



DAILY SITKA SENTINEL

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8 Pages



Local Adventure

Sitkans try out one of the aerial walks at the Sheenák Park/Sheet'ká Treetop Adventures Sunday afternoon. Hundreds turned out for the locals day free event hosted by Shee Atiká at the park, located just past the cruise terminal at 4951

Halibut Point Road. Events included a cultural welcome, ribbon cutting and barbecue salmon lunch. Because of the high turnout Shee Atiká offered rain checks for those unable to get through the line. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)

Allen Marine Adds Help to Sitka Trail Works

GARLAND KENNEDY
Sentinel Staff Writer

A volunteer crew put in a day of hard labor last week on the Lake Eva trail on the northeast corner of Baranof Island in an event coordinated by both Sitka Trail Works and Allen Marine Tours.

The 40 volunteers set out on an Allen Marine small cruise ship last Monday for a long ride north then east through Sergius Narrows to the Lake Eva trailhead, where they made improvements to the remote trail all day Tuesday before returning to Sitka Wednesday. Sitka Trail Works executive director Ben Hughey told the Sentinel.

Trail Works and Allen Marine have worked together on projects for decades, but this is only the second year of their Lake Eva collaboration. In 2024, a volunteer STW crew fixed some major drainage issues and removed fallen trees, Hughey said.

"Most of our drainage (work) was holding up, so we were able to tackle bigger drainage problems," Hughey



A Sitka Trail Works volunteer crew poses at the Lake Eva trailhead Tuesday. (photo by Alex Kelsey)

said. "And then after lunch, the whole team got together and we completely reconstructed about 100 feet of trail at

the very end that had entirely washed out. We located a natural rock slide nearby where we could harvest gravel

and rock, and then had like 30 people moving a ton of material – literally, Continued on Page 3

Dunleavy Vetos Bill On School Funding

By JAMES BROOKS
CORINNE SMITH
Alaska Beacon

Gov. Mike Dunleavy has again vetoed a bill proposing to increase Alaska's per-student public school funding formula for K-12 schools.

House Bill 57, which the House and Senate passed in April, would increase the base student allocation, core of the funding formula, by \$700 per student, providing a slight year-over-year increase in public school funding.

In a brief message with the veto announcement today, the governor said that there was "no evidence that a permanent increase in the Base Student Allocation will improve educational outcomes. Therefore, this bill in its current form does not serve the best interest of Alaskans."

The House and Senate are scheduled to meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday to consider overriding the governor's veto.

In a final draft state budget approved Sunday afternoon by six House and Senate negotiators this year's Permanent Fund dividend will be \$1,000.

The dividend was among the biggest items in a \$5.9 billion document that will fund state services from July 1 this year through June 30 next year.

The draft approved Sunday is scheduled for a final vote as soon as

Tuesday in the House and Senate and will advance after that to Gov. Mike Dunleavy, who may reduce or eliminate individual line items. He may not increase a line item.

The Legislature's regular session reaches its constitutional limit on Wednesday.

The latest forecast from the Alaska Department of Revenue expects significantly lower oil and gas revenue over the next year, and lawmakers significantly cut services and programs during the budget drafting process.

Unlike in previous years, the amount of the Permanent Fund dividend was not a contentious issue for budget negotiators at the end of the legislative session.

Rep. DeLena Johnson, R-Palmer, said on Sunday that lawmakers had already argued the issue earlier in the session, and even though she unsuccessfully voted for a \$1,400 dividend on Sunday, she knew the \$1,000 figure would be final.

"From my perspective, I already knew what this number was going to be," she said.

Compressing the dividend is the state's precarious budget situation.

In December, Dunleavy handed lawmakers a budget draft with a \$2.1

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Himschoot Confident Of BSA Veto Override

SHANNON HAUGLAND
Sentinel Staff Writer

Sitka Rep. Rebecca Himschoot says she's optimistic that "the votes are there" in the Legislature to override Gov. Dunleavy's veto today of a proposed permanent per-pupil increase in a bipartisan education bill.

Himschoot, who spoke to the Sentinel Sunday, had expected the veto.

"The most important thing in the next couple of days is whether House Bill 57 becomes law without the governor's signature or gets vetoed, and his deadline to veto it is tomorrow," Himschoot said on Sunday. "...I think people are frustrated, and we plan to override if there is a veto. I'm optimistic we have the votes to override."

A joint session to override the veto is planned Tuesday.

In a brief update three days before the end of the session, Himschoot discussed HB57, which calls for a \$700 increase in the base student allocation, and other legislation she has worked on since the session opened in mid January.

HB 57 is considered a compromise, since it includes some items requested by the governor: a cell phone ban in the schools, language supportive of charter schools, and creation of legislative task force to "take a deep dive on education funding."

"It would be kind of a comprehensive look at how we're funding schools in Alaska," she said. "But to me, funding is the most important part (of the bill) because when we increase the BSA we increase funding to every form of school in Alaska: homeschool Continued on Page 3

Commencement Tonight for 72 Graduates in Sitka High School Class of 25

By Sentinel Staff

Seventy-two Sitka High School seniors will enter the school gymnasium at 7 p.m. tonight to become the school's 95th graduating class.

Class members will take their place on the stage to "Pomp and Circumstance," performed by the Sitka High symphonic band, directed by Andrew Hames.

Principal Laura Rogers will welcome visitors and give introductions.

Wanatrix Emily Hoffay and Eil Yéigi Andrew Cranston-Simmons will give the Tlingit welcome.

The Filipino welcome will be given by Julia Nabua and Den Jomar Molina.

Francis Myers will give recognition of ambassadors.

Most Representative Students Elise

Brady and Rex Adres will speak. The two were chosen by the teachers.

Also speaking is Senior Class Representative Jasmine Wolfe, who was chosen by the senior class.

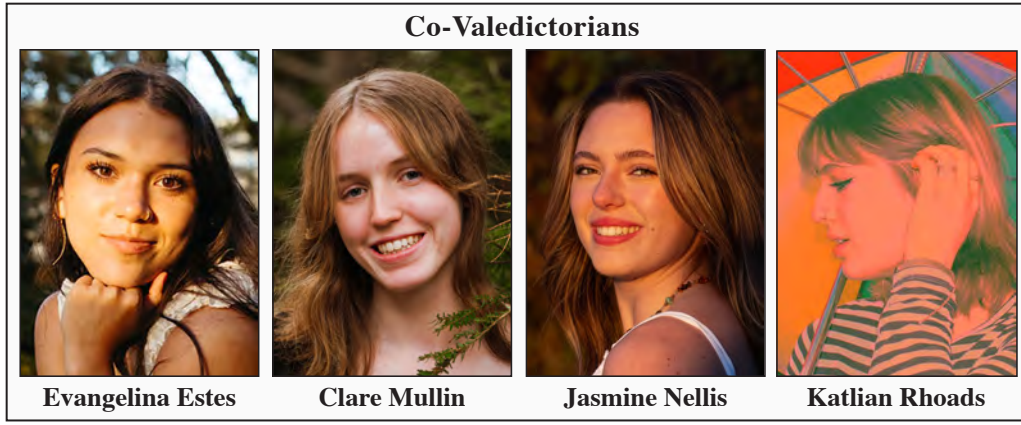
Guest speaker is Stacy Golden, Sitka High instructor.

The senior invitational, "Prospect" by P. La Plante, will be performed by the symphonic band's senior class members.

Senior vocal invitational, "Carry the Light" by A. Beck, will follow.

A video of the classmates, compiled by the senior class and advisers, will be shown.

Sitka School Board President Phil Burdick will present co-valedictorians Evangelina Estes, Clare Mullin, Jasmine Nellis and Katlian Rhoads and



salutatorian Elise Brady. Sitka School Board members Burdick, Tom Williams, Steven Morse,

Amanda Williams and Paul Rioux will join Superintendent Deidre Jensen, Principal Laura Rogers, Assistant Principal Tyler McCarty and Activity Director Rich Krupa in presenting diplomas to the graduating class.

Baranof Chapter of the National Honor Society senior members are Rex Adres, Kaelynn Balovich, Elise Brady, Ethan Clark, Jaira Costelo, Evangelina Estes, Silas Ferguson, Kelly Fredrickson, Scarlet Galanin, Connor Hitchcock, Jomar Molina, Claire Mullin, Julia Nabua, Jasmine Nellis, Aezlynn Nichols, Katlian Rhoads, Rita Christianson, Bryce Compagno-Calhoun and Jasmine Wolfe.

Jasmine Wolfe is Associated Student Body president and Francis Meyers is vice president. Meyers also serves as the student representative to the Sitka School Board. Jackson Harmon is senior class president.

Serving as senior class advisers are Cathy Poulson, Andrew Hames, Mike Vieira, Amanda Chambers and Ryan Haug.

Sadie Saline and Allyson Mayville are marshals. Ushers are Cole McLaughlin, Brett Ross, Shane Tinchin and Kai Hirai. They are members of the junior class.

The symphonic band will play the recessional, "Sweet Caroline" by Neil Diamond.

School Service Award recipients are Clare Mullin, Aiden Lafriniere, Julia Nabua, Edgar Hernandez, Evangelina Estes and Desirae Hutton.

Ethan Clark, Autumn Treadway, Zach Janssen, Jasmine Wolfe, Braydon Wood and Aliyah Merculief were given

Principal's Awards.

Following graduation will be a parade, starting roughly at 8:20-8:30 p.m. The route is from Sitka High School, down Lake Street, through the roundabout, through the light at Lincoln Street, past Sitka Public Library and over the O'Connell Bridge to the UAS-Sitka Campus parking lot.

Members of the 2025 Sitka High graduating class are, in alphabetical order:

Rex Castillo Adres, Phillip Lewis Arnold, Kaelynn Ari Balovich, Tyson Robert Bartolaba, Raymond Christopher Bean, Alessandra Michelle Berumen Solís, Elise Brady, Cayden Alton Brenner, AudreyAnna Michelle Brevick, Fiona Ashley Baybayan Caalim, Madison Ann Campbell, Orion Gabriel Carrington, Rita Margaret Christianson, Ethan Michael Clark, Chance Matthew Coleman, Bryce Murphy Compagno-Calhoun.

Also, Jaira Jade A. Costelo, Andrew A. Cranston-Simmons, Lei'a Lynn Pomaka'I Daly, Lance Kerby Castillo Dasalla, Masin Guy Davis, Trey Corbett Demmert, Madison Marie Dill, Marina Lee Dill, Samuel Scott Eddy, Ashley Enriquez Mendoza, Evangelina Vae Estes, Dane Louis Evans, Silas Nathan Ferguson, Kelly Chelan Fredrickson, Scarlet Joan Galanin, Joshua David Gluth, Jacob Clint Greenhalgh, Jackson Lee Anapalani Harmon, Edgar Isaac Hernandez, Connor Kennedy Hitchcock, Levi Nicolas Hodges, Emily Rachel Hoffay, Desirae Inani Hutton, Zachary Yoshie Janssen, Gabriel Andrew John, Crystal Esther Eileen Johnson, Isabel Apphia Johnson, Sophia

Ann Kibby.

Also, Aiden William Lafriniere, Yaretzi Macias, Lily Rose Mayo, Joshua Adam McGraw, Aliyah Shayanne Merculief, Jasonlee Kristopher Miller, Den Jomar Rendon Molina, Clare Eleri Mullin, Julia Francesca Palaganas Nabua.

Also, Jasmine Sharleen Nellis, Aezlynn Brooke Nichols, Rowan Olney-Miller, Everett Randall Overturf, Melody Rose Peacocke, Katlian Iris Rhoads, Logan Thomas Rice, Mitchell Russell Sachsenmaier, Lewis Michael Schumejda, Tanner James Steinson, Continued on Page 5



Pacific High School graduates stand outside the Sheet'ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi Saturday before graduation exercises. From left are Henry Ward, Gus Maxwell, Qiana Fletcher, Avianna Rioux, Tristynn Jackson, Katie Elder, Georgianna Sam and Michael Howard. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)

Eight Recieve Diplomas at Pacific High

CATHY LI
Sentinel Staff Writer

The eight seniors of Pacific High School Class of 2025 received their diplomas Saturday in a commencement ceremony at Sheet'ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi.

The students entered to traditional strains of "Pomp and Circumstance,"

and heard speeches by Principal Matt Groen and one of his predecessors as principal of the alternative high school, Phil Burdick, now a member of the Sitka School Board.

Emma Thompson, adult facilitator of the Sitka Youth Leadership Committee, spoke next.

