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## DAILY SITKA SENTINEL

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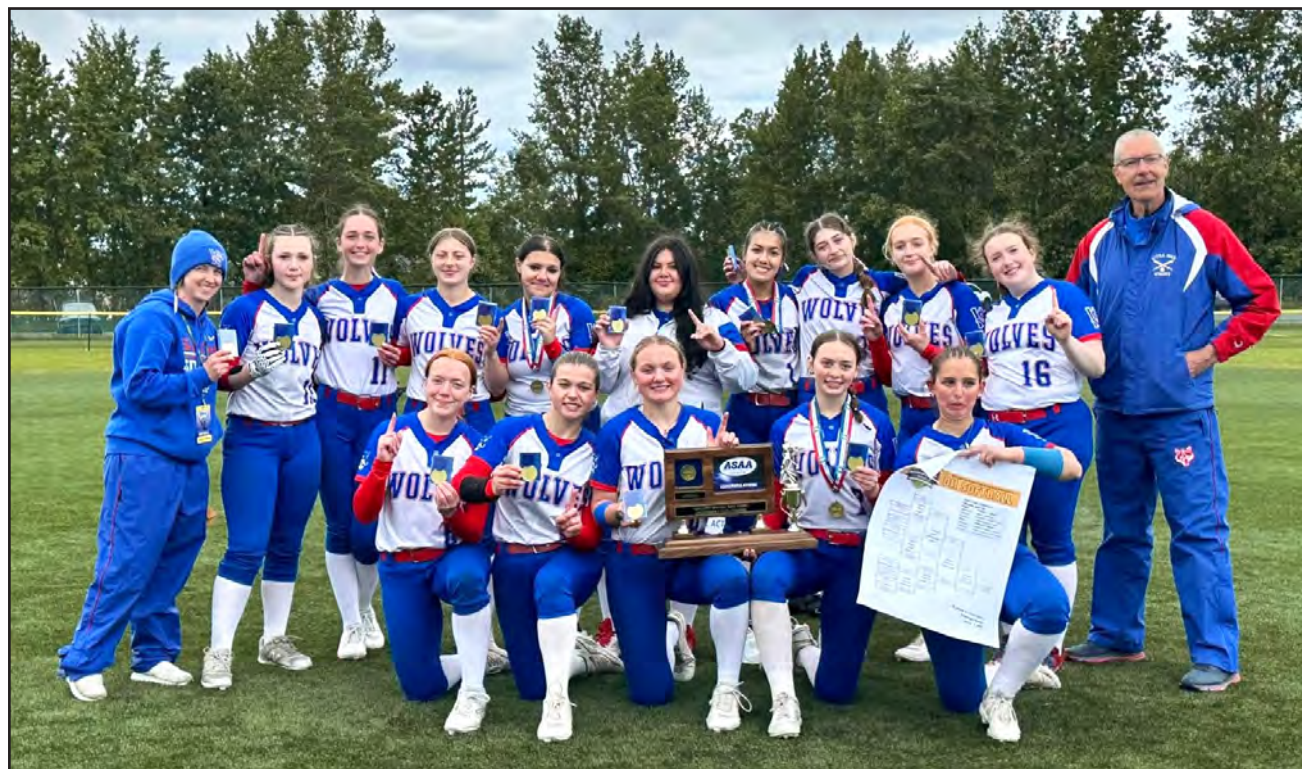
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Sitka, Alaska

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6 Pages

**Sitka Sweeps State!**

Both the Sitka High School boys baseball team and the girls softball team took first-place trophies at the state competition over the weekend. At left, the Sitka Wolves softball team poses for a photo after defeating Soldotna 16-13 in the championship game Saturday of the 2025 ASAA/First National Bank Alaska DII Softball State Tournament at Anchorage's

Cartee Fields. (Photo courtesy Sitka Softball) At right, the Sitka Wolves baseball team celebrates their 7-0 win over the Service Cougars in the championship game Saturday of the 2025 ASAA/First National Bank Alaska DI Baseball State Tournament at Anchorage's Mulchay Stadium. See story on Page 4. (Photo courtesy Heather Gluth)

**Sitkans Protesting State School Tax Policy****SHANNON HAUGLAND**  
Sentinel Staff Writer

Sitka School Superintendent Deidre Jensen says the district is forming a strategy for responding to the Alaska Board of Education's setting a 30-day comment period on a regulation change that would include the value of in-kind services in the amount a local government must include in a local funding cap.

The "cap" refers to the maximum funding a municipality may contribute to schools from local taxes, in addition to the amount allocated by the state. The cap is a percentage of the taxable property value in the community.

Like several communities in Alaska, Sitka provides funding for schools to the cap but also funds several items

considered to be non-instructional or community assets. This includes contributions for the Blatchley pool, Performing Arts Center utilities and student activities.

"We're working to figure out what we want to give for testimony because it does impact us greatly," Jensen said Friday. "We're in conversations about what our messaging is going to be."

After two hours of testimony at its quarterly meeting Wednesday, the state education board decided to allow a 30-day public comment period, instead of passing an emergency regulation, to implement the new rules for the current year. That would reduce the amount of local funding for schools.

Jensen said the district plans to comment on the regulation, which would change the section related to

"permissible local contribution appropriations and in-kind services." The change would define appropriations to include the documented fair market value of in-kind services.

Sitka voters in recent years approved a ballot question to add an extra tax on marijuana sales to fund participation in school sports and other activities, and a seasonal sales tax for school building maintenance.

Jensen said she and others are figuring out how the new regulation would affect Sitka, on top of the cutbacks the school district has already made for the next fiscal year.

"It could have huge impacts," Jensen said. "And we've already made major cuts."

Rep. Rebecca Himschoot said if the proposed state Department of Educa-

tion regulation to count in-kind services toward the local contribution cap go through, it could be "catastrophic" for Sitka. Also, she said, it is not certain that it would solve the problem it is meant to address, which is inequitable funding for education among school district.

Himschoot, co-chair of the House Education Committee, said after the state board proposed implementing the new rules for the current fiscal year as an emergency regulation, superintendents, school board members, district staffs, employees, parents and notably the Anchorage school district attorney spent two hours testifying against it.

"It was unanimous," Himschoot said, of both the vote public testimony at the quarterly state school board

**Continued on Back Page****Antimony Corp. Ready To Mine Alaska Claims****By MAX GRAHAM**  
Northern Journal

Alaska hasn't produced antimony — a shiny mineral used in weapons, flame retardants and solar panels — in almost 40 years.

That could change this summer, according to the executives of a Texas company that has snatched up more than 35,000 acres of mining claims in Alaska.

Dallas-based U.S. Antimony Corp. is looking to the state as a new source of antimony for its smelter in Montana, the only plant in the United States that refines the mineral.

Alaska's antimony, the company says, could help the U.S. overcome a recent ban on exports of the mineral from China, the world's top antimony producer. Antimony is among several minerals — many of which are used in renewable energy — that the U.S. has sourced primarily from China and other countries in recent decades. Efforts to build more mines in the U.S. have accelerated amid worsening trade tensions and growing demand.

With no active antimony mines, the U.S. in recent years has imported roughly 60% of its antimony from China. Meanwhile, need for the mineral has surged as antimony-laden arms flow to wars in Ukraine and the Middle East.

The price of the mineral has quadrupled in the past year, rising from around \$13,000 to \$55,000 per ton.

U.S. Antimony is now expanding its Montana smelter and rushing to find more ore to supply it. Alaska is its "primary focus" for boosting production, an executive said in an interview last week.

In the past eight months, a U.S. Antimony subsidiary, Great Land Minerals, has acquired claims in three different areas of Alaska's Interior: outside Fairbanks; near the small town of Tok; and along the Maclaren River off the Denali Highway, a scenic road that runs outside the national park.

U.S. Antimony says it's looking to truck antimony ore some 2,000 miles from Alaska to its processing plant in Montana. That operation could start as soon as September, executives said on a recent call with investors.

"We can't get that antimony from Alaska to Montana fast enough," Joe Bardswich, U.S. Antimony's chief mining officer, said on the call.

The company's plans coincide with a

separate effort by an Australian company to start up its own small-scale antimony mine near Fairbanks.

Felix Gold is seeking to restart production this year at a long-shuttered antimony mine that sits within a few miles of a residential subdivision, Hattie Creek.

The company also is eyeing prospects near the hamlet of Ester on the outskirts of Fairbanks — where U.S. Antimony's subsidiary has claims, too.

The potential developments are generating a mix of responses locally.

Some residents worry about environmental impacts of mining and its potential to transform tranquil Fairbanks-area neighborhoods into noisy industrial sites.

"I don't want to be all NIMBY. But it literally is my backyard," said Lisbet Norris, who lives in Hattie Creek, about 10 miles north of downtown Fairbanks. "It's just so close."

Norris, a dog musher, runs sled tours on trails that cross Felix Gold's claims on state land, and she's concerned that mining might impede her business. She's also worried about heavy industrial use of the dirt road that connects her neighborhood — and Felix Gold's potential operations — to the rest of town.

Other Fairbanks residents, however, say they support mining in the area; some cite the town's early history as a gold mining town and the potential economic benefits of new mines.

"It's because of mining that Fairbanks is what it is," said Roger Burggraf, a local prospector who owns some of the claims that Felix Gold has leased to study the feasibility of antimony mining.

Burggraf said he understands the concerns of people who live near gold and antimony prospects. But when they bought their properties, "they should have realized that if a mine developed, that might change their lifestyle," he added.

Felix Gold has a permit only for

**Continued on Back Page****Village Murder Case Tossed, Police on Hold****By JAMES BROOKS**  
Alaska Beacon

In an extraordinary order, a Ketchikan Superior Court judge has dismissed murder charges against a Metlakatla man, citing a lengthy series of errors, lies and evidence concealed from defense attorneys by the Metlakatla Police Department.

The errors, Judge Daniel Doty said last week in an order, were so severe that defendant Isaac Henderson cannot be guaranteed a fair trial. The order dismisses the charges against Henderson with prejudice, meaning that they cannot be brought again.

