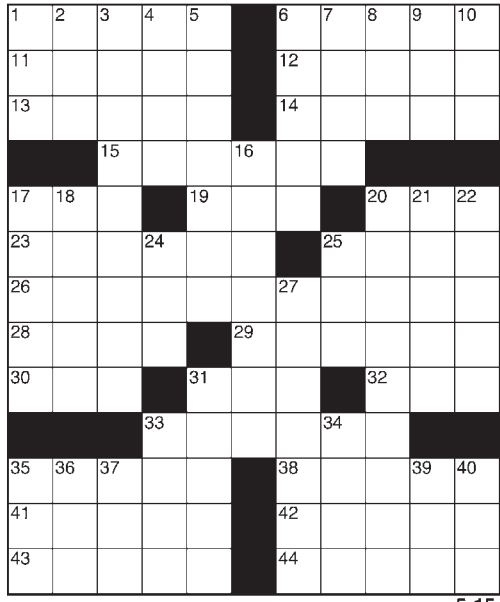
- 1 Spare
- 6 Lecture follower
- 11 Exhausted
- 12 Labor group
- 13 Keaton of film
- 14 Bay
- 15 Strike out
- 17 Wisdom bringer
- 19 Powerful people
- 20 Shoe shade
- 23 Bewail
- 25 Gooley cheese
- 26 Sports news item
- 28 Roll call answer
- 29 Ate away
- 30 Invite
- 31 Tina of TV
- 32 Snaky shape
- 33 Hurries
- 35 Last Supper attendee
- 38 Needed a massage
- 41 Blow away
- 42 Avignon's river
- 43 Tourney makeup
- 44 Frumpish

DOWN

- 1 Airport sched. abbr.
- 2 Noon, on a clock
- 3 Logo, often
- 4 Painter Magritte
- 5 "Sweet" girl of song
- 6 Calls it a day
- 7 Writer Rice
- 8 Goose egg
- 9 Buck's mate
- 10 Busy worker
- 16 Main dishes
- 17 Dominant
- 18 Strong winds
- 20 Fair
- 21 Staffers
- 22 Calls for Needle feature
- 25 Dude's address
- 27 Put in a solid effort
- 31 Joins together
- 33 Tear down
- 34 Cave sound
- 35 Spree
- 36 Thurman of film
- 37 Flow stopper
- 39 Final part
- 40 Susan of "L.A. Law"



Yesterday's answer



Sitka by the Stars

For Friday, May 16, 2025

Patience and a well-crafted plan will be needed to accomplish our goals for the day and deal with any challenges that might arise. We should avoid taking unnecessary risks and making impulsive decisions; instead, we should employ practical thinking. Conflicts can be resolved with a cool, levelheaded approach versus an emotionally charged response. Although Friday evenings are usually reserved for fun and celebrations, the low-energy vibes may put us more in the mood to stay home or enjoy the night alone.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
Avoid looking to others for praise or approval. Know your worth.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
Don't ruminate on the past or on missed opportunities. Get excited about the new things that are about to enter your life.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
You may need a break from people today. Find a quiet space.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
You don't always have to be the person who jumps in to rescue everyone else. Allow others to show up for you for a change.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)
Hold off on starting new projects until you're done with the ones you're working on now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
If the things you used to find fun aren't fulfilling you anymore, perhaps it's time to find some new interests.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

Don't be so quick to accept an offer or agreement without doing your research first. Pay attention to any gut feelings you have.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
Let go of perfectionism. Be open to feedback, advice, or a different approach.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
You might not feel very motivated today. Do what you can to get as much work completed as possible so that you can play later.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
If you're feeling moody, focus on something that brings you joy. A hands-on activity could be a welcome distraction.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
Give yourself time to come to a decision. Don't feel pressured to say "yes."

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)
You might not get what you want right away, but this doesn't mean you should give up. Stay focused on your goals.

FOR TODAY'S BIRTHDAY
You're a natural leader. You know how to get stuff done. You don't waste time or energy on anything that isn't a part of your plans. However, if you do face a setback or experience a failure, you're determined and resilient enough to bounce back and keep moving forward. While you may not wear your heart on your sleeve, you're deeply loyal to your loved ones and very protective of them, too. This year will aid you in letting go of self-limiting beliefs so that you can be free to soar!