Akléi Helen Dangel, Vince Winter and Troy Wingard, Janet Clarke, and Kaalj'aak'wx Claire O'Halloran-Hill, respectively, presented the University of Alaska scholarship, American Legion School Medal Award, Calvin-Purvis internship, and Sitka Tribe Continued on Page 3

NEXT SHIP

Tuesday, May 20
Passengers
4363 (capacity)

NG Sea Lion
Petro Marine
May 19-22

Radiance of the Seas
Sitka Cruise Terminal
7am – 4pm

Serenade of the Seas
Sitka Cruise Terminal
11:30am – 6pm

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

Letters to the Editor

Cruise Ship Initiative

Dear Editor: The longest-running public service campaign in U.S. history features a bear in jeans proclaiming “Only you can prevent wildfires.” The “Yes on 1” public message needs a catchy mascot and slogan, too. I suggest a lineup of charismatic creatures including a sea otter, humpback whale, king salmon and tufted puffin, all gathered together behind the message “Only you can prevent ecocide.”

The “No on 1” faction appears to have adopted their own symbol and tagline: a Titanic-like ship, and “Full steam ahead, mostly.”

Joel Hanson, Sitka

300,000 is Achievable

Dear Editor: At last week’s Cruise Forum, Chris McGraw revealed that Proposition 1 would cause Royal Caribbean in 2026 to withdraw its two ships with maximum capacity exceeding the proposition’s daily limit of 4,500 passengers ashore.

He implied Norwegian Cruise Lines will do the same, when he said ships with a maximum capacity of over 4,500 passengers will be “gone, ... roughly 65% of [Sitka’s] traffic.”

His 65% is a big exaggeration, as clearly shown by evaluation of Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska’s 2026 schedule.

Only four ships are affected: Royal’s Ovation and Anthem, and Norwegian’s Bliss and Joy. Their maximum capacities range from 4,622 to 4,981. (Sitkans are familiar with these ships’ commonly published “lower berth capacities” of 3,852 to 4,180.)

In fact, withdrawing the four ships would reduce 2026 passenger capacity by 41% – less than two-thirds of what McGraw claimed – bringing capacity from 588,075 down to 345,276.

That leaves just eleven days still above the large-ship 4,500 daily cap. (Ships under 250 passengers don’t count toward the caps.) Adjusting those days in the schedule, and a few more, the schedule will be slightly under the annual cap of 300,000.

There is a clear path to 300,000 – despite opponents’ claims that reaching 300,000 is impossible.

A further word: Proposition One’s intent is that largest ships that have visited Sitka can still do so, at least some of the time. CLAA’s 2023 data on the number of passengers onboard every port call shows this would have worked during 2023’s May ramp-up and September ramp-down. Ovation could have visited three times, Quantum six times, and Bliss seven times, with a substantial cushion between onboard numbers and the daily cap. (Joy didn’t call.)

This letter to the editor summarizes a memo I delivered to the Tourism Commission at its May 8 meeting.

Larry Edwards, Sitka

Correction

In Friday’s front page story on the ongoing civil case against Dr. Richard McGrath and the city of Sitka, it was incorrectly stated that attorney’s fees owed by the plaintiff were calculated by Alaska Civil Rule 82.

In this case, attorney’s fees were calculated under Civil Rule 68, which, unlike Rule 82, does not allow the court to change the amount of the award.

The Sentinel regrets the error.

Sitka Yesterday

**20 YEARS AGO
May 2005**
Raven Radio’s Blues Cruise, featuring the sounds of Belly Meat, will sail May 21, courtesy of Allen Marine. All proceeds will benefit Raven Radio.

**50 YEARS AGO
May 1975**
Fourth grade students are wearing sweatshirts with the initials S.I.T.K.A. across the front: Students Involved in Thoroughly Knowing their Area. That’s the title of a book they’ve written this year, which is expected to be printed before school is out for the year. The students will be featured tonight on KSA Television tonight.

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Vote No on 1

Dear Editor: My husband and I are lifelong residents and have decided to raise our daughter in Sitka. However, I have witnessed firsthand the economic challenges that have plagued our community for years, a declining population, teacher layoffs, and more negative statistics than positive.

I vividly remember the days when Sitka had between 90,000 and 280,000 cruise passengers annually, closely matching the number of tourism-related businesses we had. Entrepreneurship in the cruise industry was challenging due to limited demand. Fast forward to 2023, and we see an expanded demand for businesses. Local Sitkans recognized this opportunity for entrepreneurship, took significant risks, and many new businesses were opened.

While some argue, “We were below 300,000 before and can do it again,” it’s crucial to recognize that our business capacity has expanded to accommodate 580,000 passengers. What happens if that capacity is slashed in half or worse? We can’t magically return to pre-COVID business capacity without many shutting their doors. Every lost business equals less sales tax.

It’s disheartening to see comments from community members dismissing concerns about potential business closures as mere “fear-mongering” or “falsehoods.” The reality of businesses closing is far from an exaggerated fear. Recently, over 15 long-established, family-owned businesses have expressed concern about closing. Many of these have been part of our community for over 50 years and are multigenerational family-owned. These are real Sitka families – not corporations.

Cruise tourism sales tax is vital for community funding and youth programs. Over the past three years, our city has successfully taken over parks and recreation, school maintenance, and the performing arts center. At my daughter’s recent parent-tot swim class, I overheard a woman entering for lap swim talking to a mom about how amazing this swim class was. The mom remarked that this was likely the first time in a long time, if ever, that such a program had been offered for kids under three. Their conversation made me reflect on the tremendous impact our Parks and Recreation Department has on our community.

Programs like Parks and Recreation give Sitka its “soul” for many and their reason to live here. I recall a quote from our city administrator during an Assembly meeting when the city was debating the addition of Parks and Recreation funding that makes me concerned about the budget deficits with this ballot measure: “We have heard from the community loud and clear that this is what they want. Now, obviously, there are some tough decisions to make, if we come forward with a deficit budget and start making cuts in certain areas, this might be an area that is targeted for a cut.”

As a mother with a child enrolled in multiple summer programs, I am deeply concerned about our future under this ballot measure. If it passes, the issue won’t be whether we face a budget deficit, but rather how severe it will be and what cuts will be made or taxes added.

This ballot measure was introduced without economic studies or discussions with the city or local businesses. We have no understanding of how much revenue our city will lose. This isn’t a gamble I’m willing to take, are you? The future of our town lies with its children, and what makes our community welcoming for families are programs and schools being fully funded by the city. While we have little control over federal school funding, we do have a vote in this election, and passing this measure could further harm our schools.

I am committed to this community, and I want to ensure that my daughter has the best childhood here. Together, let’s keep the vibrant community we cherish. By voting against this measure, we are not just preserving our small-town way of life; we are investing in a future where our children can thrive in a stable and prosperous Sitka. Let’s ensure that the legacy we leave for our kids is one filled with opportunity, support, and the rich experiences. Your vote is crucial—let’s make it count and vote NO on ballot measure 1.

Zaide Allen, Sitka

Weather

Sitka Forecast

For Tonight expect a low of 44 degrees and mostly cloudy skies. For Tuesday: a high of 53 degrees, an overnight low of 43 degrees, and mostly cloudy skies.

Sitka Weather

Temperatures ranged from 42 to 51 degrees, winds were calm, and a trace of rain was measured in the 24 hours ending at midnight last night, Sitka Flight Service Station reports.

Trump: Putin, Zelenskyy To Negotiate Ceasefire

By ZEKE MILLER, JOSH BOAK and KATIE MARIE DAVIES

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russia and Ukraine will “immediately” begin ceasefire negotiations, President Donald Trump said Monday after separate calls with the leaders of both countries meant to spur progress toward ending the three-year war. The conversations did not appear to yield a major breakthrough.

It was not clear when or where any talks might take place or who would participate. Trump’s announcement came days after the first direct engagement between Russian and Ukrainian delegations since 2022. Those negotiations on Friday in Turkey brought about a limited exchange of prisoners but no pause in the fighting.

Ahead of the calls, the White House said Trump had grown “frustrated” with both leaders over the continuing war. Vice President JD Vance said Trump would press Russian President Vladimir Putin to see if he was truly interested in stopping the fighting, and if not, that the U.S. could disengage from trying to stop the conflict. Trump later told reporters that he believed Putin was serious about wanting peace.

“The conditions for that will be negotiated between the two parties, as it can only be, because they know details of a negotiation that nobody else would be aware of,” Trump said in a social media post.

Trump said the call with Putin was “excellent,” adding, “If it wasn’t, I would say so now, rather than later.”

Trump has struggled to end a war that began with Russia’s invasion in February 2022, a setback for his promises to quickly settle the conflict once he was back in the White House, if not before he took office.

“He’s grown weary and frustrated with both sides of the conflict,” White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters Monday before the calls. “He has made it clear to both sides that he wants to see a peaceful resolution and ceasefire as soon as possible.”

The Republican president is banking on the idea that his force of personality and personal history with Putin will be enough to break any impasse over a pause in the fighting. He dangled the prospect of reduced sanctions and increased trade with Russia should the war end.

After the call, Putin said Russia was ready to continue discussing an end to the fighting after a “very informative and very frank” conversation with Trump. Putin said the warring countries should “find compromises that would suit all parties.”

Moscow, he said, will “propose and is ready to work with” Ukraine on a

“memorandum” outlining the framework for “a possible future peace treaty.”

But indicating that little had fundamentally changed about his demands, Putin said: “At the same time, I would like to note that, in general, Russia’s position is clear. The main thing for us is to eliminate the root causes of this crisis.”

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday that he reaffirmed to Trump that Ukraine is ready for a full and unconditional ceasefire. He urged the international community to maintain pressure on Moscow if it refuses to halt its invasion.

“Ukraine doesn’t need to be persuaded — our representatives are ready to make real decisions. What’s needed is mirrored readiness from Russia for such result-oriented negotiations,” Zelenskyy said.

Trump and Putin addressed each other by first names

Russian presidential adviser Yuri Ushakov, who previously served as Russian ambassador to the U.S., described the conversation as friendly, with Trump and Putin addressing each other by their first names.

“Trump said, ‘Vladimir, you can pick up the phone at any time, and I will be happy to answer and speak with you,’” he said.

Ushakov also said Trump and Putin could meet face-to-face at some point, but no timeline was set.

Putin and Trump also talked about a Russia-US prisoner exchange, which Ushakov said was “in the works” and envisioned Moscow and Washington releasing nine people each. Ushakov did not offer any other details.

Speaking before the call, Vance said Trump could walk away from trying to end the war if he feels Putin isn’t serious about negotiation.

“I’d say we’re more than open to walking away,” Vance told reporters before leaving Rome after meeting with Pope Leo XIV. Vance said Trump has been clear that the U.S. “is not going to spin its wheels here. We want to see outcomes.”

Zelenskyy, who spoke to Trump one-on-one before the Putin call and then jointly with European leaders after, told reporters that he emphasized to Trump that no decisions should be made about Ukraine without involving Kyiv. He also said that he discussed the potential for “serious sanctions” on Russia.

Trump said the Vatican expressed interest in hosting the negotiations, but there was no immediate confirmation that any talks had been scheduled.

Trump sought to use financial incentives to broker some kind of agreement after Russia’s invasion led to severe sanctions by the United States and its allies that have steadily eroded Moscow’s ability to grow.

The high court also has been involved in slowing Trump’s efforts to swiftly deport Venezuelans accused of being gang members to a prison in El Salvador under an 18th century war-time law called the Alien Enemies Act.

The complex economic and political crisis in Venezuela has driven more than 7.7 million people to leave the South American nation since 2013. Venezuela’s most recent economic troubles pushed year-over-year inflation in April to 172%. The latest chapter even prompted President Nicolás Maduro to declare an “economic emergency” last month. Maduro, whose reelection last year to a third term has been condemned internationally as illegitimate, also has cracked down on his political opponents.

In the dispute over TPS, the administration has moved aggressively to withdraw various protections that have allowed immigrants to remain in the country, including ending the temporary protected status for a total of 600,000 Venezuelans and 500,000 Haitians. That status is granted in 18-month increments. Venezuela was first designated for TPS in 2021; Haiti, in 2010.

Last week, DHS announced that TPS for Afghanistan, first provided in 2022, would end in mid-July.

The protections for Venezuelans had been set to expire April 7, but Chen found that the expiration threatened to severely disrupt the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and could cost billions in lost economic activity.

Chen, who was appointed to the bench by Democratic President Barack Obama, found the government hadn’t shown any harm caused by keeping the program alive.

But Solicitor General D. John Sauer wrote on behalf of the administration that Chen’s order impermissibly interferes with the administration’s power over immigration and foreign affairs.

In addition, Sauer told the justices, people affected by ending the protected status might have other legal options to try to remain in the country because the “decision to terminate TPS is not equivalent to a final removal order.”

Congress created TPS in 1990 to prevent deportations to countries suffering from natural disasters or civil strife.

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson said she would have rejected the administration’s emergency appeal.

Biden Facing Another Battle Against Cancer

By CHRIS MEGERIAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In Joe Biden’s family, there’s a saying that the three worst words anyone can hear are “you have cancer.”

One decade ago, his son Beau died from a brain tumor. Several years later, his wife Jill had two cancerous lesions removed in her own brush with the disease.

