



DAILY SITKA SENTINEL

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WEEKEND EDITION

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FORECAST FOR MAY 17 - 19

17

51°
42°

60%

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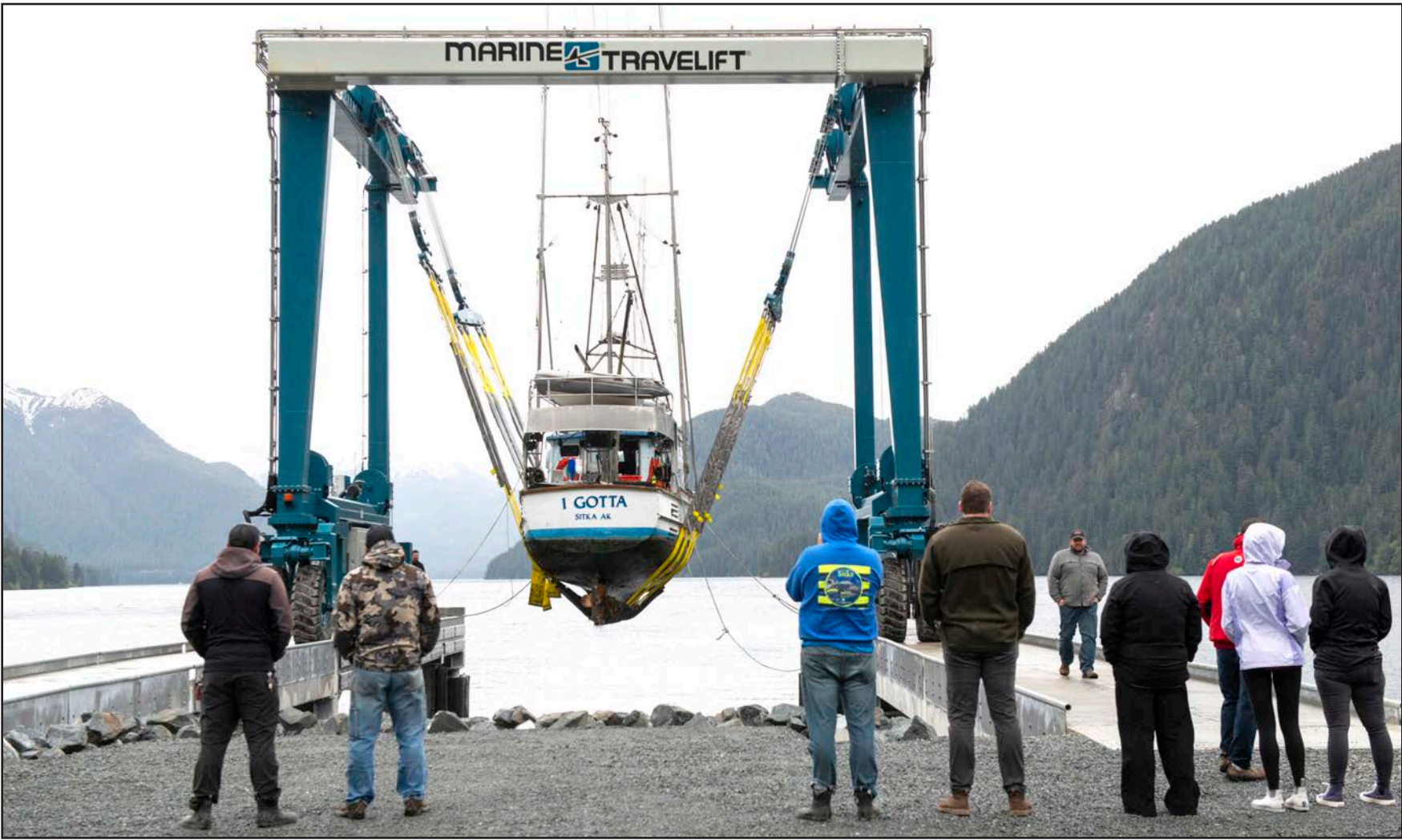
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SAT: SOUTH WIND 5 MPH SUN: SOUTHEAST WIND 5 MPH



First One Out

About a dozen Sitkans watch as the first boat is hauled out of Silver Bay at the new city haulout facility in the Gary Paxton Industrial Park Thursday afternoon. Sitka fisherman Eric Jordan was eager to have his troller, the F/V I Gotta, be the first one to use the facility that was mostly paid for using funds from the city's sale of the former Sitka Community Hospital property to SEARHC. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)

STA, Assembly Talk About Mutual Issues

ANNA LAFFREY
Sentinel Staff Writer

During a wide-reaching dinner meeting Monday, leaders of Sitka Tribe of Alaska and the City and Borough of Sitka discussed the preservation of local clan houses, mitigation of bear-human interactions, and collaboration on affordable housing and communications projects.

As part of the semiannual government-to-government meeting, STA gave estimates of the impact the tribal government makes in Sitka through assistance programs in areas such as child care, food and grocery, housing, utilities, basic needs, scholarships and grants.

Lisa Gassman, chief executive officer, said the tribe's finance office estimates that STA pumped roughly \$4.6 million into Sitka's economy from January through December of 2024, not including payroll or other operating expenses.

The first item on STA's agenda Monday concerned an 11-acre parcel in the area of the Indian River subdivision that Baranof Island Housing Authority, STA's housing entity, is seeking to replat into 53 lots for housing development.

Tribal Council members floated the idea of a "joint press release" with the city to promote the proposed Yaw Drive project.

Sitka Mayor Steve Eisenbeisz said "the municipality is committed to accessing state lands back up there as

well, so I can see how a joint release could work for both entities."

STA Council member Martha Moses said she doesn't appreciate comments she's heard in the community about the need for waste management to prevent bear incursions into the project area, since it's still in its concept phase.

Concerns about bear-human conflicts arose throughout the meeting, as bears are out this spring in search of food in trash cans. In late April, a bear in the Indian River Subdivision tore the door off a shed to get to a garbage can, and then tore through a garage door at another location to get to garbage stored inside.

When bears begin breaking down someone's property, it's within that resident's rights to shoot the bear, Eisenbeisz noted. But leaders acknowledged how dangerous that is in populated areas.

Council and Assembly members agreed that proactive steps are needed to solve ongoing bear-human conflicts.

Ideas included selective uses of "bear-proof" trash cans that have proven effective in communities like Kodiak; placing dumpsters in centralized locations where residents could take trash accumulated ahead of "trash day"; or composting food waste, which doesn't seem to attract bears as much.

Tribal Council and Assembly members also put their heads together on the removal of a collapsed clan house.

Continued on Back Page

MEHS Makes Staff Cuts to Balance Budget

GARLAND KENNEDY
Sentinel Staff Writer

Administrators say staffing reductions at Mt. Edgecumbe High School won't be as deep as initially anticipated, as they work to cover a seven-digit gap in funding for the fiscal year 2026 budget.

The boarding school, which serves students from across Alaska, entered the budget process with a \$1.8 million deficit, Principal Miranda Bacha told staff in an email last week, and as a result had to make cuts no matter what.

"Deputy Commissioner (of Education, Karen) Morrison presented a budget that includes both a Base Student Allocation (BSA) increase and a rise in the student activity fee. However, to balance the overall budget, it also requires reductions in staffing," Bacha wrote.

The Alaska Department of Education is working with Mt. Edgecumbe staff on the budget, which is based on a \$680 increase in state per-student funding.

The per-student funding isn't known at present. The Legislature passed a bill with a \$700 BSA increase but Gov. Dunleavy hasn't signed it. At present the BSA is \$5,960, and has not been increased significantly since 2016.

The largest component in the current \$11.2 million budget is \$4.5 million for residential operations, followed by \$2 million for instruction. The school's enrollment this year was 415, and is expected to be 400 next year.

MEHS currently has about 23 classroom teachers and another seven such as counselors, a librarian, a principal and a dean, Bacha noted, with 9.5 of those positions were added since 2016.

"During COVID, several temporary positions were added with the plan of keeping them while the extra COVID money was there to fund them and with the hope additional funding would be found to pay for them when

the COVID money ran out," Bacha wrote.

Earlier this spring, MEHS Superintendent Suzuk Huntington presented a budget to the state that would cut the teaching staff by half, but the school has since backed off from that plan. In late April, Huntington announced her resignation, effective June 30.

"I honestly don't know what it's going to look like next year yet," Matt Hunter, president of the school's Teachers' Education Association, told the Sentinel Thursday. "Our principal has a plan and says it will work, but we don't know yet what the classes will look like, and how many sections and class sizes there will be, and who's going to teach what yet. So it's still an unknown, and there's some anxiety from that."

Bacha said in her email that limited funding will lead to a loss of some course options for students.

"The current budget includes funding for 18 classroom teachers next year," Bacha wrote. "While this requires a reduction in the number of course sections, we are working to maintain a broad range of electives so students can still access diverse learning opportunities. We are actively exploring grant opportunities and monitoring any potential increases to the BSA. However, we cannot commit to adding positions until the budget is finalized. If additional funding becomes available, adding teaching staff will be a top priority."

Combined factors such as teacher salary increases, dorm and cafeteria contracts, and utility costs have added strain to the budget, the principal said. As the numbers of anticipated cuts shifted, Bacha provided clarification at a school advisory board meeting last month.

"I know there's been a lot of numbers that have come out regarding staff cuts, but regarding just classroom teachers, we are looking at about five," Bacha told the board. "So the other ones are

support staff and other positions on the academic side, but classroom teachers, there are five at this time."

Asked by board chair Travis Vaughan how many teachers would be fired under the current budget, Bacha replied, "zero."

"It's not a layoff, it's actually we're not going to fill five positions... We have given out all contracts to teachers that we can offer - contracts that we can afford in our budget. And so they have all been given out to teachers... What we're talking about with layoffs are non-instructional staff," Bacha continued.

Deputy Commissioner of Education Karen Morrison, who was present at the teleconference board meeting, said in the current budget, the school no longer is planning to lay off lots of staff.

"We're not talking about a sizable number of layoffs, and the people who may be receiving a layoff notice have been talking to last week, is my understanding."

In her email to staff last week, Bacha confirmed that those who will no longer be employed have already been informed.

"Staff were informed about a week and a half ago that two academic-side positions and two to three residential-side positions would be eliminated. It's important to note that while it appears several positions are being lost, the impact on academic staffing is limited to two positions," she wrote.

Matt Hunter said, "we have a really good teaching team coming back... Deputy Commissioner Karen Morrison has been actively seeking grants that the school may qualify for, and if any of those come through, we should see additional teachers. But (there is) a lot of uncertainty right now. It's the same thing other schools have been dealing with for years, it's just happening all at once

for Mt. Edgecumbe."

He was unsure what staffing levels would look like in the coming year. Some pink slips have already gone out, and other positions will be left empty following retirements.

"By state law, the school has to issue notices of non-retention by the last day of school. And that's a state requirement. We have five people retiring. There are a few folks who have resigned to seek employment elsewhere in Alaska and out of state... There's at least three people who really wanted to stay who were told they can't come back," Hunter said. Those terminations, he added, were due to finances, not poor performance on the job.

"We've got fantastic students, and as long as the students come back, we're going to have a good school year next year... We have a really good teaching team coming back, and we're looking forward to working with our students next year," he said.

Sitka Suit for Damages Kept Alive by Appeal

GARLAND KENNEDY
Sentinel Staff Writer

The appeal of a decision in a civil lawsuit that a patient filed against a former Sitka Community Hospital doctor likely will proceed for years, an attorney in the case said.

A Sitka jury last Dec. 9 said Dr. Richard McGrath was not liable for alleged medical malpractice and sexual assault of Breanna Wampler - now Breanna Martin - and as a result Martin was possibly on the hook for about \$104,000 in attorney's fees, attorneys in the case told the Sentinel.

"The plaintiffs have appealed the ruling to the Supreme Court, and that's basically where we are in the early stages. It'll probably be a couple of years before that's resolved, given the way the Supreme Court operates, and their backlog," said Howard Lazar, the lawyer representing the city of Sitka in the suit.

The ongoing lawsuit is a civil case, which can impose financial penalties but cannot result in further jail time for McGrath, who in 2023 pleaded guilty to sexual assault in the third degree, a felony, against three Sitka women. He was sentenced to 17 years, with 15 of those suspended.

Martin and her attorney, local lawyer Jim McGowan, filed an appeal of the court's conclusion in the civil case on February 6.

"Should the Supreme Court agree that the trial court erred, it would reverse the decision made in the first trial. This would result in the case being sent back to the Sitka Superior Court for a retrial," McGowan said.

Like Lazar, McGowan noted that the Alaska Supreme Court is not likely to resolve the case quickly, and the appellate process will take years.

As McGrath was a physician at Sitka Community Hospital at the time of

the alleged offense, the city is named as a co-defendant in the suit, though the specific claims made against McGrath and the city are not the same, he noted.

Lazar said the claims against the city are baseless.

"The claims against Sitka - they were basically that we failed to properly hire, supervise, and that we were responsible for his alleged acts," said Lazar, an attorney with the Anchorage law firm Farley and Graves. "There was virtually no evidence at all in support of those claims, and that's why some of those claims were dismissed on summary judgment, and the remainder of the claims against Sitka were dismissed by directed verdict."

Superior Court Judge Amanda Browning, who presided at the trial, awarded attorney's fees totaling \$104,000 - with about half to be paid to McGrath and half to the city.

"We're willing, and have been willing, to forego those costs and fees that she owes us, if she simply agrees to recognize what the reality is - that she really has no basis for a claim against Sitka," Lazar said. It's possible, he added, for Martin to drop her claim against the city while maintaining her case against McGrath.

The amount owed was calculated under Alaska Civil Rule 82, which stipulates that "the prevailing party in a civil case shall be awarded attorney's fees." However, the court can vary attorney's fees for a variety of reasons under the rule, including "the reasonableness of the claims and defenses pursued by each side" or "the extent to which a given fee award may be so onerous to the non-prevailing party that it would deter similarly situated litigants from the voluntary use of the courts."