The dismissal was first reported by the Ketchikan Daily News.

"The record in this case established a unique and egregious pattern of discovery violations and misrepresentations about discovery," Doty wrote.

"No remedy short of dismissal with prejudice would remedy the prejudice to Mr. Henderson or deter similar violations in the future," he said.

Prosecutors with the Alaska Department of Law have filed a motion asking the judge to reconsider his dismissal.

Meanwhile, Angie Kemp, director of the department's criminal division since 2022, said on Friday that her division has suspended all work with the Metlakatla Police Department until the department undergoes reforms.

That extreme — possibly unprecedented — act means state attorneys will not prosecute criminal cases coming from Metlakatla's police department unless they involve particu-



The SE Alaska village of Metlakatla is seen in an undated photo. (Alaska Department of Transportation photo)

larly serious crimes.

"It's an extreme remedy, but one that's necessary," Kemp said by phone on Friday.

**Interim police chief says department is rebuilding**

Metlakatla is located at the tip of southern Southeast Alaska, on the Annette Island Reserve, Alaska's only Indian reservation.

Bruce Janes, a member of the local police department for 31 years and chief for eight, is no longer working there, Kemp said.

She's since spoken with Desmond King, chief of Metlakatla's fire department and now its interim police chief,

requesting changes to police department procedures.

"And I've explained to him that until those steps are taken, the Department of Law can't continue to prosecute cases, absent extreme circumstances, out of Metlakatla where those cases involve Metlakatla Police Department officers," Kemp said.

Metlakatla Mayor Albert Smith was out of the office and unavailable to talk by phone, town staff said on Friday. A message left on his cellphone was not returned.

King, speaking by phone, said that in addition to acting as fire chief and interim police chief, he's also the

town's deputy police commissioner.

"I actually carry a few hats right now, while we're in the rebuilding stage. ... We're in a very stressful situation," he said.

Asked about Kemp's decision to temporarily stop work with Metlakatla's police, he said he was familiar with it.

"I totally understand that," King said. "That's what I would expect them to do, because it was some internal issues that we have to fix, and we're really going to be at Ground Zero. It's all about building everything as fast as we can, but as responsible as we can."

Smith declined extensive comment,

**Continued on Back Page****Sunday Morning Car Crash Snaps Utility Pole****By Sentinel Staff**

Charges are pending against a driver who struck a cluster of mailboxes and a telephone pole early Sunday morning in the 1500 block of Sawmill Creek Road.

Police said the driver, a 35-year-old man from Palmer, was out of the car and seen walking after the crash and was taken by ambulance to Mt. Edgecumbe Medical Center. Alcohol was a factor in the accident, police said.

The accident was reported at 1:42 a.m., police said, when the driver left the road, hit and knocked down some of the mailbox units and broke off the telephone pole, leaving wires hanging down. The vehicle, a rented Chevrolet Suburban, lost a wheel and sustained other damage in the accident.

A police investigation is continuing. City workers were making repairs to the pole today.



An SUV, in background, rests in a ditch in the 1500 block of Sawmill Creek Road Sunday. The vehicle destroyed mailboxes and snapped a utility pole early Sunday morning. (Sentinel Photo)

**The Daily Sentinel will not publish Thursday, June 19 in observance of Juneteenth**

**The deadline for news releases and advertising items for the Wed., June 18 edition is 3 p.m. Tuesday, June 17**

**NEXT SHIPS**

**Tuesday, June 10**  
Passengers  
3030 (capacity)

**Viking Orion**  
Sitka Cruise Terminal  
8am – 5pm

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

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



Letters to the Editor

Denial

**Dear Editor:** Acidification of the oceans is real. More CO2 than the ocean can process has caused acidification.

“It’s all connected”: loss of 10 billion snow crabs in the Bering Sea and lack of chum salmon in the Yukon/Kuskokwim rivers. The pollution of cruise lines has hurt fisheries and subsistence in all of Alaska. It is one ocean.

Three-quarters of Sitka voters approved of the ammonia, copper, chlorine, fecal coliform, hydrocarbons, nitrates, nitrites and lead being dumped into Southeastern Alaska waters, which affects all Alaskans.

Microplastics are real: in our fish and everything we eat. In two to three generations into Sitka’s future, residents will not be eating local fish because of poison from cruise lines. Even if cruise tourism stopped, damage has been done.

Cruel, ignorant or denial: three-quarters of Sitka’s voters did not read about scrubber emissions, or ignored it.

Cruise lines visiting Juneau, continually purged past the limits of their

memorandum of agreement. Cruise lines value \$\$\$ over a “gentlemen’s agreement,” and is the reason the cruise ship numbers were brought to vote in Juneau for a legally-binding agreement.

Fish used to be “brain food” because of the omega 3 fats of cold-water fish. (The research findings of microplastics in local shellfish was Sitka Tribe of Alaska driven.)

Christy Williams, Sitka

Public Works

**Dear Editor:** With all appreciation to the city public work department, please show respect to the property owners when doing public work around the city.

A team of three have come to my property Friday morning and aggressively cut many branches of spruce tips tree and salmonberry bushes while clearing the area around a ditch, exposing part of my yard, without any notice or any sort of communication.

I think there is a better way of managing such a task. Thank you!  
Paul Bahna, Sitka



People swim as vessels sail during the “Ocean Wonders” themed event in honor of World Oceans Day ahead of the U.N. Ocean Conference on Sunday in Nice, France. (AP Photo/Annika Hammerschlag)

UN Ocean Conference Looking for Protections

By ANNIKA HAMMERSCHLAG  
Associated Press

NICE, France (AP) — The third U.N. Ocean Conference opened Monday as pressure mounts for nations to turn decades of promises into real protection for the sea.

“The fight for the ocean is at the heart of the yearslong battles we’ve been waging — for biodiversity, for climate, for our environment and for our health,” said French President Emmanuel Macron, delivering the keynote address.

Just 2.7% of the ocean is effectively protected from destructive extractive activities, according to the nonprofit Marine Conservation Institute. That’s far below the target agreed under the “30x30” pledge to conserve 30% of land and sea by 2030.

Ratification of the High Seas Treaty tops the agenda. Adopted in 2023, the treaty would for the first time allow nations to establish marine protected areas in international waters, which cover nearly two-thirds of the ocean and are largely ungoverned.

“It’s the Wild West out there with countries just fishing anywhere without any sort of regulation, and that needs to change,” said Mauro Randone, regional projects manager at the World Wildlife Fund’s Mediterranean Marine Initiative. “The high seas belong to everyone and no one practically at the same time, and countries are finally committing to establish some rules.”

The ocean is critical in stabilizing Earth’s climate and sustaining life. It generates 50% of the oxygen we breathe, absorbs around 30% of carbon dioxide emissions and captures more than 90% of the excess heat caused by those emissions.

Without a healthy ocean, experts warn, climate goals will remain out of reach.

The treaty will come into force once 60 countries ratify it. As of Monday, at least 49 countries had. Advocates hope the conference can build enough momentum to cross the threshold, which would allow for the first official Oceans Conference of Parties.

“Two-thirds of the ocean is areas beyond national jurisdiction — that’s half our planet,” said Minna Epps, director of global ocean policy at the International Union for Conservation of Nature. “We cannot possibly protect 30% of the ocean if it doesn’t include the high seas.”

South Korea, France and the European Union have championed the treaty, but most large ocean nations have yet to ratify it, including the rest of the G20.

Thousands of conference attendees are expected, including heads of state, scientists and industry leaders. The United States has confirmed it isn’t sending a formal delegation, just observers.

From protections on paper to something real

The conference highlights the growing gap between marine protection declarations and real-world conservation.

France, the conference co-host, claims to have surpassed the 30% target for marine protection. But environmental groups say only 3% of French waters are fully protected from harmful activities like bottom trawling and industrial fishing. In 2024, more than 100 bottom-trawling vessels were recorded spending over 17,000 hours fishing within France’s six marine nature parks, according to ocean advocacy group Oceana.

“The government declares these as

protected areas, but this is a lie,” said Enric Sala, founder of National Geographic’s Pristine Seas marine reserve project. “Most of it is political box-ticking. It’s all paper parks.”

That criticism is echoed across the continent. A new World Wildlife Fund report found that although more than 11% of Europe’s marine area is designated for protection, just 2% of EU waters have management plans in place.

Fabien Boileau, director of marine protected areas at France’s Office for Biodiversity, acknowledged the presence of bottom trawling in French protected areas, but said it was part of a phased strategy.

“In France, we made the choice to designate large marine protected areas with relatively low levels of regulation at first, betting that stronger protections would be developed over time through local governance,” he said. “Today, we’re gradually increasing the number of zones with stricter protections within those areas.”

France’s Port-Cros: A model for conservation

Other marine protected areas show what real protection can achieve. Off southern France, Port-Cros National Park is one of the oldest marine reserves in the Mediterranean. Strict anchoring bans have allowed vast seagrass meadows to grow undisturbed. Massive groups patrol rocky outcrops, brightly colored nudibranchs munch on algae and schools of large corbs glide through the shallows, undisturbed by fishing lines.

“Thanks to the protections that have been in place since 1963, we can observe species that are much larger than elsewhere in the Mediterranean and at a much higher density than in other areas,” said Hubert Flavigny, manager of Mio Palmo dive center in Hyeres, France.

Still, such examples remain exceptions. Advocates say industrial fishing lobbies continue to resist stricter protections, despite evidence that well-managed reserves boost long-term fisheries through the “spillover effect,” whereby marine life flourishes in nearby waters.

“Protection is not the problem — overfishing is the problem,” said Sala. “The worst enemy of the fishing industry is themselves.”

Frustrated by government inaction, environmental groups have taken enforcement into their own hands. In May, Greenpeace dropped 15 limestone boulders into France’s Golfe du Lion, aiming to physically block bottom trawling in a marine area that has long been designated for protection. The protected zone was established in 2008 to preserve deep-sea ecosystems, yet 12 trawlers continue to operate there, despite scientific warnings of ecological collapse, according to activist group MedReAct.