Now it is the former president’s turn. Biden’s office disclosed his prostate cancer diagnosis over the weekend, saying it has already spread to his bones.

Although the cancer can possibly be controlled with treatment, it is no longer curable. The announcement is a bitter revelation that a disease that has brought so much tragedy to Biden’s life could be what ends it.

“Cancer touches us all,” Biden wrote on social media. “Like so many of you, Jill and I have learned that we are strongest in the broken places.”

Even before the diagnosis, Biden’s post-presidency was shadowed by questions about his health and whether he should have run for reelection. As questions about his fitness for office mounted, he abandoned the campaign and Donald Trump retook the presidency by defeating Kamala Harris. As the 82-year-old Biden works to safeguard his damaged political legacy, he’ll also be fighting a disease that shaped the final chapters of his decades-long career.

Biden was serving as Barack Obama’s vice president when Beau died in 2015. He decided not to seek the Democratic nomination the following year, which helped clear a path for Hillary Clinton, who lost to Trump in 2016.

Valerie Jarrett, a longtime Obama adviser, said Biden wanted to “channel his grief into action and figure out how we can do better” on treating cancer to “make sure that other people didn’t have to go through what he went through.”

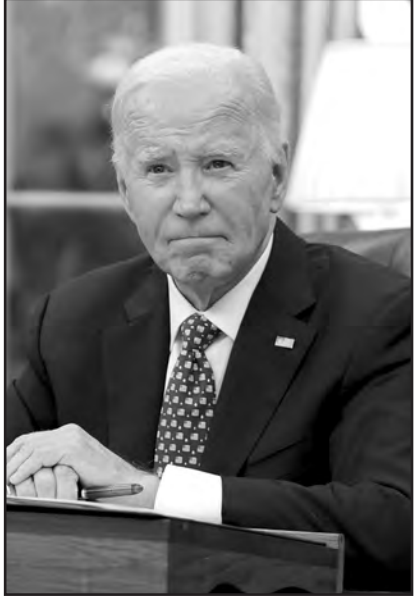
The effort was formalized as a White House task force, with Biden in charge. After a few years out of office, Biden re-entered politics to campaign against Trump in 2020. The heartache from Beau’s death was never far from the surface though. His eldest son had been Delaware’s attorney general and often viewed as Biden’s political successor.

“Beau should be the one running for president, not me,” Biden said, a thought he echoed on many occasions.

He made fighting cancer a focus for his presidency, resurrecting a “moonshot” initiative to increase funding for research and improve treatment. He unveiled the initiative at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in 2022, echoing the Democratic icon’s famous speech declaring that “we will go to the moon” six decades earlier.

“Beating cancer is something we can do together,” Biden said.

By this point, he had already signed legislation known as the PACT Act to expand healthcare benefits for veterans. The law guarantees treatment for chronic illnesses blamed on burn pits,



President Joe Biden. (AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein, File)

which were used to dispose of chemicals, tires, plastics, medical equipment and human waste on military bases.

Biden left no doubt that he believed Beau’s death resulted from his service with the National Guard in Iraq.

“When they came home, many of the fittest and best warriors that we sent to war were not the same — headaches, numbness, dizziness, cancer,” he said. “My son Beau was one of them.”

Denis McDonough, who led the Veterans Affairs Department under Biden, said the president didn’t talk about Beau’s death during policy discussions. But he said it was clear that Biden “knew the experience that other families were having, and he was going to be damn sure that we weren’t going to miss an opportunity to address that.”

McDonough recalled that Biden wanted the new law to take effect as quickly as possible.

“He had an option to stretch it out,” he said. “He said no way.”

The following year, first lady Jill Biden had two cancerous lesions removed, one above her right eye and the other on her chest. They were both basal cell carcinoma.

Learning of the diagnosis “was a little harder than I thought,” she told The Associated Press during a trip to Africa.

“I’m lucky,” she said. “Believe me, I am so lucky that they caught it, they removed it, and I’m healthy.”

Biden’s cancer diagnosis is not the first time that he’s faced his own mortality.

Months after ending his first presidential campaign in 1988, he collapsed in a New York hotel room. In his memoir “Promises to Keep,” he described “lightning flashing inside my head, a powerful electrical surge — and then a rip of pain like I’d never felt before.”

He had suffered a brain aneurysm that required surgery. Biden wrote that “I had no real fear of dying. I’d long since accepted the fact that life’s guarantees don’t include a fair shake.”

McDonough imagined that Biden would feel similarly about his current situation.

“He’s always on to the next fight,” he said.

Trump Tax Breaks Bill Teeters in Split House

By KEVIN FREKING, LISA MASCARO and LEAH ASKARINAM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Mike Johnson acknowledged there are still details to “iron out” on President Donald Trump’s big tax breaks bill as conservative Republicans insist on quicker cuts to Medicaid and green energy programs before giving their full support.

House Republicans narrowly advanced the sprawling 1,116-page package in a rare weekend vote late Sunday, but just barely, as GOP leaders promise more negotiations ahead.

It’s all setting up a difficult week ahead for the GOP leadership racing toward a Memorial Day deadline, a week away, to pass the package from the House on their own, over staunch opposition from Democrats. “The bill does not yet meet the moment,” said Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, a leader of the House Freedom Caucus, in a social media post immediately after the late-night session. “We can and must do better before we pass the final product.”

Johnson is working to hold his narrow House majority together to pass the president’s top domestic priority of extending the tax breaks while pumping in money for border security and deportations — all while finding at least \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts elsewhere.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Monday it’s “absolutely essential” that Republicans unite and pass the bill so that Trump can deliver on the agenda.

Leavitt said Americans gave Republicans a “once-in-a-generation” opportunity to “course correct our country” and “there is no time to waste.”

Republicans criticizing the measure argued that the bill’s new spending and tax cuts are front-loaded in the bill, while the measures to offset the cost are back-loaded. In particular, they are looking to speed up the new work requirements that Republicans want to enact for able-bodied participants in Medicaid. They also want to more

quickly end tax breaks for green energy projects being used nationwide.

Majority Leader Steve Scalise said on CNBC today that work requirements for some Medicaid beneficiaries would begin in early 2027, a big change from the 2029 start date that is currently in the bill.

Scalise said GOP leaders are looking to give the administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Dr. Mehmet Oz, the time he needs to implement the work requirements, but would be “moving that date up dramatically.”

Late last week, the House Budget Committee failed to advance the package when four conservative Republicans objected. But it was able to do so Sunday on a vote of 17-16, with the four hold-outs voting “present” to allow it to move ahead, as talks continue.

Johnson who met late Sunday with lawmakers after of voting indicated he wants to impose the work requirements “as soon as possible” but acknowledged it may take states longer to change their systems. “There will be more details to iron out and several more to take care of,” Johnson, R-La., said outside the hearing room.

“But I’m looking forward to very thoughtful discussions, very productive discussions over the next few days, and I’m absolutely convinced we’re going to get this in final form and pass it.”

Democrats have decried the cuts Republicans are proposing to Medicaid and food stamps to offset the costs of the tax breaks.

“This spending bill is terrible, and I think the American people know that,” Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., told CNN’s “State of the Union” on Sunday. “There is nothing wrong with us bringing the government in balance. But there is a problem when that balance comes on the back of working men and women. And that’s what is happening here.”

The four Republicans who had blocked the bill last week — Roy and Reps. Ralph Norman of South Carolina, Josh Brecheen of Oklahoma and Rep. Andrew Clyde of Georgia — cast their “present” votes Sunday.

Absentee Voting Bill 64 Fails to Make Deadline

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

A major elections reform bill, a priority of House and Senate leaders, is dead in the Alaska Legislature.

Wednesday is the last day of the regular legislative session, and members of the House's bipartisan majority said on Saturday that they lack the support needed to overcome the opposition of the House's Republican minority in the time they have left.

Bills don't expire at the end of the first year of the two-year legislative session, but Senate Bill 64 needed to become law this year in order to be implemented in time for the 2026 election.

Among the changes in the bill: Speedier ballot counting, better tracking of absentee ballots, ballot dropboxes across the state, free return postage for absentee ballots, a liaison to help fix voting issues in rural Alaska, permanent absentee ballot registration, a method to fix paperwork problems after an absentee ballot is cast, the elimination of the requirement that a "witness" sign a voter's absentee ballot, and additional security audits.

Many of the House's Republicans objected to the bill, saying that they believe it did not do enough to address their concerns about election security.

The Senate passed SB 64 on Monday, but Rep. Neal Foster, D-Nome and co-chair of the House Finance Committee said that House Republicans were prepared to offer so many amendments to the bill that it would have required members of the House to abandon all other work in order to push the bill across the finish line. Even then, it could have been vetoed by Gov. Mike Dunleavy, a Republican.

With those possibilities in play, the House majority's 14 Democrats, five independents and two Republicans met behind closed doors and decided to abandon the effort.

"The caucus just said, 'We're either gonna have to set everything else aside and focus on that, and probably still won't get it through, or we just say we're going to have to set it aside,'" Foster said.

"We all decided as a group that ...

Trail Works . . .

Continued from Front Page

likely a ton – and refilled these massive gouges that had been washed out at the lake edge."

The 1.5 mile trail starts in Hanus Bay near Peril Strait, and follows the outlet stream from the lake, rising only about 100 vertical feet before reaching Lake Eva. A Forest Service cabin is on the far side of the lake, requiring a boat for access.

Four U.S. Forest Service staff members were in the work party, and two of them pack-rafted across the lake for a day of work on the cabin.

Hughey estimated that the 40-person crew conducted about 320 hours of labor, roughly equivalent to the work of a four-person crew over two weeks.

The Lake Eva Trail is a jewel, Hughey said.

"It's beautifully constructed, it has great rolling contours and thoughtful drainage," he said. " But if it doesn't get maintenance, if blowdown blocks drainages, the trail washes out. And last year, when we went up there, I believe there were 14 (spots with) blowdown, some of them three-foot diameter trees."

He said some ditches were completely clogged and sections of trail completely washed out. "We were able to clear the surface stuff. Last year, we got all the blowdown out of the way, and did a round of brushing."

Despite its remoteness, the spot is a popular destination for visitors to Sitka.

"The Lake Eva trail has historically been the heaviest used trail in the Sitka Ranger District... by paying clients," Hughey said. Measuring just commercial use, the Forest Service a couple of years ago had more than 3,000 visitors to the trail, he said.

Along with visitation from Alaska Dream Cruises – operated by Allen Marine – the trail has had traffic from National Geographic and Uncruise vessels, and Sitka residents as well.

Commercial cruises like it because the trail is "halfway between Sitka and Juneau, you need to get someplace where people can get off the boat," Hughey said. The trail dates from Civilian Conservation Corps days in the 1930s, and was rebuilt in recent years as designed by Forest Service landscape architect Barth Hamburg.

"Sitka Trail Works has been working with Allen Marine Tours on volunteer trail projects for decades to allow Sitkans to access the remote trails, like Mt. Edgecumbe trail, Sea Lion Cove, Salmon Lake and Lake Eva through our summer hikes program, and Allen Marine Tours has given us a small non-profit discount in past years for those," Hughey said.

"A few seasons ago, we were checking in ahead of time before the summer, and (the company)... suggested that the Alaska Dream side of the shop could have a really fruitful partnership, because they have to test out their boats at the beginning of the season."

As such, the cruise serves as a shakedown sailing for a luxury cruise ship with 40 cabins that costs thousands of dollars per berth for tourists, and gives access to a remote trail for

to try to do it in four days, it was not good public process. If we had two weeks, that would have been fast tracking it, and maybe we could have gotten it through," he said.

A disproportionately large number of absentee ballots are rejected from rural Alaska in each election cycle, and Foster — in charge of scheduling bills for the House Finance Committee — said he really wanted to see SB 64 advance, but it was clear that it wasn't possible, barring an unlikely special session.

Late Friday, as the bill's fate became clear, the Republican minority issued a triumphant news release.

"This bill greases the skids for all mail-in elections like Anchorage has. SB 64 is the biggest hoax that the Democrats have promulgated so far this year — and that is saying a lot since there are some other bills that are contenders," said Rep. Jamie Allard, R-Eagle River, in the message. "Alaskans should be appalled. Talk about a bill that will bring out more fraud! SB 64 is the Election Fraud bill!"

Other Republican opponents were more measured.

"Rushing a nonpartisan bill through at the last minute isn't how the legislative process is meant to work. I'm glad we'll have the chance to take a closer look at SB 64 next year," said Rep. Frank Tomaszewski, R-Fairbanks, in the news release.

Sen. Bill Wielechowski, D-Anchorage and the lead person pushing SB 64, noted that this is the third time in the past three legislative sessions that the Legislature has failed to pass a significant elections bill.

"I know there's groups out there that are looking at ballot initiatives. Very frankly, at this point, they're just so frustrated with the Legislature because it's been a decade working on this bill," he said. "So I think if we don't get something done this year, you're going to start seeing some people talk about just doing an initiative for the sections that they want."