State House Acts to Let Afghan Allies Be in U.S.

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

On Monday, the Trump administration announced that it is canceling permission for about 9,000 Afghan refugees to remain in the United States, including some who aided America's war effort in Afghanistan.

The move came eight days after the Alaska House of Representatives voted unanimously to approve a resolution that asks the administration to resume evacuation flights from that country. The state Senate is considering that resolution as well.

House Joint Resolution 13, from Rep. Will Stapp, R-Fairbanks, asks federal officials "to resume processing stalled applications by Afghan allies" and to reinstate evacuation flights "for applicants with approved special immigrant visas and their families, including efforts to overcome logistical barriers and diplomatic negotiations."

The resolution doesn't address the

Trump administration's actions; the resolution was developed before those were announced.

Speaking on the House floor, Stapp said he served two tours of duty in the Iraq War and saw the bravery of local interpreters and police officers who worked with members of the American military despite threats to their lives.

"This resolution requests that our federal partners expedite special immigration visas so that we can look to bring as many of those people who stood shoulder to shoulder with us during our time at war to the United States so we can fulfill the promises that we made to them before they too suffer the same fate ... that so many have already suffered," he said.

HJR 13 is in the Senate State Affairs Committee and becomes final only if approved by the Senate and the House.

https://alaskabeacon.com/james-brooks



Rep. Will Stapp, R-Fairbanks, speaks on the House floor on Feb. 21. (Photo by James Brooks/Alaska Beacon)



NEXT SHIP

Sunday, May 18
Passengers
8067 (capacity)

Norwegian Joy
Sitka Cruise Terminal
8am - 6pm

Anthem of the Seas
Sitka Cruise Terminal
10am - 5pm

Monday, May 19
Passengers
7175 (capacity)

NG Sea Lion
Petro Marine
Arrive 6am

Riviera
Sitka Cruise Terminal
7am - 5pm

Seabourn Quest
Crescent Harbor
8am - 5pm

Silver Moon
O'Connell Bridge
9am - 4pm

Silver Nova
O'Connell Bridge
9am - 4pm

Norwegian Bliss
Sitka Cruise Terminal
10am - 6pm

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

Letters to the Editor

WFC Lawsuit

Dear Editor: Seafood Producers Co-operative response to WFC lawsuit against NOAA regarding ESA listing.

On behalf of the nearly 400 members of Seafood Producers Cooperative, who are very dependent on the wild Chinook fishery for a large part of their livelihoods, and as such are very supportive of conservation efforts regarding Chinook, I would like to respond to the recent news of another attempt by the Wild Fish Conservancy, in their typical fashion of accusations and demands via litigation, to sue the National Marine Fisheries Service for not listing Alaska Wild King Salmon stocks under the Endangered Species Act, which the WFC, in their opinion, feels is necessary.

Alaska possesses the largest coastline of all other states combined, over 33,000 miles, with 19,000 rivers and streams that salmon spawn in. To undertake a scientific study that identifies the Chinook returns to these spawning areas is a huge task, and to complete this with any degree of accuracy could take years.

With NOAA currently facing major budget reductions, it is likely that NMFS will be even more challenged in their ability to conduct the studies to determine whether Chinook ESA listing is warranted or not, in a time frame that satisfies the WFC.

While there are certainly challenges with Chinook returns in Alaska in certain areas, especially in the western regions, there is no mention of the fact in the WFC's ESA petition that of the seven stocks of concern listed in SE Alaska since 2017, four of those SOC's have recently been delisted, showing that, indeed, recovery of Chinook in those systems is taking place, due to in-season management controls of harvest by commercial, sport and subsistence groups, effectively reflecting that ADF&G is responding to the concerns regarding Chinook abundance and it is working.

WFC's continuing failure to both recognize that the issues with Chinook stocks are identified, and that there has been some success in addressing those concerns, and that conservation work is supported and continuing, or the fact that including all areas of Alaska and tying them into one group with an ESA listing, when clearly some areas are showing recovery, creates unnecessary burdens on those that are dependent on the resource both financially and for food security, remains, in our opinion, a clear statement that the WFC is more about litigation and funding than protection of Chinook or the people this resource sustains.

**Norm Pillen, President
Seafood Producers Cooperative**

Vote Yes on Prop 1

Dear Editor: I am writing in support of the Vote YES on 1 Proposition at the May 28 election.

I am glad Small Town Soul of which I am a member could present our point at the recent town hall meeting where we were in one room with leaders and followers of Safeguard Sitka's Future. Our group supports cruise tourism in Sitka! Most of our members are not engaged in social media where there was quite a witch hunt going on against us. We represent the community, and SSF a variety of business owners who have very concrete financial interests in the issue.

Their spokespersons were representing their, in my opinion, weak points for sacrificing the well-being of a whole community including a strong and diverse economy to benefit the bottom line of a few large and a group of small business owners. This is called privatization of the Commons.

There had been a lot of commenting on Sitka Chatters that was so aggressive and threatening that I stopped checking in with them. Our opponents spread intimidation towards normal citizens who don't share their views. It explains why few with a different opinion want to engage with them. People are scared. We saw it at Harrington Centennial Hall when their followers booed and clapped inappropriately, and some audience members left because of the disrespectful behavior.

Their speakers at this meeting basically told their own personal stories, and did not address things like overcrowding, health and environmental concerns, and losing our unique small town authenticity.

Blaming someone for not being professional because they use unfamiliar equipment is petty. The real lack of professionalism lies in the fact that Safeguard Sitka's Future resists the fact that sales tax numbers compared over the years need to be corrected for inflation and other relevant factors in order to make a point.

We are a group of local volunteers, who are not backed by a for-profit industry that pays consultants and/or agencies to do the campaign work for them. Though they should be professional, they espouse false numbers. One can deduct that this is intentional to create a smoke screen hiding the absence of real arguments.

They are referring to their falsehood that Sitka is doomed without an unbearably high level of large cruise vessels bringing their passengers to a tiny place like ours. We know that many businesses cater to individual travelers and are, like we, negatively affected by over-tourism.

Nobody on their side mentions that the city and all their services are paid for with sales taxes of ALL economic sectors, not just cruise ships. The May 12 Sentinel reported that short-term rental bed tax remittance totaled \$90,783. The total 2024 revenue was \$1,515,057 exceeding 2023's short-term rental revenue by 19 percent.

According to ALPHA the fish prices are recovering. This fact implies that in spite of normal ebbs and flows, our economy remains diverse and strong. The past few years have seen a significant increase in construction, hence city taxes, from many sources, but the new hospital, multiple housing complexes recently built, and airport renovation likely raised Sitka's sales tax income.

The fact is that income from city sales taxes overall does not rise proportionately to cruise ship visitors, and in fact is falling after a peak.

All the negative environmental factors brought by large cruise ships need to be considered, including their impact on ocean water quality and therefore the fishing industry. The culpability of particular cruise lines and their ruthlessness of dumping illegally is mind-boggling.

Another fact is that the ownership of the cruise dock is opaque, to say the least. Sitka Dock Co. LLC is registered in Delaware, with 40 Percent of it hiding behind the company name Baranof Island Partners, also based in Delaware, co-owned by Royal Caribbean and Ceres Terminals. In other words, the current minority owners could stay waiting in the background until Mr. Chris McGraw and family are ready to retire and sell. This might lie in the future, but is definitely realistic. The fact is the cruise lines are here and are planning to stay. Mr. McGraw is their local front man. And the cruise line will not abandon its investments by pulling out all of their vessels. Remember, they come here for profit reasons, not to create revenues for schools and other entities and projects.

I recently took a picture on Lincoln St. Two men were installing a new business sign. The design of it reminds me of the typical cruise line style familiar in Ketchikan and other places they dominate. It felt like there's another big cruise industry's foothold in place.

We are hearing from contractors who were personally threatened to lose business because they dared signing the petition that led to this election. This is completely inappropriate, unless it's ok to use threats and coercion to achieve business goals.

I am grateful to the Sentinel for giving me the opportunity to set the record straight. I appreciate the contributions of businesses, including the visitor industry, to many causes and aspects of the community. Sitkans have always been proud of supporting each other, and I sure hope that all citizens can find enough common ground to continue to do so. After all, we are a small group of people living year-round at the edge of a continent by the ocean, with a now active volcano looming over us. I respect everyone who makes their home here, and particularly those whose ancestors have always lived here. Don't forget to vote YES on Prop 1.

Martina Kurzer, Sitka

Sitka, Yesterday

20 YEARS AGO
May 2005

The Assembly Friday decided to stick to an earlier decision to raise city employee pay by an across-the-board 1.5 percent. A raise of 2.5 percent was proposed in the administrator's budget but a majority of the Assembly agreed to the 1.5 percent, which will save \$110,000.

50 YEARS AGO
May 1975

At the School Board meeting, President Ed Spencer read a letter from Mrs. Isabella Brady informing the board that a consultant will be in Sitka to discuss the educational concept of "Foxfire" with Mt. Edgecumbe administrators. Foxfire is about students writing about the people and customs peculiar to their home areas.

Senate Votes for New State Elections Rules

By CORINNE SMITH
Alaska Beacon

The Alaska Senate voted to enact new rules to streamline the voting process in Alaska and expand voter access. If signed into law, the legislation would update the state's voter rolls, mandate that the state pay for postage for mailed ballots, introduce a new ballot tracking system, and repeal a requirement that a witness sign absentee ballots, among other changes.

The Senate passed Senate Bill 64 along caucus lines, voting 14 to 6 on Monday. The bill now moves to the House for consideration in the last week of the legislative session.

Sen. Bill Wielechowski, D-Anchorage and a bill supporter, called it a "compromise bill" years in the making at a news conference on Tuesday. "It includes 12 different bills that have been introduced over the years from members of all political parties — Republicans, Democrats, independents, minority and majority members," he said. "Roughly 50% of the bill is at the request of the minority in the House and the Senate. So it is truly a compromise bill." Wielechowski said the first goal of the bill is to update the state's voter rolls. "We have 106% more registered voters in the state than we have citizens, and so it takes some steps to fix that," he said.

If passed, the bill clarifies residency as "as a place where a voter has a reasonable and articulable plan to return to whenever they are absent." The bill would shorten the timeframe in which Alaskans are marked as inactive voters and can ultimately be removed from the voter rolls if they don't vote. It also would expand the list of things that trigger notices to start that removal process.

Once those notices are sent, the voter will have a chance to respond within 45 days, or be moved to an inactive status for a period of 28 months, or two elections. In that time, a voter can confirm residency and their voter registration by contacting the division, or by voting.

Wielechowski said the bill addresses the causes of ballots being disqualified, by eliminating the witness signature requirement for absentee ballots and allowing mistakes to be corrected ahead of Election Day.

"It fixes a number of issues that have resulted in voters' ballots being thrown out, particularly military voters, and particularly those in rural Alaska: There's a witness signature problem," he said.

Wielechowski pointed to House District 18, which includes Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, as having the highest rate of reject ballots in the last election.

In the 2024 general election, the state rejected 1,303 absentee ballots, or 1.7% of ballots cast. Nearly 40%, or 512 ballots were rejected due to "improper or insufficient witnessing." That was fewer than the special election in 2022 following the death of U.S. Rep. Don Young, when over 7,500 ballots were rejected, with a third of those due to a lack of witness signature.

If passed, the bill would allow for voters to fix minor errors, with the division notifying and allowing the voter an opportunity to correct a mistake before Election Day, a process called "ballot curing."



Climate and Chocolate

Tariffs affect the cost of chocolate because U.S. commercial production of cocoa is limited to Hawaii. However, a more important effect on price is global climate change. In crop year 2023-2024, Africa produced nearly three-fourths of the world's supply of cocoa beans, largely from West Africa (Ivory Coast 56% and Ghana 15% of Africa's total). In 2023, West Africa had extreme rainfall with double the 30-year average in some places. The following year, 2024, had extreme drought and heat. These conditions affected the ability of cocoa farmers to bring their crop to market.

The growth of attribution science in the last few years has enabled scientists to estimate the effect of climate change on weather, fires, floods, and other disasters that are becoming more frequent. In the case of West Africa's 2024 experience, World Attribution Science's staff concluded that the spring heat wave was 4 degrees C hotter and 10 times more likely because of climate change.

The effect on cocoa bean production is reflected in the increasing price since 2022, which climbed in 2023, more in 2024, and even more this year.

Weather

Sitka Forecast

For tonight expect a low of 44 degrees with rain. On Saturday, a high of 51 degrees with rain and an overnight low of 42 and mostly cloudy skies. For Sunday: a high of 53 degrees and an overnight low of 44 with a 35 percent chance of rain. On Monday expect a 40 percent chance of rain and temps 55 to an overnight low of 43 with a chance of rain.

Sitka Weather

Temperatures ranged from 45 to 52 degrees, the wind hit 20 mph at 2:59 p.m., and .16 inch of rain fell, Flight Service Station reports.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Alaska, which advocates for civil and voter rights, has been calling for both items, and supports the bill, according to Michael Garvey, its policy director.

"We've seen it lead to completely unnecessary rejections," he said.

He noted that rejection rates have been higher in rural districts, as well as districts with higher proportions of Alaska Native voters.

"And so someone who's taken the time to fill out their ballot, put it in the mail, put a stamp on it, and a lot of cases to have that rejected, and then just to be notified that it didn't end up counting, that's pretty dispiriting," Garvey said. "And so the state really should have a way to allow voters to fix that small amount of mistakes."

The ACLU filed a lawsuit in 2022 asserting the state violated due process rights when rejecting ballots without notice or opportunity to correct errors. The Alaska Superior Court denied the motion in a January ruling, but said that the Legislature could enact a "notice-and-cure system."

Under the legislation, voters would be notified of technical mistakes before an election and be able to correct them. Voters would not be able to open the envelope and change their vote, but be able to fix external mistakes, such as missing a signature. The division would notify the voter within 24 hours, by email or phone number, and the voter would be able to provide identification and correct the mistake by filling out and submitting a form.