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.

5-15
CRYPTOQUOTE
A X M X B S R X B S Z M Q Z E X
K A Z B E Z B W L J Z M J B U B K
C U Z S Z B W Y J A S D X J S D X A
L X A M J B S J K Z X . — V U A A Z X
Y Z M D X A

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: OUR BURDENS FEEL LIGHTER WHEN WE HELP CARRY SOMEONE ELSE'S FOR A DAY OR EVEN AN HOUR. — HODA KOTB

SUBSCRIBE



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: SIX-LETTER COUNTRIES ENDING IN "A."

Each answer is the name of a country that consists of six letters and ends in "a." (e.g., The smallest country in continental Africa. Answer: Gambia.)

FRESHMAN LEVEL

- 1. The world's largest country by area. Answer _____
- 2. The second-largest country in the world. Answer _____
- 3. It is noted for its canal. Answer _____

GRADUATE LEVEL

- 4. Its capital and largest city is Belgrade. Answer _____
- 5. Located on the northern coast of South America. Answer _____
- 6. Luanda, the capital city, is located on Africa's west coast. Answer _____

PH.D. LEVEL

- 7. The first two letters of this African country's name are "Rw." Answer _____
- 8. The name of this country ends with the first letter of the alphabet and starts with the last letter. Answer _____
- 9. The capital of this African country on Lake Victoria is Kampala. 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. Russia, 2. Canada, 3. Panama, 4. Serbia, 5. Guyana, 6. Angola, 7. Rwanda, 8. Zambia, 9. Uganda.

Sudoku

数独

ANSWER TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 5/14

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 5/15

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Supreme Court Hears Trump Citizenship Case

By The Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is hearing its first set of Trump-related arguments in the second Trump presidency. The case stems from the executive order President Donald Trump issued on his first day in office that would deny citizenship to children born on U.S. soil to parents who are in the country illegally or temporarily. The executive order marks a major change to the provision of the 14th Amendment that grants citizenship to people born in the United States, with just a couple of exceptions.

Immigrants, rights groups and states sued almost immediately to challenge the executive order. Federal judges have uniformly cast doubt on Trump's reading of the Citizenship Clause. Three judges have blocked the order from taking effect anywhere in the U.S., including U.S. District Judge John Coughenour. "I've been on the bench for over four decades. I can't remember another case where the question presented was as clear as this one is. This is a blatantly unconstitutional order," Coughenour said at a hearing in his Seattle courtroom.

The Supreme Court is taking up emergency appeals filed by the Trump administration asking to be able to enforce the executive order in most of the country, at least while lawsuits over the order proceed. The constitutionality of the order is not before the court just yet. Instead, the justices are looking at potentially limiting the authority of individual judges to issue rulings that apply throughout the United States. These are known as nationwide, or universal, injunctions.

President Donald Trump is weighing in ahead of arguments in the birthright citizenship case today.

Trump says in an online post that granting citizenship to people born here, long seen as a constitutional promise, makes the country look "STUPID" and like "SUCKERS." He incorrectly asserted the U.S. is the only country in the world with birthright citizenship. While not ev-

ery country grants it, about 30 other countries do, including Canada.

His executive order at the heart of today's case aims to end birthright citizenship for children born to people in the U.S. illegally, something many legal scholars say would require amending the Constitution.

Three lawyers will present arguments to the court
Solicitor General D. John Sauer is representing the Trump administration in urging the court to allow Trump's restrictions on birthright citizenship to take effect in at least 27 states. New Jersey Solicitor General Jeremy Feigenbaum is arguing on behalf of the states that say they'll lose millions of dollars in health and other benefits available to U.S. children and also have to overhaul identification systems since birth certificates will no longer serve as proof of citizenship. Kelsi Corkran is representing pregnant women and immigrant rights groups that say chaos will result if Trump's order takes effect anywhere.

The justices will take the bench at 10 o'clock Eastern time, but the livestream won't begin immediately. The court will issue at least one opinion before hearing arguments, so it could be 10 minutes before the Chief Justice John Roberts invites Solicitor General D. John Sauer to begin.