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

STW volunteers, who are also treated to the fine dining offered aboard such a ship.

Allen Marine spokesman Zak Kirkpatrick said that "among the wilderness trails that are out there for use by small ship cruise companies, it's definitely one of the more popular ones, and we work it into many of our itineraries. Definitely the Lake Eva trail is important, not only for us, but really for other small ship cruise companies in the region and residents that make it up that way as well. "

Allen Marine and Trail Works are planning more collaborative trips through the summer, with one to the Fort Rousseau causeway May 31 and Mt. Edgecumbe July 6, and recreational hiking trips also hosted by Trail Works.

In 2024 local volunteers donated around \$50,000 worth of labor on Trail Works projects, Hughey said.

The first one of those recreational trips is a Kruzof Island Mud Bay-to-Shelikof bike ride this coming Saturday, followed by a June 21 Mt. Edgecumbe ascent, a July 19 Sea Lion Cove trek and an August 3 return to Edgecumbe. Many Trail Works hikes are free, but those involving a boat ride this year cost \$120 for the Mt. Edgecumbe climb, \$120 for the trip to Mud Bay and \$165 for the boat ride to Sealion Cove.

HVAC Upgrade Set at City Hall

The heating and ventilation system at City Hall, 100 Lincoln Street, is scheduled for an upgrade.

Work is expected to begin in late spring and continue through the summer. While some construction activity will occur during regular business hours, City Hall will remain open to the public throughout the project during regular hours, the Public Works department said.

We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time.

Pacific . . .

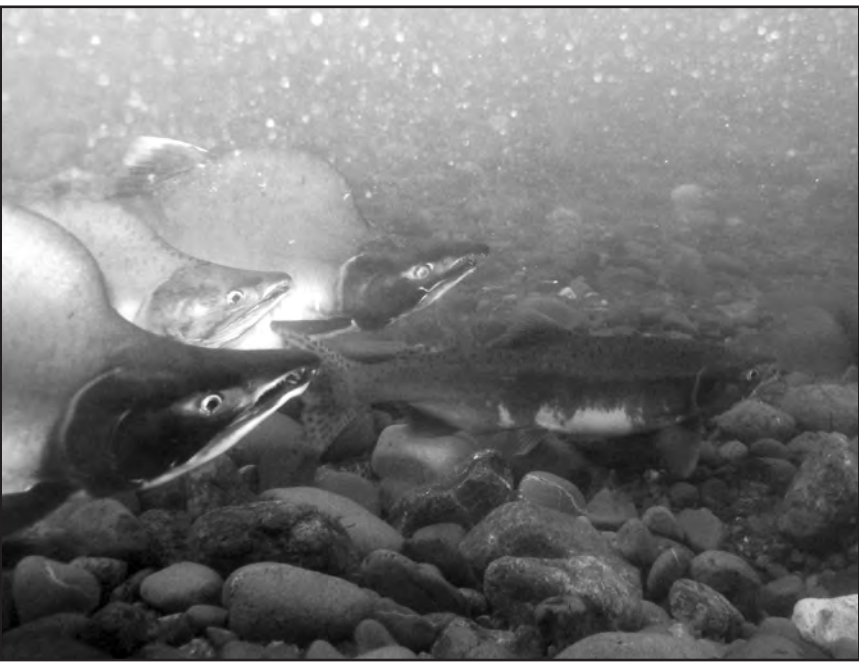
Continued from Front Page

of Alaska congratulatory checks. Gus Maxwell was the senior representative.

After an "uber kudos" by the PHS staff and family responses, the graduates received their diplomas and celebrated to Post Malone's "Congratulations" — selected by the seniors themselves.

The graduates were Avianna Rioux, Georgianna Sam, Gus Maxwell, Henry Ward, Katie Elder, Michael Howard, Qiana Fletcher and Tristynn Jackson.

"Our school is all about community and relationships and supporting students from that foundation, so to see that cross that line — see them work through everything that life has thrown at them — was truly a proud moment to be a part of," Principal Groen said in an interview reflecting on the ceremony.



Two spawning pink salmon head upstream in shallow water in Cove Creek in Whittier on Aug. 5, 2024. While last year's pink salmon runs and harvests were weak, big increases are expected this year. (Photo by Yereth Rosen/Alaska Beacon)

Improvement Forecast In State Salmon Catch

By YERETH ROSEN
Alaska Beacon

After a poor showing last year, Alaska's statewide commercial salmon harvest appears poised for a rebound, according to projections by state biologists.

This year's total salmon harvest is expected to be more than twice as big as last year's total, thanks primarily to stronger returns of pink salmon, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's annual statewide run forecast and commercial harvest projection. The report was released this week.

The department's projected 2025 total harvest is 214.6 million fish, above the 2000-2023 average of 175 million fish, though well below the record 280 million salmon harvested commercially in 2013. This year's projected total is much higher than the 103.5 million salmon harvested commercially last year.

If the harvest occurs as projected, it would be the 10th-largest on record, said Forrest Bowers, director of the department's Division of Commercial Fisheries.

Key to the projection for this year is a much-improved outlook for pink salmon. This year's harvest of pink salmon, also known as humpback salmon, is expected to exceed last year's harvest by 98.2 million fish, according to the department.

Pink salmon are the most abundant and low-priced of all five Alaska salmon species. But last year's harvest of about 40 million pink salmon was considered abysmal, even taking into account the normal pattern of weaker runs in even-numbered years.

The species has a two-year life cycle, the shortest of all Alaska salmon species, and odd-numbered years generally have bigger returns, a pattern that has become especially pronounced in about the last decade, Bowers said.

The department is also forecasting increases in other species: 10.8 million more sockeye, also known as red salmon; 544,000 more coho salmon, also known as silver salmon; and 876,000 more chum salmon.

But for Chinook salmon, also known as king salmon, recent returns and harvests that have been anemic are expected to be even lower this year, according to the department's forecast.

Last year, Alaska fishermen harvested 244,000 Chinook, according to the department. This year's harvest is expected to be only 144,000 fish.

Because of poor returns, the state has had to "severely restrict" Chinook harvests in recent years, Bowers said. This year's projected Chinook totals also reflect obligations under the U.S.-Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty, he said.

The treaty aims to ensure that enough salmon return to spawning grounds to provide adequate fish for harvesters in both countries, a goal that has proved elusive.

For now, there are limited opportunities in Alaska to fish for Chinook,

outside of one "directed" fishery where it is intended harvested species.

"Southeast Alaska is the only place that we have a directed Chinook salmon fishery that's open this year," Bowers said. Any other Chinook harvesting is done incidentally, with those fish accidentally netted by harvesters targeting other species, he said.

Chinook notwithstanding, there is another way that this year's commercial harvest is expected to be better than last year's harvest: The fish will not be as small, biologists believe.

Pacific salmon have been shrinking in size for decades, a trend attributed to climate change, competition for food in the ocean and other conditions. Results of that trend were apparent last year. The average size of sockeye salmon from Bristol Bay, the dominant source of Alaska sockeye, was only 4.53 pounds, the smallest on record.

Measured by pounds, the total commercial harvest of Alaska salmon across all species was the third lowest on record, at about 450 million.

Last year's slimmed-down average size of Alaska salmon was influenced by the mix of age classes in the Bristol Bay harvest, the state's dominant source of sockeye salmon. Last year, about 80% of the returning fish were younger, having spent only two years in the ocean, according to the department.

But this year's returning Bristol Bay salmon are expected to be older, with 63% of them coming back after three years in the ocean, Bowers said.

"As you can imagine, a 3-year ocean fish is going to be larger than a 2-year ocean fish because most of their growth occurs in the ocean," he said "So if they have an additional year of growth in the ocean, you know, they're going to be larger than fish that that have spent less time in the ocean."

Beyond the well-studied Bristol Bay runs, most other salmon runs have either single age classes returning or much less detailed information about age-class distributions, Bowers said. That makes it difficult to predict fish sizes beyond those in the Bristol Bay runs, he said.

The department's harvest projections are based on forecasts of run sizes compared to the needed levels of "escapement," the term for fish that reach spawning grounds where they reproduce.

Once escapement needs are subtracted from projected run sizes, the remaining sum is considered the "harvestable surplus," which is what the department uses as projected harvest totals, Bowers said.

Whether fishers will do with the harvestable surplus is unknown, he said.

Market conditions influence fishing efforts, the department's annual statewide forecast notes. Therefore, the numbers calculated "may not be indicative of actual harvests," it said.

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The Daily Sitka Sentinel

More Rain, Tornadoes Threaten Central U.S.

By BRUCE SCHREINER
Associated Press

LONDON, Ky. (AP) — Forecasters warned today that more tornadoes and storms were possible in the central U.S. as people from Texas to Kentucky cleaned up from severe weather that has killed more than two dozen people in four days.

In St. Louis, where officials estimated a tornado Friday damaged 5,000 buildings and may cost well over \$1 billion, the mayor warned Monday that federal assistance could take weeks.

Kentucky has been hardest hit by the storms. A devastating tornado late Friday into early Saturday damaged hundreds of homes, tossed vehicles, left many homeless, and killed at least 19 people, most of them in southeastern Laurel County.

In London where the devastation was centered, the small airport became a beehive of cleanup work after it took a direct hit from a tornado. Officials were using it as a base to get water, food, diapers and other supplies out to the community.

"We have 1,001 things going on. But we're managing it. And we're going to get it all cleaned up," said London Mayor Randall Weddle said.

Officials in Kansas and Texas also were evaluating damage from late Sunday storms.

Tornadoes could be possible in an area centered in eastern Oklahoma on Monday with the risk of severe storms moving into Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee on Tuesday, according to the National Weather Service.

Kentucky cleans up

The Kentucky storms that killed 19 people were part of a weather system that caused seven deaths in Missouri and two in northern Virginia, authorities said.

Lonnie Nantz hid in a hallway with his wife, two daughters and a grandson as the one-story brick home they bought near London in 1977 was destroyed around them. They were trapped in rubble for about 20 minutes in the midnight darkness before they were rescued unharmed.

"I don't know why this happened. I've tried to live a good life all my life. I've still got the faith," said the 77-year-old who went to church as always on Sunday.

London city worker Ashley Taylor was back on the job Monday loading doughnuts to take to a hospital and dispatch center even though there was a tarp on her roof. She was lucky — the houses across her street were destroyed late Friday night. She survived the storm with nine other people and three dogs in the crawl space of a neighbor's home.

"We prayed like never before — and just thankful for everything God did for us," Taylor said.

In surrounding Laurel County, first responders were mourning one of their

own.

Fellow firefighters found the body of Laurel County Fire Major Leslie Leatherman on top of a woman he was shielding from the storm's fury as he answered calls during the worst of the storm. The woman was yelling for help and they were in a field across from a destroyed subdivision.

The injured woman turned out to be Leatherman's wife and officials aren't sure if he knew who he was protecting in all the darkness and chaos, the fire department said on social media.

18 years later a city in Kansas spared

Forecasters on Sunday night issued a tornado emergency for Greensburg, Kansas, which had 12 people killed and 90% of the town destroyed by a 1.5-mile wide EF5 tornado with winds of 205 mph. This time the storm spared the town. Greensburg posted of social media power was out but it was safe after the "storm scare."

Tornadoes in Kansas also carved a 20-mile path through Stafford County and Reno County. While damage was extensive, no injuries or deaths were reported.

St. Louis waits for FEMA

St. Louis Mayor Cara Spencer said five people died, 38 were injured and more than 5,000 homes were affected by an EF3 tornado with winds up to 150 mph (240 kph) that slammed areas north and west of downtown Friday.

"This was an unprecedented storm," Mayor Cara Spencer, who has estimated that damages will exceed \$1.6 billion, said during a news conference Monday. "Eight miles of pure destruction, at times a mile wide. We're talking about thousands of buildings, thousands of families are being displaced. The recovery work is just beginning."

The city immediately issued a state of emergency and is awaiting a disaster declaration from the governor's office so it can access federal help.

U.S. Sen. Josh Hawley, a Missouri Republican, also expressed frustration over the federal response to a deadly March storm.

"We cannot wait months. I'm not happy about the fact we're still waiting from all of that damage two months ago," Hawley said.

Acting Federal Emergency Management Agency Chief David Richardson said last week he plans to shift responsibility for disaster recovery to states this year as part of an agencywide transformation and FEMA would coordinate federal assistance "when deemed necessary." In Texas, several tornadoes touched down west of Fort Worth on Sunday, including an EF1 with peak winds of 105 mph that caused damage in and around Gordon, the National Weather Service said today.

Himschoot . . .

Continued from Front Page

kids get more, charter school kids get more, neighborhood schools get more. We flat-funded education for over a decade."

Himschoot co-sponsored HB 69, which passed both chambers in April and was vetoed by Gov. Dunleavy. It would have provided a BSA increase of \$1,000 this year, \$404 the following year and \$404 the year after that, and would have inflation proofed per-pupil spending after that.

