



Ready to Grow

Joel Hanson, representing two nonprofit groups, Sitka Local Foods Network and Transition Sitka, breaks ground Saturday at the site of the future Sitka Community Gardens at the end of Jarvis Street. Sitkans are invited to sign up for a plot. Three demonstration plots are planned for this summer's growing season, with full garden operation slated for 2026. Email transitionsitka@gmail.com for information. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)

Session Ends with Big Bills Still on Table

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

The Alaska Legislature adjourned its regular session on Tuesday without finishing work on a major elections bill or a bill reimposing limits on cash donations to election candidates.

House Bill 16, the campaign finance bill, and Senate Bill 64, the elections reform legislation, are expected to return when the Legislature resumes work in January, and they could be part of a wave of major legislation that advances through the Capitol early next year.

"We got really close with the election bill, and I think the prospects for passing next year are good," said Speaker of the House Bryce Edgmon, I-Dillingham.

"I expect that we may have a legitimate shot at passing that bill early next session," he said.

Sen. Bill Wielechowski, D-Anchorage, said that both bills could have gotten legislative approval, but they would have been vetoed by Gov. Mike Dunleavy.

"We were told flat out, the governor would veto it, by someone in the governor's office," Wielechowski said.

The governor's communications office did not respond to an email asking whether Wielechowski's statement was accurate.

If enacted, HB 16 would, among other things, limit Alaskans to \$2,000 in donations per candidate in each two-year election cycle. Alaska currently has no limit on the amount of money

a person can donate to a candidate. A ballot measure is slated for the 2026 election, but the restrictions could come into place earlier, if the Legislature approves.

SB 64, as currently written, is a broad election reform bill that includes significant changes to the way the state deals with absentee voting.

"I think we are poised and in a position where there will be a number of pieces of significant legislation passed next year, probably early on in the session, and we will be dealing with a number of veto overrides during the session," Wielechowski said.

Wielechowski said the possibilities include an elections bill, a campaign finance bill, the long-awaited pension restoration bill and a bill taxing busi-

nesses whose owners are taxed separately from the businesses, known as C-corporations.

To avoid a veto, Wielechowski and others said they intend to work with Republicans in the House and Senate minorities to try to garner support for a compromise that could win a veto-proof majority of votes in the Legislature.

It takes 40 votes to override a policy veto; the coalition majorities in the House and Senate have a combined 35 members, meaning that additional Republican support would be needed.

House Minority Leader Mia Costello, R-Anchorage, said she thinks changes to Senate Bill 64 are needed for any compromise.

Continued on Page 3

First Sitkan Graduates from the C.G. Academy

By CATHY LI
Sentinel Staff Writer

First Sitkan Graduates From the C.G. Academy

Growing up in Sitka, Kobi Weiland saw the Coast Guard's presence everywhere. He had friends in Coast Guard families, saw Coast Guard helicopters flying in drills and rescue missions, and doing flyovers during parades. Enrolling in the United States Coast Guard Academy seemed like a natural progression after high school — which is why he was surprised to find that as of today he's the first Sitkan to graduate from the academy.

Weiland, 21, received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in ceremonies today at the academy in New London, Connecticut, and will

be commissioned to the icebreaking tug CGC Biscayne Bay, homeported in Saint Ignace, Michigan.

He will serve as an ensign, the lowest-ranking officer, helping other officers on board with logistics and managing the enlisted personnel.

"We tell him how we feel and how much we see his hard work, sacrifice and commitment," Weiland's mother, Erika Knox, said. "He's got great opportunities that other people don't have. There's probably nothing else to tell him we haven't told him before."

As a cadet, Weiland underwent a liberal arts education in addition to seamanship and military training. He highlighted his experiences with the offshore sailing team as one of his favorite memories. He had sailed in Sitka before, but never anything like the high-pressure situations on bigger boats that the academy required of him. He described a sailing race from



Kobi Weiland, left, chats with academy Provost Dr. Amy Donahue during graduation ceremonies today in New London. (Photo provided by Erika Knox)

Newport, Rhode Island, to Bermuda that took more than three days.

"The weather was pretty terrible for

most of it. It was big seas and a lot of wind. But being out in the middle of

Continued on Page 3



CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE

NEXT SHIP

Thursday, May 22

Passengers 1968 (capacity)

NG Sea Lion

Petro Marine

Westerdam

Sitka Cruise Terminal

8am – 4pm

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



PREMIERE MUSIC – Members of the award-winning JACK Quartet perform at the Odess Theater Friday night. The New York City ensemble dedicated to playing contemporary classical music, premiered music by former long-time Alaska resident and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer John Luther Adams. The Sitka Music Festival sponsored the concert. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)

Legislators Adjourn PFD Set at \$ 1,000

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

The Alaska Legislature adjourned its regular session on Tuesday, one day earlier than expected, after passing a "maintenance level" state budget that contains a \$1,000 Permanent Fund dividend. Legislators do not expect a special session this year.

"I would like to thank all of you for getting to this point: a day early, and before midnight. Pretty remarkable," said Senate President Gary Stevens, R-Kodiak.

Legislators adjourned hours after overriding Gov. Mike Dunleavy's veto of a major education bill. During the time in between, they passed a series of bills, including a ban on payday lending, changes to tax collection for Turo, and policies for prisoners' use of tablet PCs, among others.

This year, the first of the two-year 34th Alaska State Legislature, 32 bills were passed by both the House and the Senate.

After the House ended its formal work for the year, legislative aides began celebrating with music and pizza, filling the Capitol's fourth floor with singing and cheering.

A narrow House majority didn't stumble

During the session, legislators contended with falling oil revenue. Legislators didn't pass any tax increases, instead adopting significant budget cuts. The Alaska House navigated partisan divisions that left its majority coalition — 14 Democrats, 5 independents and

2 Republicans — with only a one-vote margin over a 19-person House Republican minority.

That coalition majority, and a similar one in the Senate, had to negotiate with a governor who has significantly different policy views from the coalitions.

Speaker of the House Bryce Edgmon, I-Dillingham, said the early adjournment is something to be proud of. "I'm pretty pleased that we achieved it," he said.

It was the first time since 2018 that the Legislature did not reach the constitutional limit of 121 days to complete the session, though the 2020 session was interrupted by a seven-week break due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"In a year where the House was sharply divided in terms of numbers, oil prices sank, we did our best to work with the governor, who, at many times, was not seemingly here in the building, and we put it all together," Edgmon said.

House Minority Leader Mia Costello, R-Anchorage, said her caucus wasn't satisfied with the result.

"I think we're disappointed that we didn't address more issues related to energy and the challenges we have and the opportunities that we have with resource development and energy and dovetailing with the president and our congressional delegation," she said. "So we wanted more legislation in that area. But as far as adjourning, it is what it is, and we're just going to gear up for

Continued on Page 3

Sitka Legislator Plans Projects for Next Year

SHANNON HAUGLAND
Sentinel Staff Writer

In addition to her work this year to win a permanent increase in per-student funding for schools, Sitka Rep. Rebecca Himschoot co-sponsored legislation in the State House related to Medicare cuts, Alaska-Canada relationship, regulations on resident hunting and fishing licenses, and other issues.

This year's session of the Legislature wrapped up Tuesday, after a successful vote to override the governor's veto of a \$700 permanent per student increase in the base student allocation.

In an interview over the week, Himschoot spoke to the Sentinel about two resolutions, and three bills she sponsored or co-sponsored this session.

These measures will be carried over to the second session of the 34th Alaska Legislature when it convenes next January. Two are resolutions, which are statements of support and don't need the governor's signature.

-- House Joint Resolution recognizes and honors the relationship between Canada and Alaska, and opposes President Trump's idea that Canada should be the 51st U.S. state.

-- Senate Joint Resolution 15 calls upon the Alaska Congressional delegation to oppose cuts to Medicaid, the federally funded medical care for low income Alaskans.

- House Bill 35, which would set a policy to guide the Alaska Department of Corrections on use of electronic devices in prisons. "They are not intended for entertainment, they are intended for rehabilitation and visitation," including visits with family members and pastors. The bill would only set a policy; any purchases of electronic devices would be discussed separately. The bill was awaiting transmission to the governor Tuesday.

- House Bill 93 would restrict resident licenses for hunting, trapping and fishing to those who are eligible for an Alaska Permanent Fund dividend. The bill was referred to the Rules Committee in late March.

- House Bill 133 would establish "prompt payment parity for nonprofits." Alaska's State Procurement Code requires the state to pay private contractors within 30 days; the bill would extend the same standards to nonprofits, tribes and municipalities. The bill was referred to state affairs April 30.

- HB 191 would establish an invasive species council under the Department of Fish and Game. "As the climate warms and as more visitors come to Alaska our difficulties with invasive species are only going to intensify," Himschoot said. The bill was referred to the Finance Committee earlier this month.

Six People Rescued After Boat Capsizes

SHANNON HAUGLAND
Sentinel Staff Writer

Six people aboard a 26-foot recreational boat, the Salmonater, were rescued Tuesday evening after the vessel capsized near Warren Island, 100 miles southeast of Sitka, the Coast Guard said today.

The Coast Guard Sector Command Center at Juneau received an SOS iPhone text at 6 p.m. Tuesday from the Salmonater that said "Boat Flipped."

USCG Air Station Sitka was notified, and launched a helicopter, while the Coast Guard sent out an urgent marine broadcast to vessels in the area of the capsized, on the northwest side of Prince of Wales Island.

A Good Samaritan vessel, Sunlight, heard the distress call, reached Warren Island and saw the boaters on the beach. The Coast Guard wasn't certain how the six made it ashore, although it's likely they swam since no rafts or boats were seen nearby, the Coast Guard said.

When the Air Station Sitka helicopter arrived around 7:30 p.m., the boaters told the Coast Guard they didn't need medical care. They were flown to Coffman Cove, on the opposite side of Prince of Wales Island, and the case was wrapped up by 7:45 p.m., the

Coast Guard said.

The Salmonater was left overturned and partially submerged, the Coast Guard said. The USCG Marine Safety Detachment in Ketchikan was notified, and information wasn't available about the possible cause of the accident.

Coast Guard spokesman John Hightower, petty officer second class, said it was fortunate all survived.

"This is testament to the readiness of our workforce," he said.

The Daily Sentinel

will not publish

Monday, May 26

in observance of

Memorial Day

The deadline for news releases and advertising items for the Tuesday, May 27 edition is 3 p.m. Friday, May 23

Letters to the Editor

Secure Rural Schools

Dear Editor: If you live in Sitka, I don't have to tell you how important the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program is. It helps ensure your schools are well-staffed and that your communities have the resources to maintain roads and provide emergency services.

Right now, though, there's a problem. Congress hasn't reauthorized SRS, and we're on the verge of a funding lapse for the program. I'm hearing from worried city managers and school administrators, and I want you to know I'm working hard to avoid any loss of federal funds.

At the end of the last Congress, the Senate passed a bill renewing SRS for three years, but it failed to pass the House. In the current 119th Congress, I'm pushing identical legislation, but it hasn't passed, threatening our ability to provide this year's funding to eligible communities.

Fortunately, both Senate Finance Chairman Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) and Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) represent states that benefit from Secure Rural Schools. They know its value and are working with me to help renew the program as soon as possible. With a total of 28 Senators adding their names to our legislation, I'm confident we will get this done.