The bill also establishes a new ballot tracking system, so voters can be notified when their ballot is received and counted. It also provides for paid postage for all absentee ballots.

Other new provisions in the bill include:

- Adding tribal identification cards to the list of acceptable voter identification in person and by mail;
- Removing hunting and fishing licenses from the list of voter identification;
- Establishing a new rural community liaison position within the Division of Elections to support rural districts, including recruitment and training of poll workers;
- Requiring that secure ballot drop boxes be available at every division office, and allowing municipalities to provide drop boxes in accordance with division regulations;
- Requiring the state to develop a cybersecurity program, and notify the public if there is a data breach;
- Requiring that absentee ballot counting start 12 days before the election; and
- Requiring the division to publish results for all rankings in the precinct results.

The Division of Elections has estimated that if passed, the bill's new provisions, staff salaries and cost of paid postage would cost \$765,000 in one-time costs and \$190,000 annually.

However, Republican members of the Senate objected to what they say is not enough security protocols to prevent opportunities for voter fraud.

"We have a moniker: You want to make it easy to vote, but hard to cheat," said Sen. Mike Shower, R-Wasilla in an



A sign posted on Aug. 18, 2024, outside of the Alaska Division of Elections office in Midtown Anchorage directs voters to the polling place inside. (Photo by Yereth Rosen/Alaska Beacon)

interview Thursday. "I want to be clear that I've never said fraud swung an election. I said I want to make sure we don't have the potential for fraud, which I think the Division of Elections director agrees with."

Shower said he opposed removing the witness signature, without another kind of verification check. "We suggested several things, like doing what the Permanent Fund Division, use their data, have two attestors... (who) under the penalty of perjury, would have to attest that yes, you are, in fact, her (the voter)," he said, and it was rejected by the bills sponsors.

Shower also opposed several items, including ballot drop boxes, and has concerns about the language around residency and whether voter rolls are accurate or updated. He said he also has concerns that mail-in absentee ballots present a scenario where they're fraudulently filled out, and the division cannot verify the true identity of the voter. "Who knows where they went? Who knows

how many of them came back? We have no idea," he said.

Opponents of these proposals have pointed out that there isn't much evidence of Alaskans committing the crime of voter fraud. The state has investigated a few cases — the current system catches when two ballots are submitted for the same voter, which has been extremely rare, and can result when a voter forgets that they had already cast a mailed ballot.

Shower said he's concerned about personal data breaches like in 2020, where an estimated 113,000 voters' personal data was exposed, and he wants to see the state take more serious security protocols.

The bill is now being heard in the House Finance Committee and is expected to move to a full House vote in the final days of the session, which ends May 21.

<https://alaskabeacon.com/corinne-smith>

Conservatives, Dems Block House Tax Bills

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a setback, House Republicans failed today to push their big package of tax breaks and spending cuts through the Budget Committee, as a handful of conservatives joined all Democrats in a stunning vote against it.

The hard-right lawmakers are insisting on steeper spending cuts to Medicaid and the Biden-era green energy tax breaks, among other changes, before they will give their support to President Donald Trump's "beautiful" bill. They warn the tax cuts alone would pile onto the nation's \$36 trillion debt.

The failed vote, 16-21, stalls, for now, House Speaker Mike Johnson's push to have the package approved next week. But the Budget Committee plans to reconvene Sunday to try again. Lawmakers vowed to negotiate into the weekend as Trump is returning to Washington from the Middle East.

"Something needs to change or you're not going to get my support," said Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas.

Tallying a whopping 1,116 pages, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, named with a nod to Trump, is teetering at a critical moment. Johnson is determined to resolve the problems with the package that he believes will inject a dose of stability into into a wavering economy.

With few votes to spare from his slim majority, the Republicans are trying to pass it over the staunch objections of Democrats who slammed the package as a "big, bad bill," or as Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., called it, "one big, beautiful betrayal."

Ahead of today's vote, Trump had implored his party to fall in line.

"Republicans MUST UNITE behind, 'THE ONE, BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL,'" the Republican president posted on social media. "We don't need 'GRANDSTANDERS' in the Republican Party. STOP TALKING, AND GET IT DONE!"

The Budget panel is one of the final stops before the package is sent to the full House floor for a vote, which is still expected sometime next week. Typically, the job of the Budget Committee is more administrative as it compiles the work of 11 committees that drew up various parts of the big bill.

But today's meeting proved momentous even before the votes were tallied.

The conservatives, many from the Freedom Caucus, had been warning they would block the bill, as they hold out for steeper cuts. At the same time, GOP lawmakers from high-tax states including New York are demanding a deeper tax deduction, known as SALT, for their constituents. Four Republican conservatives initially voted against the package — Roy and Reps. Ralph Norman of South Carolina, Josh Brecheen of Oklahoma, Rep. Andrew Clyde of Georgia. Then one, Rep. Lloyd Smucker of Pennsylvania, switched his vote to no in a procedural step so it could be reconsidered later, saying afterward he was confident they'd "get this done."

Norman insisted he was not defying the president — "this isn't a 'grandstand,'" he said — as he and the others push from Trump's priorities.

In their quest for deeper reductions, the conservatives are particularly eyeing Medicaid, the health care program for some 70 million Americans. They want new work requirements for aid recipi-

ents to start immediately, rather than on Jan. 1, 2029, as the package proposes.

Democrats emphasized that millions of people would lose their health coverage and food stamps assistance if the bill passes while the wealthiest Americans would reap enormous tax cuts. They also said it would increase future deficits.

"That is bad economics. It is unconscionable," said Rep. Brendan Boyle, the top Democratic lawmaker on the panel.

At the same time, talks are also underway with the New Yorkers have been unrelenting in their demand for a much larger SALT deduction than what is proposed in the bill, which could send the overall cost of the package skyrocketing.

As it stands, the bill proposes tripling what's currently a \$10,000 cap on the state and local tax deduction, increasing it to \$30,000 for joint filers with incomes up to \$400,000 a year.

Rep. Nick LaLota, one of the New York lawmakers leading the SALT effort, said they have proposed a deduction of \$62,000 for single filers and \$124,000 for joint filers.

The conservatives and the New Yorkers are at odds, each jockeying as Johnson labors to pass the package from the House by Memorial Day and send it onto the Senate.

At its core, the sprawling package extends the existing income tax cuts that were approved during Trump's first term, in 2017, and adds new ones that the president campaigned on in 2024, including no taxes on tips, overtime pay and some auto loans.

It increases some tax breaks for middle-income earners, including a bolstered standard deduction of \$32,000 for joint filers and a temporary \$500 boost to the child tax credit, bringing it to \$2,500.

It also provides an infusion of \$350 billion for Trump's deportation agenda and to bolster the Pentagon.

To offset more than \$5 trillion in lost revenue, the package proposes rolling back other tax breaks, namely the green energy tax credits approved as part of President Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act. Some conservatives want those to end immediately.

The package also seeks to cover the costs by slashing more than \$1 trillion from health care and food assistance programs over the course of a decade, in part by imposing work requirements on able-bodied adults.

Certain Medicaid recipients would need to engage in 80 hours a month of work or other community options to receive health care. Older Americans receiving food aid through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP, would also see the program's current work requirement for able-bodied participants without dependents extended to include those ages 55-64. States would also be required to shoulder a greater share of the program's cost.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates at least 7.6 million fewer people with health insurance and about 3 million a month fewer SNAP recipients with the changes.

While Republicans insist the package will pay for itself, partly with economic growth, outside budget analysts are skeptical and say it will add trillions of dollars to the nation's deficits and debt.

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Growing Happy Flowers



Photo Credit istockphoto.com/perkmeup

Maybe you can get by with tired old dirt, but your garden will not be as vibrant or your plants as happy. One of the most important rules of successful gardening is that you must enrich your soil for your flowers to grow successfully. To keep your spirit vibrant, it, too, needs enrichment. Learn how to cultivate your spirit with God’s unconditional love – nourish your spirit regularly in God’s house. When you worship each week you will feel fully alive!

Weekly Scripture Reading

Romans	Galatians	Galatians	Galatians	Galatians	Galatians	Galatians
6.1-23	1.1-24	2.1-21	3.1-14	3.15-29	4.1-20	4.21-31

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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ASSEMBLY OF GOD

214 Kimsham St. • 747-5848
office@sitkaag.org
Lead Pastor - Ryan Gluth
Family Pastor - Kelly Smith
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. (Nursery & Kids Ministry Offered)
Wednesday Family Night 6:30-8 p.m. Adult Small Groups & Kid’s Ministry
Sitka AGYTH: 6-12th Grades • Sunday 5-6:30 p.m.
www.sitkaag.org • facebook.com/sitkaag

BAHA’I FAITH

The Baha’is of Sitka meet for community prayers via video conference from 6-6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month. All are welcome to join our devotionals. A monthly informational “fireside” will be held from 7-8 p.m. the 2nd Thursday of each month. For details, contact the Baha’is of Sitka: Email: info@sitkabahai.org • PO Box 2444, Sitka • 623-0802 • sitkabahai.org

CALVARY CHAPEL SITKA

Sunday service at 2:30 p.m. at 502 Hirst Street
Sunday pre-service prayer at 2 p.m.
Pastor Dug Jensen, 747-5454, calvarysitka.com
Men’s Bible Study Thursdays 6:30 p.m. at 305 Moller Ave.
Women’s Bible Study Thursdays 6:30 p.m. at 502 Hirst Street
Thursday Prayer for Christ’s Will for our Children, Church & Country, noon at 305 Moller Ave.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

1113 Edgcombe Dr., Preacher Joel Warner
(907) 252-2141 or (907) 747-5859
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
Bible Class 10 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship 6 p.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

All are welcome to come and worship with us.
Sawmill Creek Road & Shotgun Alley
www.churchofjesuschrist.org
Bishop Keith Brady: 747-8991 or 738-7047
Sacrament Meeting: Sunday at 10 a.m.
Sunday School, Primary, Relief Society, Elders: Sunday at 11:10 a.m.
Genealogy Library Hours: Wednesday, 7-9 p.m.

ChristImage

215A Smith Street
Sunday night service @ 6p.m.
www.christimage.org

ECKANKAR

Religion of the Light & Sound of God
Workshop services held monthly. More information: 747-8902

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SITKA

Pastor: Craig Dunbar. Affiliated Southern Baptist Convention
514 Halibut Point Road, Near AC Lakeside Grocery Store
747-8684
Meeting times:
Sunday 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. age level Bible studies, 11 a.m. worship service
Nursery ages 0-3 provided for Bible studies and worship times.
Wednesday small group meets at 6:30 p.m.

GRACE HARBOR

1904 Halibut Point Road
Pastor Eric Holmgren, 907-747-5706
Please check our website and “Events” for current Sunday School and Teen Offerings
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Children’s Church (up to age ~12) 10:30 a.m.
Middle and High School Youth Groups alternating Fridays 5:30 more info: https://www.sitkagraceharbor.com

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS)

Services Sunday 10:30 a.m.
304 Tilson St., 747-6938
info@sitkalutheran.net • www.sitkalutheran.net/
• www.facebook.com/sitkalutheran/

THE SALVATION ARMY

405 Sawmill Creek Blvd., 747-3358
Majors Joe and Flo Murray
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
Women’s Ministries at Tuesday 2 p.m.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

1613 Halibut Point Road, 747-8855 •
http://sitkaadventistchurch.org
Sabbath School 9:30 a.m. Saturday
Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Saturday
KQQS 89.3 FM Christian Radio

SITKA JEWISH COMMUNITY

Information: 747-1608. Shabbas Davening 10:30 a.m., Torah Mysticism Class, 5 p.m. followed by Mincha. More info & candle lighting times: 738-1608.

SITKA LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

224 Lincoln Street, 747-3338 • P.O. Box 598
Pastor Mimi Goodwin
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. in person and via Zoom
Email: sitkalutheranchurch@gmail.com
Webpage: www.sitkalutheranchurch.com
For more information on how to join Zoom services, email church at sitkalutheranchurch@gmail.com or call 747-3338.

SITKA BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Independent/Fundamental)
Sun. Service: 10:30am Yaw Chapel (Park at Hames, take trail)
Women’s Bible Study: Thurs. 7 p.m., Call for location
Officiator Dale Hanson, 747-6498

SITKA CHRISTIAN CENTER

502 Hirst Street, 747-6771, phone 747-5405 fax
Pastor Scott Hutton
Sunday: Prayer, 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Church Service, 10:30 a.m.;
Sunday Morning Children’s Church, 11:00 a.m.;
Tuesday Early Morning Prayer, 6:00 a.m.;
Wednesday Evening Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.;

SITKA CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

305 Lake Street, 747-8115 (office)
Pastor Chuck Haskins
Sunday Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.

SITKA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

408 Marine Street, parking behind, off Spruce Street
sitkaufellowship@gmail.com facebook.com/SitkaUU
A Fellowship led by the Members Sunday Service
10:45am, come at 10:30 am for coffee and conversation
A simple lunch of soup and bread follows the service.
SIUUF is an inclusive humanitarian community with shared values including: justice, equity, generosity, pluralism, interdependence, transformation and LOVE.