In the past several years, the governor has approved one-time funding increases, with no permanent increase.

After HB 69 was vetoed earlier in this session, lawmakers were determined to get a permanent increase in school funding, and passed HB 57. Dunleavy had indicated he would veto that bill, too.

"I think families have been very clear on what they expect in their schools, and no matter how many compromises the Legislature makes, the governor will not let it happen," Himschoot said, and added during the interview that she believes the votes are there for an override.

State Budget Problems

Himschoot, who is unaffiliated with any party, is co-chair of the education committee, and a member of the Alaska House Majority Coalition of Democrats, Republicans and independents. She said the caucus is organized around education funding, returning to a pension option for state employees and teachers, producing a balanced budget and improving energy affordability.

Addressing the goal for a balanced budget, she said, "We're on track to do that, but it's really important for folks to realize just how limited the funding in the state is right now. About a quarter of our budget is based on the price of oil and that has really cratered in the last few months."

She said capital funding in the budget is fairly slim, with federal pass-through funds available for such items in her House District 2 as replacement snowplows for runways in Klawock and Sitka.

"As far as state funded projects go, there really aren't any," she said. "We're trying to help UAS (Sitka) with their mariculture program, for a floating lab and they need some support for that. What they asked for we wanted to give and even that's been cut at this point."

Himschoot said progress is under way on a few other caucus priorities besides education, which included a balanced budget and "a return to a re-

tirement with dignity for state employees," which refers to a new pension system.

"That's the item that's gotten the least attention," she said of the pension issue.

HB 78, which has passed the House, would create a new pension system, would solve such problems as high overtime costs (about \$600 million a year), and the high vacancy rates in the state workforce. Himschoot said some departments have vacancy rates as high as 25 percent.

"The people who are working for the state are doing a tremendous job but you can't do all the work if you're short-staffed," Himschoot said. High turnover is another problem since so many come to the state, gain experience and get higher-paid jobs elsewhere.

"We know that you can have very talented first-year teachers but they really become excellent at their craft in five to 10 years," said Himschoot, a retired teacher.

"It takes a while to learn to be a great teacher and that may be true in other professions — that's just the one I know," she said. "We need our people to be able to stay, and Alaska has the worst retirement system in the nation right now for teachers."

She described the proposed pension program as "not the Cadillac we used to have, but it's not the Volkswagen, which is what we have right now."

She is hoping it will pass the Senate when the Legislature convenes for next year's session. "It's OK if we have to bring it back up again," she said.

Asked about her outlook for the state in light of the Trump administration cutbacks, Himschoot started by relating constituent mail urging funding for state programs "that deserve and would function better with increases in funding. And every year we have to say no, and that's already hard enough."

This year Alaskans are writing about federal programs that have been cut, she said, "and it's absolutely heart-breaking to lose the AmeriCorps out of Sitka, the NIOSH (National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health) funding for the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association has been cut, they're considering Medicare cuts. The list is long ...

"The state doesn't have means to backfill those cuts, but it has made this job even harder; not only am I saying no to many worthy state funded programs but people are reaching out asking for help on things the feds have done in the past and are no longer doing."


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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.

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

CITY & BOROUGH OF SITKA

LEGAL NOTICE
Tourism Commission

The Tourism Commission will hold a work session to discuss e-bikes **6:00pm Tuesday, May 20, 2025** in Harrigan Centennial Hall, 330 Harbor Drive. No public comment will be taken, but the public is welcome to attend. Amy Ainslie, Planning & Community Development Director
Published: May 19, 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 an conditional use permit for a bed and breakfast at 629 DeGross 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.
D. 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

POSITION VACANCY: The Sitka School District is accepting applications for a full-time Food Service Technician (Head Cook). Qualifications include high school diploma or equivalent, possession of or eligible to obtain an "Alaska Food Handler" card, be certified in a minimum 8-hour course and score satisfactory on ServeSafe Manager Certificate exam, and a valid Alaska Driver's license. Position begins August 13th. Starting wage: \$30.56-37.42, 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.

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Public Meeting On Cell Towers

A public meeting will be held 6-8 p.m. Thursday, May 22, at Harrigan Centennial Hall to discuss the installation of five new cell phone towers around Sitka.

A group is working to encourage the City and Borough of Sitka to adopt building code provisions to protect health, safety and property values.

Sitkans for Safe Technology and experts from the Children's Health Defense Organization discuss current research about impacts of RF radiation on human health and the environment.

The panel will address ways the community to lessen the effects of cell phone towers on public health through code provisions to guide applicants and public officials in making decisions about potential installation consistent with our community values and concerns.

The event is free to the public. For questions call Hal Spackman, (907) 738-3766.

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.

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.

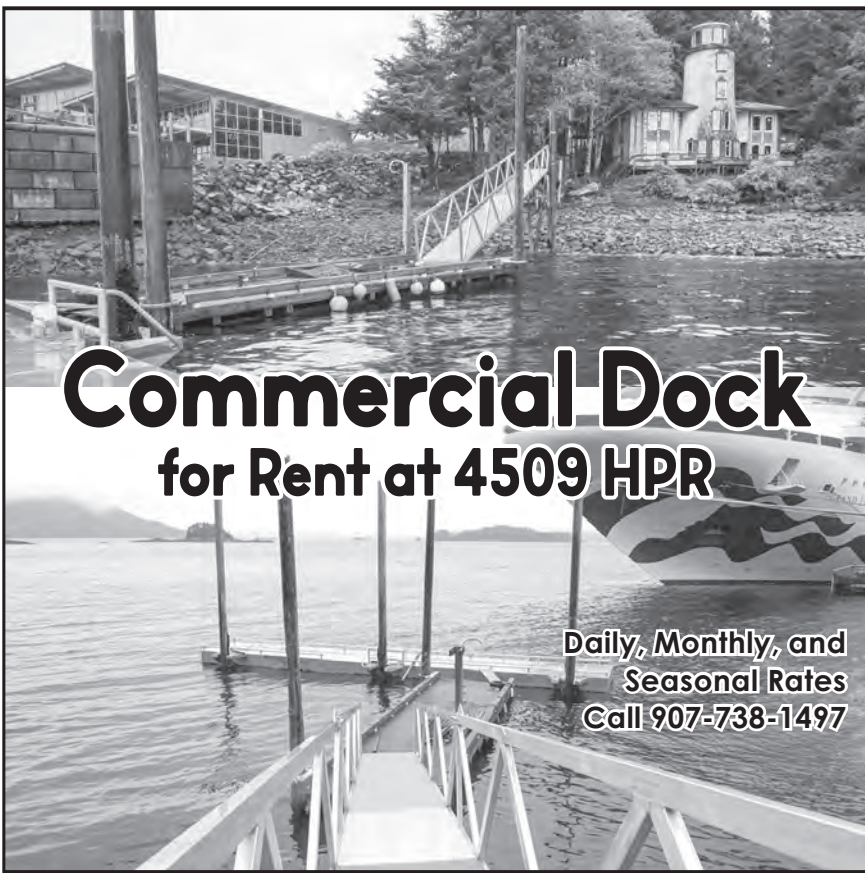
Family Connect meets on the last Thursday of the month. It is supported by Sitka Counseling and the Hope Coalition.

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

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."



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Police Blotter

Sitka Police Department received the following calls over the weekend.

May 16

At 12:05 a.m. a bear and two cubs were reported getting into garbage in the 2300 block of HPR. An officer chased them off but at 3:57 a.m. they were seen again in the 2300 block.

At 11:16 p.m. a caller said a man and woman on Observatory Street were behaving oddly. When approached, the woman ran off and the man said he had slid and was wet.

May 17

At 4:21 a.m. a man sleeping in a downtown bank lobby was awakened and advised to leave, which he did.

At 12:38 p.m. a caller said a truck was leaking fuel on Indian River Road. The truck was gone when police arrived.

A man said his girlfriend who had left town had stolen money from his app.

At 9:56 p.m. a bear and two cubs were seen on Indian River Road. They were gone when police arrived.

A dog was reported running at large on Indian River Road. Officers were advised.

May 18

At 1:36 a.m. a caller reported seeing three bears getting into trash in the 1200 block of SMC. Rubber bullets were shot at them and they left.

At 12:35 p.m. a child called 911 to report kids were ripping up rhubarb plants on Sirstad Street. Police talked to the home owners, who said it was OK.

A woman said someone had smashed in the hatch of her Subaru. Police opened a base.

May 19

At 3:27 a.m. a vehicle was reported in a ditch in the 4200 block of HPR. Officers tried to locate the owner.

At 5:53 a.m. bears were reported getting into trash at Thimbleberry. At 7:56 a.m. they were in the 2900 block

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

Emergency Calls

Sitka Fire Department received no ambulance calls Friday, six on Saturday and another six on Sunday

Sitka Police

Scott E. Roe, 24, was charged Sunday with assault in the fourth degree, domestic violence.

In Court

Amivael A. Andino, 31, on a Feb. 14, 2024, charge of reckless driving was sentenced May 14 to 30 days, suspended, and fined \$1,000 with \$500 suspended. He was placed on probation for one year.

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.

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, Jacquie Foss and Mitchell Feske.

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

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.

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 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: sitkamaritime.org


Shrimp FOR SALE Starting May 19

Eliason Harbor Ramp F/V EMMA C 907-752-0957

Indoor Plant & Succulent Sale & Bake Sale

Saturday, May 31 8am-Noon

Youth Advocates of Sitka 805 Lincoln Street




Calendar of Events

MONDAY
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

TUESDAY
6-8 a.m. MEHS Aquatic Center pool open
10:30 a.m. Sitka Sprouts, ages 3-5 years and caregivers, Sitka Sound Science Center
Noon Sitka Tree and Landscape Committee, Harrigan Centennial Hall
Noon AA, St. Peter's basement, call AA hotline 747-8866 for information
Noon Rotary Club, UAS-Sitka Campus Room 230
1 p.m. SAIL Adventure Club, at SAIL Office

WEDNESDAY
6-8 a.m. MEHS Aquatic Center pool open
10 a.m. Tongass Tots Playgroup, St. Peter's See House
11-2 Salvation Army Little Store open
Noon Alaska Native Plant Month webinar with Vivian Mork, <https://bit.ly/ANPSfood>
Noon-2 p.m. MEHS Aquatic Center pool open
Noon White Elephant Shop open
Noon AA, St. Peter's basement, call AA hotline 747-8866 for information
12:15 p.m. STA Education/Scholarship Committee, 204 Siginaka Way
2 p.m. Senior Balance Class, ANB Founders Hall
4:30 p.m. Sitka Parkinson's Support Group, 1212 Seward Ave. (the old BOQ) 907 747-3461
6:30 p.m. STA Tribal Council, 204 Siginaka Way
7 p.m. Sitka Planning Commission, Harrigan Centennial Hall
7 p.m. Sitka Sportsman's Association Indoor Range open
7 p.m. AA, St. Gregory's Church, 606 Etolin Street, info: 907-747-8866

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Dunleavy . . .

Continued from Front Page

billion deficit and a \$3,900 dividend; the budget will leave the Capitol with a surplus of about \$55 million. Legislators expect that surplus will evaporate in the coming months — oil prices are running below the Department of Revenue forecast, and Republican members of Congress are planning to reduce the amount the federal government pays for major programs, including food stamps and disaster relief.

The Senate approved a budget draft with deeper cuts than the final document, but during the compromise process, lawmakers added individual line items preferred by the House, which proposed higher levels of spending and a draw from the Constitutional Budget Reserve, the state's main savings account, to pay for that spending.

The final version of the budget eliminates that draw from savings, except as needed to cover a deficit remaining in the current fiscal year.

If lawmakers don't approve the CBR draw, money would be taken from the state investment bank — better known as the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, or AIDEA — and the state's education trust fund.

That will put pressure on members of the House's 19-person Republican minority caucus, who previously voted against drawing from the CBR. Thirty votes are needed in the 40-person House to spend from the CBR.

The final version of the budget includes an additional \$13.7 million for child care programs, \$5.7 million more for infant early learning programs and 15 new full-time positions to help process public assistance applications.

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

Grants Offered to Cancer Victims

Sitka Cancer Survivors Society offers grants to those dealing with cancer. Applications can be picked up at Sitka Realty, 228 Harbor Drive.

The public is reminded of the Path of Hope, an inspirational park located next to Moller track.

Donations are being accepted at P.O. Box 1624, Sitka. The organization has a new website at sitkacancersurvivorsociety.org

School Board to be At Graduations

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

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

SAIL Offerings

Southeast Alaska Independent Living has information and equipment to offer seniors and those experiencing disabilities.

The organization loans durable medical equipment, provides weekly recreation activities, helps veterans hire in-home personal care attendants, assist people with employment, advocate for reaching personal goals, connect people with other agencies, find funding resources, and more.