I want to thank the Alaska Legislature for passing their resolution asking Congress to reauthorize Secure Rural Schools. You can make a difference by continuing your vocal support of SRS – so that all policymakers in Washington, DC, understand what it means for forested communities across Alaska.

U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski

Tourism is Thriving

Dear Editor: The tourist industry in Sitka is thriving, and it will continue to do so if Proposition 1 passes. There's been a lot of talk and numbers thrown down about how bad Proposition 1 is. There seems to be a false narrative going around that if this proposition passes that there will be NO tourism in Sitka! They seem to have forgotten the real tourist industry here!

"All cruisers are tourists, but not all tourists are cruisers."

There are the independent tourists that FILL the fish charters and lodges. Independent tourists that fill the hotels, B&Bs, short-term rentals, Air B&Bs, VRBO's, hostels, airlines, ferries, car rentals, RV parks, wildlife tours, van tours, hiking tours, etc.

We share with them grocery stores, liquor stores, restaurants, food trucks, clothing stores, art stores, chocolatiers, museums and such.

A lot of jobs and sales tax are generated by those Independent tourists! (And us locals.)

Now let's toss in 300,000 "cruisers." That number may be low as it does not include any "crew members" nor any "cruisers" on ships under 250 passengers. There are 53 small ship sailings (number from cruise ship calendar into Sitka season 2025.)

I think we have a very robust and very busy tourist season ahead of us.

Be wary of people tossing numbers around and question them if they can't back them up with real solid facts from real solid sources!

"Disinformation is duping. Misinformation is tricking."

The proposition is not anti-tourist; rather, it aims to manage the overwhelming influx of cruise passengers. Proposition 1 was written with flexibility to fine tune it by the Assembly if needed. It finally gives the City of Sitka a solid foundation to really manage the cruise passenger flow into Sitka!

Jim Moormann, Sitka

Supports 300,000 Cap

Dear Editor: Larry Edward's recent LTE was very helpful in putting the effects, and lack of dire consequences, of the 300,000 cruise passenger cap in perspective.

Two reports were presented at the last Assembly meeting that give me hope and further make the case for limiting our dependence on the cruise industry (with emphasis on "industry"). Randy Hughey, executive director of

the Sitka Community Land Trust, reported that they are successfully nearing completion of their housing project on Halibut Point Road, that the first house has now changed hands with a profit to the homeowner while maintaining an affordable price for the new owner, and that with this proof of concept, they are now seeking more land to further provide affordable housing for year-round Sitkans.

Rachel Roy's report on Visit Sitka's new marketing program dovetailed nicely with the promise of increased affordable housing for locals. The program will focus on regenerative tourism. Paraphrasing Marc Truys on Mize.tech, regenerative tourism views tourism as a living system, not just an industry, and fosters harmony in nature, culture, and economy, with a focus on restoring ecosystems and empowering local communities beyond minimizing impact.

Rachel described Visit Sitka's approach (again paraphrasing) as increasing their efforts to welcome year-round independent travelers, supporting and enhancing their experiences in a way that will foster an appreciation for the natural beauty, culture and historical authenticity of Sitka, nurturing a sense of connection that can lead to return multi-day visits. Boosting Sitka's desirability as a conference destination is also an important piece of the program.

Martina Kurzer's excellent and detailed LTE on Friday supports the positivity of the reports to the Assembly by pointing out that bed tax (as well as revenue from broad community spending by multi-day visitors) is a significant piece of our economy, that fish prices are improving (if we can protect our ocean ecosystems), and that the airport and SEARHC expansions are/will also create jobs.

All of this contributes to year-round economic prosperity for families who choose to make Sitka their home. Limiting the unsustainable impacts of the corporate cruise industry while still allowing hundreds of thousands of cruise passengers to experience a town that protects its authenticity, environmental health and diversity will only enhance their experience. I'm voting Yes on One to give us the space to protect and nourish the existing priceless gifts this place already affords us and to grow the healthy thriving community we all want.

Barbara Bingham, 43-year Sitka Resident

Please Vote No

Dear Editor: I want to begin by sharing some powerful words that have fueled my determination through both trials and triumphs – words that remind us of the essence of true courage:

"It is not the critic who counts; not the one who points out how the strong stumble... The credit belongs to the one who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood... who errs, who comes short again and again... but who strives to do the deeds... who spends themselves to a worthy cause; who, at best, knows the triumph of high achievement, and who, at worst, if they fail, at least fail while daring greatly... so that their place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat." –Theodore Roosevelt

In tonight's paper, you will read a list of inspiring business owners who believe wholeheartedly in the power of collaboration. These individuals didn't just talk about making a difference; they took bold action. They dared greatly and stood together.

Our town is inherently generous; not a single worthy cause goes unsupported, and our business owners consistently step up to donate. As we navigate a pivotal moment in Sitka's history, let's reflect on our choices.

Will we embrace fear or the truth that we are undeniably strong?

I am confident that we can unite, support each other, and affirm our commitment to the businesses that play an integral role in our town. Our community thrives on collaboration and dialogue, and we are more than capable of tackling even the most complex challenges.

Let us prioritize balance over bans and collaboration over cancellation. Stepping into the arena, though sometimes uncomfortable, is vital for the welfare of our town and future generations. Please Vote No!

Teal West, Sitka

Sitkans for Safe Technology

Dear Editor: Five new cell towers are proposed in Sitka by one provider, who disclosed that information in a meeting before the Planning Commission. Their proposed 120-foot tower at 116 Nancy Court was denied a variance by the Planning Commission (120 feet is over three times the allowed height of 35 feet for Zone R1). The proposed tower is only 145 feet from homes in a very high landslide risk zone. (Please note that at the variance hearing, a commercial property owner eagerly offered his property for sale or lease to the applicant for a tower; however, to date, the applicant has not contacted him to discuss this alternate site.) The Assembly is reviewing the appeal of the Planning Commission's unanimous denial of the variance on May 29 at 6 p.m.

In addition, a recent legal notice in the Sentinel requests public comments for a different 75-foot tower application at 404 Sawmill Creek Road,

only 320 feet from Xoots (formerly Baranof) Elementary School. Unfortunately, our community does not have ordinances addressing current technology to ensure a thoughtful and consistent approach to the requests for additional cell towers with appropriate setbacks from residences, schools, and other sensitive groups. Recognizing the need for comprehensive technology ordinances, more and more communities, such as Juneau, have enacted clear regulations on cell towers addressing meaningful setbacks to preserve community character, viewsheds, and health/safety requirements (See Juneau's Municipal Code of Ordinances on Wireless Communication Facilities, Section 49.65.900, et seq.).

We believe the City and Borough of Sitka must do the same, avoiding recent efforts to shoehorn cell towers into places that are not appropriate, bypassing typical standards developed for this technology.

Nationally, setbacks from homes are often at least ¼-mile, or in Juneau 1,000 feet, significantly more than the 145 feet proposed in Sitka. The Children's Health Defense Organization recommends that cell towers be no closer than 1,500 feet from homes and schools.

Cell tower applications should meet established criteria and stated priorities before consuming the valuable time of our City and Borough's governmental and administrative resources for multiple hearings and appeals. This is a critical need for all neighborhoods to protect themselves and the community, as failing to mobilize and respond quickly may be viewed as consent to these tower requests. We risk inconsistent results in a "whack-a-mole" approach addressing tower-by-tower requests without provisions in the Master Plan and ordinances.

Pending a final adoption of such ordinances, we urge all tower applicants who plan to erect towers in R-1 (residential) or school zones to exhaust co-location opportunities for service, and consider placement in commercial, non-residential districts, or explore the use of mobile Cell on Wheels ("COWs") to address additional cell needs, particularly during the robust tourist visitation months.

Residents should not bear the burden of potential health effects, impacted aesthetics, blight, and declining property values without demonstrated public necessity. We appreciate the use and benefits of wireless technology, but urge the adoption of reasonable regulations that ensure consistent approaches and guide placement, construction, and modification of wireless communication facilities. These regulations need to balance federal rules/regulations with:

- Promote the public's health, safety, and general welfare.
- Establish siting, design, and screening standards to maintain natural surroundings, neighborhood character, and scenic viewsheds.
- Encourage strong incentives for co-location on existing towers.
- Bring a thoughtful approach to the growing need and demand for wireless communications services.

There are several ways you can urge these considerations:

1) The Assembly will hear the appeal on the denial of the 120-foot tall variance at 116 Nancy Court on May 29 at 6 p.m. Write to Assembly members in advance and/or offer your 3 minutes of comment during the appeal (telephonic requests to speak are required by 5 p.m. on May 28 made to clerk@cityofsitka.org).

2) Submit environmental comments on the 75-foot tall tower at 404 Sawmill Creek Road to the FCC re: #A1312368 www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest, and provide comment regarding potential effects on historic properties to KB re: EBI #232990-PR, 21 B. Street, Burlington, MA 01803 or kbaer@ebiconsulting.com (this deadline is June 6, 2026).

3) Educate yourselves about health and safety concerns by joining us in a public forum on May 22 at 6 p.m. at Harrigan Centennial Hall, Room 6 to engage with leading experts from the Children's Health Defense Organization as they discuss current research on cell towers and ways to lessen these impacts through code provisions consistent with our community values and concerns.

Don't just complain or wonder, be the change and be heard!

**Sitka for Safe Technology
Hal and Carrie Spackman,
Clay and Larissa Nellis, Carol Voison, Taylor and Mike Vieira, Amanda and John Martin Jr., Jack and Jennifer Davis, Laurie Johnson, Kelly Sweeney, and Robert Krehbiel**

Weather

Sitka Forecast

For tonight expect a low of 42 degrees with a 20 percent chance of rain. On Thursday expect a high of 52 degrees, a 20 percent chance of rain, and an overnight low of 43 degrees with sprinkles.

Sitka Weather

Temperatures ranged from 48 to 54 degrees, winds were calm and .02 inch of rain fell in the 24 hours ending at midnight last night, Sitka Flight Service Station says.

Child Centers Get State Funds

**By CORINNE SMITH
Alaska Beacon**

The Alaska Legislature has approved state funding for child advocacy centers, which support child victims of physical and sexual abuse.

Alaska's 20 centers were in limbo, facing a \$5.5 million shortfall after federal grants were ended or cut, as

well as uncertainty over whether operations and services would continue past June.

On Friday afternoon, the budget conference committee – tasked with hammering out the final budget between the House and Senate versions – approved the funds to fill the gap and provide \$5.5 million in state

funding.

Rep. Andy Josephson, D-Anchorage and chair of the committee, said it was made clear that funding for the centers was a priority. "They're critically important, and they rose to the very, very top of my list," he said. "In other words, there was no ask, given their financial predicament and importance, that I thought was more significant."

Mari Mukai, executive director of the nonprofit Alaska Children's Alliance, said she was grateful for the funding. The alliance provides support, training and technical assistance to Alaska's 20 child advocacy centers around the state. "I know what a difficult fiscal situation we're in right now and understand that many difficult decisions needed to be made," she said in a phone interview on Monday.

Child advocacy centers provide services for children and their caregivers after suspected physical or sexual abuse, including trauma-informed interviewing, forensic services, streamlined investigations, and victim advocacy through the life of the case. They served 2,061 families statewide last year, Mukai said.

The centers are funded at \$10.9 million through a mix of federal and local grants, as well as other funding they raise. Mukai said the state's backstop funding will make up about half of their budget, and enable the centers to continue current operations and services.