ST. GREGORY’S CATHOLIC CHURCH

605 Lincoln Street • 747-8371
Father Joseph McGilloway
Daily Mass at 12:05 p.m. Monday – Friday in the Main Church.
Saturday: 5 p.m. Mass
Sunday: 10 a.m. Mass
Confessions: Saturdays 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. or by appointment 907-747-8371
Adoration: Saturdays 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. and Sundays 7 a.m.-8 a.m.
Updates placed on the parish Facebook page.
We open the main sanctuary from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

ST. MICHAEL’S OF THE ARCHANGEL

ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
240 Lincoln Street, Phone: 747-8120
Father Herman Belt
Sunday 9 a.m. - Hours and Divine Liturgy
Tuesday 5 p.m. - Akathist to Our Lady of Sitka
Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy
Thursday 5 p.m. - Akathist (rotating)
Saturday 5 p.m. - Vigil

ST. PETER’S-BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH

611 Lincoln Street/P.O. Box 1130
stpeters-sitka.org
The Rev. Julie Platson, Rector
The Rev. Kathryn Snelling, Deacon
The Rev. Glenda Quintana, Deacon
Sunday services are held in person at 9 a.m. in person and on zoom.
The church is open daily for persons to stop in for a time of quiet, rest, and prayer.
For other current services, programs and Zoom info, please email the church at stpetersbytheseak@gmail.com or call (907) 747-3977.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SITKA

303 Kimsham St., 747-8775
Pastor Bennie Grace Nabua
E-mail: umc@umcsitka.com, Website: umcsitka.com
Sunday Morning Service @10, Sunday Children’s Church @10.
Service is also livestreamed at https://www.facebook.com/umcsitka.

UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

101 Cascade Creek Road • (907) 690-0292
Pastor Patrick Miller
Sunday Worship Service 3 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.



Janice Marie (Williams) Limbaugh

Service Sunday for Janice Limbaugh

A celebration of the life of Janice Marie (Williams) Limbaugh will be held 3 p.m. Sunday, May 18, at the ANB Founders Hall. It will be pot-luck-style.

Janice died Oct. 13, 2024, in Spokane, Washington. A former Sitkan, she had been a resident of Moses Lake, Washington, since 2012. She was born July 31, 1962, at Mt. Edgcombe Hospital. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Margaret Carlson, 332 Kaagwaantaan Street, Sitka, AK 99835.

Calendar of Events

FRIDAY

5:30 p.m. NA Meeting, St. Peter’s Church basement
5:30 p.m. Family Game Night, STA, 204 Signaka Way
5:30 p.m. STA Zumba, Blatchley school
7-9 p.m. “The Game’s Afoot,” Sitka High play, Performing Arts Center
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 juliehughesstri.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
2-4 p.m. “The Game’s Afoot,” Sitka High play, Performing Arts Center
2 p.m. Pacific High School Graduation, Sheef’ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi
7-9 p.m. “The Game’s Afoot,” Sitka High play, Performing Arts Center
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

SUNDAY

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Final Day of Annual Quilt Show, Ocean Wave Quilters, Fraser Hall on SJ Campus
Noon-3 p.m. Sheenák Park/Sheet’ká Treetop Adventures for locals, barbecue, free event, 4951 Halibut Point Road
Noon AA, St. Peter’s basement, call AA hotline 747-8866 for information
7 p.m. AA, St. Peter’s basement, 611 Lincoln St., hotline 907-747-8866

MONDAY

6-8 a.m. MEHS Aquatic Center pool open
Noon AA, St. Peter’s basement, call AA hotline 747-8866 for information
5:30-6:30 p.m. AA, Sitka Pioneers Home Recreation Kitchen, call AA hotline 747-8866 for information
6 p.m. White Elephant Shop open
7 p.m. Sitka High School Graduation Ceremony, Sitka High
7 p.m. Sitka Sportsman’s Association board meeting

A REVIEW:

‘Secret Alaska’ Revealing

“Secret Alaska: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure” by Bailey Berg | Published by Reedy Press | softcover 182 pages, \$27

As a new Alaskan resident, I felt it was like a rite of passage to learn about Haines’ Hammer Museum with a 20-foot hammer in the front yard, or the potentially history-altering boarding house in Fairbanks that may or may not have contributed to President Warren Harding’s untimely death. I had an entire childhood’s worth of road trips and campfire urban legends to learn about California’s idiosyncrasies, but “Secret Alaska: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure” by Bailey Berg is a quick and comprehensive crash course to catch me up on my new home state’s strangeness.

Berg, a freelance writer who lived in Alaska for eight years, dedicates her book “to the untamed wilderness of Alaska” and “those who dare to explore its wild heart” — her passion for uniquely Alaskan customs and landmarks is clear in the book’s careful

curation. In the 167 highlighted items, Berg paints with broad strokes a state steeped with history, the exploits of thrill seekers and passionate people who dedicate themselves to improving their communities. She highlights underrepresented features in the usual guides to Alaska, honoring small achievements made remarkable by the communal effort and passions bolstering it.

In addition to interesting trivia, “Secret Alaska” imparts tidbits of Alaskan history in a fun, consolidated fashion. From the origins of the state flag — designed by 13-year-old Benny Benson — to the prohibition of selling subsistence foods commercially (except reindeer!), I learned things about Alaska I didn’t know before and probably wouldn’t have thought to look up.

Berg’s “Secret Alaska” is a love letter to an often unexplored Alaska. Be careful when choosing to read it: it may inspire wanderlust.

— Cathy Li

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.

RIDE to Take Week’s Break

The RIDE public transit has updated the times it will not be running due to Memorial Day observance, rebranding, cleaning and staff training.

The new dates it will not be in operation are Monday, May 26, through Friday, May 30.

Service will be back in full swing on Monday, June 2.

“We thank everyone for their understanding during this outage in service and wish everyone a meaningful and memorable Memorial Day,” the RIDE said.

Contact the RIDE office at 907 747-7103 with questions.

Family Connect Offers Resources

Parents and caregivers who are raising children and young adults who are neurodivergent are invited to share resources, celebrate uniqueness, discuss challenges and triumphs at a monthly group meeting.

Family Connect meets on the last Thursday of the month. It is supported by Sitka Counseling and the Hope Coalition.

Call or text Maggie at 907 623-8239 for information, location or to discuss accessibility accommodations.

Class Dismissed

The last day of school for students in the Sitka School District is Wednesday, May 21.

Students will be dismissed as follows:

First grade and bus, 11:45 a.m.
Kindergarten pick-up, noon
Grades 2-5, noon
Pacific High School, 12:30 p.m.
Blatchley Middle School, 12:45 p.m.
Sitka High School, 12:50 p.m.

No lunches will be served. Parents should contact the school offices with questions.



Cam Haggett. (Photo provided)



Aloha Harp. (Photo provided)

Two Volunteering At Sitka Lutheran

Valparaiso University, Indiana, student Cam Haggett, and veteran Aloha Harp of Couperville, Wash., are volunteers at Sitka Lutheran Church this month.

Haggett served as assistant minister at College Lutheran in Salem, Virginia, which is not far from her home in Roanoke. She is active in ministry while studying Spanish and English at the Honors College at Valparaiso.

Harp has served as a Sitka Lutheran Church volunteer several times. As a retiree who worked in health care for many years she is now a leader in managing the Food Bank in her home town.

The two will partner in greeting tourists, caring for the church, making popcorn and proclaiming the Gospel while explaining Sitka Lutheran’s rich Finnish-Lutheran heritage to tourists.

Sunday morning worship services at Sitka Lutheran are held at 10:30 a.m. in the building and on Zoom. For information call the church office at 907 747-3338, visit the church’s web site at sitkalutheranchurch.com or e-mail is sitkalutheranchurch@gmail.com.

This section is sponsored by:

AC Lakeside Grocery

This page is presented by
AC Lakeside Grocery to all religious faiths
of Sitka as a gesture of respect for their
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Office Space

Office Space

NEURObehavioral Consultants, LLC

For Rent: Generously-sized private office space for rent in a convenient downtown location.

Private entrance. Access to shared bathroom. Electricity included.

Perfect for massage/bodywork, mental health modalities – room enough to meet with clients, or comfortable as a solo office space. Some parking. Available June 1st.

\$1000 a month.

Please call 907-747-3743 and ask to speak with Zak re: questions and/or to arrange a viewing.

Help Wanted

JOIN OUR team! Seasonal sales associate needed at Brenner's Fine Clothing & Gifts. 30-to-40 hours a week. Pay starts at \$18/hour DOE. Duties include customer service, stocking, tagging, and must be able to lift 30 to 40 lbs. Excellent customer service skills and a well-kept appearance are required. Please send us a private message, call (907)747-3468, or email brennersofsitka@gci.net.

POSITION VACANCY: The Sitka School District is accepting applications for full-time and part-time Food Service Assistants (Cooks). Qualifications include high school diploma or equivalent, possession of or eligible to obtain an "Alaska Food Handler" card, and a valid Alaska Driver's license. Position begins August 13th. Starting wage: \$23.19-\$28.25, DOE. Closing date: Open until filled. To apply, go to the district website: sitkaschools.org, click on Employment. The Sitka School District is an equal opportunity employer. Alaska Natives are encouraged to apply.

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

GARDENER AND/OR Housekeeper Needed. 907-713-7589.

Marine for Sale


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

Business Services

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

ARBORSMITH TREE Care. Climbing arborist, tree risk assessor, consulting arborist. Fine pruning to large technical removals.
www.arborsmithtreecare.com
907-219-0242. AK LIC#10306880

OCEANSIDE EXCAVATION. One-stop source for all excavation and concrete work. Land development, grading, driveway work, rock walls, concrete foundation, retaining walls, patios, concrete driveways, curbs, gutters, and much more. Call for estimate, 738-1027.

 Sitka Counseling

We are seeking enthusiastic, motivated, and trauma-sensitive individuals to join our team. We offer flexible schedules, FT or PT, during school hours, evenings, and week-end shifts. Generous Benefits; 13 paid holidays and floating holidays, 12 Sick days annually and 15 Vacation days annually upon hire, plus health insurance, 401k with 5% match. Willing to train open-minded people.

Behavioral Health Clinicians
Children's mental health, Master level - Salary DOE

Admin Assistant/Coordinator -
Children's mental health

Direct Support Providers (DSP) -
Family Center

Program Manager - Adult Substance Use residential, Master level - Salary DOE

Prevention-Wellness Coordinator

Pay starts \$23.00 w/ benefits. Email info@scpsak.org for more information. Valid AKDL, Pre-employment UA and Background Check Required. Submit your resume to info@scpsak.org. Application on www.sitkacounseling.org/careers. EOE

Fishing Permits

POWER TROLL PERMIT. 907-738-1439

Legal Notices

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT SITKA
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JANICE LYNNE DAVIS, Deceased
No. 1SI-25-00008 PR
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Camden Davis has been appointed by the Superior Court in Sitka, Alaska, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Janice Lynne Davis. All persons or entities having claims against the decedent are required to present their claims within (4) four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to the Personal Representative of the estate c/o Law Office of Brandon C. Marx, P.O. Box 6171, Sitka, Alaska 99835 or filed with the Superior Court in this matter.
DATED this 1st day of May, 2025 at Sitka, Alaska.

Brandon C. Marx
Attorney for Camden Davis
As Personal Representative
Estate of Janice Lynne Davis
PUBLISH: May 2, 9, 16, 2025

LOCAL LARGE-SIZED Sitka fishing lodge with an excellent reputation seeks full- & part-time employees for serving breakfasts and dinners in our Lodge dinner room. Shifts range from 4 to 8 hours and jobs start late May & go thru Sept 16. We are a positive & rewarding workplace with competitive wages. D.L. required. Email: kingfisherlodgehr@gmail.com

OPEN Monday through Saturday

Mon-Sat 9-5 • Sun Closed
475 Katlian • 747-3171
LFS MARINE SUPPLIES
COMMERCIAL & SPORT FISHING GEAR

Beginner Ukulele Lessons Offered

Sitka Ukulele 100 free beginner instruction will be offered 5-7 p.m. May 18 at the Sitka Pioneers Home Chapel. Participants should take their own ukuleles.

LEGAL NOTICE

Hurtigruten Expedition Cruises AS dba MS ROALD AMUNDSEN and MS FRIDTJOF NANSEN located at LANGKAIA 1, 0150, OSLO, 0150, NORWAY, is applying for transfer of Common Carrier Dispensary Vessel AS 04.11.260 liquor licenses to HX Cruises, Ltd. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov



GRANT AWARD – White Elephant Board secretary and volunteer Sue Fleming, left, presents a \$2,000 grant award to Jeanine Brooks, Sitka School District social worker. (Photo provided to the Sentinel)

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.

School Board to be At Graduations

Sitka School Board members will attend graduation ceremonies for Pacific High School on May 17 and Sitka High School on May 19.

The board also will attend the Blatchley Middle School Rites of Passage on May 21.

Sitkans Earn Grant Funding

The Juneau Community Foundation and the Brady family of Skagway announces the Margaret Frans Brady Fund has awarded \$11,000 in scholarship funding to 21 qualifying area residents pursuing artistic excellence at camps, conferences, schools, or colleges in the coming months.

College/University Program Awards were given to two Sitka residents, Rita Christianson, \$1,000, and Fiona Ferguson, \$750.

Christianson, a 2025 Sitka High graduate, is a multi-talented student with a flair for costume design. She will attend DePaul University in the Chicago in the fall.

Ferguson, a 2021 graduate from Sitka High School, is a student artist at Western Washington University and will be gaining her arts education degree in the fall.

Sitka Fine Arts Camp awards of \$500 were given to three students from Skagway School: Amara Fielding, Anika Thole and Naomi Klug. Two Juneau students, Kiana Twitchell and Taylor Steele, also were awarded \$500 each to attend the June camp.

"We had a record number of applicants this year, and the level of artistic talent in our area continues to grow and impress our scholarship committee," said Jeff Brady, MFB fund adviser.

The Margaret Frans Brady Fund was established in 2012 at the Juneau Community Foundation to support arts and education projects and programs in Skagway and northern Southeast Alaska. A separate MFB Arts Scholarship Fund was established a year later to assist students and artists in the area with scholarships to help them improve their creative abilities.

More information about the fund and how nonprofits may apply for an arts and education project grant may be found at: <https://www.juneaucf.org/fund/margaret-frans-brady-fund/>.

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.