The Golfe is now one of the most overfished areas in the Mediterranean.

What will the conference deliver?

The conference will feature 10 panels on topics such as blue finance, sustainable fisheries and plastic pollution. Deep sea mining is expected to feature in broader discussions, while small island states are likely to use the platform to advocate for increased climate adaptation funding. The outcome of these discussions will form the basis of the Nice Ocean Action Plan — a declaration of voluntary commitments to be adopted by consensus and presented at the United Nations in July.

TV Tony Awards Scores Good Audience for CBS

NEW YORK (AP) — The Tony Awards on Sunday lured 4.85 million viewers to CBS, its largest broadcast audience in six years, according to Nielsen’s data.

CBS said Monday the telecast — hosted by “Wicked” star Cynthia Erivo — scored a 38% increase over last year’s 3.53 million viewers.

That’s the largest audience for the Tonys since 2019, when the telecast that year nabbed 5.4 million viewers and “Hometown” was crowned best new musical. The latest version also had to compete with the second game of the NBA Finals, between the Thunder and Pacers.

CBS also said the awards show drew its largest ever streaming audience on Paramount+ but did not disclose streaming viewership numbers, only saying it was up 208% from last year.

Visitors Scrutinized As New Travel Ban Starts

By GISELA SALOMON  
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — President Donald Trump’s new ban on travel to the U.S. by citizens from a dozen countries took effect Monday with relative calm, as some travelers with valid visas reported extra scrutiny at American airports before being allowed entry.

The ban targeting mainly African and Middle Eastern countries kicked in amid rising tension over the president’s escalating campaign of immigration enforcement. But it arrived with no immediate signs of the chaos that unfolded at airports across the U.S. during Trump’s first travel ban in 2017.

Vincenta Aguilar said she was anxious Monday as she and her husband, both Guatemalan citizens, were subjected to three different interviews by U.S. officials after arriving at Miami International Airport and showing tourist visas the couple received last week.

“They asked us where we work, how many children we have, if we have had any problems with the law, how we are going to afford the cost of this travel, how many days we will stay here,” said Aguilar, who along with her husband was visiting their son for the first time since he left Guatemala 22 years ago.

She said they were released about an hour after their flight landed, greeting their waiting family members in Florida with tears of relief. Guatemala is not among the countries included in the new ban or flagged for extra travel restrictions.

Trump’s new ban shouldn’t revoke previously issued visas

The new proclamation that Trump signed last week applies to citizens of Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. It also imposes heightened restrictions on people from Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela who are outside the U.S. and don’t hold a valid visa.

The new ban does not revoke visas previously issued to people from countries on the list, according to guidance issued Friday to all U.S. diplomatic missions. However, unless an applicant meets narrow criteria for an exemption to the ban, his or her application will be rejected starting Monday. Travelers with previously issued visas should still be able to enter the U.S. even after the ban takes effect.

Narayana Lamy, a Haitian citizen who works for his home country’s government, said he was told to wait after showing his passport and tourist visa Monday at the Miami airport while a U.S. official confirmed by phone that he was allowed into the country to visit family members.

Luis Hernandez, a Cuban citizen

and green card holder who has lived in the U.S. for three years, said he had no problems returning Monday to Miami after a weekend visiting family in Cuba.

“They did not ask me anything,” Hernandez said. “I only showed my residency card.”

Ban appears to avoid chaos that followed Trump’s first-term attempt

During Trump’s first term, a hastily written executive order ordering the denial of entry to citizens of mainly Muslim countries created chaos at numerous airports and other ports of entry, prompting successful legal challenges and major revisions to the policy.

Many immigration experts say the new ban is more carefully crafted and appears designed to beat court challenges that hampered the first by focusing on the visa application process.

Trump said this time that some countries had “deficient” screening for passports and other public documents or have historically refused to take back their own citizens. He relied extensively on an annual Homeland Security report of people who remain in the U.S. after their visas expired.

Trump also tied the new ban to a terrorist attack in Boulder, Colorado, saying it underscored the dangers posed by some visitors who overstayed visas. U.S. officials say the man charged in the attack overstayed a tourist visa. He is from Egypt, which isn’t on Trump’s restricted list.

Critics say travel ban sows division

The ban was quickly denounced by groups that provide aid and resettlement help to refugees.

“This policy is not about national security — it is about sowing division and vilifying communities that are seeking safety and opportunity in the United States,” said Abby Maxman, president of Oxfam America, a nonprofit international relief organization.

Haiti’s transitional presidential council said in a statement that the ban “is likely to indiscriminately affect all Haitians” and that it hopes to persuade the U.S. to drop Haiti from the list of banned countries.

In Venezuela, some visa holders changed U.S. travel plans last week to get ahead of Trump’s restrictions. For those without visas, the new restrictions may not matter much. Since Venezuela and the U.S. severed diplomatic relations in 2019, Venezuelans have had to travel to neighboring South American countries to obtain U.S. visas.

José Luis Vegas, a tech worker in the Venezuelan capital of Caracas, said his uncle gave up on renewing an expired U.S. visa because it was already difficult before the restrictions.

“Paying for hotels and tickets was very expensive, and appointments took up to a year,” Vegas said.

RFK Jr. Ousts Entire Vaccine Adviser Panel

By LAURA UNGAR and  
AMANDA SEITZ  
Associated Press

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. on Monday removed every member of a scientific committee that advises the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on how to use vaccines and pledged to replace them with his own picks.

Major physicians and public health groups criticized the move to oust all 17 members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Kennedy, who was one of the nation’s leading anti-vaccine activists before becoming the nation’s top health official, has not said who he would appoint to the panel, but said it would convene in just two weeks in Atlanta.

Although it’s typically not viewed as a partisan board, the Biden administration had installed the entire committee.

“Without removing the current members, the current Trump administration would not have been able to appoint a majority of new members until 2028,” Kennedy wrote in a Wall Street Journal opinion piece. “A clean sweep is needed to re-establish public confidence in vaccine science.”

Kennedy said the committee members had too many conflicts of interest. Committee members routinely disclose any possible conflicts at the start of public meetings.

Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association, called Kennedy’s mass ouster “a coup.”

Weather

Sitka Forecast

For tonight expect a high of 56 degrees and mostly cloudy skies. On Tuesday expect a high of 56 degrees and mostly sunny, followed by an overnight low of 45 degrees and partly sunny but with some drizzle.

Sitka Weather

Temperatures ranged from 47 to 57 degrees, the wind gusts to 23 mph at 4:53 a.m., and .67 inch of rain fell in the 24 hours ending at midnight last night, the National Weather Service says.

Woodstock-Era Musician Sly Stone Dies at Age 82

By HILLEL ITALIE  
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sly Stone, the revolutionary musician and dynamic showman whose Sly and the Family Stone transformed popular music in the 1960s and ‘70s and beyond with such hits as “Everyday People,” “Stand!” and “Family Affair,” died Monday at age 82.

Stone, born Sylvester Stewart, had been in poor health in recent years. His publicist Carleen Donovan said Stone died in Los Angeles surrounded by family after contending with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and other ailments.

Formed in 1966-67, Sly and the Family Stone was the first major group to include Black and white men and women, and well embodied a time when anything seemed possible — riots and assassinations, communes and love-ins. The singers screeched, chanted, crooned and hollered. The music was a blowout of frantic horns, rapid-fire guitar and locomotive rhythms, a melting pot of jazz, psychedelic rock, doo-wop, soul and the early grooves of funk.

Stone’s group began as a Bay Area sextet featuring Sly on keyboards, Larry Graham on bass; Sly’s brother, Freddie, on guitar; sister Rose on vocals; Cynthia Robinson and Jerry Martini horns and Greg Errico on drums. They debuted with the album “A Whole New Thing” and earned the title with their breakthrough single, “Dance to the Music.” It hit the top 10 in April 1968, the week the Rev. Martin Luther King was murdered, and helped launch an era when the polish of Motown and the understatement of Stax suddenly seemed of another time.

Led by Sly Stone, with his leather jumpsuits and goggle shades, mile-wide grin and mile-high Afro, the band dazzled in 1969 at the Woodstock festival and set a new pace on



Rock star Sylvester “Sly” Stone of Sly and the Family Stone appears in April 1972. (AP Photo, File)

the radio. “Everyday People,” “I Wanna Take You Higher” and other songs were anthems of community, non-conformity and a brash and hopeful spirit, built around such catchphrases as “different strokes for different folks.” The group released five top 10 singles, three of them hitting No. 1, and three million-selling albums: “Stand!”, “There’s a Riot Goin’ On” and “Greatest Hits.” Sly’s influence has endured for decades. The top funk artist of the 1970s, Parliament-Funkadelic creator George Clinton, was a Stone disciple. Prince, Rick James and the Black-Eyed Peas were among the many performers from the 1980s and after influenced by Sly, and countless rap artists have sampled his riffs, from the Beastie Boys to Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg. A 2005 tribute record included Maroon 5, John Legend and the Roots.

A dream dies, a career burns away

By the early ‘70s, Stone himself was beginning a descent from which he never recovered, driven by the pressures of fame and the added burden of Black fame. His record company was anxious for more hits, while the Black Panthers were pressing him to drop the white members from his group. After moving from the Bay Area to Los Angeles in 1970, he became increasingly hooked on cocaine and erratic in his behavior.

On “Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin),” Stone had warned: “Dying young is hard to take/selling out is harder.” Late in 1971, he released “There’s a Riot Going On,” one of the grimmest, most uncompromising records ever to top the album charts. The sound was dense and murky (Sly was among the first musicians to use drum machines), the mood reflective (“Family Affair”), fearful (“Runnin’ Away”) and despairing: “Time, they say, is the answer — but I don’t believe it,” Sly sings on “Time.” The fast, funky pace of the original “Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin)” was slowed, stretched and retitled “Thank You For Talkin’ to Me, Africa.”