"Unfortunately, Alaska is consistently on the top of the nation for rates of child abuse and violence, and domestic violence, and so unfortunately, yes, I do think that there's still a lot of need, but this would be a great first step," she said.

The Alaska Legislature voted to approve the final operating budget on Tuesday, and Gov. Mike Dunleavy will issue budget vetoes of individual line items before July 1.

Mukai added that another federal grant the centers rely on is in danger – the Victims of Crime Act, provided by the U.S. Department of Justice through penalties related to crimes. Alaska advocates are urging the congressional delegation to push the U.S. Congress to protect this funding, as the Trump administration has moved to cancel hundreds of grants and millions of dollars supporting victims services through the Department of Justice.

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

More States Adding Laws On Cellphones in Schools

**By JEFF AMY
Associated Press**

ATLANTA (AP) — Florida was the first state to pass a law regulating the use of cellphones in schools in 2023. Just two years later, more than half of all states have laws in place, with more likely to act soon.

Bills have sprinted through legislatures this year in states as varied as New York and Oklahoma, reflecting a broad consensus that phones are bad for kids.

Connecticut state Rep. Jennifer Leeper, a Democrat and co-chair of the General Assembly's Education Committee, on May 13 called phones "a cancer on our kids" that are "driving isolation, loneliness, decreasing attention and having major impacts both on social-emotional well-being but also learning."

Republicans express similar sentiments

"This is a not just an academic bill," Republican Rep. Scott Hilton said after Georgia's bill, which only bans phones in grades K-8, passed in March. "This is a mental health bill. It's a public safety bill."

So far, 26 states have passed laws, with eight other states and the District of Columbia implementing rules or making recommendations to local districts. Of the states, 17 have acted this year. Just Tuesday, Nebraska Republican Gov. Jim Pillen signed a law banning phones throughout the school day. Earlier Tuesday, Alaska lawmakers required schools to regulate cellphones when they overrode an education package Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy had vetoed for unrelated reasons.

More action is coming as bills await a governor's signature or veto in Florida, Missouri, Nebraska and New Hampshire.

Increasing focus on banning phones throughout the school day

When Florida first acted, lawmakers ordered schools to ban phones during instructional time while allowing them between classes or at lunch. But now there's another bill awaiting Gov. Ron DeSantis' action that goes further. It would ban phones for the entire school day for elementary and middle schools.

Ten states and the District of Columbia have enacted school day bans, most for students in grades K-12, and they now outnumber the seven states with instructional time bans.

North Dakota Republican Gov. Kelly Armstrong called the ban throughout the school day that he signed into law "a huge win."

"Teachers wanted it. Parents wanted it. Principals wanted it. School boards wanted it," Armstrong said.

Armstrong recently visited a grade school with such a ban in place. He said

he saw kids engaging with each other and laughing at tables during lunch.

The "bell-to-bell" bans have been promoted in part by ExcelinEd, the education think tank founded by former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. The group's political affiliate has been active in lobbying for bans.

Nathan Hoffman, ExcelinEd's senior director of state policy and advocacy, said barring phones throughout the day heads off problems outside of class, like when students set up or record fights in halls.

"That's often when you get some of your biggest behavioral issues, whether they go viral or not," Hoffman said.

Other states want school districts to set their own rules

But other states, particularly where there are strong traditions of local school control, are mandating only that school districts adopt some kind of cell-phone policy, believing districts will take the hint and sharply restrict phone access. In Maine, where some lawmakers originally proposed a school day ban, lawmakers are now considering a rewritten bill that would only require a policy.

And there have been a few states where lawmakers failed to act at all. Maybe the most dramatic was in Wyoming, where senators voted down a bill in January, with some opponents saying teachers or parents should set the rules.

Where policymakers have moved ahead, there's a growing consensus around exceptions. Most states are letting students use electronic devices to monitor medical needs and meet the terms of their special education plans. Some are allowing exceptions for translation devices if English isn't a student's first language or when a teacher wants students to use devices for classwork.

There are some unusual exceptions, too. South Carolina's original policy allowed an exception for students who are volunteer firefighters. West Virginia's new law allows smartwatches as long as they are not being used for communication.

Some parents and students oppose the rules

But by far the most high-profile exception has been allowing cellphone use in case of emergencies. One of the most common parent objections to a ban is that they would not be able to contact their child in a crisis like a school shooting.

"It was only through text messages that parents knew what was happening," said Tinya Brown, whose daughter is a freshman at Apalachee High School, northeast of Atlanta, where a shooting killed two students and two teachers in September. She spoke against Georgia's law at a news conference in March.

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House Speaker Vows To Get Big Bill Passed

By LISA MASCARO, KEVIN FREKING, LEAH ASKARINAM and JOEY CAPPELLETTI
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defying opposition from within his ranks, House Speaker Mike Johnson insisted late today that Republicans would march ahead on their multitrillion-dollar tax breaks package after a lengthy meeting at the White House with GOP holdouts who are refusing to back the bill.

Johnson and his GOP leadership team appeared confident they would be able to stick to their schedule and shore up GOP support for final passage late today or Thursday following last-ditch talks to salvage the “big, beautiful bill.” But next steps are highly uncertain.

“We’re excited that we’re going to land this plane,” Johnson, R-La., said back at the Capitol.

But as evening hours set in, the upbeat tone stood at odds with the unwieldy scene at the Capitol. The Rules Committee has been grinding through a marathon session, passing its 18th hour, as the process chugs along. Another Republican, Tennessee Rep. John Rose, announced his opposition to the GOP bill. And Democrats, without the votes to stop Trump’s package, are using all available tools and impassioned speeches to press their opposition and capitalize on the GOP disarray.

“We believe it’s one big, ugly bill that’s going to hurt the American people,” said House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York as he and his team testified before the committee.

“Hurt children, hurt families, hurt veterans, hurt seniors, cut health care, cut nutritional assistance, explode the debt,” he said.

It’s a make-or-break moment for the president and his party in Congress. They have invested much of their political capital during the crucial first few months of Trump’s return to the White House on this legislation. If the House Republicans fall in line with the president, overcoming unified Democratic objections, the measure would next go to the Senate.

Trump had implored the lawmakers a day earlier at the Capitol to get it done, but the holdouts endured. It’s not at all clear what, exactly, was agreed to — or not — during today’s lengthy meeting at the White House. However, Johnson indicated afterward that

Trump himself may be able to accomplish by executive actions some of the goals that Congress is unable to agree to in the legislative process.

One big problem has been the tentative deal with GOP lawmakers from New York and other high-tax states to boost deductions for local taxes to \$40,000. But that costly provision, running into the hundreds of billions of dollars, alarmed the most conservative Republicans, worried it will add to the nation’s \$36 trillion debt.

For every faction of the slim House majority that Johnson appeases, he is losing others.

Rep. Andy Harris, R-Md., the chairman of the hard-right House Freedom Caucus, said before the White House meeting he did not believe the package could pass in a House vote, but “there is a pathway forward that we can see.”

A fresh analysis from the Congressional Budget Office said the tax provisions would increase federal deficits by \$3.8 trillion over the decade, while the changes to Medicaid, food stamps and other services would tally \$1 trillion in reduced spending. The lowest-income households in the U.S. would see their resources drop, while the highest ones would see a boost, the CBO said.

Republicans convened the House Rules Committee hearing shortly after midnight, but Johnson’s Memorial Day deadline for House passage was slipping as lawmakers prepared to depart for the holiday.

At its core, the package is centered on extending the tax breaks approved during Trump’s first term in 2017, while adding new ones he campaigned on during his 2024 campaign.

To make up for some of the lost revenue, the Republicans are focused on spending cuts to federal safety net programs and a massive rollback of green energy tax breaks from the Biden-era Inflation Reduction Act.

Additionally, the package tacks on \$350 billion in new spending, with about \$150 billion going to the Pentagon, including for the president’s new “Golden Dome” defense shield, and the rest for Trump’s mass deportation and border security agenda.

The package title carries Trump’s own words, the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act.”

As Trump promised voters, the package proposes there would be no taxes on tips for certain workers, including those in some service industries; automobile loan interest; or some overtime pay.

cover up his behavior, sometimes making threats to keep them in line and his misconduct hush-hush.

Kaplan testified that Combs threatened his job on a monthly basis, once berating him for buying the wrong size bottled water. Combs’ longtime girlfriend, the R&B singer Cassie, testified that Kaplan quit after seeing Combs beat her.

Kaplan’s testimony resumes Thursday. He’ll be followed by rapper and actor Kid Cudi.

Cudi, whose legal name is Scott Mescuti, is expected to testify about his brief relationship with Cassie in 2011. Prosecutors say Combs was so upset that he arranged to have Cudi’s convertible firebombed.

Also today, a federal agent showed jurors two handguns he said were found in a March 2024 raid at Combs’ Miami-area home, along with photos of ammunition and a wooden box marked “Puffy” — one of his nicknames — that the agent said contained psilocybin, MDMA and other drugs.

Investigators also found items prosecutors say were hallmarks of “freak-offs,” including dozens of bottles of baby oil and lubricant, said Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent Gerard Gannon.

Combs’ lawyer Teny Geragos suggested the search — which involved 80 to 90 agents, an armored vehicle smashing the security gate, handcuffed employees and boat patrols — was overkill. Combs’ Los Angeles mansion was also searched.

Gannon confirmed the federal investigation began the day after Cassie filed a lawsuit in November 2023 alleging that Combs abused her for years and involved her in hundreds of “freak-offs” with him and male sex workers. Combs soon settled for \$20 million, she said.

Combs has pleaded not guilty to charges alleging he leveraged his fame and fortune to control Cassie and other people through threats and violence. His lawyers say the evidence reflects domestic violence, not racketeering or sex trafficking.

Jurors also heard from a psychologist who delved into the complexities of abusive relationships. Dawn Hughes explained victims often experience a “low sense of self” and tend to stay with abusers because they yearn for love and compassion they experienced in a relationship’s early “honeymoon phase.”

Hughes also explained how a victim’s memory can sometimes become jumbled — retaining awareness of abuse, but mixing up details. Hughes, who was paid \$6,000 by the prosecution to testify, didn’t examine or mention Cassie or Combs, but her testimony paralleled some of what Cassie said she experienced with him.



A truck loaded with humanitarian aid for the Gaza Strip makes its way to the Kerem Shalom crossing as border police officers prevent activists from blocking the road in southern Israel today. (AP Photo/Ohad Zwigenberg)

UN Says No Aid in Gaza Handed to Palestinians

By WAFAA SHURAF, SAMY MAGDY and MELANIE LIDMAN
Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza (AP) — The U.N. said today it was trying to get the desperately needed aid that has entered Gaza this week into the hands of Palestinians amid delays because of fears of looting and Israeli military restrictions. Israeli strikes pounded the territory, killing at least 86 people, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that the country is days away from implementing a new aid system in Gaza that has come under heavy international criticism. He said Israel later plans to create a “sterile zone” there, free of Hamas, where the population, which has repeatedly evacuated and relocated throughout the war, would be moved and receive supplies.

With renewed ceasefire talks appearing to make little progress, Netanyahu said he will end the war only if Hamas releases all hostages and steps down from power — and if President Donald Trump’s plan to relocate the territory’s population outside Gaza is implemented. The Palestinians, along with nearly all of the international community, have rejected Trump’s plan to empty Gaza of its Palestinian population and place the territory under U.S. control.