The livestream will be available on the court's website, www.supremecourt.gov, or C-SPAN. C-SPAN asked Roberts to allow cameras to carry the case live, but he did not respond to the request, C-SPAN said. The Supreme Court has never allowed cameras in the courtroom.

A decision should come relatively soon. The Supreme Court typically rules in all its argued cases by the end of June and this one shouldn't be any different. If anything, an order from the court might come quickly because the legal issue before the justices is not whether Trump's birthright citizenship restrictions are constitutional, but whether to grant the administration's emergency appeals to narrow lower court orders against it while lawsuits proceed.



Ayse Sahil, whose family emigrated from Bolshevik in Russia, holds a board near Dolmabahce palace where talks between Russian and Ukrainian delegations are expected, in Istanbul, Turkey, today. (AP Photo/Dilara Acikgoz)

Ukraine-Russian Talks Still On Without Putin

By MEHMET GUZEL, HANNA AARHIROVA and SUZAN FRASER
Associated Press
ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Russia and Ukraine are set to hold their first direct peace talks in three years, both countries said today, but hopes for a breakthrough remained dim after Russian President Vladimir Putin spurned an offer by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to meet face-to-face in Turkey.
Zelenskyy said he is sending a team headed by his defense minister from the Turkish capital Ankara to Istanbul to meet a Russian delegation, even though Moscow's side doesn't include "anyone who actually makes decisions."
The Ukrainian side would be headed by Defense Minister Rustem Umerov, and its aim is "to attempt at least the first steps toward de-escalation, the first steps toward ending the war — namely, a ceasefire," he said.
Few had expected Putin to show up in Turkey, and his absence punctured any hope of significant progress toward ending the 3-year-old war amid peace efforts in recent months by the Trump administration and Western European leaders.
It also raised the prospect of intensified international sanctions on Russia that have been threatened by the West.
Zelenskyy, who flew today to Ankara after challenging Putin to sit down with him, accused Moscow of not making a serious effort to end the war by sending a low-level negotiating team that he described as "a theater prop."
His proposal to Putin came amid a flurry of maneuvering last weekend as each side sought a diplomatic advantage.
Zelenskyy said he decided to send the delegation to Istanbul to demonstrate to U.S. President Donald Trump that Ukraine wants to end the fighting.
The war has killed tens of thousands of soldiers on both sides and more than 12,000 Ukrainian civilians, according to the U.N. Russian forces are preparing a fresh military offensive, Ukrainian government and Western military analysts say.
At least five civilians were killed and 29 wounded in the past day, according to authorities in five eastern regions of Ukraine where Russia is trying to advance.

Florida Gov Signs Bill For Ban On Fluoride in Water

By STEPHANY MATAT and KATE PAYNE
Associated Press
WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a measure today prohibiting local governments from adding fluoride to their water systems, making it the second state in the country after Utah to implement a statewide ban on the mineral.
DeSantis signed the bill at a public event in Dade City, Florida, over the concerns of dentists and public health advocates.
"Yes, use fluoride for your teeth, that's fine, but forcing it in the water supply is basically forced medication on people," DeSantis said today. "They don't have a choice, you're taking that away from them."
State lawmakers approved the bill last month, requiring the mineral and some other additives be removed from water sources across the state. Utah was the first state to ban fluoride in late March, and its prohibition went into effect last week, while Florida's provision is effective July 1.
Some local governments in Florida have already voted to remove fluoride from their water, ahead of the statewide

Lawmakers . . .

Continued from Front Page
When it came to discretionary funding, requests from individual legislators for things like playgrounds or streetlights, the House and Senate were again treated equally.
"Everybody got nothing," Stedman said. Budget documents show few exceptions to Stedman's comment.
One of the few budget additions made by the House was \$500,000 for a Blood Bank of Alaska testing lab. Gov. Mike Dunleavy requested the money, the Senate rejected it, but the House added it back in.
In many places, the budget attempted to use other sources of money instead of general-purpose dollars that primarily come from Permanent Fund earnings, oil taxes and royalties.
For example, Dunleavy requested \$7 million for a time and attendance system to be used by state employees. The Senate cut that request to \$4 million, and instead of using general-purpose dollars, lawmakers took additional money from the accounts of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority. The House approved that change.
Of the budget overall, Schrage said lawmakers tried to deny projects equally, without regard to party or district.
"I know that this won't make everyone happy, but we've done the best that we can," he said.
The budget will return to the Senate for a concurrence vote, then advance to Dunleavy, who has line-item veto power and may eliminate individual budget items but cannot add new ones.