By the end of the decade, Sly and the Family Stone had broken up and Sly was releasing solo records with such unmet promises as “Heard You Missed Me, Well I’m Back” and “Back On the Right Track.” Most of the news he made over the following decades was of drug busts, financial troubles and mishaps on stage. Sly and the Family Stone was inducted into the Rock & Roll of Fame in 1993 and honored in 2006 at the Grammy Awards, but Sly released just one album after the early ‘80s, “I’m Back! Family & Friends,” much of it updated recordings of his old hits.

A born musician, a born uniter

He was born Sylvester Stewart in Denton, Texas, and raised in Vallejo, California, the second of five children in a close, religious family. Sylvester became “Sly” by accident, when a teacher mistakenly spelled his name “Slyvester.”

He loved performing so much that his mother alleged he would cry if the congregation in church didn’t respond when he sang before it. He was so gifted and ambitious that by age 4 he had sung on stage at a Sam Cooke show and by age 11 had mastered several instruments and recorded a gospel song with his siblings.

Sitka Yesterday

20 YEARS AGO  
June 2005

Citing a decline in volunteer numbers, the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Northwest office said it is closing the Sitka program beginning in August. The decision will affect six nonprofit organizations which now must find new sources of funds or volunteers, or scale back services currently provided by the six volunteers.

50 YEARS AGO  
June 1975

Mt. Verstovia Lodge urges a good turnout for the next meeting when a tribute will be paid to a most distinguished brother, W.B. Clarence Rands, who has been a Master Mason for 50 years. A potluck dinner for all Masons and their wives will be at 6:30 p.m.

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**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](http://sitkaschools.org), click on Employment. The Sitka School District is an equal opportunity employer. Alaska Natives are encouraged to apply.

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### Calendar of Events

#### MONDAY

5:30-6:30 p.m. AA, Sitka Pioneers Home Recreation Kitchen, call AA hotline 747-8866 for information  
6 p.m. Yoga for All Body Types, Yoga Union, STA-sponsored  
6 p.m. White Elephant Shop open  
6-8 p.m. Open swim, MEHS Aquatic Center

#### TUESDAY

6-8 a.m. MEHS Aquatic Center pool open  
10:30 a.m. Sitka Sprouts, ages 3-5 years and caregivers, Sitka Sound Science Center  
Noon AA, St. Peter's basement, call AA hotline 747-8866 for information  
Noon Rotary Club, UAS-Sitka Campus Room 230  
1-3 p.m. Open swim, MEHS Aquatic Center  
3:30 p.m. Stay and Play, Sitka Public Library  
6 p.m. Assembly, Centennial Hall  
6-8 p.m. Open swim, MEHS Aquatic Center

#### WEDNESDAY

6-8 a.m. MEHS Aquatic Center pool open  
11-2 Salvation Army Little Store open  
Noon White Elephant Shop open  
Noon AA, St. Peter's basement, call AA hotline 747-8866 for information  
Noon STA Tribal Council, via Teleconference  
1-3 p.m. Open swim, MEHS Aquatic Center  
4:30 p.m. Sitka Parkinson's Support Group, 1212 Seward Ave. (the old BOQ) 907 747-3461  
5:30 p.m. Scripture Walk, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, at Sitka National Historical Park visitor center  
6-8 p.m. Open swim, MEHS Aquatic Center  
7 p.m. Sitka Sportsman's Association Indoor Range open  
7 p.m. AA, St. Gregory's Church, 606 Etolin Street, info: 907-747-8866

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### STA Child Care Fund Plan Forum

Sitka Tribe of Alaska's Social Services will host a public forum for the 2026-2028 Child Care Development Fund Model Plan noon-1 p.m. June 26. Comments will be taken at the public meeting at 204 Siginaka Way, third floor executive boardroom. The plan will be available via screen-share and printed copies during the meeting. For information contact Cathlene Adams at [cathlene.adams@sitkatriben-nn.gov](mailto:cathlene.adams@sitkatriben-nn.gov) or 907 966-9664.

### Hatchery Tours, Salmon Bake Set

NSRAA will again offer its summer hatchery tour and salmon bake lunch at Medveje Hatchery Saturday, July 12. Attendees will see king salmon returning to the hatchery and hear about the fisheries enhancement program. Transportation will be provided by Allen Marine for the two tours. The first tour will depart Crescent Harbor at 9 a.m., arriving back at Crescent Harbor at 12:15 p.m. The second tour will depart Crescent Harbor at 12:30 p.m. and arrive back at 4 p.m. The boat ride to and from the hatchery is approximately 30 minutes each way. Space is limited. Tickets are \$15 per person, cash only, at the NSRAA office located at 1308 Sawmill Creek Road. Office hours are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Call 907 747-6850

### BMS Pool Closes For Maintenance

Blatchley Middle School pool is closed until mid-June for maintenance. No public activities will be held until Saturday, June 21, at the earliest, city Parks and Recreation said. The reopening date is subject to change, based on maintenance needs. Look for the Blatchley Pool schedule post-closure online at <http://www.recreation.cityofsitka.com/> in June. For questions or updates, contact the City and Borough of Sitka Parks and Recreation at [recreation@cityofsitka.org](mailto:recreation@cityofsitka.org) or 907 747-4031.

### Mariner's First Aid, CPR Class Slated

AMSEA is conducting a Mariner's First Aid and CPR/AED class 8 a.m.-4 p.m. June 18, at NSRAA, 1308 Sawmill Creek Road. The cost for the class is \$125. Attendees will receive the U.S. Coast Guard-accepted two-year first aid and CPR certification from the American Safety and Health Institute. Registration is online at [www.am-sea.org](http://www.am-sea.org) or call (907) 747-3287. This class will cover CPR and automatic external defibrillators; treatment of choking; medical emergencies; trauma; environmental hazards; patient assessment; medical communications; drowning and hypothermia; and common fishing injuries.

## 'Dotty' Klingler Dies at Age 102

Dorothy "Dotty" Jane Klingler died Saturday, June 7, at the Sitka Pioneers Home, at the age of 102. Mrs. Klingler had been a resident of the Pioneers Home since 2008. An obituary will be published later.

## Pioneer Bar To Host Show By Artist Lawrie

"This Thing We Call the Ocean," a new art show by Sitka artist and retired Alaskan salmon troller Stephen Lawrie, curated by Maite Lorente, will debut 3 p.m. June 21 at the Pioneer Bar. Hosted by Chris Heim and the Pioneer Bar crew, and sponsored by Roger and Mary Hames and the Sitka Conservation Society, the show is the first of its kind in the iconic bar's long history. Through a collection of paintings, Lawrie honors the vital role of a healthy ocean and commercial fishing in Sitka's culture and economy, a news release from organizers said. The exhibit will be up through July 6.

### Fishermen Sought For LFPA Program

Fishermen based in Sitka interested in learning more about and partnering with Sitka Tribe of Alaska on the Local Food Purchase Assistance grant are invited to a meeting 4-6 p.m. June 17 at 204 Siginaka Way. Attendees will learn more about the program that uses funds from the USDA to purchase local foods. Those with questions can contact Annika Krafcik at [annika.krafcik@sitkatriben-nn.gov](mailto:annika.krafcik@sitkatriben-nn.gov).

### 'No Kings' Event Slated for June 14

All are invited to join fellow Sitkans for Peace and Democracy on June 14 for "No Kings, No Political Clowns." The group will gather at noon at the roundabout, then march to the Crescent Harbor shelter, "where we will hear a few brief speeches and have an opportunity to learn about resources for promoting democracy," organizers said in a news release. The group asks individuals to make their voices heard by contacting representatives in Washington, D.C., about cuts that are potentially affecting all citizens.

### 'Mina' Concert On Stage June 12

"Mina Keeps Singing" will be performed 7 p.m. Thursday, June 12, at the Odess Theater on the SJ Campus. Mina Brooks-Schmidt has completed her third year of college and is back home to "bring you a new array of art songs and arias spanning three centuries and four languages." Performing with her will be the incomparable Susan Reed on piano and special guest violinist, Sophie DeLong. The concert is free with donations accepted to help send Mina to study in Sicily later this summer.

### All Body Types Invited to Yoga

A yoga class focused on positive body images and developing the skills and confidence to attend any yoga class is offered 6-7 p.m. Mondays at Yoga Union. It is sponsored by Sitka Tribe of Alaska. "We love every body type," STA said. "Participants of all sizes are welcome to join and learn together." Contact Jean at (907) 747-3968 or [jean.swanson@sitkatriben-nn.gov](mailto:jean.swanson@sitkatriben-nn.gov) with any questions.

### Summer Solstice Celebration Set

The public is invited to join Sitka Tribe of Alaska for an opportunity to heal through the elements of fire, water, earth and air at its family friendly Summer Solstice Celebration 4:30-6:30 p.m. June 20 at Halibut Point Recreation Area main shelter. A light meal will be provided; cold water dip and sauna are optional. Call Jean Swanson at STA Social Services at 907 747-3968 with questions. "Dipping together strengthens relationships and connects us to the lands and waters that surround us," STA said in a news release. "Dipping can help regulate emotions, reduce inflammation and even boost our immune systems."

### CITY & BOROUGH OF SITKA

#### LEGAL NOTICE Tourism Commission

The Tourism Commission will hold its regular meeting **6:00 p.m. Thursday, June 12, 2025** in Harrigan Centennial Hall, 330 Harbor Drive. Agenda items include a discussion of potential public art projects and locations, review/recommendation of a response received to the Request for Proposals for the Visit Sitka contract, discussion/recommendation on Lincoln Street closures for the remainder of the 2025 visitor season, and a discussion/recommendation on changing the negotiated agreement between the City and Borough of Sitka and the Sitka Sound Cruise Terminal from a memorandum of understanding to a memorandum of agreement. The public is welcome to attend. Amy Ainslie, Planning & Community Development Director  
**Published: June 9, 2025**

## Police Blotter

Sitka Police Department logged the following calls over the weekend.

#### June 6

The animal control officer reported a dog off-leash had attacked a dog on a leash at the Indian River trail head. At 10:08 p.m. a vehicle was reported being driven erratically on Andrews Street. Police were unable to find a vehicle matching the description. At 11:58 p.m. two men and a woman were reported yelling at the skate park. They were clearing the area when an officer arrived, and were told the park closes at 10 p.m.