Under international pressure, Israel has allowed dozens of aid trucks into Gaza after blocking all food, medicine, fuel and other material for nearly three months. But the supplies have been sitting on the Gaza side of the Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said the majority of supplies that had entered since Monday had been loaded

onto U.N. trucks, but they could not take them out of the crossing area. He said the road the Israeli military had given them permission to use was too unsafe

A U.N. official later said more than a dozen trucks that left the crossing area arrived at warehouses in central Gaza tonight. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the press.

Israel said 100 trucks had crossed into Gaza today.

Food security experts have warned that Gaza risks falling into famine unless the blockade ends. Malnutrition and hunger have been mounting. Aid groups ran out of food to distribute weeks ago, and most of the population of around 2.3 million relies on communal kitchens whose supplies are nearly depleted.

At a kitchen in Gaza City, a charity group distributed watery lentil soup.

Somaia Abu Amsha scooped small portions for her family, saying they have not had bread for over 10 days and she can’t afford rice or pasta.

“We don’t want anything other than that they end the war. We don’t want charity kitchens. Even dogs wouldn’t eat this, let alone children,” she said.

Aid groups say the small amount of aid that Israel has allowed is far short of what is needed. About 600 trucks entered daily under the latest ceasefire. Netanyahu says population will be moved south

Israel has said its slight easing of the blockade is a bridge until the new aid system it demands is put in place. The U.N. and other humanitarian groups have rejected the system, saying it enables Israel to use aid as a weapon and forcibly displace the population.

Academy . . .

Continued from Front Page

the Atlantic Ocean with a really well-trained crew is part of what makes the Coast Guard fun,” Weiland said. “When you have a crew of people who have trained together a bunch and you get into a bad situation, like [we did], everyone just works together to get what we want done. That’s a really cool feeling.”

Knox expected Weiland’s penchant for the sea, however. She told a story about Weiland in middle school, when he spent his mornings walking the docks with his father, Pete Weiland, and used his birthday gift certificate to Old Harbor Books to buy all the sailing- and knot-tying books he could find. Eventually, Weiland convinced his parents to purchase a sailboat, which they bought and fixed up themselves. A self-taught mariner, Weiland and a friend sailed it to Juneau a couple of times.

“He’s just been very curious about adventure and curious about learning. He’s self-driven and accountable, which maybe is not unusual, but an admirable and hard thing to do,” Knox said.

She added how she was glad Weiland got to increase his experiences with sailing at the academy. “He’s been in just gnarly conditions while sleep deprived and wet, but at the academy, they test you at that level just out of its nature,” she said.

As part of the contract for graduating from USCGA, which waives tuition for all its cadets, Weiland will serve for five years as a commissioned officer. He has the option to extend his service after that.

“We don’t get a lot of time off, so it’s a lot of time away from home. Going from living in Sitka for 18 years to leaving and only coming back infrequently was difficult, but at this point, I’m used to it,” Weiland said. “Another adventure is coming up, and five years of being wherever I’ll be doesn’t seem like that long of a time away.”

Knox added that she’s excited to visit Weiland wherever he is stationed. “We’re very close as a family, and so if there’s times when he has a break or we want to see him, we’re going to try our best to do that,” she said. “We’re excited to see what life he’s created there and the adventure he finds and explores places we’ve never been.”

Both Weiland and Knox highlighted experiences with former Coast Guard members as major influences on why Weiland is serving as an ensign today. “I feel strongly that retired Coast

Guards who live in Sitka have had a profound and positive influence [on Kobi],” Knox said. “They check in with Kobi and with us as a family. We have dinners with them and they share their stories. They ask Kobi questions [about] how he’s doing and what’s going on. Without them, he wouldn’t be there at all.”

Now, Weiland is serving as the same source of positive influence on younger Sitkans also interested in becoming Coast Guard officers. Razie Guillory and Atigun Pensley, respectively a Sitka High and Mt. Edgecumbe graduate, are currently enrolled in the academy — though Weiland was quick to assert that he doesn’t “want to take credit for them coming here.”

“I grew up doing outdoor activities, hiking in the mountains all the time and swimming in the ocean,” Weiland said. “Personally, I’ve never gotten in trouble enough to call the Coast Guard, [but] I’ve had friends who had to. I thought it would be really cool to be that person to respond to the call and help somebody.”

Trump to South African: White Farmers Killed

By GERALD IMRAY and AAMER MADHANI
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump used a White House meeting to forcefully confront South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, accusing the country of failing to address Trump’s baseless claim of the systematic killing of white farmers.

Trump even dimmed the lights of the Oval Office to play a video of a far-left politician chanting a song that includes the lyrics “kill the farmer.” He also leafed through news articles to underscore his point, saying the country’s white farmers have faced “death, death, death, horrible death.”

Trump had already cut all U.S. assistance to South Africa and welcomed several dozen white South African farmers to the U.S. as refugees as he pressed the case that a “genocide” is underway in the country.

The U.S. president, since his return to office, has launched a series of accusations at South Africa’s Black-led government, claiming it is seizing land from white farmers, enforcing antiwhite policies and pursuing an anti-American foreign policy.

Experts in South Africa say there is no evidence of whites being targeted for their race, although farmers of all races are victims of violent home invasions in a country with a high crime rate.

“People are fleeing South Africa for their own safety,” Trump said. “Their land is being confiscated and in many cases they’re being killed.”

Ramaphosa pushed back against Trump’s accusation. The South African leader had sought to use the meeting to set the record straight and salvage his country’s relationship with the United States. The bilateral relationship is at its lowest point since South Africa enforced its apartheid system of racial segregation, which ended in 1994.

“We are completely opposed to that,” Ramaphosa said of the behavior alleged by Trump in their exchange. He added, “that is not government

policy” and “our government policy is completely, completely against what he was saying.”

Trump was unmoved. “When they take the land, they kill the white farmer,” he said.

Trump appeared prepared to confront Ramaphosa at the start of the meeting while journalists were present. Videos were cued up on a large TV set to show a clip of an opposition party leader, Julius Malema, leading an old anti-apartheid song.

The song has been contentious for years in the country because of its central lyrics “kill the Boer” and “shoot the Boer” — with Boer a word that refers to a white farmer. Malema, featured in the video, is not part of the country’s governing coalition.

Another clip played showed white crosses on the side of a road, described as a memorial for white farmers who were killed. Ramaphosa seemed baffled. “I’d like to know where that is, because this I’ve never seen.”

Trump kicked off the meeting by describing the South African president as a “truly respected man in many, many circles.” He added: “And in some circles he’s considered a little controversial.”

Ramaphosa chimed in, playfully jabbing back at a U.S. president who is no stranger to controversy. “We’re all like that,” Ramaphosa said.

Trump issued an executive order in February cutting all funding to South Africa over some of its domestic and foreign policies. The order criticized the South African government on multiple fronts, saying it is pursuing antiwhite policies at home and supporting “bad actors” in the world like the Palestinian militant group Hamas and Iran.

Trump has falsely accused the South African government of rights violations against white Afrikaner farmers by seizing their land through a new expropriation law. No land has been seized and the South African government has pushed back, saying U.S. criticism is driven by misinformation.

Adjourn . . .

Continued from Front Page

next year.”

Spending plan has limited increases

One of the Legislature’s final acts before adjournment was to pass the state’s operating budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1.

“You could say that both the operating and the capital budget, the two main budgets, were maintenance-level budgets,” Edgmon said.

The capital and operating budgets, including money for next fiscal year and changes to the current fiscal year, spend \$6.2 billion, when looking only at general-purpose state spending. If federal funding and things like fees, college tuition and other money is included, the budget bills spend \$16.3 billion.

General-purpose state spending is down significantly. The enacted budget bills from last spring totaled more than \$6.5 billion.

Legislators started the budget-drafting process with the expectation that North Slope oil prices would average \$68 per barrel in the next fiscal year.

By the end, that expectation had dropped to \$64, and the federal government — which pays for about 40% of the combined budget bills — had begun cutting its contributions.

As revenue projections declined, legislators slashed programs from the budget, including things like new state troopers for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

A relative handful of budget increases made it through the process — money for mental health treatment in Anchorage, early childhood education programs, and child advocacy centers, which help the survivors of child sexual abuse.

Those increases — and all other parts of the budget — are subject to approval by the governor, who has the

power to veto individual line items. Every year of his term, Dunleavy has vetoed significant amounts from the budget.

In the House, legislators failed to pass one part of the budget — a roughly \$200 million draw from the state’s principal savings account, the Constitutional Budget Reserve, in order to pay for a deficit in the current fiscal year, which ends June 30.

Conditional language in the budget says that if the CBR vote fails, the state will instead take up to \$100 million from the accounts of the state’s investment bank — the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority — and the state’s higher education investment fund.

The vote failed after members of the House Republican minority opposed it. Thirty votes are required to spend from the reserve.

“I wasn’t comfortable going into savings,” said Costello. “I felt like we could have done more work on the budget and involved our House Finance Committee team, which has a lot of experience, so I just wasn’t willing to give my CBR vote to go into savings.”

Costello said she feels that other members of the minority felt similarly.

Next year, legislators expect that they will need to spend heavily from the CBR in order to balance the budget.

In addition, legislators are expected to pass major policy bills, including a revival of the state’s pension program for public employees, and election reform bills.

“Hold on to your hat, Nellie, for next session, because it could be much more challenging, as we all know,” Edgmon said.

<https://alaskabeacon.com/jamesbrooks>

Ex-Aide Tells of Clean-Up After Combs’ Sex Parties

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Sean “Diddy” Combs’ one-time personal assistant testified today that he was in charge of cleaning up hotel rooms after the hip-hop mogul’s sex marathons — tossing out empty alcohol bottles, baby oil and drugs, tidying pillows and making it look as if nothing had happened.

An implied part of the job was that “protecting him and protecting his public image were important to him,” George Kaplan told jurors at Combs’ federal sex trafficking trial. “That’s what I was keen on doing.”

Kaplan, who worked for Combs from 2013 to 2015, said the Bad Boy Records founder would sometimes summon him to a hotel room to deliver a “medicine kit,” a bag full of prescription pills and over-the-counter pain medications. He said Combs dispatched him to buy drugs including MDMA, also known as ecstasy.

Kaplan, 34, was granted immunity to testify after initially telling the Manhattan court that he would invoke his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination. Prosecutors contend Combs leaned on employees and used his music and fashion empire to facilitate and

Session . . .

Continued from Front Page

“I was really proud of our finance team for helping stop that version of the bill, because it really had some things in there that were not productive and were not representative of our values and what we think should be in an elections bill,” she said.

“I do think there is room to make it better. I just think we weren’t a part of that discussion (on advancing the bill), but I think they realized that we have to be, moving forward.”

On the campaign finance bill, getting a veto-proof majority is “possible,” said Rep. Calvin Schrage, I-Anchorage and the bill’s sponsor.

“I’ve personally spoken to a number of minority members who recognize the need for limits. They were disappointed as well that the bill wasn’t taken up. We do have a very high veto threshold, so it’ll be a challenge,” Schrage said. “But as I remind legislators all the time around here, this is going to happen one way or another when this goes to the ballot, so I think we have an opportunity to save the time and expense and put this in place ourselves. If we don’t, Alaskans will take action.”