CITY & BOROUGH OF SITKA

LEGAL NOTICE

Tree and Landscape Committee

The Tree and Landscape Committee will meet **noon Tuesday, May 20, 2025** in Harrigan Centennial Hall. Agenda items include: Future projects. The meeting is open to the public.
Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Published: May 16, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Planning Commission Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, May 21, 2025
7:00 PM
Harrigan Centennial Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA
III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES
A Approve the May 7, 2025 meeting minutes.
IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD
(Public participation on any item off the agenda. All public testimony is not to exceed 3 minutes for any individual, unless the Chair imposes other time constraints at the beginning of the agenda item.)
V. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT
VI. REPORTS
VII. THE EVENING BUSINESS
B. Public hearing and consideration of a zoning variance request to increase the maximum allowable height of an accessory structure from 16 feet to 20 feet for a detached garage at 2217 Halibut Point Road in the R-2 MHP multifamily and mobile home district. The property is also known as Lot 15-A-3, Hatsue Potter Subdivision. The request is filed by Marty Martin. The owner of record is the Marty J. and Elizabeth A. Martin Revocable Trust.
C. Public hearing and consideration of a final plat for a minor subdivision to result in three lots at NHN Ring Island in the GI general island district. The property is also known as Tract A, U.S. Survey 3480, embracing Ring Island in Sitka Harbor. The request is filed by Justin Brown. The owners of record are Paul Blankenship and Justin Brown.
D. Public hearing and consideration of an conditional use permit for a bed and breakfast at 629 DeGroff Street in the R-1 single-family and duplex residential district. The property is also known as Lot 15, Amended Pinehurst Subdivision. The request is filed by Meaghan Way. The owners of record are Meaghan Way, James Way, and Lesa Way.
E. Discussion on prioritization of pending zoning code changes.
VIII. ADJOURNMENT
NOTE: More information on these agenda items can be found at <https://sitka.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> or by contacting the Planning Office at 100 Lincoln Street. Individuals having concerns or comments on any item are encouraged to provide written comments to the Planning Office or make comments at the Planning Commission meeting. Written comments may be dropped off at the Planning Office in City Hall or emailed to planning@cityofsitka.org. Those with questions may call (907) 747-1814.
Published: May 16, 19, 2025

LEGAL NOTICE

Assembly Meeting

The Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka will meet for a regular meeting **6:00 p.m. Thursday, May 29, 2025** in meeting room 6 of Harrigan Centennial Hall, 330 Harbor Drive, to hold public hearing on the following ordinances:

ORD 25-10: Making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2025 (Homeland Security Grant Travel for AlaskEx and Fire Department Radios)

ORD 25-11: Making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2025 (Procurement of EV Transit Van for Parks and Recreation Division)

ORD 25-12: Amending Title 10, "Public Peace, Safety and Morals," and Title 22, "Zoning" of the Sitka General Code by modifying certain sections throughout these titles to add and regulate onsite marijuana consumption facilities

Sara Peterson, Municipal Clerk
Published: May 16, 2025

LEGAL NOTICE


Request for Proposals
By the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska
Fisheries Enhancement Fund

Request for Proposals for the disbursement of the available \$47,883 in the Fisheries Enhancement Fund, established by Ordinance 2006-38 and approved by voters in the regular election held October 3, 2006, will be received at the Administrator's Office, City Hall, City and Borough of Sitka, 100 Lincoln Street, Sitka, Alaska. Or, email to holley.bayne@cityofsitka.org by **Wednesday, June 4, 2025, 2:00 pm**. Proposals received after the time fixed for receipt will not be considered.


Include the following information in the proposal:
History of the organization
Current balance sheet
Pro forma financial statements
Dollars requested from funds
State what will be achieved with the funding
Explain how this will enhance fisheries within the City and Borough of Sitka

Please contact the Administrator's Office for additional information at 100 Lincoln Street, Sitka, Alaska, 747-1812, or holley.bayne@cityofsitka.org.
Published April 18, May 16

Polling Places - May 2025



Remember to vote in the Special Municipal Election on Wednesday, May 28



Polls are open from 7 AM to 8 PM

Precinct Name	Location
SITKA NO. 1 (02-765)	Harrigan Centennial Hall 330 Harbor Drive Meeting Rooms 5 & 6
SITKA NO. 2 (02-770)	Harrigan Centennial Hall 330 Harbor Drive Meeting Rooms 2 & 3
EARLY VOTING (02-969)	Harrigan Centennial Hall 330 Harbor Drive Weekdays May 13 - 27 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. & Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to noon

A wheelchair accessible booth and an ADA compliant voting apparatus are available during early voting and at each precinct on Election Day.

Other voting options include voting by mail, fax, email, or personal representative.

For more information, contact the Municipal Clerk's Office at 907.747.1826, 907.747.1811 or visit <https://www.cityofsitka.com/SpecialMunicipalElection>.

SAMPLE BALLOT

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER: To vote for the issue/candidate of your choice, fill in the oval next to the issue/candidate you want to vote for. Place your ballot inside the secrecy sleeve and then take your ballot to the ballot box.

If you make a mistake while voting, return the ballot to the election official for a new one. A vote which has been erased or changed will not be counted.

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA
OFFICIAL BALLOT
SPECIAL ELECTION
MAY 28, 2025

Instructions:
To vote, completely fill in the oval next to your choice like this: ●
Use a blue or black ink pen to mark your ballot. NO RED INK. If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

Proposition No. 1	
Shall the City and Borough of Sitka (CBS) adopt proposed Ordinance No. 2024-33 to regulate all cruise ship visitation, beginning with the 2026 cruise season, by establishing:	
1. regulations on large cruise ships (defined as ships accommodating 250+ overnight passengers) to include: a. limiting port calls to the cruise season (defined as May 1 – September 30); b. restricting port calls to a maximum of six days per week ensuring at least one day per week with no port calls; c. an annual cap of 300,000 scheduled passengers ashore per cruise season; and d. a daily cap of 4,500 scheduled passengers ashore;	
2. requirements for the CBS to implement and administer a scheduling and permitting system for large and small cruise ships;	
3. requirements for the CBS to enforce provisions for violations (principally through fines, permit revocation, and/or suspending permit eligibility for one year), to be imposed on cruise ship owners or operators; and	
4. requirements for cruise ship operators to report visitation data to the CBS.	
Informational: See proposed Ordinance No. 2024-33.	
<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO

Sunshine Corner

These ads are FREE!

Email to: sunshine@sitkasentinel.com, drop off at 112 Barracks St., or fax to 747-8898. Watch for the Sunshine Corner form in each Tuesday's Sentinel. All requests must be received by the Sentinel **BEFORE 3:00 P.M. THURSDAY**. Items are limited to individuals and must be priced at \$200 or less. **LISTINGS WILL NOT BE TAKEN BY PHONE**

MOVING/GARAGE SALES
Saturday 9am-noon 301 Charteris. Desk chairs, heaters, new dehydrator, sewing machines, and more!

FOR SALE
Dyrex 24-inch flat screen TV with remote; Zenith DVD player with remote and HDMI cable. \$25 for both. 907.747.2721

Critter Corner

Sitka Animal Shelter



Meet Hurley!

Hurley is a 14 year old cat looking for a calm and cozy home to spend his senior years. He is very sweet, easy-going, and a little shy. He was recently diagnosed with diabetes and will require a little extra care, but Sitka Friends of Sitka Animal Shelter (FOSAS) is here to support however we can!

Please email FOSAS sitkaanimalfriends@gmail.com for an appointment or information about pet adoptions.



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Police Blotter

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

May 15

At 10:34 a.m. some threatening was reported among high schoolers at Moller ball field. The schools were to handle the matter.

A caller said her green Kona bike was stolen off a porch at Ken Brown Apartments, probably on Wednesday.

A driver was reported swerving in the 1100 block of HPR at 7 p.m. Police were unable to locate a vehicle matching the description.

At 9:13 p.m. a caller said dogs were barking non-stop in the 600 block of Monastery Street. The owner was out of town, police learned, and the dog sitter was to see to the problem.

A caller reported internet realty fraud. He was advised to call the government Internet Crime Complaint Center (ic3.gov).

May 16

At 12:05 a.m. a bear sow and two cubs were reported getting into garbage in the 2300 block of HPR. An officer chased them off. At 3:57 a.m. they were reported back in the area. Fish &

Summer Gymnastics Registration on Tap

Registration for City of Sitka Parks and Recreation summer Tongass Tumblers gymnastics is open.

Classes are available for ages 18 months to 11 years. Class options are available for both June and July. All sessions taught by Trisha Bessert.

Registration will be online at <http://recreation.cityofsitka.com>. Parents should apply for scholarships prior to registration.

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

Sheldon Jackson Museum Closure

Sheldon Jackson Museum will close Monday, May 26, in observance of Memorial Day.

Regular hours are 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Museum is closed on state holidays. Admission is \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors, free for ages 18 and under, and free for active-duty military and their families (with an identification).

Mariner's First Aid, CPR Class Slated

AMSEA is conducting a Mariner's First Aid and CPR/AED class 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. May 30, at NSRAA, 1308 Sawmill Creek Road.

The cost for the class is \$125. Attendees will receive the U.S. Coast Guard-accepted two-year first aid and CPR certification from the American Safety and Health Institute.

Registration is online at www.am-sea.org or call (907) 747-3287.

This class will cover CPR and automatic external defibrillators; treatment of choking; medical emergencies; trauma; environmental hazards; patient assessment; medical communications; drowning and hypothermia; and common fishing injuries.

Game responded but was unable to locate the trio.

At 3:30 a.m. a water main on Kirkman Street, off the 400 block of Katlian Street, was reported to have broken.

Emergency Calls

Sitka Fire Department received two ambulance calls Thursday.

Sitka Police

Laila Brevick, 37, was charged Thursday with assault in the fourth degree, domestic violence.

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.

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 Archange 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

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

Sitka High Plans Play for Weekend

Sitka High School will present the play "The Game's Afoot" by Ken Ludwig, directed by Christian Litten and Sam McLaughlin, this weekend.

Performances are 7-9 p.m. tonight and Saturday, with a Saturday matinee 2-4 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students, available at the door.

Community Garden Ground-Breaking Set

Sitka Community Gardens announces its long-awaited ground-breaking 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.

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/wsrVH2bXgJrivz3f9>

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.

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.

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."



CAMPER MONEY – Sitka Fine Arts Camp director Roger Schmidt receives a check from Ocean Wave Quilters guild president Megan Pasternak for \$2,000 for scholarships for campers this summer. Funds were raised at Ocean Wave Quilters guild's annual auction. (Photo provided to the Sentinel)

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, Henry Ward, Katie Elder, Michael Howard, Qiana Fletcher and Tristynn Jackson

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

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

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 mail, 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.

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

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.

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.

Indoor Plant & Succulent Sale & Bake Sale

Saturday, May 31

8am-Noon

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Friday-Thursday: 5:00

Sinners

(R) 2 hrs. 17 min.

Friday - Thursday: 7:30

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SENTINEL SPORTS

Ohtani Dominant in Rout of A's



Dodgers' Shohei Ohtani celebrates after hitting a three-run home run during the third inning against the A's, Thursday in L.A. (AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill)

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Shohei Ohtani homered twice and drove in six runs on his bobblehead night, and the Los Angeles Dodgers routed the Athletics 19-2 on Thursday night to remain unbeaten in their last six series.

After losing the opener 11-1, the Dodgers outscored the Athletics 28-5 over the final two games while improving to 17-4 at home, best in the majors. The 19 runs are their most ever against an American League opponent.

The Dodgers batted around in the third, when Hyesong Kim singled in a run, Ohtani went deep to left-center and Andy Pages added a 416-foot, three-run shot with two outs for a 13-2 lead.

Ohtani tied Aaron Judge and Kyle Schwarber for the major league home run lead with his 15th in the fourth, a two-run, 418-foot blast to center for the 20th multi-homer game of his career.

Ohtani drove in one of the Dodgers' three runs with a sacrifice fly in the second.

They scored three runs in the first, highlighted by Max Muncy's two-run homer. They tacked on another three runs in the eighth.

Kim reached base five times, twice via walk, and scored three runs.

Justin Wroblewski (1-1) got the win.

The Athletics had just three hits, including Max Schuemann's homer, and only one after the second inning.

Ohtani struck out swinging on an 89-mph fastball from A's backup catcher Jhonny Perea in the eighth. The A's saved the ball for Perea, who was pitching for the third time this season.

Ohtani has nine homers in his last 15 games and he leads the majors with 48 runs. ... Every Dodgers starter had at least one hit.

LHJP Sears (4-2, 2.80 ERA) starts for the Athletics today at San Francisco. RH Dustin May (1-3, 4.13) starts the Dodgers' series opener against the Los Angeles Angels.

Missouri Seeks to Keep Teams

(AP) - Missouri's governor said today that he will call the Legislature into a special session to consider incentives aimed at keeping the Kansas City Chiefs and Royals from moving to Kansas after lawmakers failed to pass a plan during their regular, annual session.

Republican Gov. Mike Kehoe wants his state to help with a renovated or new stadium for pro football's Chiefs and with a new home venue for baseball's Royals. A Kansas law enacted last year authorizes state bonds for 70% of the cost of a new stadium, paying them off over 30 years with revenues from sports betting, Kansas Lottery ticket sales, and new sales and alcohol taxes.

Voters in Jackson County, Missouri, where the teams are located, encouraged Kansas officials to make a play for the teams by turning down a sales tax extension last year that would have helped finance a new, \$2 billion ballpark district for the Royals and an \$800 million renovation of the Chiefs' Arrowhead Stadium.

The Chiefs and Royals have played for more than 50 years in side-by-side stadiums in eastern Kansas City, drawing fans from both states of the split metropolitan area. Their stadium leases run until 2031.

"This is a huge economic development package," Kehoe told reporters during a news conference livestreamed from the Missouri Capitol in Jefferson City. "I'd like to see us make sure we can solidify our offer with legislative approval."

The GOP-controlled Missouri House approved a Kehoe-backed bill Tuesday that would have allowed the state to issue bonds for up to half the cost of the stadium projects and allow tax credits of up to \$50 million. But the Republican-controlled Senate abruptly ended its regular-session work Wednesday after a contentious fight over an anti-abortion measure, without taking up the stadium financing measure.