#### June 7

At 12:46 a.m. a bear was reported on Sirstad Street. An officer chased it into the woods.

### BIHA Board Meets June 12

Baranof Island Housing Authority's quarterly Board of Commissioners meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 12, at Harrigan Centennial Hall.

A remote meeting option also is available. Those wishing to attend or participate may submit an email request to [info@bihasitka.org](mailto:info@bihasitka.org) before noon on June 12, or call BIHA at 907-747-5088 for assistance.

### Contaminated Sites Discussed

Sitka Tribe of Alaska's Resource Protection Department will host a community meeting on contaminated sites 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, June 12, at Harrigan Centennial Hall.

All ages are welcome and dinner will be provided. Contact callie.simmons@sitkatriben-nn.gov for information.

### Summer Breakfast Ready at Library

Sitka Public Library's free grab-n-go summer breakfast program will run 10 a.m. Wednesdays, June 4-July 30. Youths can pick up a free bagged snack at the library's ocean side window. Twenty bags are available first-come, first-served. It is not based on family income. Registration is not necessary. The program is offered in partnership with Sitka Conservation Society.

### Arts Council Sets Annual Meeting

Greater Sitka Arts Council will hold its annual meeting 6-8 p.m. June 19 at Harrigan Centennial Hall. The group sponsors Wearable Arts Show, PorchFest, art walks, street art projects and other activities. Those interested in helping with the arts programs and/or having ideas on potential projects for the Arts Council are invited to attend the meeting. For information contact Bobbi at [thinkarthinksitka@gmail.com](mailto:thinkarthinksitka@gmail.com).

### Stay and Play At the Library

Babies, toddlers and siblings up to 5 years old can Stay and Play at Sitka Public Library 3:30-4:30 p.m. Tuesdays, June 10, 17 and 24. The self-guided program offers families access to a variety of tinkering toys and activities. Materials will be available to use until 4:25 p.m. to allow for clean-up time.

### Senior Center Clean-Up Event

Alaska AARP Sitka Community Action Team invites the public to a community clean-up day at the Swan Lake Senior Center 3-6 p.m. Friday, June 20. No experience or supplies are necessary. All are invited to attend. For information, contact Dorothy at 907 747-3412.

### Brave Heart Bowls Fundraiser July 5

Brave Heart Volunteers will host its annual BHV Bowls fundraiser 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, July 5, at Harrigan Centennial Hall. Three-hundred hand-crafted ceramic bowls will be available for a suggested donation. Donors also will receive a free cup of soup and bread to go. The fundraiser supports the essential work of BHV, a group that works with those are facing loneliness, grief and end of life.



**EARNs DEGREE – Edie Leghorn graduated magna cum laude May 18 from Boston University, earning her Juris Doctorate. She came to Sitka in 2014 and spent a few years doing wilderness work before taking a job as a wilderness and forestry technician for the U.S. Forest Service. After serving the USFS from 2017 to 2022, she went to law school. (Photo provided)**

### Mosquito Cove Trail Inaccessible

Access to the Mosquito Cove Trail will be unavailable during the workday on Tuesday, June 10, due to overhead hazards as the U.S. Coast Guard transports gravel to the trail corridor for improvements conducted by Sitka Trail Works.

### Community Picnic Listed for July 12

Sitka Tribe of Alaska will host its annual community picnic 11 a.m.-3 p.m. July 12 at the Keet Gooshi Heen Elementary School playground. It will be an afternoon of traditional and picnic foods, games, and community gathering. All are invited to attend.

### Sitka Summer Coffee Club

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A wave from Killisnoo, one of the first orphaned bear cubs at the Fortress, in 2007.



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# SENTINEL SPORTS

## Sitka Wolves Sweep State Championships in Baseball and Softball

### Baseball

By KLAS STOLPE  
For the Sentinel

With just one out waiting to be closed on Saturday, Sitka senior Bryce Compagno-Calhoun looked down from the pitcher's mound toward senior catcher Tanner Steinson. "It was, I don't know, incredible, electric," Compagno-Calhoun said. "I was getting really hyped when we had three outs left, now we were one away and we had been working towards this all year and getting that final strike call, I mean, it was a great feeling and we were all ready to celebrate."

The Sitka Wolves had just proved their 22-0 Alaska season (26-2-1 overall) was for real as they toppled the Service High School Cougars 7-0 to claim the ASAA/First National Bank Alaska Division I Baseball State Championship at Anchorage's Mulchay Stadium.

"I think Brett (Ross) at second got to me first," Compagno-Calhoun said. "I tossed my glove in the air, turned around, and Brett came from behind and hugged me, and yeah, then everyone just started jumping around."

Compagno-Calhoun faced 25 batters, throwing 105 pitches — 66 for strikes — and allowed just one hit. He walked three and struck out eight and his fielders took care of the 13 other outs needed.

"I've been envisioning this all through my high school career," Compagno-Calhoun said. "You know, after getting second freshman year and then not having a good outing sophomore year, and then getting third last year, I was like, 'This is our time,' and I knew this team was really special, you know, going undefeated all through our season and then coming away with the championship to end my high-school career. It's just an amazing feeling."

In the 2022 state tournament, Sitka lost to South in the championship game. Compagno-Calhoun had been a player at that tournament; then freshman Chance Coleman and graduate Dylan Marx were all-state selections. In 2023, they lost to Service by a run to open state play and placed sixth with then-sophomore Steinson an all-tournament selection. Last season Sitka lost 15-1 to Service in the state semifinal and settled for an 11-3 third place win over South. Compagno-Calhoun, senior Mason McLeod and graduate Grady Smith earned state honors.

"Sitka baseball just has a good culture," senior Tyson Bartolaba said. "We love baseball and we always have fans that follow us... We are so happy to do this for our town."

On Saturday, the Wolves put the first runs of the game across in the bottom of the second inning as junior Caleb Calhoun hit a lead off single to center field, Compagno-Calhoun reached on an error and senior Josh Gluth hit a one-out double to center scoring both. Bartolaba hit a two-out double to left field scoring Gluth and junior Brett Ross reached on a ground ball error by the Service shortstop scoring Bartolaba for 4-0.

"I'm feeling ecstatic," Ross said. "It's so fun. I don't know if it has hit me yet, honestly, that what we did and the magnitude of what we did... That triple, I didn't really feel anything on the swing, that was the good part, the one you hate the best you don't really feel... When the last out went I just ran looking for Bryce... I'd just like to thank our fans for their support and let them know we did it for them."

The Wolves added their final three runs in the bottom of the fourth inning.

Josh McAlpin led off with a single, Ross hit a one-out triple scoring McAlpin and Coleman singled to left field scoring Ross for a 6-0 lead.

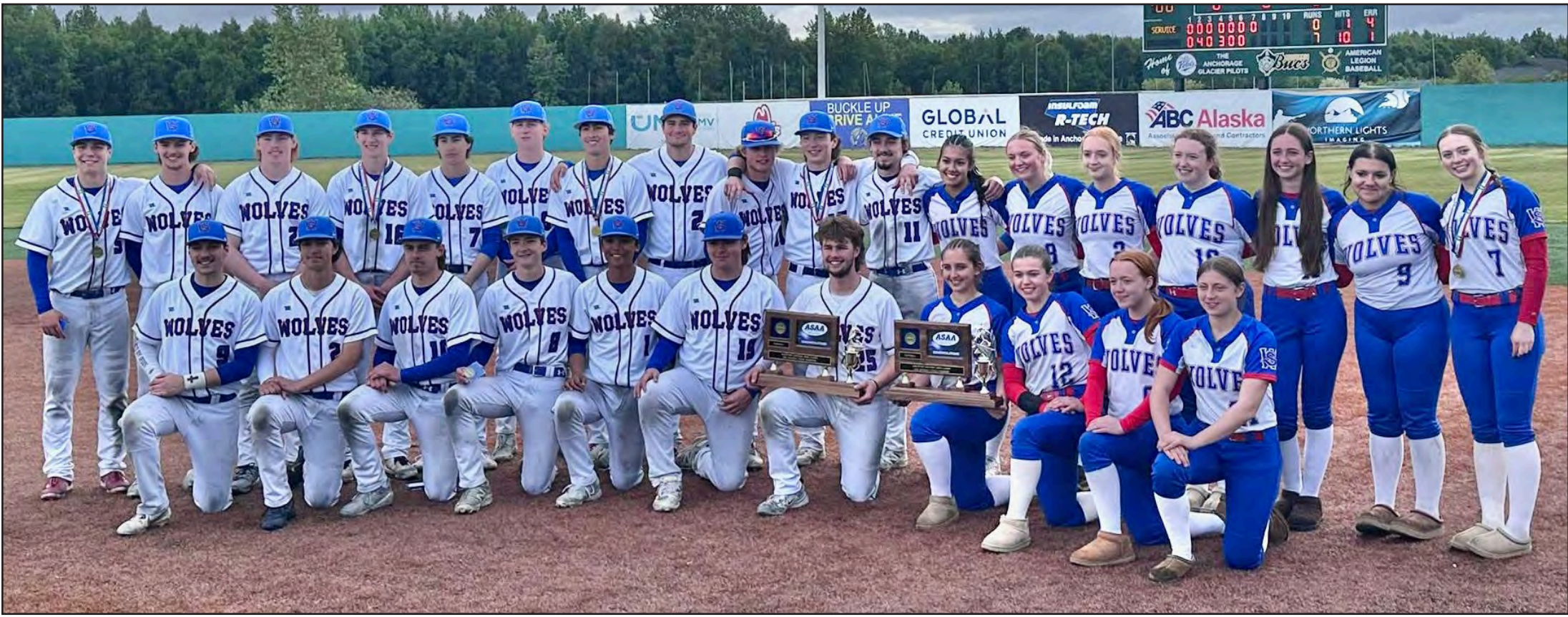
Steinson followed with a single to right field to advance Coleman to second and was replaced by junior courtesy runner Emmitt Johnson. Compagno-Calhoun hit a two-out ground ball and reached on an error that scored Coleman for the 7-0 advantage.