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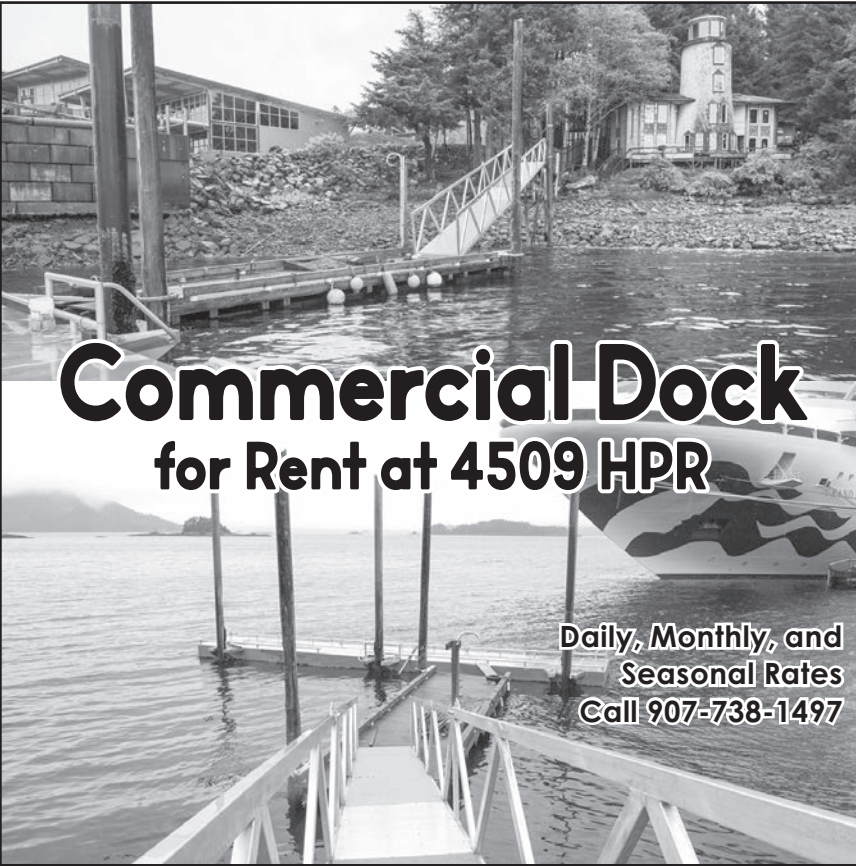
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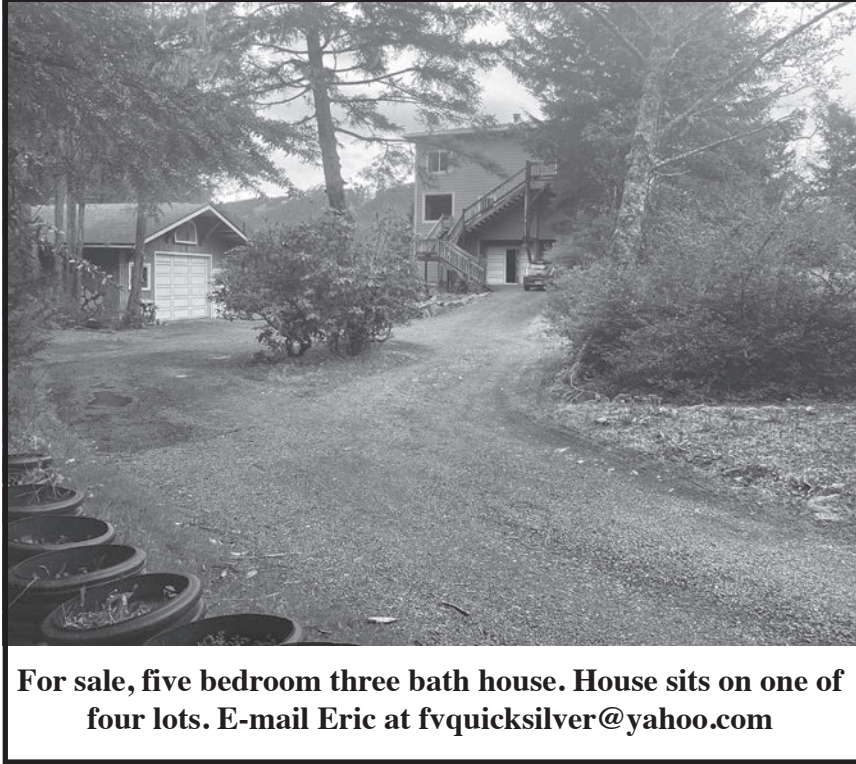


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Help Wanted

Help Wanted

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.

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.

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Missing Cat

A young, all-black, long and skinny cat with yellow-green eyes is missing in the New Archangel Street area. The owner, Corrine Brown, said Kiki is a house cat who was let outside Sunday evening and as of noon today still hadn't returned. If anyone sees her Corrine asks that she be called at 907 738-1019.

National Park Says Don't Feed Wildlife

Sitka National Historical Park is reminding the public that feeding wildlife in the park is not allowed. Human food is not healthy for wild animals including waterfowl, the park said. "When animals eat human food, they stop eating the nutrients they need to survive," a news release said. "They can come to rely on humans and stop hunting, foraging, or scavenging as they naturally would." It is also illegal to feed wildlife in the park in under the Code of Federal Regulations 36 § 2.2 (a)(2). The violation carries a \$300 violation notice/fine.

Paths To Prosperity Holding Business Competition in SE

Applications are being taken for the Path to Prosperity Business Competition, an annual business development competition for businesses with a positive economic, environmental, and community impact on Southeast Alaska. It is sponsored by Spruce Root. This year's competition cycle is open to Alaska Native entrepreneurs residing in Southeast Alaska. Additionally, the program introduces a STEM/TEK Track, providing specialized support for businesses in science, technology, engineering and math-related industries and/or using traditional ecological knowledge. While STEM/TEK-related businesses are encouraged to apply, the competition is open to all industries. Businesses are judged based on their feasibility and contributions to community development. The competition includes intensive, in-person training for 12 finalists at "Entrepreneur Camp" (Formerly called Boot Camp) in Anchorage in late-September in partnership with Alaska Growth Capital's Alaska Marketplace Competition. Two winners will be selected to receive awards of \$20,000. Program awards can be used for consulting, technical assistance, and long-term capital expenditures. For 12 years, more than 458 businesses and start-ups in 23 Southeast Alaska communities applied to the competition. The program trained 168 entrepreneurs and awarded 26 winners a total of \$760,000 to build their local businesses. Participants are trained in the "triple-bottom-line" approach to building a business, which teaches how to measure success across indicators that track profitability, as well as, the environmental and social impacts of their business. Previous winners include Adventure Harves (Haines), Coastal Heating and Repair (Yakutat), Skyana Coffee Co. (Klawock), Barnacle Foods (Juneau), Foundroot (Haines), Coastal Heating and Repair (Yakutat), Icy

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 the-saltyspoke@gmail.com.

Adult Reading Program to Begin

Registration begins Saturday, May 31, for Sitka Public Library's Adult Summer Reading Program. Prizes can be won two ways: submit book reviews to be entered in to weekly prize drawings, and/or complete the summer-long reading challenge by Aug. 9 for a chance to win a grand prize. For information, contact Margot at 747-4020 or email margot.oconnell@cityofsitka.org.

Calendar of Events

WEDNESDAY
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 Signakna 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
THURSDAY
6-8 a.m. MEHS Aquatic Center pool open
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Early Voting Municipal Special Election, Harrigan Centennial Hall
10:30 a.m. SAIL Senior Hike, Ben Grussendorf Forest and Muskeg trail
11-2 Salvation Army Little Store open
Noon AA, St. Peter's basement, AA hotline 907-747-8866 for information
Noon Alanon Zoom, sitkaalanon@gmail.com, for login info
Noon White Elephant Shop open
4-6 p.m. Vote Yes on Proposition 1 Open House, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m. Women's AA, Unitarian Fellowship Hall, AA Hotline 907 747-8866
7 p.m. AA, St. Peter's basement, 611 Lincoln Street, AA hotline 907-747-8866
FRIDAY
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Early Voting Municipal Special Election, Harrigan Centennial Hall
10 a.m. Bingocize, Swan Lake Senior Center
Noon Manual therapy workshop, call or text 907-623-8708
Noon AA, St. Peter's basement, call AA hotline 907-747-8866 for information
5:30 p.m. STA Zumba, Blatchley Middle School
5:30 p.m. NA Meeting, St. Peter's Church basement
7 p.m. AA, St. Peter's basement, 611 Lincoln Street, hotline 907-747-8866

Straits Lumber (Hoonah). Spruce Root announced the winners of the 2025 Business Competition — Ravens Nest Regalia and Arts and Sitkan — on Feb. 11, at the Southeast Conference Midsession Summit. The deadline to apply for the business competition is 11:59 p.m. May 30. Those who wish support in filling out the application are asked to contact the team no later than May 23. Spruce Root provides local entrepreneurs with access to business development and financial resources in the form of loan capital, business coaching, workshops and competitions. These programs support new and existing businesses in Southeast Alaska and empower business owners through increased self-sufficiency. To learn more about Path to Prosperity or Spruce Root's other services, visit the website at www.spruceroot.org or email grow@spruceroot.org. For information, questions about eligibility, or to apply, go to spruceroot.org/business-competition.

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. May 25. The tour will start at the Japonski Island Boathouse, across the O'Connell Bridge, and go to the remains of the WWII Naval Air Base and U.S. Army Coast Defenses. Tour guides will tell about their role in the war. The tour includes the background of this place in the context of Tlingit Aani or Tlingit America and how it got to be part of the U.S.A., with Russians and the circumstances of the transfer of 1867, and more, organizer said. The tour costs \$49 for adults, \$39 for teens, and free for children. Participants are invited to arrive early to see the progress on the rehabilitation of the historic boathouse. For information go to: sitkamaritime.org

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."

No Tobacco Day Marked May 30

SEARHC is teaming up with the Sitka HOPE Coalition for a community event to observe World No Tobacco Day. The organizations will be set up outside AC Lakeside Grocery 4-6 p.m. Friday, May 30, with prize giveaways, quit resources, information on the health harms of smoking and vaping, and a visit from Ciggy Butts to interact with passersby. This event is part of SEARHC's year-round commitment to supporting Southeast Alaskans who wish to quit tobacco and raise awareness about smoking and vaping risks, especially among youths. One in four Alaska high schoolers has used e-cigarettes, and cigarette smoking is more common among American Indian and Alaska Native people than almost any other racial or ethnic group in the United States, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statistics cite. "This highlights the critical need for culturally sensitive, accessible cessation resources like the Alaska Tobacco Quit Line," a press release from organizers said.

'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.

Saturday Vigil For Democracy

Community members are invited to participate in a vigil Saturday, noon to 1, at the roundabout. Organized by Sitka Voices for Peace and Democracy, the weekly vigil is held to protest actions by the Trump administration that threaten democracy, and advocate for a government that puts people and democracy first. "Just showing up and being there is important and makes us stronger," organizers said.

Beginner Ukulele Instruction Listed

Free beginner ukulele instruction will be held 5-7 p.m. on the second and third Sundays of the month at the Sitka Pioneers Home Chapel. Attendees should take their own ukuleles. Text Jeannie at 510 610-0075 with questions.