Individuals should stop by SAIL at 514 C Lake Street or call 888 500-7245 for more information.

Drill Conductor Classes in Sitka

AMSEA will conduct a fishing vessel drill conductor class 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. May 29 at the NSRAA building, 1308 Sawmill Creek Road.

The cost is free for commercial fishermen and \$300 for all others. It meets the U.S. Coast Guard training requirements for drill conductors on commercial fishing vessels. Register online at www.amsea.org or call (907) 747-3287.

The class will cover cold-water survival skills; EPIRBs, signal flares, and mayday calls; man-overboard recovery; firefighting; flooding and damage control; dewatering pumps, immersion suits and PFDs; helicopter rescue, life rafts, abandon ship procedures; and emergency drills. AMSEA's fishing vessel drill conductor workshops meet the U.S. Coast Guard training requirements for drill conductors on commercial fishing vessels.

The class is an opportunity for commercial fishermen and other mariners to gain hands-on training with marine safety equipment and learn best practices for surviving emergencies at sea. AMSEA is offering the class at a reduced cost to commercial fishermen with support from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, and AMSEA members.

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."

Sitka High School Commencement . . .

Continued from Front Page

Greta Rose Suminski, Autumn Lynne Treadway, Hayla Grace Trigg, Ava Noelle Urias, Zachary Alan Webb, Gwenevere Marie White, Jasmine Ann Wolfe, Braydon M. Wood and Kalleigh Grace Young.

The following scholarships and honors were received by the class.

Alaska Pulp Corp. Scholarship (\$20,000) — Ethan Clark, Julia Nabua, Tanner Steinson.

Sitka CHARR (\$35,000 total) — Fiona Caalim, Bryce Compagno-Calhoun, Rex Adres, Connor Hitchcock, Jasmine Wolfe, Julia Nabua, Ethan Clark, Aezlynn Nichols, Jackson Harmon.

Holland America Cruise Lines Award (\$2,000) — Tanner Steinson, Edgar Hernandez, Ethan Clark, Aezlynn Nichols, Jackson Harmon.

Sitka Emblem Club #142 Award (\$1,000) — Rex Adres, Ethan Clarke, Katlian Rhoads, Den Jomar Molina, Tanner Steinson.

Sitka Sportsman's (\$1,000) — Elise Brady, Tanner Steinson, Jackson Harmon. UA Scholars (\$12,000) — Elise Brady, Rita Christianson, Jaira Costelo, Evangelina Estes, Clare Mullin, Julia Nabua, Jasmine Nellis, Katlian Rhoads.

Lael Grant Memorial Scholarship (\$2,500) — Silas Ferguson.

Ethan McGill Artist Award (\$1,000) — Rita Christianson.

Mt. Verstovia Masonic Lodge (\$3,000) — Scott Eddy.

Sitka Education Support Professionals (\$500) — Zachary Webb, Jasmine Nellis.

Ocean Wave Quilt Guild Award (\$1,000) — Rex Adres.

Sitka Tribe of Alaska Scholarship (\$5,000) — Madison Campbell, Trey Demmert, Evangelina Estes, Scarlet Galanin.

Tulong Aral Scholarship — Julia Nabua (\$1,250), Rex Adres (\$1,250), Fiona Caalim (\$750), Den Jomar Molina (\$750), Jaira Costelo (\$500), Zachary Janssen (\$500).

Sitka Education Association (\$500) — Scott Eddy, Tanner Steinson, Trey Demmert, Ava Urias.

Sitka U.S. Coast Guard Spouses' and Women's Association Scholarship (\$1,000) — Rex Adres, Tanner Steinson.

College scholarships were given to: Rex Adres, University of Alaska Anchorage.

Elise Brady, ATP Pilot Training Pro-

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 Saturday, May 24 (9:00 a.m. to noon); absentee voting by mail, fax or email; personal representative; and in person on Election Day at Harrigan Centennial Hall, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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

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

Be Bear Aware At National Park

With the increased use of park trails, Sitka National Historical Park reminds the community and visitors that bears may be using park trails any time of the day.

It is important for the public to be bear aware, stay on the trails, and be aware of the risk of entering a wild and forested area where bears traverse, the park said in a news release.

"Visitors should always use caution when transitioning through the park, but especially from dusk to dawn, when the presence of bears is more likely," the park said.

Sitka NHP is a day-use park, only the trail from the visitor center across the bridge to Sawmill Creek Road is open to pedestrian through-traffic after dark.

Mini Quilt Exhibit At Backdoor Cafe

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

Salty Spoke Open Saturdays

The Salty Spoke community bike cooperative is open 11 a.m.-2 p.m. every Saturday at 4 Lincoln Street.

Community members can sign up to receive guidance from volunteers, and have a space and tool wall to fix and maintain their own bikes.

A selection of used bikes are available for sale as well.

For more information go to www.saltyspoke.com or email saltyspoke@gmail.com.

STA to Offer Snorkeling Times

Sitka Tribe of Alaska will offer two snorkeling session dates for tribal citizen families to promote family engagement and healthy connection.

Dates are June 2 or 9, with Selkie Snorkels.

Registration is required at <https://forms.gle/QFWtgj5y718ChFG37>. Email Jade Nodes with any questions at jade.nodes@sitkatriben-sn.gov.

gram.

Ethan Clark, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Autumn Treadway, University of Alaska Southeast.

Zach Janssen, University of Alaska Southeast.

Jasmine Wolfe, Oregon State University.

Braydon Wood, Workforce Aliyah Merculief, Fort Lexis College.

Clare Mullin, Gonzaga University.

Aiden Lafriniere, Oregon State University.

Julia Nabua, Seattle Pacific University.

Edgar Hernandez, Bellingham Technical College.

Desirae Hutton, Grand Canyon University.

Jasmine Nellis, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Katlian Rhoads, Western Washington University.

Evangelina Estes, University of Hawaii Manoa.

Jackson Harmon, California State Maritime Academy.

Den Jomar Molina, Southwestern Oregon Community College.

Honors Boards:

Aiden LaFriniere : 2022 Readers Theatre Champion

2022 Pantomime State Champion

2023 Duet Acting State Champion

2023 Solo Acting State Champion

2025 Duo Interpretation State Champion

2025 Solo Acting State Champion

Member of 4 DFF State Champion teams

2025Mock State champion

Clare Mullin: Total 13 State Championships – 10 individual – With possibility of 4 more

2024 Gatorade track and Field Runner of the year

2024 Outstanding Competitor State Championship

2024 3200 Meters State Champion

2024 1600 Meters State Champion

2024 800 Meters State Champion

2023 800 Meters State Champion

2023 1600 Meters State Champion

2022 800 Meters State

2022 1600 Meters State

2022 3200 Meters State

2022 4x4 Relay State Champion

2024 State XC Champion

2023 State XC Champion

Member of Girls Track and Field State Champion team 2023/2024

Trey Demmert: 2025 1st Team All State Basketball

Josh Gluth: 2025 All Northwest Mixed and Men's Choir Tenor

Rita Christianson: 2025 All Northwest Mixed Choir Alto

Melody Peacock: 2025 All Northwest Mixed Choir Soprano

Teams:

Girls Softball: State Champions 2024

DDF: State Champions 9 consecutive State Championships

Mock Trial: State Champions 4 Consecutive State Championships

Track and Field: 2024 4x200 Girls Relay DII State Champions

2024 4x 200 Boys Relay DII State Champions

2024 4x400 Boys Relay DII State Champions

2024 4x800 Boys Relay DII State Champions

2024 Girls DII State Champion Track and Field

2024 Boys DII State Champion Track and Field

Jomar Molina and Jack Mickelson – 2024 Unified Long Jump State Champion

Michael Leach and Jack Mickelson – 2023 Unified 100-meter State Champion

Felix Myers :

2022 Public Forum Debate State Champion

2023 Duo Interpretation State Champion

2023 Public Forum Debate State Champion

2024 Duo Interpretation State Champion

2024 Public Forum Debate State Champion

Member of 4 DFF State Champion teams

Member of 3 Mock trial State champion

Isabelle Schmetzer:

2023 Duet Acting State Champion

2024 Extemporaneous Commentary State Champion

Member of 3DFF State Champion teams

Eliot Holloway:

2023 Dramatic Interpretation State Champion

Member of 4 DFF State Champion teams

Ben Hedrick:

2022 Readers Theater State Champion

Member of 4 DFF State Champion team

Zoe Trafton:

2021 Pantomime State Champion

Member of 3 DFF State Champion team

Danica Majeski:

2021 Pantomime State Champion

2022 Readers Theater State Champion

Member of 4 DFF State Champion team

Aiden Ojala:

2023 State Wrestling Champion

Ada Parker:

2023 State Track and Field Triple Jump Champion

Member of Girls Track and Field State Champion team

Teams:

DDF: State Champions

Mock Trial: State Champions

Track and Field: 2023 4x800 Girls Relay DII State Champions

2023 4x800 Boys Relay DII State Champions

2023 Girls DII State Champion Track and Field

Aitana Gluth – All Northwest 1st Soprano

Darby Osborne – 2019 1st Pantomime, 2020 1st Public Forum Debate, 2020 Informative Speaking, 2021 1st Original Oratory, 2021 1st Dou Interpretation, 2022 1st Informative Speaking, 2022 DDF Student of the Year 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 state Champion Teams

Tawny Smith-2022 1st Team All State Basketball, Member of 2021 Girls Team State Track and Field Champion, Member of 2021State Champion in 4x8 Relay State Champ, Member of 4X4 Relay State Champ

Isabelle Williams- State Champion Humors Interpretation.



Rex Adres



Jasmine Wolfe



Aiden Lafriniere



Julia Nabua



Edgar Hernandez



Desirae Hutton



Ethan Clark



Autumn Treadway



Zach Janssen

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.

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.



Kudos to Kiernan!
We are so proud of her for graduating REACH Homeschool in 2025! Congratulations!



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." All 1970s classes are invited. Those with questions email trish.white75@gmail.com.

‘Library of Things’ Collection Noted

The Library of Things is available to browse and borrow at Sitka Public Library.

The collection includes a variety of tools, toys, equipment and other items. For information, contact Margot at 907 747-4020 or email margot.oconnell@cityofsitka.org.



SENTINEL SPORTS

Thunder Rout Nuggets to Clinch Game 7

By CLIFF BRUNT
AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The Oklahoma City Thunder grew up on Sunday.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 35 points, Jalen Williams added 24 and the Thunder rolled into the Western Conference finals, beating the Denver Nuggets 125-93 in Game 7.

The top-seeded Thunder will host the sixth-seeded Minnesota Timberwolves starting Tuesday. It's Oklahoma City's first trip to the conference finals since 2016.

Oklahoma City went a league-best 68-14 in the regular season, becoming the youngest team to win at least 60 games. To back up their status as the best team in the league, the Thunder had to get past three-time MVP Nikola Jokic and a Denver squad that won the NBA title in 2023 and beat the Los Angeles Clippers in seven games in the first round this year.

Coach Mark Daigneault said his players handled the pressure well.

"There's not many games, you wake up in the morning and you know that you're going to remember the game for the rest of your life, and



Thunder's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (2), Alex Caruso (9) and the bench celebrate late in the second half, Sunday in Oklahoma City. (AP Photo/Kyle Phillips)

Game 7 is one of them," he said. "To be able to focus through that and perform the way these guys did today was very impressive."

Jokic had 20 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for the Nuggets. Aar-

on Gordon, a key player for Denver throughout the playoffs who hit the winner in Game 1 against the Thunder, started despite a strained left hamstring. He had eight points and 11 rebounds in 24 minutes.

"What he played with today, I don't know many people that would even attempt to go out there and run up and down," Nuggets interim coach David Adelman said. "And he did it in Game 7 against Oklahoma City on the road. That that was one of most incredible things I've ever seen. He was extremely close to not playing. I was surprised."

The Thunder fell behind by 11 in the first quarter, but took the lead early in the second. Oklahoma City outscored Denver 39-20 in the period to take a 60-46 lead at the break.

Gordon was called for a flagrant-1 foul for elbowing Gilgeous-Alexander in the face early in the third quarter. Gilgeous-Alexander made both free throws, and then Williams hit a short jumper to give Oklahoma City a 66-46 lead.

Cason Wallace got loose on a fast break and dunked on Jokic to put the Thunder up 78-57, sparking delirious roars from the crowd.

Oklahoma City cruised from there and now hopes to make another leap.

"We're better now than we were at the beginning of the series, and it's because of them," Daigneault said. "They pushed us to the limit."



Sitka High's Bryce Compagno-Calhoun pitches against Petersburg Friday on Moller Field. Sitka swept the 3-game series. (Sentinel photo by James Poulson)

Baseball, Track Teams Compete

By Sentinel Staff

Sitka High's baseball squad routed the Petersburg Vikings in a three-game home series over the weekend. The Wolves blanked Petersburg 17-0 Friday in foul weather before playing twice more in better conditions Saturday, beating the Vikings 11-1 and 10-0.