"It is just surreal," McAlpin said. "I'm happy for my team, happy for the seniors. It definitely means a lot for Sitka and for my family because my brother (Brayden Case) actually won state in 2014, so yeah, glad to repeat it... We knew they were a good team. They graduated some seniors but they were still good. I guess you can't just get overwhelmed by saying, 'Oh they're so good and better than us.' You just can't be in that mindset and I guess we weren't. But to win state 7-0 is surreal."

A lead-off walk to Service sophomore Casey Stoops in the top of the fifth led to nothing as Wolves fielders McAlpin at third base, Gluth at first base and C. Calhoun in center field call caught fly ball outs.

In the top of the sixth inning, Compagno-Calhoun struck out the first two batters and the third grounded to Ross at second who threw to Gluth at first.

Compagno-Calhoun closed the night by striking out the first batter in the top of the seventh inning, watched as pinch hitting freshman Jazz Abad lifted a fly ball out to Bartolaba in left



The Sitka Wolves baseball and softball teams hold their 2025 state championship trophies Saturday at Anchorage's Mulchay Stadium. (Photo Courtesy of Heather Gluth)

### Softball

By KLAS STOLPE  
For the Sentinel

With the weight of the world on her shoulders, or that of a small town on a large rock in Southeast Alaska, Sitka High School junior Alina Lebahn hit a two-out, third-pitch, three-score, home run past the center field fence at Anchorage's Cartee Fields on Saturday to give the Wolves a repeat state softball championship over Soldotna 16-13.

"My teammate Allie said to me as she came in, 'I served them up for you and they are ready for you to hit them home,'" Lebahn said of junior Allyson Mayville, who had grounded out but moved runners into scoring position. "And in the box all I was thinking was just tap the ball. I just needed a base hit. So I literally just wanted to make contact, to tap the ball in a hole. I guess it worked out."

This is the second title in three years for the Southeast Conference champion Wolves in the ASAA/First National Bank Alaska Division II Softball state tournaments. Sitka was runner-up in 2023 to Juneau-Douglas.

"This was definitely a team effort," Lebahn said. "I could not have done it without any one of my teammates, even when pitching. I could not have done without any of my fielders and this is kind of a special year where we really had to fight for this title, and we earned this title and it was a team effort completely."

Trailing by one run 13-12 with their final three outs looming in the bottom of the seventh inning Sitka found one more rally. Senior Madison Campbell patiently took four pitches and earned a walk but sophomore courtesy runner Brandy Pepper stole second and watched as classmate Penelope Blankenship hit a fly ball to center that was caught.

Sophomore Bristol Clifton then earned a walk to put runners at first and second with senior co-captain Kaelynn Balovich at bat. Balovich put a single into play scoring Pepper to tie the score at 13-13.

"Well, I struggle against slow pitchers," Balovich said. "So I was really just holding my breath. But I knew I just had to hit it on the ground somewhere and it would work out. So when I saw that they made the error I was jumping up and down at first base."

On the play, Clifton injured her knee going into second base and had to be replaced by sophomore pinch runner Otsitya Johnson-Knipes.

"She went all out to be safe at second and caught her leg a little bit funky and hurt her knee really bad," coach Jael McCarty said. Johnson-Knipes advanced to third and Balovich to second as Mayville grounded out for two away... and the stage was set for Lebahn's championship swing.

"After I saw Alina's hit go out and realized what that meant, my first thought was for Bristol because it was kind of a tough way to end the season for her but then everybody rallied around her and celebrated, it was kind of what you call a Disney Channel moment," McCarty said.

When the last hit touched the bat the team began to swarm out of the dugout as the ball continued to fly away.

"Honestly, I don't think it has set fully in yet," Mayville said. "The one thing that keeps playing in my head, and everybody else's, is Alina's ball. I mean the second she made contact it was so obvious it was out, it was one of the best hits all season that we have had... Everyone was out of the dugout,

we were jumping on each other, we were screaming, we were crying, there was a lot of emotions."

Sitka usually has two home run celebrations. In one, the players fall back onto the turf when the hitter touches home plate, in the other the players lightly swat the hitters helmet when she crosses. Neither was appropriate.

"We all just started hugging," Mayville said. "There was a lot of crying. I think a hug was the most appropriate for the moment."

Sitka seniors Leia Daly, Audrey Brevick, Balovich, Campbell and juniors Mayville Pepper, Lebahn, Saline, Brenton and Delayna Barry were all on last season's championship team. Balovich, Lebahn and Brenton were teammates on the Sitka Little League all-star team that played into the West Regionals in San Bernardino, California.

Balovich was an all-state tournament selection last season with older sister Kaiya.

"Well, now I have one more title than my sister," Balovich joked. "That's what my coach said too. This was different because last year's team I had played with them my whole life. And this team was a little different. But it was just cool to see that we could do it without all the seniors last year and we are still the best."

The game began with Sitka (22-14-4 overall record) behind early as Soldotna (27-11-1) took a 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning but the Wolves loaded the bases in the bottom half on walks to junior Allyson Mayville, Lebahn and an intentional walk to junior Chalice Brenton - the first of five intentional walks Soldotna used on Brenton.

"They respect her," coach McCarty said. "And her three home runs in the tournament. I think all three were against Soldotna and they thought that she should not be pitched to and I was okay with it because Sadie came right behind her and just kept tapping hits and it was great."

Wolves junior Sadie Saline then laced a double into left field scoring Mayville and Lebahn to close to 3-2.

Sophomore Vada West earned a walk to reload the bases and senior Madison Campbell patiently went to a full count before earning a free base and an RBI to tie the game 3-3.

Sophomore Penelope Blankenship then lofted a fly ball to center field for a sacrifice that scored Saline to take a 4-3 lead.

After a strong defensive second inning the Wolves returned to bat and were threatening with a runner on base and two outs but Soldotna again intentionally walked Brenton and this time Saline hit a line drive out to end the threat.

Soldotna regained the lead in the top of the third inning as senior Isabella Cruz led off with a single to left field and senior Alyssa McDonald did the same to center. Cruz would score on a passed ball and McDonald on a single by sophomore Katie Debaradelaben for a 5-4 lead.

Sitka pitcher Lebahn then struck out three batters to end the inning and strand two Soldotna runners on base.

The Wolves' West led off the bottom half earning a walk, Blankenship reached on a one-out ground ball fielding error and Bristol Clifton singled into left field resulting in a fielding error that brought West, Blankenship and Clifton across the plate for a 7-5 lead.

Senior Kaelynn Balovich singled to left field and Mayville followed with a hit to left field that turned into an inside the park home run and a 9-5 advantage.

Soldotna put Sitka's Brenton on base for the third time intentionally and Saline earned another walk but a fly ball out ended the Wolves' score fest and the third inning.

"I feel very respected in a sense because it is a great amount of respect for a hitter," Brenton said. "I was annoyed at first but I do feel acknowledged and very proud of my hitting because in the end it is very liberating."

Soldotna would not go away and led off the fourth inning with senior Tatum Cooper reaching on an error, Cruz hitting a one-out double scoring Cooper, McDonald singling to left field scoring Cruz to close to 9-7.

Sitka's defense responded with shortstop Mayville tagging McDonald out as she tried to stretch the hit and second baseman Campbell fielding a ground ball and throwing to Clifton at first base to end the threat. Sitka threatened in the bottom half but left Blankenship and Clifton stranded on base.

Soldotna again battled back in the fifth inning, this time with a two-out rally that saw sophomore Aliya Blough single, Cooper walk and senior Isabella Gares hit a single scoring Blough to close to 9-8. Cruz then hit a first pitch over the right field fence for an 11-9 lead.

Sitka patiently responded in the bottom half as Lebahn earned a walk, Brenton was intentionally walked for the fourth time, Saline earned a walk to load the bases and West singled to center field scoring Lebahn and Brenton and tie the score at 11-11. The Wolves went down on a double play on a bunt attempt and a ground ball out.

Soldotna took a 12-11 lead in the top of the sixth inning with Debaradelaben earning a walk from Wolves relief pitcher Campbell, stealing second base, advancing to third on a ground ball out by sophomore Lilly Dawley and tagging up and scoring on a fly ball out to center field by junior Juliet Innes.

Campbell struck out next batter to end the damage. In the bottom half, Clifton earned a lead off walk but Balovich and Mayville hit deep to the field for outs. Lebahn doubled to put runners on second and third and, once again, the Soldotna pitching core elected to intentionally walk Brenton for an astounding fifth time and load the bases.

The move again backfired as Saline was hit by a pitch, which forced Clifton home to tie the score at 12-12. Sitka grounded to third base to end their inning. Brenton said she might have thought of taking a poke at a wayward ball when going through her warmups each at bat.

"I was always under the impression that there's a chance that I could hit if a pitcher was changed or something," she said. "I just got off to the side, did my timing and then they told me to go I was just going to go."

Soldotna's Gares hit a one-out single in the top of the seventh inning and Cruz was intentionally walked, setting the stage for McDonald to single to left field scoring Gares for a 13-12 lead. Sitka's Brenton caught the second out in right field and Lebahn handled a third out ground ball at second base.

The end of the game is now etched in Sitka school history.

"This means we get to do it again next year," Brenton said. "I think that's the biggest thing is just to hopefully hold on to that title and earn something we can be know for again next year when we show up at state... You know, looking back at our time playing at San Bernardino and then to now, I am just very proud of myself and my teammates."



# Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I lost my wife of 20 years four months ago after a prolonged illness. I retired at 62 and became her primary caretaker. The job of caretaker is endless and stressful, and yet rewarding. A female friend of many years ("Dinah") came to the memorial. I grieved, attended Grief Share and read articles about grief. I experience grief every day and will for my whole life.