Services to be Saturday For Natividad Manaois

"It is with heavy hearts," her family said, "that we announce the passing of Natividad Juanitez Manaois, lovingly known as Naty, who passed away on May 4, 2025, at 10:40 p.m. at the Anchorage Pioneer Home, surrounded by her beloved husband Mario and daughter Guada. She was 76 years old." Naty was born on March 9, 1949, in Tayug, Pangasinan, Philippines, to Cayetano and Julianna Juanitez. The youngest of seven siblings, she spent her childhood in the close-knit embrace of family, often accompanying her mother and siblings as they sold goods as street vendors. Her early years were marked by a deep sense of resilience, and togetherness that shaped the generous woman she would become.

After graduating from Centro Escolar University in Manila with a degree in food and nutrition, Naty's life took a turn she could never have expected. While in college, she met Mario, her future husband. It was love at first sight for Mario, and their bond quickly grew stronger. They were married on March 23, 1972, at the United Church of Christ, and were blessed with three children: Guada, Don Don, and Maja. Their shared life together was a testament to the love they had for each other that helped them face life's joys and challenges, her family said.

In addition to her devotion to family, Naty also pursued her love for cooking by opening a restaurant, where she also showcased her love for serving others. She cherished life's simple pleasures: walks with Mario, preparing delicious Filipino dishes, and sharing her joy of music and dance with those around her. In 2007, Naty moved to Sitka, where she continued to care for others, taking up a babysitting job where she lovingly cared for about nine children, including her own grandchildren, Danika and Danielle. These kids are teenagers now! A joy for Naty was shopping at

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 planned installation of new cell phone towers around Sitka. Sitkans for Safe Technology is working to encourage the City and Borough of Sitka to adopt building code provisions to protect health, safety and property values. Members of the group and speakers from the Children's Health Defense Organization will discuss via Zoom current research about possible impacts of RF radiation on human health and the environment. The panel will go over ways the community can lessen possible effects of cell phone towers on public health through code provisions to guide applicants and public officials in making decisions about potential installation. The event is free to the public. For questions call Hal Spackman, (907) 738-3766.

Assembly Meet Rescheduled

Due to the special municipal election, the regular Assembly meeting originally scheduled for May 27 has been moved to May 29. The regular Assembly meetings in May will now be held on May 13 and May 29, the City and Borough of Sitka said. For information, contact the Municipal Clerk's office at 907 747-1826 or 907 747-1811.

MEHS Pool Open For Swim Lessons

Mt. Edgecumbe High School aquatic center is open for summer swim lessons registration. Four two-week sessions will run in June and July. Instructors are lifeguard certified. Student to instructor ratio is 3:1 maximum. The pool temperature is kept at 84 degrees.



Natividad Juanitez Manaois


Costco, her favorite store where she could spend hours. Naty's love and devotion to her family and friends will never be forgotten. She leaves behind her husband Mario; her children Guada, Don Don, and Maja; her grandchildren, and a host of family members and friends who will always carry her memory in their hearts. A memorial service will be held at the United Methodist Church at 4 p.m. Saturday, May 24, with visitation beginning at 3 p.m.. A fellowship meal will follow the service, offering a chance to share stories, memories, and the warmth of the community Naty so lovingly nurtured. Naty's spirit will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew her, her family said. "She will be deeply missed, but the love and memories she leaves behind will remain forever in our hearts."

RIDE to Take Week's Break

The RIDE public transit has updated the times it will not be running due to Memorial Day observance, rebranding, cleaning and staff training. The new dates it will not be in operation are Monday, May 26, through Friday, May 30. Service will be back in full swing on Monday, June 2. "We thank everyone for their understanding during this outage in service and wish everyone a meaningful and memorable Memorial Day," the RIDE said. Contact the RIDE office at 907 747-7103 with questions.

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





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SENTINEL SPORTS

Wolves Take Top Spots in Another Track Meet

By GARLAND KENNEDY
Sentinel Sports Editor

In the last regular meet of the season, Friday and Saturday in Ketchikan, Sitka High's track and field athletes put up solid times, continuing this year's high performing streak with many first and second place finishes.

As a unit, Sitka's girls took first place by a wide margin out of seven teams gathered from across the region, while the boys squad came in second behind Juneau-Douglas.

Speaking to the Sentinel at practice Tuesday, Coach Jeremy Strong said the seniors are the backbone of a team that for years has punched above its weight competing against teams from larger schools.

The coach said the seniors were "the rock you build the house on."

"Having quality seniors with lots of experiences made a big difference in not just the lives of the coaches, but also the lives of all the people below them. They've really done a good job of continuing the tradition," Strong said.

The 22 seniors who graduated Monday will still be with the squad through the regional meet at Juneau this weekend and the state championship a week later in Anchorage.

Strong said the team is now focused on "figuring out relays and making sure everybody's healthy. A lot of sickness, a lot of little injuries here and that can start to get in people's heads as you get closer to the end. And we just want to make sure it feels good."

At Ketchikan, Sitka's Leilynn Swain won the 400 meter race in 1:06 and Clare Mullin finished first in the 800, 1,600 and 3,200 meter events, winning in 2:15, 5:10 and 10:50 respectively. Her 3,200 meter time was a personal record, and with the regional and state meets still ahead, the recently-graduated senior has her sights on the state record in the 800.

Right behind Mullin in the weekend distance races was Marina Dill, also a senior, who placed third in the 1,600 in 5:40 and second in the 3,200 in 11:39.

"I've always loved the 32, and that was one event that I was hoping to improve on," Dill said. "What really went well in that race was just seeing everyone cheer, and I love seeing that. That's always something that definitely makes me run faster and move faster."

"And also I had my friend Hayla (Trigg, another senior) yelling from the side with my splits and letting me know if I needed to kick it or move faster. And also seeing Clare in front of me, definitely, I tried to stay with her in the first two (laps), and then I started getting tired. It was just nice to have her there."

Dill said she tries for a PR every time she runs the 3,200, and will aim for that mark again in the regional and state



Sitka's Clare Mullin runs in the girls' 3200-meter, winning the race with a time of 10:50.78 during the Ketchikan Invitational at Esther Shea Field on Friday. (Photo by Christopher Mullen / Ketchikan Daily News)

meets. She said she'll keep running at the University of Alaska Anchorage, where she plans to study early childhood education.

"I'm going to be so sad to leave this team. I've gotten to know everyone and see everyone improve in their events, and that's definitely something that it's great to see people achieving things, and seeing people's reactions when they hit a PR, and seeing all these new runners coming in and doing events, and seeing how they react to how challenging and difficulty they didn't realize running was until actually being in a meet, because practice is one thing, but being in a meet is like a whole different spectrum," she said.

In the 100 meter dash, Adalyne Moore was third in 13.15 seconds, and took second in the 200 in 28.09. Aliyah Merculief was fourth in the 800 in 2:39, placing seventh in the 1,600 meters and sixth in the 3,200.

Emma Heuer won the 100 meter hurdles in 17.53 seconds, and Natalie Hall was second in the 300 meter hurdles in 51.44.

The Lady Wolves won the four-by-100 relay in 54.66 seconds, with Hayla Trigg, Leilynn Swain, Gwen White and Emma Heuer on the track; Trigg, Jade Kubik, Addie Moore and Natalie Hall teamed to win the four-by-200 me-

ter race in 1:51. Hall, Swain, Kubik and Moore placed first in the four-by-400 in 4:27.

Madison Dill, also a senior, got second in the shot put by hurling the 4 kilo sphere 30 feet 1 inch.

"I've been learning how to do spin throw for shot put, and this is my first year trying it, and it's been really successful for me," Madison Dill said.

"I feel like just my release and my speed I'm getting on my spin - that's helping me throw a lot farther than just a normal stand throw. A spin, for me, it's a lot easier, because I have back problems, so spin is a lot easier on my back than doing the glide," she said.

She placed fourth in discus, followed closely by Sitka's Desirae Hutton.

In the high jump, Emma Heuer took first by leaping 14 feet 7.5 inches, and placed third in the high jump. Jade Kubik got second in the high jump, 8 inches short of Heuer's jump.

Melody Peacock and Taylor Cushing scored third and fourth respectively in triple jump, and both set new PRs in the event.

In the boys sprints, Calder Prussian, a junior, got second in both the 200 and 400 in 23.43 and 51.62 seconds respectively. His time in the 400 was a PR.

Senior Connor Hitchcock placed

first in 1,600 meter race in 4:27, and also won the 3,200, this time in 9:26, both PRs. He placed third in the 800 in 2:03, and joined Justin Hames, Trey Demmert and Zach Martens to win the four-by-800 relay in 9:07.

Trey Demmert got fifth in the 1,600 in 4:44 and Zach Martens set a new PR in the 3,200 by crossing the line in 10:21 for fourth place.

Rowan Olney-Miller won the 110 meter hurdles in 16.21 seconds, registering a personal record in the process.

In the four-by-400 meter relay, Prussian, Andrew Mullin, Trey Demmert and Ethan Clark got second in 3:46, four seconds behind the Juneau team.

"I think we did good, but I know we definitely could have done better. I think I, personally, could have done a lot better, too," said senior Ethan Clark. "I think I ran last year, I ran a 54 split, and then this year, I ran like a 58, so I'm just trying to get back."

Clark is recovering from an injury this season, and said he's glad to be back on the track for the close of his senior year. He also got sixth in the 300 meter hurdles in 47.88 seconds.

"I'm getting there, trying to get back to where I was last season," he said. At regions, he'll be looking to qualify for the hurdling event at state.



Sam Scotchmer, left, and Aaron Routon lead a pack of runners Saturday morning in the Julie Hughes Triathlon. (Sentinel photo by James Poulson)

Racers Compete in JH Triathlon

By GARLAND KENNEDY
Sentinel Sports Editor

Athletes of all ages were out in force Saturday for the 41st annual Julie Hughes Triathlon, an event that combines a 5-mile run, a 14-mile bike ride and a 1,000-yard swim for adults, and a course trimmed back to a 1.5-mile run, a 6-mile bike ride and a 500-yard swim for kids.

The weather was fair but overcast for the outdoor portions of the triathlon, beginning and ending at Blatchley Middle School, venue for the wind-up swim.

The triathlon is held each year in honor of Julie Hughes, a Sitka high school student who died of cancer in 1985 before achieving her wish to compete in a triathlon.

Unified results are below.