Sitka plays Juneau here Friday and Saturday before heading to Ketchikan next week for the regional tournament.

Down in Ketchikan Friday and Saturday, the Wolves' track and field team faced off against squads from across Southeast, and Sitka's girls took first overall, while the boys took second. Sitka will run in the Region V meet this coming weekend in Juneau. A story on the track meet will run in Wednesday's Sentinel.

The Lady Wolves softball team had a bye this weekend, but plays in Juneau later this week.



Mariners' Randy Arozarena celebrates after hitting a home run during the fourth inning against the Padres, Sunday in San Diego. (AP Photo/Gregory Bull)

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Randy Arozarena homered off Michael King in the three-run fourth inning and the AL West-leading Seattle Mariners beat the San Diego Padres 6-1 Sunday to sweep the opening series of the inaugural Vedder Cup.

The Mariners homered six times

and outscored the Padres 15-3 in the three-game series. If needed, run differential will be the first tiebreaker in the Vedder Cup, named after Pearl Jam frontman Eddie Vedder, who has ties to both cities. The two teams, who share a spring training complex, formalized the competition in March. The winner gets a trophy featuring a guitar provided by Vedder, who was born in a Chicago suburb and is a Cubs fan. The teams play again Aug. 25-27 in Seattle.

Bryan Woo (5-1) settled down after giving up a leadoff homer on an 0-2 count to Fernando Tatis Jr., his 12th. Only one Padres player reached scoring position against Woo, who allowed one run and five hits in seven innings. He struck out five, walked none and retired his final 11 batters and 16 of his last 17.

The Padres were 0 for 21 with runners in scoring position in the series.

King (4-2) held the Padres hitless until Arozarena lined a 2-2 pitch to left with two outs in the fourth for his sixth homer. The Mariners followed

with four more consecutive hits, including a ground-rule RBI double by Leody Taveras and a single by Miles Mastrobuoni that ticked off King's glove.

Arozarena reached on a two-base fielding error by Tatis in right field leading off the sixth and scored on Mitch Garver's one-out single.

King allowed four runs, three earned, and six hits in 5 1/3 innings. He struck out eight and walked one.

Arozarena started the Mariners' scoring with his ninth career homer at Petco Park and second against San Diego.

While with Tampa Bay, Arozarena hit seven home runs at Petco Park during the 2020 AL playoff bubble — three against the Yankees in a division series win and four against the Astros in the ALCS win.

Mariners RHP Luis Castillo (3-3, 3.65 ERA) is scheduled to start tonight in the opener of a three-game series at the Chicago White Sox. The Padres haven't announced a starter for Tuesday night's series opener at Toronto.

Parity Reigns as NBA's Final Four Teams Set

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

The parity era continues in the NBA.

The New York Knicks haven't won an NBA championship since 1973. The Indiana Pacers won their most recent title that year — in the ABA. The Oklahoma City Thunder franchise has one title in its history, that coming in 1979 when the team called Seattle home. And the Minnesota Timberwolves have never even been to the NBA Finals.

Meet the NBA's final four.

When Commissioner Adam Silver hands one of those teams the Larry O'Brien Trophy next month, it'll mark a league first — seven championship franchises in a seven-year span.

There hasn't been a back-to-back NBA champion since Golden State in 2017 and 2018. From there, the list of champions goes like this: Toronto in 2019, the Los Angeles Lakers in 2020, Milwaukee in 2021, Golden State in 2022, Denver in 2023 and Boston last season.

It's the longest such run of different champions in NBA history; Major League Baseball, the NHL and the NFL have all had longer ones, and not too long ago, either.

But for the NBA, this is different. The league wanted unpredictability, especially after four consecutive Cleveland-vs.-Golden State title matchups from 2015 through 2018.

And things have been highly unpredictable since. No matter what the Finals matchup is this year, the NBA will be seeing 11 conference-champion franchises in the span of seven seasons.

"We've still got eight more wins to achieve our ultimate goal," Minnesota coach Chris Finch said. "We've still got two more series. We're only halfway there."

The season is over for 26 of the NBA's 30 clubs. But the fun stuff is just starting.



Pacers guard Tyrese Haliburton, left, celebrates along with forward Pascal Siakam after scoring during the second half in Game 5 of an Eastern Conference semifinal game, Tuesday in Cleveland. (AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)

the West finals last year; the Pacers lost the East finals a year ago.

"You've got to have big dreams," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "You don't know how often you're going to be in this position."

Indeed, the championship window for teams doesn't seem to be staying open as long as it did in the past.

Boston was a huge favorite to win its second straight title; the Celtics didn't get out of Round 2, in part because they couldn't hold onto big leads and in part because Jayson Tatum ruptured his right Achilles tendon in that series with the Knicks.

"Upset or not, whatever it is, we beat a great team," Knicks guard Jalen Brunson said. "They obviously lost a huge piece ... but they're still a great team."

Damian Lillard tore an Achilles tendon in Round 1, ending Milwaukee's hopes. Cleveland, the top seed in the East, bowed out in Round 2 against Indiana after a slew of Cavs were dealing with health issues. Stephen Curry strained his hamstring; that was all it took to doom Golden State's chances in Round 2 against Minnesota.

"He's our sun," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said. "This is a solar system. He's our sun."

And now, the NBA solar system is about to see new star holding the trophy.

The next one

There is nobody left in these playoffs who has been an NBA Finals MVP. Not even close.

In fact, there are only seven players left — Indiana's Pascal Siakam, Aaron Nesmith and Thomas Bryant; Knicks teammates P.J. Tucker, Cam Payne and Mikal Bridges; and Oklahoma City's Alex Caruso — who have appeared in a Finals game. And most of those appearances didn't add up to much: Siakam is the only player left in the playoffs with more than 100 Finals points.

So, who will the next Finals MVP be? Maybe Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, the Canadian guard and likely MVP from the Thunder? The "Mr. Clutch"

award winner, Brunson from the Knicks? Anthony Edwards, the presumed next face of the league from the Timberwolves? Tyrese Haliburton, the dazzling guard and Olympic gold medalist who keeps getting overlooked by everyone outside of Indiana?

None of them would be surprise choices.

"Our ultimate goal isn't just the Western Conference finals," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "You've got to go through there to get there."

Who has the edge?

If the NBA's final four was its own league this season, taking just the head-to-head results between those four clubs would suggest the Thunder are the clear favorite.

Oklahoma City went 6-2 against the other three conference finalists, while New York and Indiana both went 3-4 and Minnesota went 3-5.

The Thunder swept the Pacers and Knicks, and the Pacers swept the Timberwolves.

As far as the head-to-heads going into the conference finals, Oklahoma City and Minnesota split four meetings — with the Timberwolves outscoring the Thunder 475-472 — while the Knicks went 2-1 against Indiana, with all three games decided by at least 11 points.

"You can feel good about it, feel however you want to feel about it," Haliburton said of getting to this point. "But at the end of the day, we're not done. We know we all have a bigger goal at mind. Our goal wasn't just to get to the Eastern Conference finals and be done. Our goal is to win a championship."

Medvejie Solstice Run
June 21 at 9 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Alpine Adventure Run 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.

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: I have been married 10 years. My husband is from another country, and the last six years haven't been easy. I've been the sole provider for our family, on the advice of our lawyer, while we were getting his paperwork complete (my husband refused to work illegally). I have stood by this man through thick and thin and endured his verbal, emotional and even a little physical abuse, I'm ashamed to admit.

The final straw came when he was having a bad day and threw a tantrum in public because our toddler was crying. After he smashed his fishing pole, I told him his behavior was childish and ignorant. He told me he would show me "childish" when we got home. I took my child and have been staying with my mom for the last six months. (I also have to mention that my husband has been going through undiagnosed mental crises since COVID.)

Since we left, he has realized how badly he treated me and seems to be getting help on his issues. Should I trust that he's changed to be a better man, or do I walk away? He's a great father and was a stay-at-home dad until he started working right after I left. I never want my child to think it's OK to be abused or, heaven forbid, treat someone else that way. -- BEWILDERED IN INDIANA

DEAR BEWILDERED: I agree that tolerating mistreatment sets a terrible example for your child. You state that your husband "seems" to be getting professional help for his issues. Before making the decision to reunite or walk away, punt. Make sure he is getting the help he says he is and not

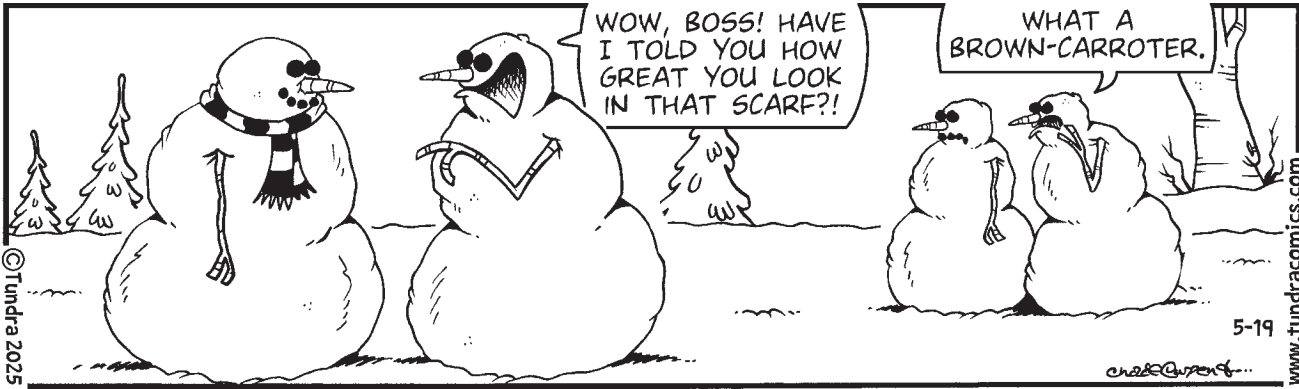
just romancing you. Joining him during some sessions with his therapist might reassure you and prove beneficial for both of you IF you decide to remain married to him.

DEAR ABBY: I have had a friend since junior high. We have kept in touch off and on over the years. The last few years, she and her hubby have wanted to visit us more often. We have visited them in their state, too. When we are their guests, we always go all out to show our appreciation for them hosting us by taking them out for dinners, etc.

During their last visit, we made nice dinners and provided alcohol, which her husband drank most of. He bought himself more but didn't think to get us anything. There was also never an offer to take us out, not even to breakfast, although they took themselves out several times. We felt taken advantage of. We have decided we no longer want to host them because of their selfishness. How do I tell my friend the next time they ask to come? I know they will. -- FEELING USED IN COLORADO

DEAR FEELING USED: The next time the woman calls and asks to visit, tell her it "isn't convenient" or you have "other plans" and will be unable to host her and her husband. Then suggest they make a reservation at a nice hotel. I'm betting they won't take you up on it, and you'll be firmly off the hook. (Repeat as often as is necessary.)