Recently, Dinah and I began spending time together, including worship. For clarification, we have never been intimate and won't be until our wedding night (if that ever happens). The difficulty is how my late wife's family have reacted. They are becoming more and more distant. I don't feel I'm doing anything wrong. Others have said, "You should wait for at least a year." My financial planner and I spoke about not making any major financial decisions for a while, but what is this "one year" thing? -- READY IN TENNESSEE

DEAR READY: The "one year thing" is the same as the suggestion your financial planner offered. The reasoning is that after one loses a spouse, the widower is often emotionally vulnerable. Out of loneliness, some have made hasty decisions in their romantic lives that they later regret. While it isn't wrong that you are dating, your former in-laws may be upset that you started so soon after your wife's death and regard it as "disrespectful" to her memory. What they may not have taken into account is that your grieving started while you were taking care of your wife rather than after her death.

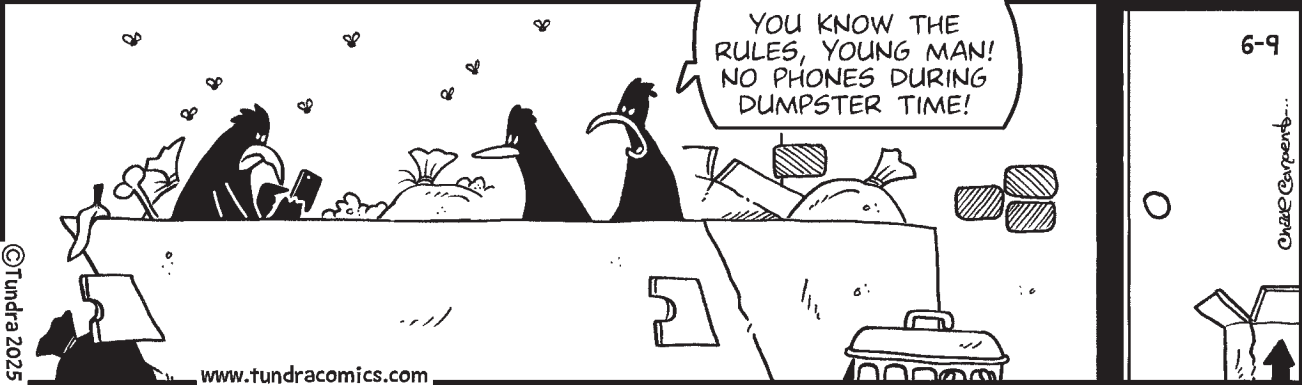
DEAR ABBY: My brother has been married for 25 years to "Gayle," who has alienated herself and their family from everyone, including her own siblings, our siblings and the rest of our family as well. She limits when, where and with whom he can spend time.

Gayle nearly always has a nasty comment or barb and picks someone to fight with at every family gathering. Rather than deal with this, my family and our siblings' families have distanced ourselves, which is especially sad because my brother and Gayle have college-aged children with whom we enjoy spending time.

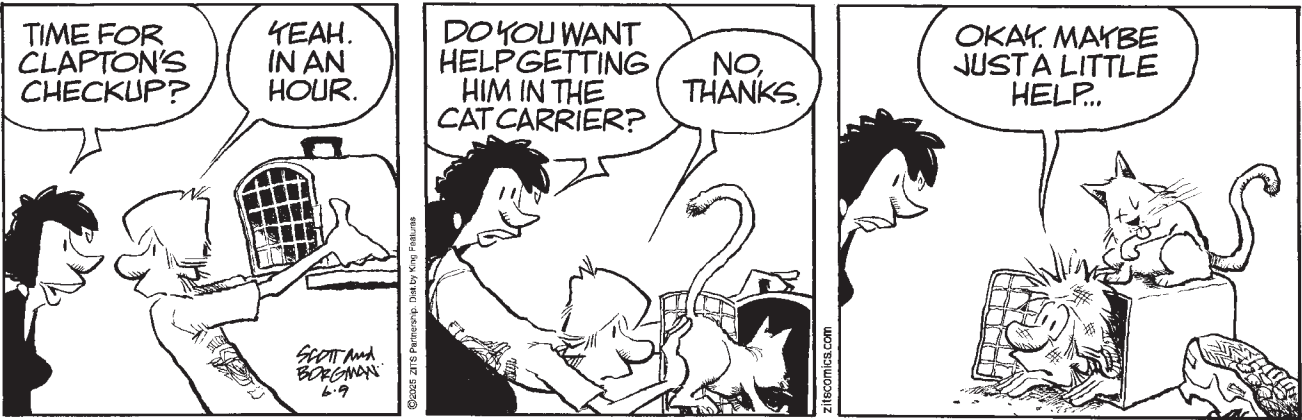
Abby, something happened recently that makes me wonder if it's time for someone to intervene. My brother has an increasing number of false memories about things that never happened in his life -- particularly ones in which he has supposedly been grievously wronged by me. Please share some advice. -- MISSING MY BROTHER IN NEW ENGLAND

DEAR MISSING: The topic of false memories is not one about which I am knowledgeable enough to comment. I do, however, know they happen sometimes as people age. Your brother may be experiencing symptoms of dementia and should be examined physically and neurologically by his doctor. Discuss this with the rest of your siblings in the hope that if ALL of you suggest this to your brother's wife and adult children, it may get through to her. But don't count on it if she has worked during their entire marriage to isolate him from all of you.

## TUNDRA



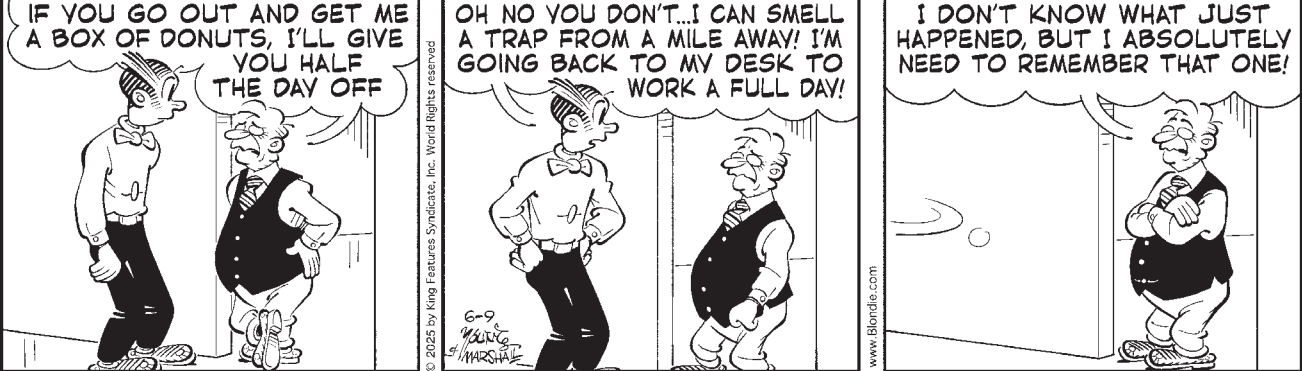
## ZITS



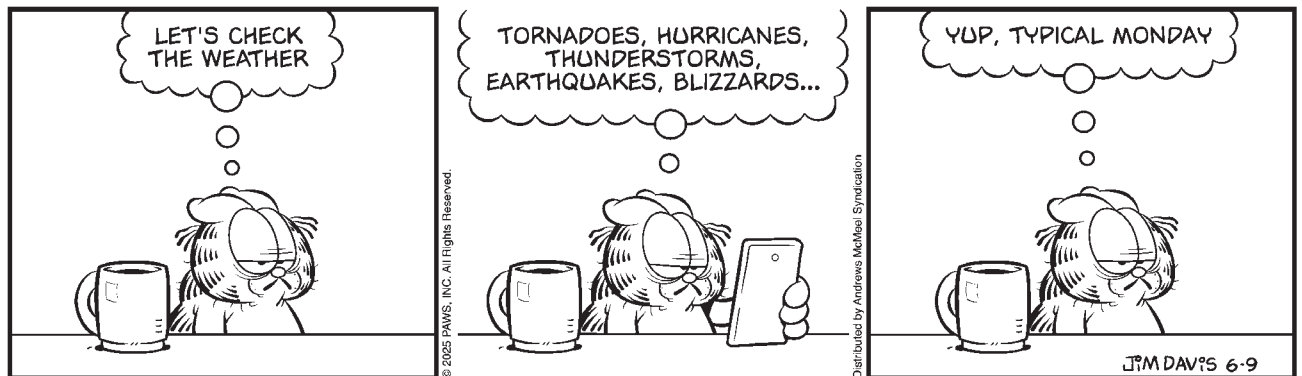
## RHYMES WITH ORANGE



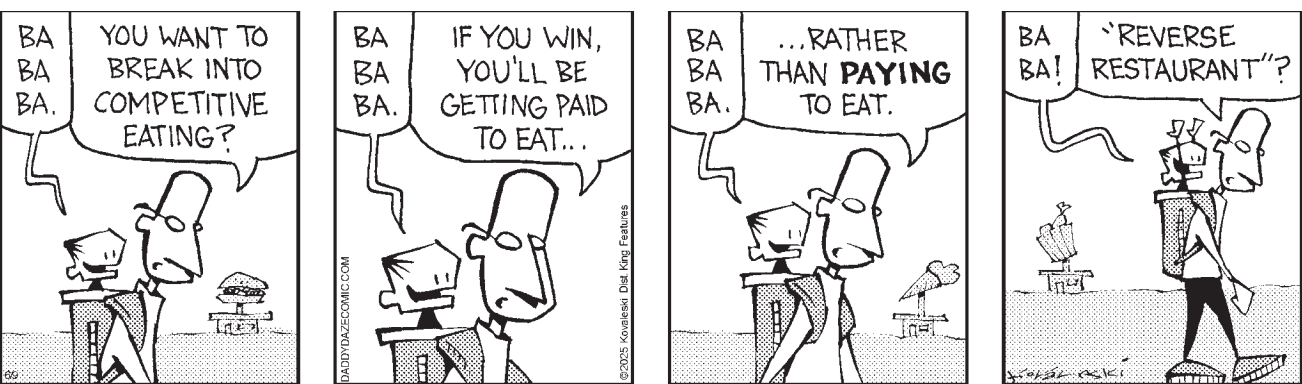
## BLONDIE



## GARFIELD



## DADDY DAZE



## SATURDAY'S CARTOON...



## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

- 1 Padlock holders
- 6 Zorro attire
- 10 Rocker John
- 11 Coral island
- 13 Garlic-seasoned mayo
- 14 Singer Haggard
- 15 Boxing win letters
- 16 Opponent
- 18 Light metal
- 19 Pointers
- 22 Actor Maher-shala
- 23 Romantic flower
- 24 Mirror sight
- 27 Musical sounds
- 28 Church area
- 29 Singer Reed
- 30 Hairstyle with bleached spikes
- 35 Jackson 5 hit
- 36 Peculiar
- 37 Negating word
- 38 Lewis's partner