1. Carbajal Mahoskey Semke 00:37:05.5 Youth Male Relay Short Course The Chefs
2. Horton Schmitt Gebler 00:38:56.8 Youth Male Relay Short Course Chicken Jockeys
3. Clark Routan Shepard 00:42:06.7 Youth Female Relay Short Course Golden Eagles
4. Nye Forrey Nye 00:42:45.7 Youth Male Relay Short Course Speedy Pranksters
5. Nettles Welch Floyd 00:47:14.5 Youth Mixed Relay Short Course Cool kids
6. Routan Jefferies Shephard 00:47:40.5 Youth Mixed Relay Short Course Falcons
7. Haley Colliver 00:48:31.5 Youth Female Relay Short Course Crazy Cousins
8. Martens Plank 00:51:47.8 Youth Male Relay Short Course Mini Milers
9. Taggart Lo 01:28:22.5 Family Relay Mom and Dad
10. Lucas Opgenorth 01:36:17.4 Individual Age group 20-39
11. Aaron Routon 01:36:41.6 Individual Age group 40 and up
12. Bauchanan Routan 01:38:42

Mixed Relay Sitka Young Life 13. Sam Scotchmer 01:39:58.8 Individual Age Group 40 and up
14. Richard Forst 01:42:44.3 Individual Age group 40 and up
15. Maureen O'hlanon 01:44:51.3 Individual Age group 20-39
16. Katie Riley 01:45:13.4 Individual Age group 20-39
17. Michael Colliver 01:46:41.0 Individual Age group 40 and up
18. Jordan Gagner 01:47:02.0 Individual Age group 20-39
19. McCarthy Remund McCarthy 01:49:25.9 Mixed Relay Team pickles
20. Scotchmer Goudeau Coyle 01:50:34.3 Female Relay A.K.A. Awesome
21. Val Edwards 01:50:58.3 Individual Age group 40 and up
22. Lihou Edwards Hayley 01:51:28.7 Male Relay Three Hosers
23. Cindy Edwards 01:51:32.1 Individual Age group 40 and up
24. Clay Bell Klein 01:51:42.5 Female Relay Alpine PT
25. Antonio Tricarico Tricarico 01:53:18.2 Family Relay Pickles
26. Maria Beck 01:54:03.6 Individual Age group 31-19
27. Hitchcock Waddell McIntyre 01:55:20.2 Female Relay Three decades dames
28. Denise Shaffer 01:57:48.2 Individual Age group 20-39
29. Monique Anderson 01:58:46.5 Individual Age group 40 and up
30. Orbison Hughes Horan 02:02:41.7 Male Relay Yellow Jersey
31. Jayme Schroeder 02:03:53.4 Individual Age group 20-39
32. Brant Brantman 02:05:43.7 Individual Age group 40 and up
33. Katie Niedermeyer 02:11:03.8 Individual Age group 20-39
34. Cash Gould 02:20:47.6 Individual Age group 20-39
35. Cheryl Vastola 02:24:32.8 Individual Age group 40 and up
36. Derek James 02:33:35.4 Individual Age group 40 and up

Thunder Rout Listless Timberwolves in Game 1

By CLIFF BRUNT
AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 20 of his 31 points in the second half, and the top-seeded Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 114-88 on Tuesday night in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals.

Gilgeous-Alexander made 8 of 14 field goals in the second half after a rough start.

"I didn't particularly change my mindset, honestly," he said, "I just tried to continue to be aggressive, trust my work."

Julius Randle scored 28 points for sixth-seeded Minnesota, but just eight in the second half.

Anthony Edwards, who had been averaging 26.5 points per game in the playoffs, was held to 18 points on 5-of-13 shooting.

"I definitely got to shoot more. I took 13 (expletive) shots, but I'll say probably just get off the ball a little more," Edwards said. "Play without the ball. I think that would be the answer, because playing on the ball, they're just going to double and sit in the gaps all day. So I've got to go watch some film and take it apart and figure it out."



Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander dribbles the ball up court against Timberwolves during the second half, Tuesday in OKC. (AP Photo/Nate Billings)

Edwards said the Thunder packed the paint, and he expects the Timberwolves to take advantage of that tactic going forward. Game 2 is Thursday in Oklahoma City.

"They bank on us not making shots, I guess, because every time I go to the rim it's

like four people," he said. "So yeah, I guess they just be clogging the paint. They put like five, four bodies in the paint, make you kick it out. So keep making the right play."

Oklahoma City was just two days removed from eliminating Denver in Game

7 of the conference semifinals. Minnesota hadn't played in a week.

Minnesota led 48-44 at halftime as Randle scored 20 points and made 5 of 6 3-pointers. Gilgeous-Alexander was held to 11 points on 2-of-13 shooting before the break.

"For us to play as poorly as we did offensively in the first half and be down four was a major victory for us at halftime," Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said.

The Thunder went on a 10-0 run in the third quarter to take a 66-60 lead. A short time later, Kenrich Williams, a rarely-used sub this postseason, hit a midrange jumper and a 3-pointer on consecutive possessions to put the Thunder up 71-62. Oklahoma City outscored Minnesota 32-18 in the third quarter to take a 76-66 advantage into the fourth.

A spinning dunk by Holmgren in traffic put Oklahoma City ahead 86-75 and drew a roar from the crowd. Gilgeous-Alexander threw up a prayer as he was being fouled while falling to the floor. The ball rolled in, and he made the free throw to make it 91-77 with seven minutes remaining.

"It's Game 1," Minnesota coach Chris Finch said. "They won at home. Congrats to them. They played really well. There's another game in two days."

Kirby's Return Set to Boost Mariners' Rotation

CHICAGO (AP) — Seattle workhorse right-hander George Kirby is expected to start and make his season debut on Thursday night when the Mariners open a four-game series in Houston.

Kirby has been on the injured list since March 24 with inflammation in his throwing shoulder. The 27-year-old's return should help bolster the Mariners' rotation that remains without opening day starter Logan Gilbert, who's working back from a flexor strain in his right forearm.

Kirby started 33 games last season to tie for the major league lead. He went 14-11 with a 3.53 ERA with 179 strikeouts and 23 walks in 191 innings.

He was an AL All-Star in 2023, when he made 31 starts and went 13-10 with a 3.35 ERA in 190 2/3 innings.

Following his injury diagnosis, Kirby made only one appearance in 2025 spring training. He's followed with three rehab starts at Triple-A Tacoma.

"Obviously looking forward to getting George back out there," Mariners manager Dan Wilson said. "I know it's been a long road for George since spring training. And you know, you put the work in, you do your rehab assignments and mentally you're ready to go."

Wilson said Kirby probably would be limited to "75, maybe 80 pitches" against the Astros.

Before today's series finale against the White Sox in Chicago, the Mariners recalled right-hander Jesse Hahn from Tacoma and designated righty Casey Lawrence for assignment.

Hahn will return to Seattle for a second time this season after two appear-

ances in April. He's pitched four innings with the Mariners so far, going 0-1 with a 4.59 ERA.

Lawrence tossed five innings of bulk relief on Tuesday in Seattle's 1-0 loss to Chicago, allowing one run on six hits and taking the defeat. He's 1-2 with a 4.08 ERA in 17 2/3 innings and six appearances this season with the Mariners and Toronto Blue Jays.

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: My late husband and I were married 38 years when we finally went to marriage counseling. I found out then that he had slept with my sister early in our marriage. I had suspected he'd also had an affair with his uncle's wife. (They were very close in age.) This, too, was confirmed in counseling.

My sister was recently home because of our mom's health, and it was a struggle to be in the same hospital room with her. As far as the other gal, there are a few occasional family get-togethers, which I avoid because of her.

I need help. How do I deal with this after all these years? -- NOT OVER IT YET

DEAR NOT OVER IT: Take back your life. You have nothing to be embarrassed about. Tell your sister and the other woman that you know they slept with your husband. And at the next family get-together, tell the rest of your relatives why you avoided all those previous get-togethers so they don't think they were the reason.

DEAR ABBY: There's a woman at work I am drawn to, but I'm tired of getting turned down. She's very talkative with me and asks me lots of questions, but when I have come on to her, I am rebuffed. She says she has a boyfriend. I'm not sure why she's so friendly with me, but I feel I'm getting mixed messages.

In our job, we occasionally have to work side by side, and when that happens, I'm conflicted about whether to open up or shut down. Maybe I should ask if she still has

a boyfriend and, if she does, communicate about the task at hand. The idle chatting is becoming uncomfortable, because I want something more. What's the best course of action? -- NEXT TO HER IN NEW JERSEY

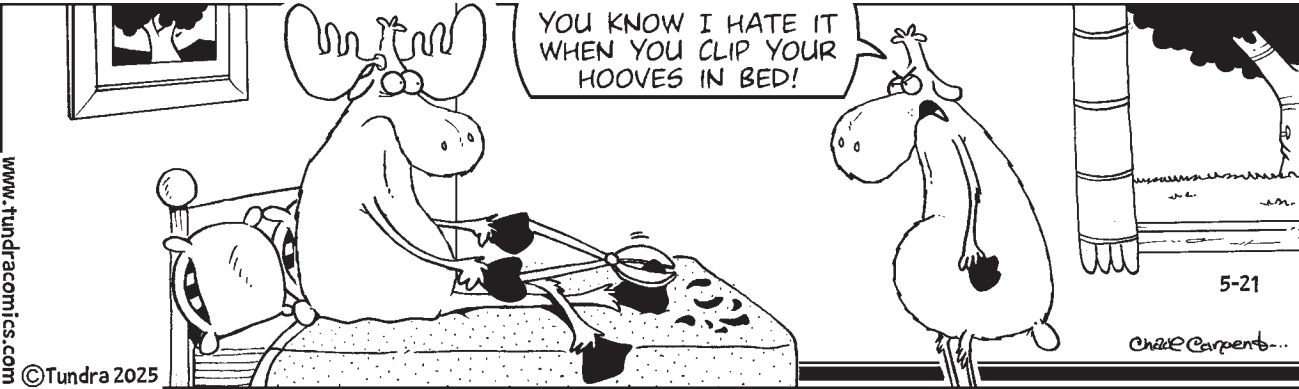
DEAR NEXT TO HER: Asking her again if she still has a boyfriend would not be out of line. However, if her answer is yes, forget about anything more than a cordial work relationship because not every attraction is mutual. Concentrate on work while you're there, and look elsewhere for romance after hours.

DEAR ABBY: I dated this lady for three months. She wanted to wait to commit to a relationship before having sex. We had limited time to see each other -- Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. We would go out and return to her place and be very passionate, although we didn't have sex because of her religious beliefs.

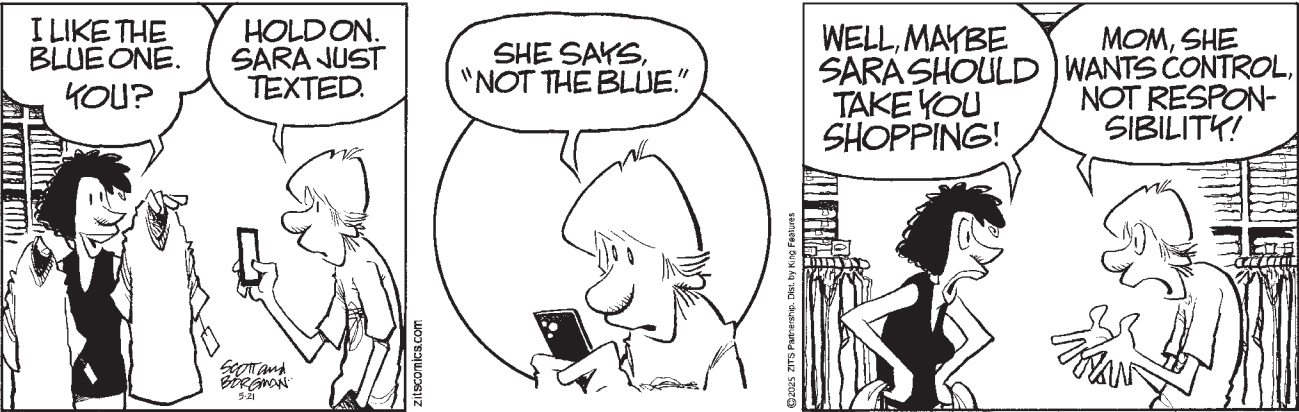
She has now decided not to pursue a relationship with me because she didn't feel the "flame" of a connection with me. After all this kissing, hugging and getting close to sex at times, how could she feel this way? Was I played? -- TOTALLY CONFUSED IN TEXAS

DEAR CONFUSED: Give the lady marks for being honest if she couldn't return your ardor. Depending upon what she was getting from the relationship in addition to kissing, hugging and passion, whether you were played is a question only you can answer.