By JEFF AMY, SUDIN THANAWALA and GEOFF MULVIHILL
Associated Press
ATLANTA (AP) — A pregnant woman in Georgia was declared brain-dead after a medical emergency and doctors have kept her on life support for three months so far to allow enough time for the baby to be born and comply with Georgia's strict anti-abortion law, family members say.
She could be kept in that state for months more.
The case is the latest consequence of abortion bans introduced in some states since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade three years ago.
Adriana Smith, a 30-year-old mother and nurse, was declared brain-dead — meaning she is legally dead — in February, her mother, April Newkirk, told Atlanta TV station WXIA.
Newkirk said her daughter had intense headaches more than three months ago and went to Atlanta's Northside Hospital, where she received medication and was released. The next morning, her boyfriend woke to her gasping for air and called 911. Emory University Hospital determined she had blood clots in her brain and she was declared brain-dead.
Newkirk said Smith is now 21 weeks pregnant. Removing breathing

3rd Republican Enters Alaska Governor Race

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon
An Anchorage business owner, Republican campaigner and former talk radio host is running to be Alaska's next governor.
Bernadette Wilson announced her campaign on Tuesday with a video broadcast from the steps of the Alaska Capitol and has filed a letter of intent with the Alaska Public Offices Commission.
She joins Republican former state Sen. Click Bishop and Republican Lt. Gov. Nancy Dahlstrom, both of whom announced their campaigns last week.
In a Juneau interview, Wilson said she's disappointed with the condition of the state and worried about what it has to offer her children.
"I see the opportunity that Alaska has here, but I also see the lack of leadership, the lack of vision. And I feel I share the frustration of Alaskans. You know, we have people who get down here and they're more concerned about keeping a job than they are about doing a job," she said.
Wilson, a former competitive figure skater, was born on the Kenai Peninsula and raised in Anchorage. A parent to three children, she is the great-niece of former Gov. Wally Hickel. She owns Denali Disposal, a private trash collection service in Anchorage.
Wilson has extensive experience in Alaska politics, having worked on more than a dozen political campaigns, including the effort to elect Anchorage Mayor Dave Bronson and a 2010 ballot measure that would have required parents to be notified if a child is seeking an abortion. Alaskans voted for that measure, but it was later ruled unconstitutional.
She hosted a talk radio show with Democrat Ethan Berkowitz until 2015 and organized protests in 2020 to oppose Anchorage's anti-COVID-19 precautions.
In addition to her governor's race, Wilson is campaigning for the ballot measure that is again attempting to repeal ranked choice voting in Alaska.
Wilson advised Nick Begich's successful congressional campaign last year and previously worked as the Alaska director for Americans for Prosperity and for the Alaska Policy Forum, two limited-government



Bernadette Wilson. (Photo by James Brooks/Alaska Beacon)

groups that have opposed the revival of the state's pension plan, among other issues.
She has never held elected office before, but said that isn't an issue.
"Republicans love President Ronald Reagan. When Ronald Reagan ran for governor of California, it was the same thing. He didn't come up through a bureaucratic system," she said.
When asked whether she would continue Gov. Mike Dunleavy's policies, she said she hasn't been impressed with Dunleavy's performance. The incumbent governor is term-limited and unable to run for reelection.