Medveje 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 Medveje Hatchery and back. The half marathon turn-around is at the Green Lake Power House, 10K near the Medveje 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/MedvejeSolsticeRun> (open until 8 p.m. on 6/20/25). Fees: \$30 - 5K, \$35 - 10K and \$45 - 1/2 marathon. Virtual events are also available for \$30.

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

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

Alpine Adventure Run 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 juliehughesstri.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.

Murray Scores 25 as Nuggets Force Game 7

By ARNIE STAPLETON
AP Sports Writer

DENVER (AP) — A sick Jamal Murray may have been questionable for Game 6, but in his mind there was nothing ambiguous about his playing status.

"Absolutely not," Murray said when asked if there was any chance he'd have sat out the game.

Murray scored 25 points and powered the Denver Nuggets past the Thunder 119-107 Thursday night, sending the series back to Oklahoma City for a decisive Game 7.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander also had no doubt.

"Yeah, I knew he was going to play, obviously in a do-or-die situation for them," SGA said. "And they came out with a sense of urgency and jumped on us right away."

After being sick for 24 hours, Murray ignited the Nuggets with a four-point play to start things off and sank a step-back 3-pointer to start the fourth quarter that pushed Denver's lead into double digits.

Nikola Jokic led Denver with 29 points, 14 rebounds and eight assists, and Christian Braun scored a career playoff-best 23 points. But it was second-year reserve guard Julian Strawther who ignited the Nuggets' runaway, scoring a career playoff-high 15 points, all in the second half.

"Julian played huge for us, made



Nuggets guard Jamal Murray, front left, drives to the basket as Thunder guards Alex Caruso, back left, and Luguentz Dort defend in Game 6 in the Western Conference semifinals, Thursday in Denver. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

real big shots," Aaron Gordon said. "I don't think that's something that they game-planned for."

Strawther had a pair of 3s and a layup during the decisive 10-0 third-quarter spurt and he kept making big plays at both ends in the fourth quarter as the Nuggets finally had a laugh in this exhaustive, physical series.

Case in point: Strawther lost a crown

in the fourth quarter. A ballboy retrieved the artificial tooth from the circle when the action went to the other end.

Gordon grabbed at his left hamstring late in the game and hobbled through the final few minutes, but he insisted he'd be fine for Game 7, which is Sunday, with the Minnesota Timberwolves awaiting the winner after dispatching Golden State in five games.

Clark, Reese Set to Headline WNBA Season

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

There's a lot of excitement and buzz around the WNBA as its set to tip off its 29th season tonight thanks in large part to last season's rookie class led by Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese.

The league may have its most anticipated year ahead with the two second year players leading the way. The duo, who helped the league to record ratings and attendance. Their two teams — the Indiana Fever and Chicago Sky — will face each other Saturday for the first of five matchups this season.

The league is coming off a thrilling finals that saw the New York Liberty beat the Minnesota Lynx in a decisive Game 5. Both teams are poised to try and get back to the championship round which will now be a best-of-7 format for the first time this year. Standing in their way could be the Las Vegas Aces, who won the title in back-to-back years in 2022-23.

Clark's Fever made a huge splash

in the offseason, bolstering their roster with the additions of DeWanna Bonner, Natasha Howard and Sophie Cunningham. They also added a new coach in former Fever leader Stephanie White.

One of the teams playing today night will be the expansion Golden State Valkyries, who are the first expansion team in the league since the Atlanta Dream joined in 2008. With the new squad, the league expanded its schedule to 44 games this year.

Here are a few other things to look for this upcoming season:

Promoting respect online and at games

The WNBA launched "No Space for Hate", a multi-dimensional platform designed to combat hate and promote respect across all WNBA spaces both online and in-arena.

The league is focused on four key areas: enhanced technological features to detect hateful comments online; increased emphasis on team, arena, and league security measures; reinforcing

mental health resources; and alignment of core against hate.

"As the WNBA continues to grow in popularity and influence, we're proud to launch 'No Space for Hate' — a league-wide initiative to better protect players, preserve the spirit of the game, and affirm the values of our league," said WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert. "We want our arenas, and our social platforms filled with energy and fandom — not hate and vitriol."

Staying put this summer

Several European players have said publicly that they will forego playing in the Eurobasket this summer, opting to stay and play in the WNBA during that tournament. Seattle's Gabby Williams and Dominique Malonga said they won't play for France at the tournament. Fellow French star Carla Leite also has decided to stay with the Valkyries. The Eurobasket, which starts late next month, is a qualifier for next year's FIBA World Cup that will be played in Germany. The WNBA al-

If he's good to go, that would be a huge relief for Denver interim coach David Adelman, who called Gordon "the reason why we've won games and won series and have a banner hanging up."

Gilgeous-Alexander led the Thunder with 32 points, but he didn't get enough help from his teammates to clinch Oklahoma City's first trip to the Western Conference Finals since 2016. All-Star Jalen Williams scored six points on 3-of-16 shooting.

The Nuggets, who won the title two years ago, finally get two days off after a grueling past few weeks. They have played every other day since April 29.

"The guys in there looked like they were happier to have tomorrow off than they were about going to a Game 7," Adelman said.

The Thunder have only lost back-to-back games twice this season, once in November and once in early April. However, this will be the current iteration's first win-or-go-home game.

"First of all, credit Denver — they threw a punch tonight as has happened in the series, both teams are exchanging blows," Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said. "They got theirs in tonight, and both teams have done a great job of standing back up, including us, and we need to do that on Sunday."

lows players to go compete for their national teams in major tournaments like the Eurobasket without it violating the league's prioritization rules.

Predictions for the season

The Liberty, Lynx and Aces are the top three teams with Indiana right behind as chosen by a 15-member national media panel that does a weekly power poll. The group also chose Minnesota star Napheesa Collier as its preseason MVP and Paige Bueckers as the top candidate for Rookie of the Year.

Rookie class impressing

Bueckers is one of 19 rookies to make opening day rosters in the WNBA, six more than last season. That includes two third round picks — JJ Quinerly (Dallas) and Taylor Thierry (Atlanta). Bueckers, the No. 1 pick in the draft, will try and help revitalize the Dallas franchise. She was the most efficient player in college on the offensive end and capped off her career helping UConn win its 12th national championship.

Tatum Out of Hospital Prior to Crucial Game

By KYLE HIGHTOWER
AP Basketball Writer

Celtics star Jayson Tatum won't be far from Madison Square Garden when Boston faces a must-win situation against the New York Knicks today night as the defending champions attempt to force a deciding Game 7.

Tatum has been released from a New York hospital following season-ending surgery to repair the ruptured right Achilles tendon he suffered late in Boston's 121-113 loss to the Knicks in Game 4 of the Eastern Conference semifinals matchup.

The 27-year-old All-Star had the opportunity to meet with his teammates Thursday at the team's hotel for the first time since he was carried off the court with the injury. He had what the team said was successful surgery on Tuesday and has been recuperating in New York.

"It sucks to see someone go down like that who doesn't deserve it," Celtics guard Sam Hauser told reporters from multiple outlets at the team's



Trainers help Boston Celtics' Jayson Tatum (0) off the court after he was injured, Monday in New York. (AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)

shootaround this morning. "But he wouldn't want more than us to just

keep winning. We saw him yesterday. He seems to be in good spirits. Defi-

DeGrom Wins Lone Star State Pitchers' Duel

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — This anticipated pitchers' duel fully lived up to expectations, with two-time Cy Young Award winner Jacob deGrom getting the win for the Texas Rangers over the blossoming Houston Astros standout who is 10 years younger and threw his first career complete game.

Even before the Rangers won 1-0, manager Bruce Bochy talked about how deGrom will go down as one of the best pitchers ever in the game. He also said Hunter Brown was getting established as one of the best with what he has done over the last year for the Astros.

"Everything we thought this game would be, runs would be at a premium," Bochy said. "I didn't know it'd be one."

Jake Burger led off the sixth with a homer and Texas beat the Astros on Thursday night in the opener of a four-game series.

The 36-year-old deGrom (4-1), who missed most of the past two seasons after joining Texas because of Tommy

John surgery, struck out seven over eight innings and walked just one. The right-hander threw 69 of his 96 pitches for strikes.

His first career start against Houston, on the 11th anniversary of his big league debut with the Mets, was his longest start since a shutout for New York against Washington on April 23, 2021.

"The goal is just to try to take the ball as much as I can, try to stay out on the field, do what I can in between to get ready for the next one," deGrom said. "You miss that much time, you really miss this game. ... Being able to come back and pitch some (late) last year, that gave me a little peace of mind going into this season. So I was able to prepare well this offseason and try to go out there as many times as they let me."

Brown (6-2) entered the game tied for the major league lead with wins. He struck out nine without a walk in a 91-pitch effort, throwing 65 strikes. He retired the first 12 batters before Adolis Garcia lined a sharp

double to left to start the fifth, the inning before Burger went deep.

"They both know it's a pitchers' duel and sometimes in a pitchers' duel, one pitch sometimes is all it takes. That's what happened in today's game," Astros manager Joe Espada said.

"That one just stinks, you know? You want to come out on top of those games and it didn't fall our way," Brown said. "There's a handful of pitches throughout the course of the game that got foul balls or guys popped them up or hit a ground-ball. (Burger) was able to put a really good swing on it and make us pay for it."

Brown had gone 6-0 in seven starts since losing his season debut in a 3-1 loss to the Mets. Over exactly a year, since May 15, 2024, Brown is 17-7 with 26 quality starts and a 2.18 ERA — only Paul Skenes has a better ERA in that span.

For deGrom, he has a 1.49 ERA over his last six starts.

He got plenty of help from his defense in the latest one. Rangers right fielder Garcia made a sliding catch of a sinking liner by Mauricio Dubon for the final out of the seventh when Houston had a runner at second base. Garcia also had another sliding catch near the line after running a long way to open the fourth, and center fielder Evan Carter had a nice running catch against Jake Meyers to start the fifth.

"Probably my defense behind me," deGrom responded when asked what allowed him to have the longest of his 18 starts for Texas since signing a \$185 million, five-year contract in December 2022.

"He's one of the best ever in this game," Bochy said. "He's just incredible with the stuff, his command and everything, and his competitive nature."

SPORTS CALENDAR

**BASEBALL at Moller Field
TODAY 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

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.

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My dear friend, "Sandra," is married with two children. She and her husband have a 4-year-old son together and another son from her husband's first marriage who is 14. The 14-year-old's life is tough, much like Cinderella's. Sandra treats him very badly. She has him doing all of the housework in their home, belittles him constantly and is very vocal about how much she dislikes him. Her 4-year-old can do no wrong.

The older boy's mother has weekends with her son, but Sandra is open about not liking her either. I feel bad about how the boy is treated and want to talk to Sandra about it, but I don't know how to bring up the sensitive subject and maintain my relationship with the family. Her husband is completely on Sandra's side, so he does nothing to help the boy have a better life. Can you offer any advice? -- FEELING FOR HIM IN WASHINGTON

DEAR FEELING: SOMEBODY has to intervene for that boy. Why does his uncaring father have custody? Could he stay with his mother full time? Are there any other relatives who could take him in? And why would you want a relationship with a heartless couple who are so emotionally abusive?

Because you apparently are the only person who cares at all about that boy, do a little research about possible alternative situations for him. However, if there are none, contact child protective services as a last resort. You won't save your friendship with Sandra, but you may save that child.

DEAR ABBY: My husband asked me to go into his email inbox and settle an issue with an airline. An email popped

up: "Your memories from eight years ago" from a popular photo website. We have been together eight years, and I thought I would see photos of us. They weren't. It was photos of him with his ex-fiancee, including his elaborate proposal. The proposal was something out of a dream. (He proposed to me on our family room couch.) I also realized her ring is exactly like mine.

I'm so hurt. He has never been that romantic with me or put much thought into my gifts. Actually, one year he gave me bed sheets for Christmas, which I never requested. Meanwhile, I'm the one who puts effort into his family's cards and gifts and helps them with celebrations.

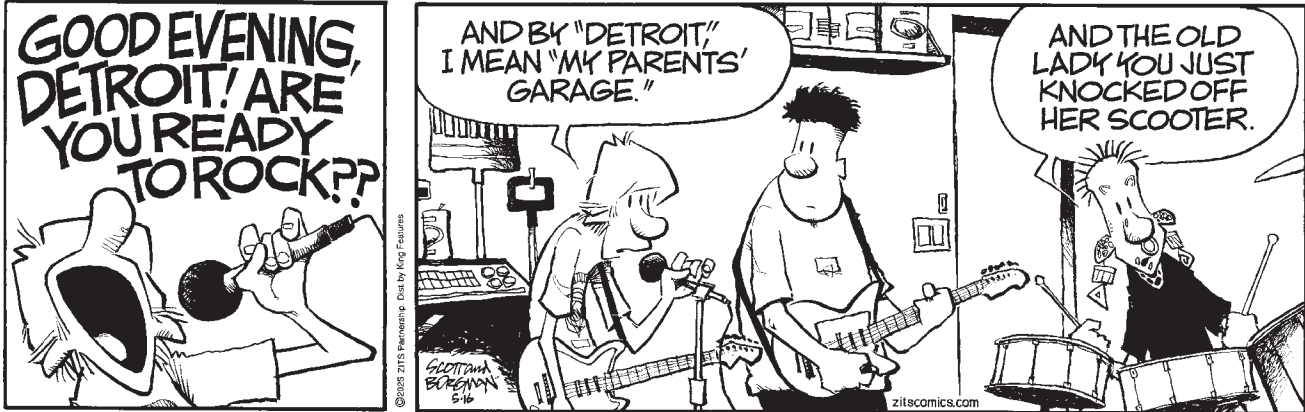
My birthday was this month -- I'm eight months pregnant and I had to pick out and buy my own birthday gift because he said he didn't know what to get me. When I let him know how hurt I feel about everything, he just said, "Let me just go back in time," and walked away. I feel hurt, stuck and unloved. Am I overreacting? -- CRUSHED IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR CRUSHED: I understand your disappointment, but my advice is to revisit this subject after your child is born and you have had more time to think about it. I don't know what happened with your husband's prior relationship, but if it had been terrific, it would have lasted. Not all men are good at planning proposals or choosing cards and gifts, but often they make up for it in other ways. Bide your time.