TUNDRA



ZITS



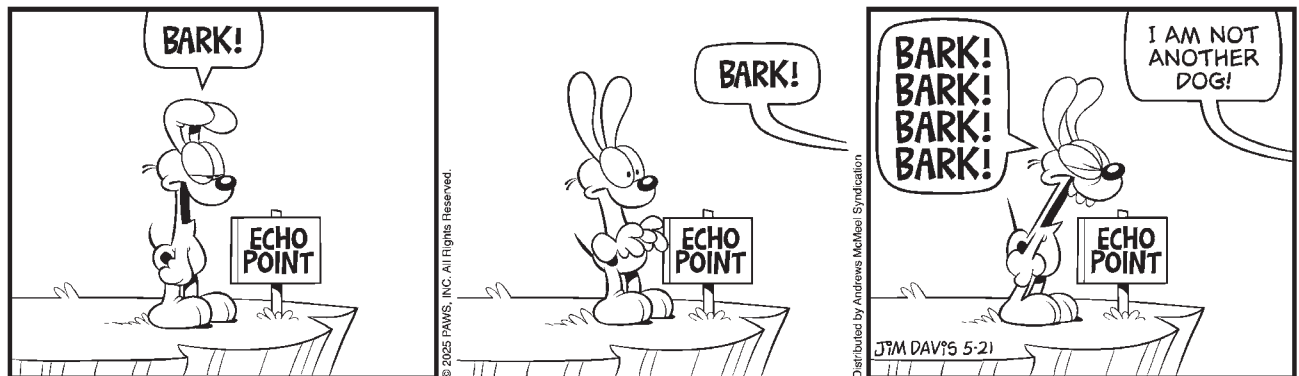
RHYMES WITH ORANGE



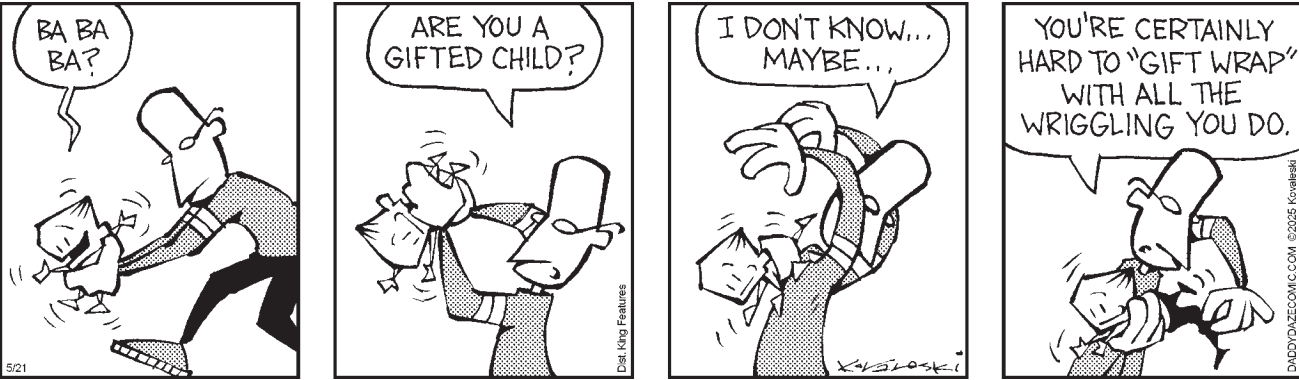
BLONDIE



GARFIELD



DADDY DAZE



SATURDAY'S CARTOON...



CROSSWORD

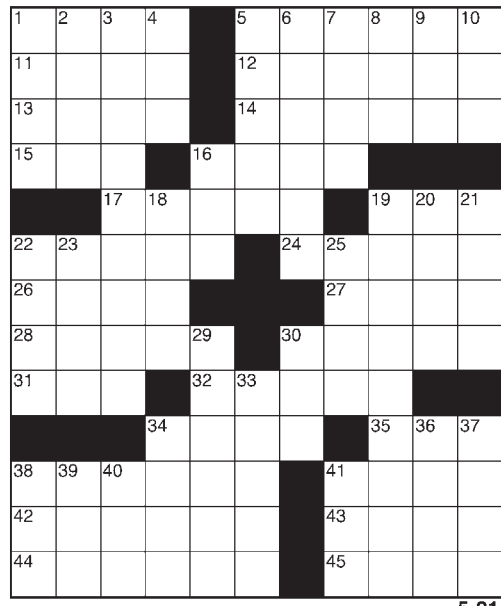
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Baroque composer
5 Felt in the dark
11 Clarinet's kin
12 Cure
13 Friend
14 Go by
15 — Aviv
16 Ump's call
17 Bring together
19 Force member
22 Fleece seeker
24 Bakery need
26 Stage direction
27 Different
28 Tart fruits
30 Stately dance
31 Hamilton's bill
32 Slender mushroom
34 Plow pullers
35 Down
38 Consider comparable
41 Word on a nickel
42 Under arrest
43 Beef cut

DOWN

- 1 Junk, for one
2 Competent
3 Secret agreement
4 "You there!"
5 Terrific
6 Charitable aid
7 General Bradley
8 Vigor
9 Mag. workers
10 Fabric color
16 Shark feature
18 Staff symbol
19 Crash
20 Banish
21 Veep's boss
22 Witty remark
23 Car bar
25 Pipe problem
29 Trio doubled
30 Came in first
33 Calls for
34 Horse chow
36 Eager
37 Turn down
38 Subside
39 Status — N. Amer.
40 Much of
41 Ga. neighbor



Yesterday's answer

CRYPTOQUOTE

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

5-21 CRYPTOQUOTE
CHJI H EQCCEI CQDI WGC WT
ZWGS LGKZ RHZ CW FQNI
IPBWGSHFIDIPC CW KWDIWPI
XOW'K EWKC COIQS XHZ.
— RQHPSWKK
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: SURROUND YOURSELF ONLY WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO TAKE YOU HIGHER. — OPRAH WINFREY

SUBSCRIBE



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

Subject: AMERICAN CITIES NAMED AFTER SAINTS

Identify the American city that is named after a saint. (e.g., Michigan city colloquially known as "St. Joe." Answer: St. Joseph.)

FRESHMAN LEVEL

1. The home of the National League Cardinals. Answer _____
2. City on the Pacific Coast near the U.S.-Mexico border. Answer _____
3. It survived an earthquake and fire in 1906. Answer _____

GRADUATE LEVEL

4. The capital city of Minnesota. Answer _____
5. It is the second most populous city in Texas, after Houston. Answer _____
6. This Florida city is located 40 miles south of downtown Jacksonville. Answer _____
7. Situated on the Missouri River, it is a northwestern suburb of St. Louis. Answer _____
8. The capital city of New Mexico. Answer _____
9. This city in Orange County, California, was named after the third Pope. 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?

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ANSWERS: 1. St. Louis. 2. San Diego. 3. San Francisco. 4. St. Paul. 5. San Antonio. 6. St. Augustin. 7. St. Charles. 8. Santa Fe. 9. San Clemente.

Sitka by the Stars

For Thursday, May 22, 2025

There's an invigorating energy in the air that we can harness for accomplishing our goals and boosting our moods. Even if there's a challenge that we're facing, the current cosmic vibes will give us a boost in confidence and the ingenuity to overcome it. We'll find the day to be best used for engaging in creative interests, connection, conversation, and physical fun like dancing, fitness or sports. Meanwhile, for those of us interested in love and romance, the evening is perfect for going on a date or meeting someone new.

ARIES

(March 21 to April 19)
There's no such thing as missed opportunities. There are opportunities that are right for you and those that aren't. Expect to attract the former.

TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20)
Something you want may be closer than you realize; however, it's your patience that will pay off in the long run.

GEMINI

(May 21 to June 20)
Dreams can come true, especially when you have people in your circle who want to see you win. If you don't yet have such connections, you will soon.

CANCER

(June 21 to July 22)
Thanks to the hard work you've done, an opportunity might practically fall into your lap.

LEO

(July 23 to Aug. 22)
Be intentional about what you wish for because your wish just might be granted.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
The resources you need are within reach. All you have to do is ask.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
Today puts you in proximity to the right person at the right time, leading to a promising partnership or friendship.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
If you use the day to complete outstanding tasks or chores, you can accomplish a great deal.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
You can find success with a creative collaboration as well as romance. It's also a good day for being on stage or in the spotlight. Your talent and charisma wows people!

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
Progress can be made with your health and wellness goals. Do what you can to take good care of yourself.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
Your intuition is sharp as are your ideas. Expect whatever you put your mind to today to be achievable.

PISCES

(Feb. 19 to March 20)
There's success to be had with money or a financial matter.

FOR TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

You have a friendly, outgoing personality that makes it easy for you to strike up a conversation with just about anyone you meet.

ANSWER TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

Difficulty: ★★

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

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.

5/21

The issues raised regarding cruise ship passenger numbers deserve thoughtful consideration. The ballot initiative to limit cruise ship tourism is not the solution.

OWNERS OF THE UNDERSIGNED BUSINESSES ARE VOTING NO ON THE INITIATIVE ON MAY 28 BECAUSE:

- Cruise ship tourism is critical to Sitka’s economy. The limits in this ordinance are at a level that would result in loss of jobs and revenue for businesses and the City.
- The permitting and scheduling system that would be required for large cruise ships is not compatible with the way the cruise industry operates. The industry is not going to change its global scheduling systems for Sitka.
- The permitting system for small cruise ships is burdensome and costly and would result in fewer visits by these ships.
- If the ordinance is approved, the City will be sued by those damaged by this ordinance. Sitka taxpayers will be responsible for the costs of defending the City against the lawsuit.
- The permitting system and enforcement provisions required by the ordinance will result in huge new administrative burdens for the City.

The local stake holders and the City of Sitka are already making changes to address community concerns. We support open community dialogue about the appropriate levels of tourism for Sitka and discussion about workable strategies to achieve those levels, led by the City’s new Tourism Commission. We are open to reasonable limits that support long-term sustainability, but the ballot initiative is the wrong solution. **Read the ordinance before you vote!**

- ADVENTURE SITKA • ALASKA ELEMENTS • ALASKA SKIFF LLC • ALASKAN DREAM CRUISES
ALLEN MARINE TOURS • ARROWHEAD TRANSFER • BARANOF JEWELERS, LLC • BAYVIEW PUB
BEAR COUNTRY CONVENIENCE & COFFEE • BEYOND THE DOCK TOURS
BRENNER'S FINE CLOTHING AND GIFTS • BUMBLE EXPEDITIONS LLC • CASCADE CONVENIENCE CENTER
CBC CONSTRUCTION • CHANNEL CLUB • CPT. GARY'S SITKA ADVENTURES, LLC • EARNIES BAR
F/V DEFIANT • F/V MYRA • F/V PERSEVERANCE • HALIBUT POINT CRAB AND CHOWDER
HARBOR AIR SERVICES • HARBOR MT. BREWING • HIGH OUTPUT ADVENTURES • HIGHLINER COFFEE CO.
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