TUNDRA



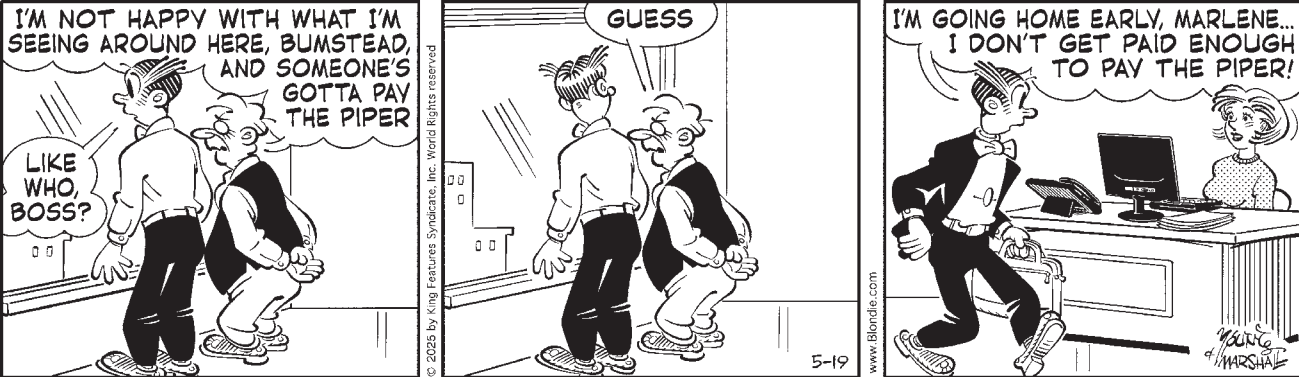
ZITS



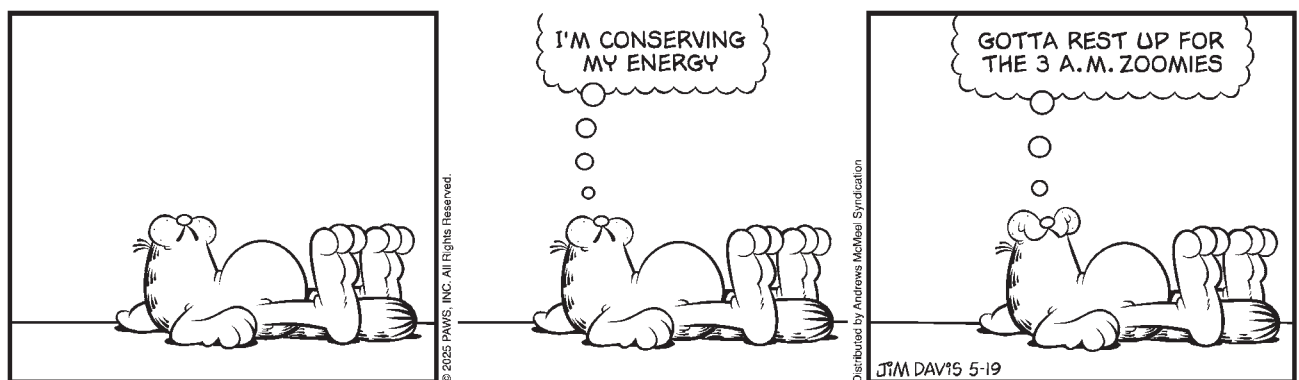
RHYMES WITH ORANGE



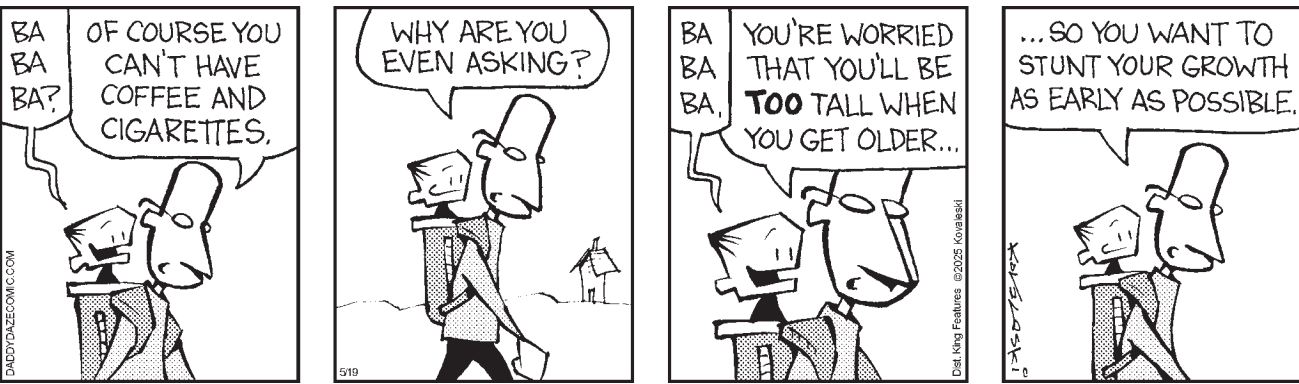
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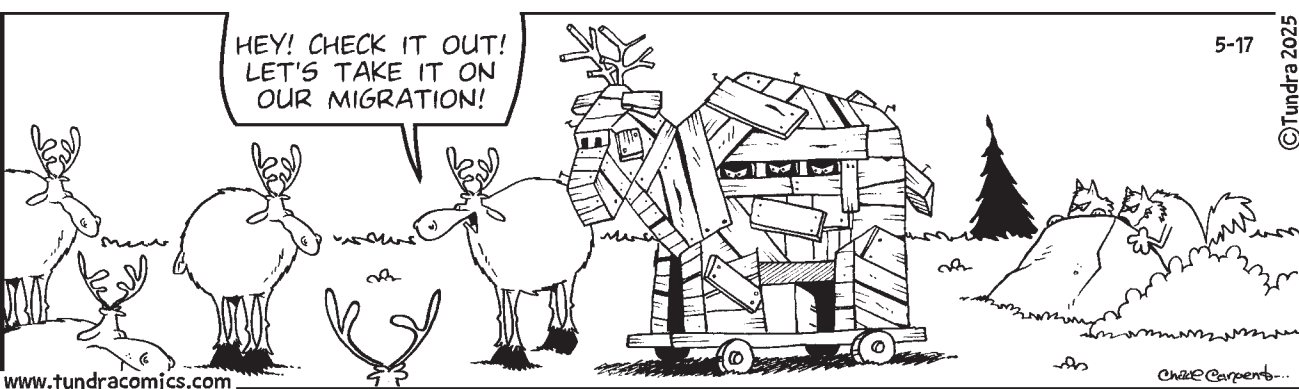
GARFIELD



DADDY DAZE



SATURDAY'S CARTOON...



CROSSWORD

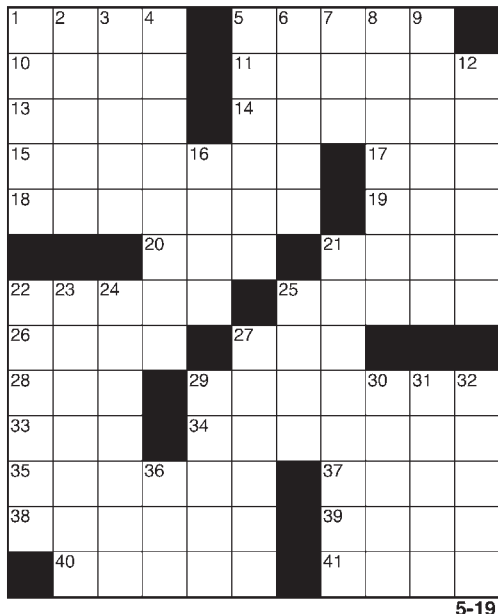
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Job for a lawyer
5 Honolulu
10 Really
11 Team spirit
13 Soothing ointment
14 Saffron-flavored dish
15 Like tanks
17 1040 org.
18 Some horse-shoes throws
19 In shape
20 Even score
21 Bud holder
22 Thin mattress
25 Tonic, for one
26 Steel ingredient
27 Buddy
28 Saloon
29 Twist
33 One, for Juan
34 Go too long
35 Hang around
37 Track event
38 Fall

39 "Now — me down ..."
40 Role for Heston
41 Nile snakes

DOWN

1 Plotting group
2 In the know
3 King march site
4 Alberta's capital
5 Current unit
6 A lot
7 Mine yield
8 Nova Scotia's capital
9 Order in the court
12 Lent ender
16 Rider's strap
21 British Columbia's capital
22 Leg bone
23 Heavy metal
24 Ontario's capital
25 "Death in Venice" author
27 Laments
29 Sweet liqueur
30 Squashed circles
31 Summary
32 Low cards
36 Astronaut Grissom



Friday's answer

9 Order in the court
12 Lent ender
16 Rider's strap
21 British Columbia's capital
22 Leg bone
23 Heavy metal
24 Ontario's capital
25 "Death in Venice" author
27 Laments
29 Sweet liqueur
30 Squashed circles
31 Summary
32 Low cards
36 Astronaut Grissom

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.

5-19 CRYPTOQUOTE
LJLDQ EFU ZT FDBLMUQ
UZNEDSX EIQ FDLEUDDL VX
FZIUDEDQ UZ GBKEI SVPIVUQ.

— OZOL TDEIFVX
Previous Cryptoquote: EVERY STORY I CREATE CREATES ME. I WRITE TO CREATE MYSELF. EVERY STORY I WRITE ADDS TO ME A LITTLE. — OCTAVIA BUTLER



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: EARTH SCIENCE (e.g., What is the highest mountain on Earth? Answer: Mount Everest.)

FRESHMAN LEVEL

1. What is moving air called? Answer _____
2. Excluding Antarctica, what is the largest desert in the world? Answer _____
3. About how many hours does it take Earth to rotate once on its axis? Answer _____

GRADUATE LEVEL

4. What is the name for very hot liquid rock found below Earth's surface? Answer _____
5. By what name is the parallel of latitude approximately 23.5 degrees north of the equator? Answer _____
6. What is the name for the outer-most layer of Earth? Answer _____

PH.D. LEVEL

7. What is the term for a scientist who studies earthquakes? Answer _____
8. Name the layer of Earth's stratosphere that absorbs most of the sun's ultraviolet radiation. Answer _____
9. What is the name of the deepest location in Earth's oceans? 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. Wind, 2. The Sahara Desert, 3. Twenty-four hours, 4. Magma, 5. Tropic of Cancer, 6. Ozone layer, 7. Seismologist, 8. Ozonosphere, 9. Mariana Trench.

Sitka by the Stars

For Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Today marks the arrival of GEMINI season, emphasizing the importance of social connection, scintillating conversation and intellectual pursuits. The first half of the day calls on us to put on our thinking caps to creatively solve problems and come up with fresh ideas. The energy of the day encourages us to be imaginative and open-minded. At the same time, the earlier part of the day will be useful for getting the hard work done. Meanwhile, the afternoon and evening will be good for delving into anything that piques our interest.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
Your originality is a valuable resource. Put it to good use.
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
Your endurance and determination will enable you to reach your goals, especially those pertaining to business or finance.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
It's your time to shine! If you dare to put yourself out there and allow people to see the real you, your courage will be rewarded.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
The first half of the day is great for participating in group or team-based projects. The latter half of the day will be best for some much-needed alone time.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)
You'll find the day to be advantageous for resolving a difficult matter. However, don't neglect to ask for help if needed. You've got people in your corner.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

People may seek your expertise or guidance. Share it with them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
Before starting new projects, take time to clear any outstanding tasks off your plate first. Give yourself as clean of a slate as possible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
Plan to spend quality time with someone you love.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
You often try to do it all, but learning how to delegate tasks and responsibilities is what will bring you success.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
You can build strong relationships with solid people just by being yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

When you make decisions from a grounded and self-assured place, you can't ever lose.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)
Your sharp thinking gets results. Pay close attention to your intuition.

FOR TODAY'S BIRTHDAY
You're a naturally curious person. You possess an active mind that's always eager for information. You may be a writer, a researcher, or someone who enjoys working with facts and figures. You're good at storytelling and getting people to laugh. However, you tend to keep your feelings and secrets close to your chest, giving only a lucky few access to your innermost thoughts. This year, think hard about the kind of leader you want to be because there may be a leadership opportunity waiting for you, whether it's in your field of choice, in your family, or in your community.

ANSWER TO FRIDAY'S PUZZLE

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 5/16

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★ 5/19

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.

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Meet the Sitka High School Class of 2025



Meet our SHS graduates: Rex Castillo Adres, Phillip Lewis Arnold, Kaelynn Ari Balovich, Tyson Robert Bartolaba, Raymond Christopher Bean, Alessandra Michelle Berumen Solís, Elise Brady, Cayden Alton Brenner, AudreyAnna Michelle Brevick, Fiona Ashley Baybayan Caalim, Madison Ann Campbell, Orion Gabriel Carrington, Rita Margaret Christianson, Ethan Michael Clark, Chance Matthew Coleman, Bryce Murphy Compagno-Calhoun, Jaira Jade A Costelo, Andrew A. Cranston-Simmons, Lei’a Lynn Pomaka’I Daly, Lance Kerby Castillo Dasalla, Masin Guy Davis, Trey Corbett Demmert, Madison Marie Dill, Marina Lee Dill, Samuel Scott Eddy, Ashley Enríquez Mendoza, Evangelina Vae Estes, Dane Louis Evans, Silas Nathan Ferguson, Kelly Chelan Fredrickson, Scarlet Joan Galanin, Joshua David Gluth, Jacob Clint Greenhalgh, Jackson Lee Anapalani Harmon, Edgar Issac Hernandez, Connor Kennedy Hitchcock, Levi Nicolas Hodges, Emily Rachel Hoffay, Desirae Imani Hutton, Zachary Yoshie Janssen, Gabriel Andrew John, Crystal Esther Eileen Johnson, Isabel Apphia Johnson, Sophia Ann Kibby, Aiden William Lafriniere, Yaretzi Macias, Lily Rose Mayo, Joshua Adam McGraw, Aliyah Shayanne Merculief, Jasonlee Kristopher Miller, Den Jomar Rendon Molina, Clare Elleri Mullin, Julia Francesca Palaganas Nabua, Jasmine Sharleen Nellis, Aezlynn Brooke Nichols, Rowan Olney-Miller, Everett Randall Overturf, Melody Rose Peacocke, Katlian Iris Rhoads, Logan Thomas Rice, Mitchell Russell Sachsenmaier, Lewis Michael Schumejda, Tanner James Steinson, Greta Rose Suminski, Autumn Lynne Treadway, Hayla Grace Trigg, Ava Noelle Urias, Zachary Alan Webb, Gwenevere Marie White, Jasmine Ann Wolfe, Braydon M. Wood and Kalleigh Grace Young.

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