TUNDRA



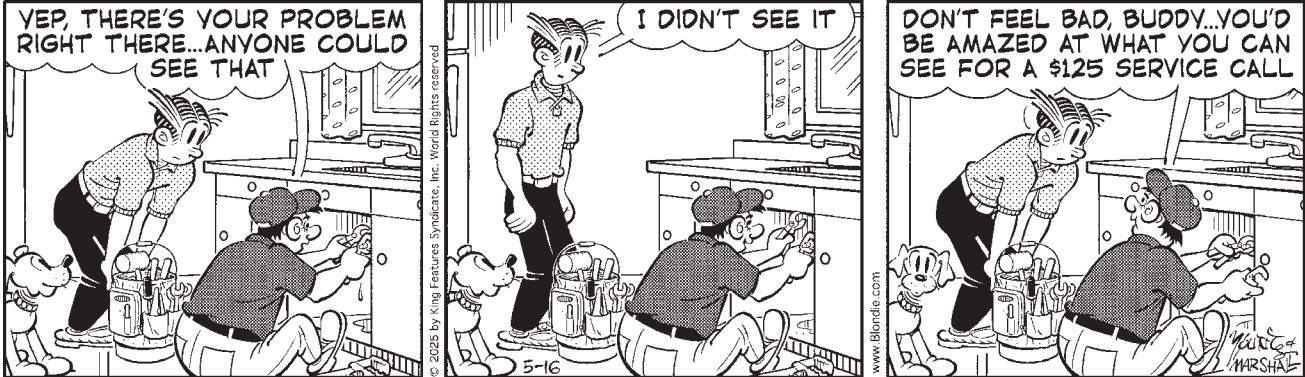
ZITS



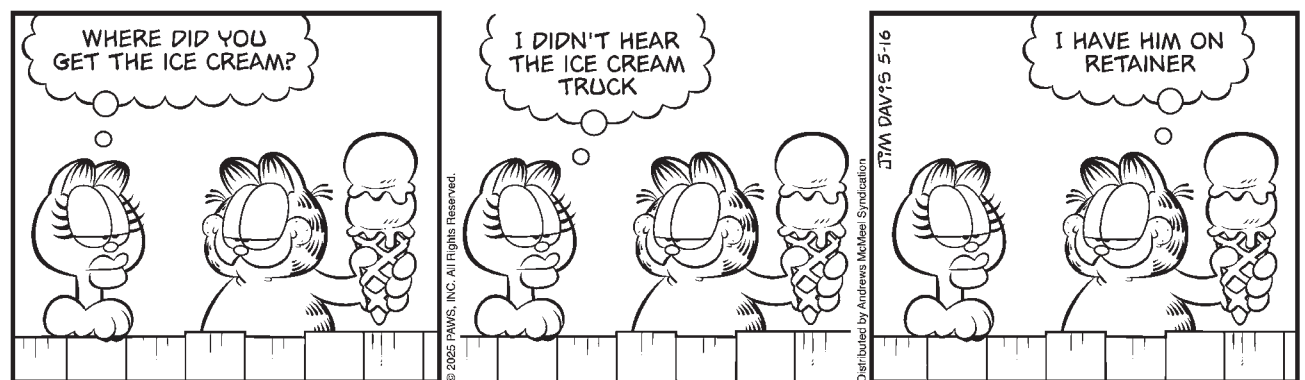
RHYMES WITH ORANGE



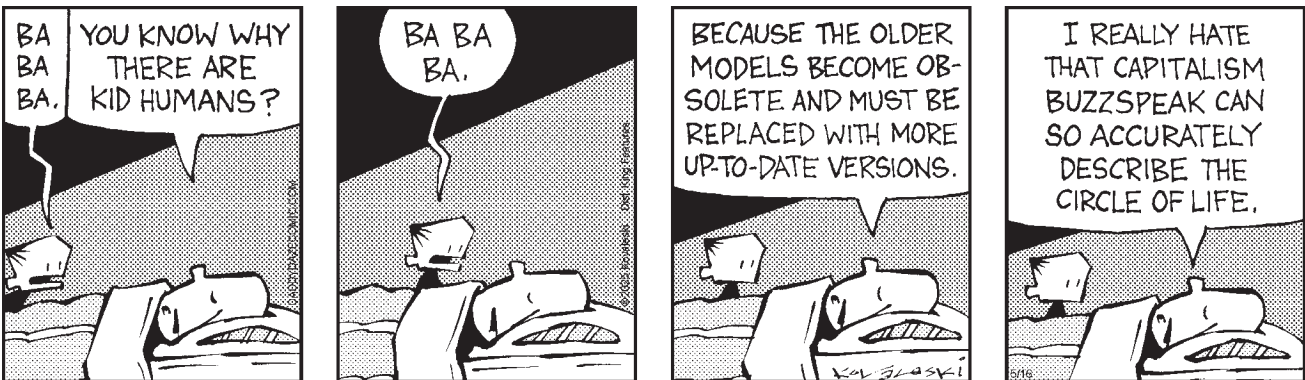
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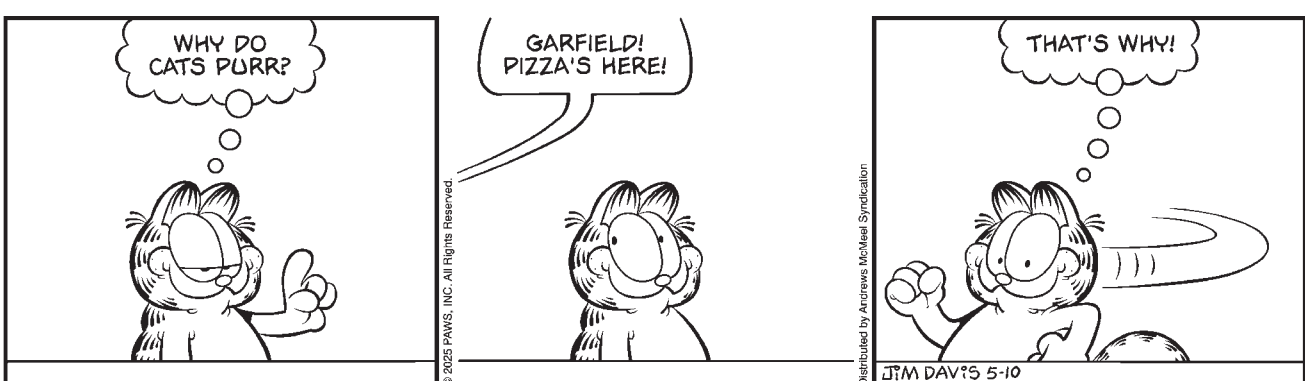
GARFIELD



DADDY DAZE



SATURDAY'S CARTOON...



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

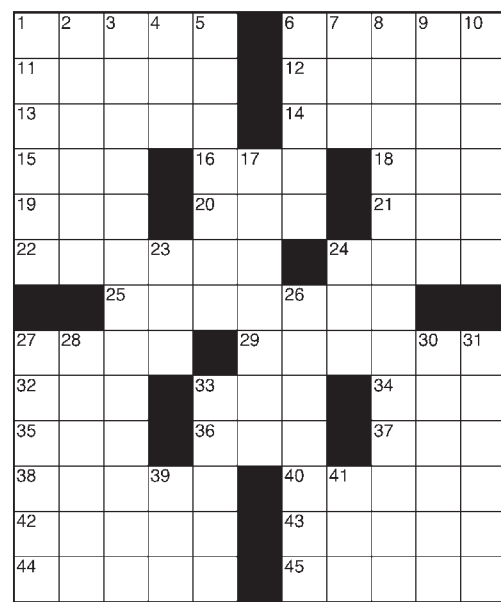
- 1 To now
6 Tests the weight of
11 Give an address
12 Corn-husker city
13 Stacked up
14 Apartment sign
15 Career campaigner
16 Employ
18 Floral garland
19 Yale rooter
20 Cartoon collectible
21 Travel stop
22 Broncos' home
24 Tennis's Roddick
25 Struggling to breathe
27 Overlook
29 Whole
32 Soup buy
33 Hosp. workers
34 Sister, of sorts
35 Wing
36 Seine season
37 Set fire to

38 Rap sheet

- item
40 Make amends
42 Time being
43 Relocation pro
44 Lovable
45 Canary chow

DOWN

- 1 Soaked up
2 Meadow-lark's cousin
3 Obeying
4 Put away
5 Lessens
6 Travel stop
7 Angry rock
8 Becoming smitten
9 Film's final words
10 Lustrous
17 Eden tempter
23 Brewery sight
24 Tiny button
26 Pants worker
29 Good service
31 Keys in
33 Stop-watch
39 Good
41 Low digit



Sitka by the Stars

For Saturday, May 17, 2025

The cosmic forecast for the day invites us to embrace spontaneity and engage with creativity. For those of us who are feeling stuck in a rut, we can harness today's planetary power to shake things up for the better. The day is perfect for visiting new places, trying out new hobbies, and doing anything else that helps us break out of dull routines and free ourselves of rigid habits. Meanwhile, those of us who enjoy doing things outside of the norm will find the day useful for whatever we're in the mood to conjure up.

ARIES

(March 21 to April 19)

Your ingenuity could attract attention and praise as well as money.

TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20)

Put on your adventurer's hat and go somewhere you've never been before. Learn something new. Don't limit yourself.

GEMINI

(May 21 to June 20)

Keep your schedule light today. Give yourself some room to breathe.

CANCER

(June 21 to July 22)

Connect with people who can expose you to something different from the usual.

LEO

(July 23 to Aug. 22)

If you really want to make an impact or a difference, lead by example.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

You may find hope or inspiration in unexpected places. Keep your mind and heart open to the possibilities!

LIBRA

(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

If you're ready to change old habits

that are no longer working for you, today gives you a green light to move forward.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

It's a great time for meeting new people. Reach out and make a connection!

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

Consider implementing new tools into your daily routine that can improve your well-being or quality of life.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

The creative energy in the air is strong. Ride the wave and see where it takes you.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

You might have an emotional breakthrough today that may feel like a large weight has been lifted off your shoulders.

PISCES

(Feb. 19 to March 20)

It's a great day for an activity date with a friend or a group outing. Go have some fun!

FOR TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

You never have to get ready for an opportunity because you're the person who stays prepared. You're enterprising and dedicated. You have enough forethought to plan and avoid potential problems and pitfalls before they happen. You may be quiet and reserved, but it doesn't mean that you're not personable. You appreciate intellectually stimulating conversations and spending time with the people you care about most. Over the past few years, the road may have been rocky and your path uncertain, but this year promises much smoother terrain.

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.

5-16

CRYPTOQUOTE

NGNQX PHKQX E RQNDHN
RQNDHNP CN. E UQEHN HK
RQNDHN CXPNZM. NGNQX
PHKQX E UQEHN DIIP HK CN D

ZEHZN. — KRHDGED WAHZNQ
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: RESENTMENT IS LIKE DRINKING POISON AND WAITING FOR THE OTHER PERSON TO DIE. — CARRIE FISHER



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.

points on the Graduate Level and 3 points on the Ph.D. Level.

Subject: SAME LAST NAME

Provide the same last name of the given people. (e.g., Actor Roger and actress Demi. Answer: Moore.)

FRESHMAN LEVEL

1. Explorer Henry and actor Rock. Answer _____
2. Silent film actor Buster and actress Diane. Answer _____
3. Actor Denzel and singer Dinah. Answer _____

GRADUATE LEVEL

4. TV personality Martha and British singer Rod. Answer _____
5. Singer Michael and Confederate general Stonewall. Answer _____
6. Basketball star "Magic" and former Prime Minister Boris. Answer _____

PH.D. LEVEL

7. British army officer T.E. and author D.H. Answer _____
8. Actor Matthew and baseball pitcher Gaylord. Answer _____
9. Singer Mariah and game show host Drew. 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. Hudson, 2. Keaton, 3. Washington, 4. Stewart, 5. Jackson, 6. Johnson, 7. Lawrence, 8. Perry, 9. Carey.

Sudoku 数独

ANSWER TO
YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

Difficulty: ★★★

5/15

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

5/16

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

Judge: DOJ Falls Short In Abrego Garcia Case

By **MICHAEL KUNZELMAN** and **BEN FINLEY**
Associated Press

GREENBELT, Md. (AP) — A federal judge told the Trump administration today that its explanation for invoking the state secrets privilege in the Kilmar Abrego Garcia case is inadequate, describing the government's reasoning for withholding information as "take my word for it."

Trump administration attorneys have argued that releasing details in open court — or even to the judge in private — about returning Abrego Garcia to the United States would jeopardize national security. For example, they said it would reveal confidential negotiations with foreign countries.

But U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis in Maryland said she was at a loss for how she could independently determine the nature of the government's concerns with the information it provided.

"There's simply no details," she said. "This is basically 'take my word for it.'"

Jonathan Guynn, a Justice Department attorney, disagreed that the explanation was inadequate.

"We think we've provided significant information," he said.

The focus of today's hearing was primarily on the Trump administration's desire to invoke the state secrets privilege, a legal doctrine that is more often used in cases involving the military and spy agencies. But how Xinis ultimately rules could impact the central question looming over the case: Has the Trump administration followed her order to bring back Abrego Garcia?

Abrego Garcia's attorneys argued that the Trump administration has done nothing to return the Maryland construction worker. They say the government is invoking the privilege to hide behind the misconduct of mistakenly deporting him to El Salvador and refusing to bring him back.

"The government is delaying for delay's sake at the expense of someone who was wrongly removed from this country," said Andrew Rossman, an attorney for Abrego Garcia.