"I'll be honest with you, I haven't seen a whole lot of what the state has done in the last few years, not just under this administration, but under multiple administrations," she said. "You know, name me the major infrastructure projects, name me the big things we've got going. We're at the bottom of education, the same place we were years ago. We are in no better spot financially. We're in no better spot with our education. Our PFD is spiraling, with people now trying to turn it into a welfare program. You know, I don't think there is a whole lot there to continue."
Wilson said she intends to actively campaign this year and listen to Alaskans' concerns about the state.
"We are going to be out talking to Alaskans from now, clear on until — hopefully for the next several years," she said.
<https://alaskabeacon.com/james-brooks>

Legislators Deny Citation For Conservative Writer

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon
Four days after the Alaska House of Representatives declined to honor conservative political writer Suzanne Downing with a legislative citation, the Alaska Senate narrowly voted to allow the citation to go forward.
Hours later, the House declined to reconsider its decision, effectively killing the citation.
Downing, the founder of the website Must Read Alaska, is a controversial figure in Alaska politics. A former newspaper journalist, she turned to conservative political writing in 2016 after serving as Gov. Sean Parnell's speechwriter and communications director of the Alaska Republican Party.
It is extraordinarily unusual for the Legislature to deny a citation, which must be proposed by at least one of the Legislature's 60 members. Downing's was proposed by Reps. Jamie Allard, R-Eagle River, and George Rauscher, R-Sutton.
On Tuesday, Sen. Forrest Dunbar, D-Anchorage, asked to split Downing's citation from a list awaiting senators that morning.
That vote would have been a first step toward tabling the citation, just as the House did. Instead, only eight senators joined Dunbar. Because 11 votes are needed to pass a motion in the Senate, Dunbar's attempt failed, and the

Senate approved the citation.
Dunbar said he believes the Senate's vote against Downing's citation failed because senators didn't want to spend time debating it. If the House had approved the citation, he said that he believes the Senate would have voted it down instead.
Later in the day, members of the state House who support Downing attempted to bring her citation to a vote again. That procedural motion failed, with 21 votes against.
Rep. Kevin McCabe, R-Big Lake, said he was disappointed by the failed vote.
"It's really a shame that we couldn't provide a citation for her," he said.
Allard said she also was disappointed and felt that the vote was a little bit weaponized.
Afterward, Allard and Rep. Andrew Gray, D-Anchorage, had a heated argument in the House hallways about whether it was appropriate for Downing to repost a picture of Gray's child that had been on social media.
Speaking on the House floor, McCabe said, "Was her writing always correct? Probably not ... but I will say she is an amazing person, and most of all, that lady works from sunrise to sunset."
<https://alaskabeacon.com/james-brooks>

Pregnant Brain-Dead Woman Kept Alive

tubes and other life-saving devices would likely kill the fetus.
Northside did not respond to a request for comment today. Emory Healthcare said it could not comment on an individual case because of privacy rules, but released a statement saying it "uses consensus from clinical experts, medical literature, and legal guidance to support our providers as they make individualized treatment recommendations in compliance with Georgia's abortion laws and all other applicable laws. Our top priorities continue to be the safety and wellbeing of the patients we serve."
Georgia's abortion ban
Smith's family says Emory doctors have told them they are not allowed to stop or remove the devices that are keeping her breathing because state law bans abortion after cardiac activity can be detected — generally around six weeks into pregnancy.
The law was adopted in 2019 but not enforced until after Roe v. Wade was overturned in the 2022 Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization ruling, opening the door to state abortion bans. Twelve states are enforcing bans on abortion at all stages of pregnancy and three others have bans like Georgia's that kick in after about six weeks.
Like the others, Georgia's ban in-

cludes an exception if an abortion is necessary to maintain the woman's life. Those exceptions have been at the heart of legal and political questions, including a major Texas Supreme Court ruling last year that found the ban there applies even when there are major pregnancy complications.
Smith's family, including her five-year-old son, still visit her in the hospital.
Newkirk told WXIA that doctors told the family that the fetus has fluid on the brain and that they're concerned about his health.
"She's pregnant with my grandson. But he may be blind, may not be able to walk, may not survive once he's born," Newkirk said. She has not said whether the family wants Smith removed from life support.
Who has the right to make these decisions?
Monica Simpson, executive director of SisterSong, the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit challenging Georgia's abortion law, said the situation is problematic.
"Her family deserved the right to have decision-making power about her medical decisions," Simpson said in a statement. "Instead, they have endured over 90 days of retraumatization, expensive medical costs, and the cruelty of being unable to resolve and move toward healing."

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