Rossman said he isn't arguing that there are no conceivable state secrets at play.

"The question is: 'What have you actually done?'" Rossman said. "I suspect there are no steps, and nothing has happened."

He urged Xinis to reject the notion that the government "can throw a shroud of state secrets" over her order and not comply with it, adding that "simply saying, 'national security,' is not sufficient."

Xinis appeared skeptical of the government's position, particularly after Guynn said there was no need for the judge to review the information the Trump administration deems secret.

"He has been wrongly removed," Xinis responded. "How is it not central to understand what, if anything, you've done to return him? How is it not a need?"

Abrego Garcia's attorneys have also cited recent pronouncements by President Donald Trump and others that Abrego Garcia isn't coming back. For example, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said "there is no scenario where Abrego Garcia will be in the United States again."



Palestinians struggle to get donated food at a community kitchen in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, today. (AP Photo/Abdel Kareem Hana)

Israel Expands Attacks On Gaza Strip, Yemen

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel launched dozens of airstrikes across Gaza today that local health officials said killed 108 people, mostly women and children, and which Israeli officials described as a prelude to a stepped-up campaign to pressure Hamas to release hostages.

Israel also struck two ports in Yemen that it said were used by the Houthi militant group to transfer weapons. Local health officials said at least one person was killed and nine injured.

The strikes across the Gaza Strip followed days of attacks that killed more than 130 people, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and combatants, and came as U.S. President Donald Trump wrapped up a visit to the region that included stops in three Gulf states but not Israel.

There had been widespread hope that Trump's trip could increase the chances of a ceasefire deal or the resumption of humanitarian aid to Gaza, which Israel has prevented for more than two months. The Trump administration is also trying to negotiate a nuclear deal with Iran, which backs several anti-Israel militant groups, including Hamas in Gaza and the Houthis in Yemen.

Speaking to reporters in Abu Dhabi

on the final day of his trip, Trump said he was looking to resolve a range of global crises, including Gaza. "We're looking at Gaza," he said. "And we've got to get that taken care of. A lot of people are starving. A lot of people are — there's a lot of bad things going on."

The Gaza Health Ministry said 31 children and 27 women were killed and hundreds more wounded in today's airstrikes.

In southern Gaza, Israel struck the outskirts of Deir al-Balah and the city of Khan Younis. It said it hit anti-tank missile posts and military structures.

Three children and their grandfather were killed as they fled bombardment in Khan Younis, said the head of pediatrics at Nasser Hospital, Dr. Ahmed al-Farra.

In northern Gaza, the attacks sent people fleeing from the Jabaliya refugee camp and the town of Beit Lahiya. Israel said it eliminated several militants who were operating in an observation compound.

Dark smoke was seen rising over Jabaliya as people fled on donkey carts, by car and foot.

"We got out of the house with difficulty, killing and death, we did not take anything," said Feisal Al-Attar, who was displaced from Beit Lahiya.

Judge Rejects Protection For Trans in Workplace

By **CLAIRE SAVAGE**
The Associated Press

A federal judge in Texas struck down guidance from a government agency establishing protections against workplace harassment based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

Judge Matthew J. Kacsmaryk of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas on Thursday determined that the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission exceeded its statutory authority when the agency issued guidance to employers against deliberately using the wrong pronouns for an employee, refusing them access to bathrooms corresponding with their gender identity, and barring employees from wearing dress code-compliant clothing according to their gender identity because they may constitute forms of workplace harassment.

Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act protects employees and job applicants from employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex and national origin.

The EEOC, which enforces workplace anti-discrimination laws, had updated its guidance on workplace harassment in April of last year under President Joe Biden for the first time in

25 years. It followed a 2020 Supreme Court ruling that gay, lesbian and transgender people are protected from employment discrimination.

Texas and the Heritage Foundation, the conservative think tank behind Project 2025, in August challenged the guidance, which the agency says serves as a tool for employers to assess compliance with anti-discrimination laws and is not legally binding. Kacsmaryk disagreed, writing that the guidance creates "mandatory standards ... from which legal consequences will necessarily flow if an employer fails to comply."

The decision marks the latest blow to workplace protections for transgender workers following President Donald Trump's Jan. 20 executive order declaring that the government would recognize only two "immutable" sexes — male and female.

Kacsmaryk, a 2017 Trump nominee, invalidated all portions of the EEOC guidance that defines "sex" to include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity," along with an entire section addressing the subject.

"Title VII does not require employers or courts to blind themselves to the biological differences between men and women," he wrote in the opinion.

Sitka Charitable Trust Gives \$98,423 in Grants

By **Sentinel Staff**
The Sitka Alaska Permanent Charitable Trust board of advisers met Wednesday night to make decisions on grants totaling \$98,423 to 13 Sitka nonprofits and educational institutions.

The trust's seven-member advisory board, all Sitka residents, makes annual grants from the investment income of an endowment fund, presently \$2.4 million.

Grants awarded:
Sitka High Science Department \$20,533
Sitka Sound Science Center \$18,667
Pacific High School Science \$10,702
3 to 5 Preschool \$6,000
Sitka Fine Arts Camp \$8,000
Brave Heart Volunteers \$7,817
Dolly Parton Imagination Library \$3,158
Sitka High School DDF \$952
Outer Coast \$6,304

Sitka Trail Works \$5,583
SAFV \$2,108
SAIL \$6,417
Transition Sitka \$2,182
The SAPCT was founded in 1994 by Alaska Pulp Corp. in the settlement of an environmental lawsuit that set up a \$3 million endowment for grants to Sitka schools and nonprofits for science, education, the arts, and community betterment.

Under the terms of the trust, decisions on the annual grant awards are made by an advisory board consisting of the principal of Sitka High School, the director of NSRAA, the editor of the Sitka newspaper, the president of Sheldon Jackson College (a seat now assigned to the director of UAS Sitka Campus), the commanding officer of USCG Air Station Sitka, the president of the Sitka High School student body, and a former Sitka mayor chosen by the other members.

STA ...

Continued from Front Page

DaGinaa Hit, The Far Out House of the L'uknax.ádi clan, on Katlian Street.

While the cost of clearing the site is unknown, STA leaders are "committed to pay half the costs" to see the remains of the house removed, Gassman said. The Council is seeking "reassurance from the city that you're still in support of helping," she said.

Eisenbeisz said it's "not something that the municipality typically does ... but there are code provisions that allow us to allocate costs for houses that we do need to have removed."

"I think it's well within the Assembly's purview to do as such," Eisenbeisz said.

Council Chair Yeidikook'áa Dionne Brady-Howard said that while the next speaker of DaGinaa Hit has yet to be named, STA has "been in communication with the person who's likely to be named the speaker" to ensure that clan members are able to prepare for the removal of the house.

Discussions on DaGinaa Hit led to the tribe's next item of business: review a recent city process concerning the issuance of a demolition permit for Kaxátjaa Hit, the Shattering Herring House of the Kiks.ádi clan.

The nonprofit Katlian Collective has since purchased the house on behalf of Kaxátjaa Hit, and plans to help preserve and restore the house.

Brady-Howard said that as clan members fought the city's earlier demolition permit for the house they found deficiencies in the permit review process by the city's Historic Preservation Commission.

She said the commission, which "has no real authority ... to really do anything" to protect historic or cultural sites, could have improved the situation by "engaging in consultations" with STA in accordance with the memorandum of agreement between the city and the tribe.

She said the city's lack of a clear appeal process for demolition permits also became problematic.

The situation with Kaxátjaa Hit was "a good reminder" to make sure that "we are all well aware of which properties are either wholly or in part former clan houses," and to ensure that the two local governments engage in consultation regarding historic and cultural sites, she said.

Next on STA's agenda was the city Planning Commission's recent denial of a variance request for a 120-foot communications tower on Nancy Court to boost the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida's broadband Tidal Network.

However, ahead of the meeting, city leaders and STA agreed not to discuss the issue, as Tidal Network has filed an appeal of the commission's decision.

Eisenbeisz said "as it has been appealed, the Assembly will be meeting in a quasi-judicial role in order to hear this appeal."

"So, we really can't talk about this tonight," Eisenbeisz said. "That would taint the decision that was made. So I

would really appreciate it if we could just pull this item and let the appeal process develop as it does, in order to get to the best outcome."

STA also touched on its newly formed ad-hoc Tourism Committee, which includes Alana Peterson, Lillian Feldpausch, Rhonda Stiles, Jeff Feldpausch, Camille Ferguson, and Jamey Cagle. The tribe is seeking one more tribal citizen to serve as an at-large committee member.

The tribe gave updates on management of the Redoubt Lake sockeye run, as well as the land surrounding Redoubt that Sealaska Corp. acquired through an Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act 14 (h)(1)c process.

The U.S. Forest Service has an easement to access the lake and operate a weir at the top of the falls. Regular fertilization of the lake by USFS is uncertain this year given federal funding challenges, STA leaders said.

As STA and Sealaska are preparing to renew a 2013 agreement about lands surrounding the important site, Tribal Council members indicated that nothing would change for Redoubt management "other than Sealaska looping the tribe in as a managing partner."

As the talks ended, city leaders gave updates on a recent lobbying trip to D.C.; touched on projects between the city and federal entities like the Forest Service and the U.S. Coast Guard; and the outset of the 2025 tourism season.

'Buzz' Brown Jr. Dies at Age 77

Lifelong Sitkan Morris Otto "Buzz" Brown Jr. passed away May 12, 2025, at ANMC Hospital in Anchorage.

An obituary will follow later.

Aid ...

Continued from Front Page

tax revenue lost as the federal government began to restrict logging in the 1990s.

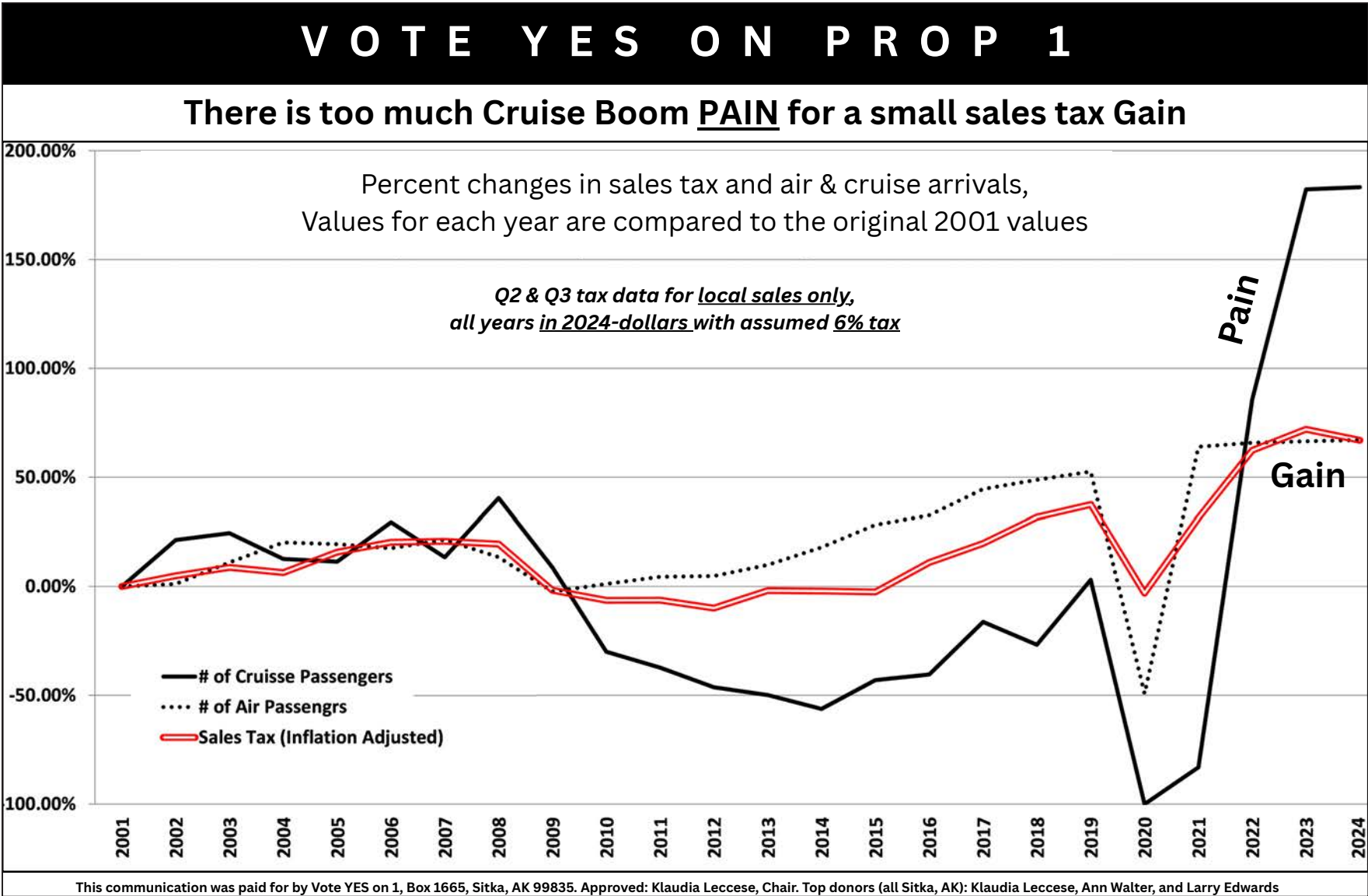
In 2023, the law provided more than \$250 million to districts nationwide, with about 5% of the funding coming to Alaska.

For some of Southeast Alaska's rural school districts, the money was a big part of the local budget. Yakutat, for example, received more than \$6,500 per student. Wrangell had almost \$3,500, and the money was worth \$584 for each of Ketchikan's 2,045 students.

HJR 5, which will be sent to every member of Congress, asks for retroactive funding and for a permanent funding source to pay for the bill.

It also encourages Congress to open more federal land to timber cutting "in a manner that supports rural economic revitalization, conserves habitat, and promotes forest health."

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