### 40 George

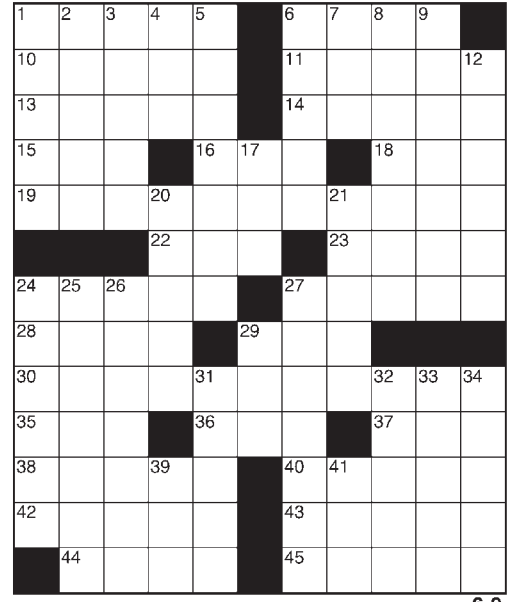
- W.'s wife
- 42 Negligee item
- 43 Car of the '50s
- 44 Mediocre
- 45 Baseball's Pee Wee



### Friday's answer

### DOWN

- 1 Moor plant
- 2 Similar
- 3 Bar seat
- 4 Campaign pro
- 5 Cold-sufferer's sound
- 6 Caravan animal
- 7 Dined with
- 8 Share
- 9 Squashed circle
- 12 Eye parts
- 17 Arles assent
- 20 Book makeup
- 21 Stream swimmer
- 24 Actually
- 25 Game played with
- 26 Guacamole base
- 27 Nursery occupant
- 29 Went first
- 31 Honshu city
- 32 Occupied
- 33 Skin openings
- 34 No longer fresh
- 39 Hwys.
- 41 Sports drink suffix



## Sitka by the Stars

### For Tuesday, June 10, 2025

As Wednesday's full moon approaches, there may be a tinge of moodiness in the air. We'll need to be mindful not to blow trivial matters out of proportion as we may be prone to negative thinking. We shouldn't expect the worst, but we should try to manage our expectations. A can-do attitude and a realistic plan can help us overcome blocks or obstacles. Additionally, we should avoid rushing into decisions since our judgement could be clouded by our emotions. On the plus side, today does provide opportunities to get to the bottom of what may be troubling us.

### ARIES

(March 21 to April 19)  
Consider ways that you can learn from the past rather than ruminating on it.

### TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20)  
You may need to face the truth about something, but acknowledging this truth can be liberating.

### GEMINI

(May 21 to June 20)  
A collaborative effort will be more successful than a solo one.

### CANCER

(June 21 to July 22)  
Don't allow self-doubt to get in the way of your progress. Take things slow if you need to, but keep going!

### LEO

(July 23 to Aug. 22)  
Beware of cynical thinking. Don't lose your connection to wonder or hope.

### VIRGO

(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)  
You may not be able to solve all the world's problems, but you can pick one cause that you care about and focus your energy there.

### LIBRA

### (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

Don't assume that you'll get a "no" to your request or offer. Why not ask first or start up a conversation? If the answer is "no," there may be a backup option available.

### SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)  
You may need to be more realistic about how much work you can take on or accomplish.

### SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)  
Self-care may be the answer to whatever ails or drains you today.

### CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)  
The kindness or generosity that you show to others can impact you just as positively as it impacts them.

### AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)  
You may need to lean on the support of friends and family to deal with the challenges that the day brings.

### PISCES

(Feb. 19 to March 20)  
Your resourcefulness or creative thinking will enable you to achieve your goals.

### FOR TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

You pride yourself on your ability to be objective and nonjudgmental. You're not the kind of person who rushes into decisions or makes assumptions without finding out the facts first. You prefer to take a thoughtful and rational approach. You enjoy working with others on shared projects. Although you are a team player, you may need to make sure that you're not overly accommodating to others at the expense of your needs. At your best, you are a vibrant soul with a charismatic personality. This year, focus on creating more win-win relationships.

ANSWERS: 1. Cat. 2. Birds. 3. Horse. 4. Lion. 5. Cat. 6. Rabbit. 7. Fish. 8. Dogs. 9. Fish.

## 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.

### 6-9

### CRYPTOQUOTE

R P T F T G V V K H T R P G Y U

GYWGYGRTXE PTSXGYU GY RPT

FTQTSTRTZ FTWFSGYV KW

YSRJFT. — FS IPTX ISFVKY

**Previous Cryptoquote:** TO SAY I'M AN OVERRATED TROLL, WHEN YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN ME GUARD A BRIDGE, IS PATENTLY UNFAIR. — TINA FEY



## ARROWHEAD PRESS

For all your printing needs



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

Subject: ANIMALS IN THE TITLE OF PLAYS AND BOOKS  
Complete the book or play title with an animal word. (e.g., "Moby-Dick or, The \_\_\_" by Herman Melville. Answer: Whale.)

### FRESHMAN LEVEL

- "The \_\_\_ in the Hat" by Dr. Seuss. Answer: \_\_\_\_\_
- "The \_\_\_ of America" by John James Audubon. Answer: \_\_\_\_\_
- "A \_\_\_ Called Paddington" by Michael Bond. Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### GRADUATE LEVEL

- "The \_\_\_, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" by C.S. Lewis. Answer: \_\_\_\_\_
- "\_\_\_ on a Hot Tin Roof" by Tennessee Williams. Answer: \_\_\_\_\_
- "The Tale of Peter \_\_\_" by Beatrix Potter. Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### PH.D. LEVEL

- "The \_\_\_ Whisperer" by Nicholas Evans. Answer: \_\_\_\_\_
- "The \_\_\_ of War" by Frederick Forsyth. Answer: \_\_\_\_\_
- "So Long, and Thanks for All the \_\_\_" by Douglas Adams. 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

## Sudoku

## 数独

ANSWER TO FRIDAY'S PUZZLE

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

Difficulty: ★★ ★★ 6/6

### King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★ 6/9

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

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# Ukraine Says Russia Launched 500 Drones

By **ILLIA NOVIKOV** and **HANNA ARHIROVA**  
**Associated Press**

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia launched almost 500 drones at Ukraine in the biggest overnight drone bombardment of the three-year war, the Ukrainian air force said today, as the Kremlin presses its summer offensive amid direct peace talks that have yet to deliver progress on stopping the fighting.

Despite the difficulties in reaching a ceasefire, Russia and Ukraine swapped another batch of prisoners of war today.

In addition to the 479 drones, 20 missiles of various types were fired at different parts of Ukraine from Sunday to Monday, according to the air force, which said the barrage targeted mainly central and western areas.

Ukraine's air force said its air defenses intercepted and destroyed 277 drones and 19 missiles, claiming only 10 drones or missiles hit their targets. Officials said one person was injured. It was not possible to independently verify the claims.

A recent escalation in aerial attacks has coincided with a renewed Russian battlefield push along eastern and northeastern parts of the roughly (620-mile) front line.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said late Sunday that in some of those areas, "the situation is very difficult." He provided no details.

Ukraine is short-handed on the front line against its bigger enemy and needs more military support from its West-

ern partners, especially air defenses. But uncertainty about the U.S. policy on the war has fueled doubts about how much help Kyiv can count on.

Ukraine has produced some stunning counter-punches, however. Its June 1 drone attack on distant Russian air bases was unprecedented in its scope and sophistication.

## Russia intensifies its attacks

The Ukrainian General Staff said special operations forces struck two Russian fighter jets stationed at the Savasleyka airfield in Russia's Nizhny Novgorod region located about 400 miles northeast of the Ukrainian border. The statement did not say how the planes were hit and there was no immediate comment on the claim from Russian authorities. Some Russian war bloggers said there was no damage to the warplanes.

Russian officials have said the recent intensified assaults are part of a series of retaliatory strikes for Ukraine's drone attack on air bases that were hosting nuclear-capable strategic bombers. A strike on a Ukrainian air base in Dubno, in the western Rivne region, was one such response, the Russian Defense Ministry said today.

Two recent rounds of direct peace talks between Russian and Ukrainian delegations in Istanbul have yielded no significant breakthroughs beyond pledges to swap prisoners as well as thousands of their dead and seriously wounded troops. Russian President Vladimir Putin has indicated he will keep fighting until his conditions are met.



Protesters clash with authorities in downtown Los Angeles, Sunday, June 8, 2025, following last night's immigration raid protest. (AP Photo/Jae Hong)

# Marines to be Deployed Against LA Protesters

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR, TARA COPP, JASON DEAREN** and **TIM SULLIVAN**  
**Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Pentagon planned to deploy about 700 Marines to Los Angeles today to help National Guard members respond to immigration protests, three U.S. officials said as California prepared to sue President Donald Trump over his use of Guard troops to confront the protesters.

The Marines were to be deployed from their base at Twentynine Palms in the Southern California desert. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss military plans. The deployment was first reported by CNN.

The attorney general said the president's actions had "trampled" the state's sovereignty.

"We don't take lightly to the president abusing his authority and unlawfully mobilizing California National Guard troops" state Attorney General Rob Bonta told reporters. He planned to seek a court order declaring that Trump's use of the Guard was unlawful and ask for a restraining order to halt the deployment.

The streets of the sprawling city of 4 million people were quiet today morning, but the smell of smoke hung in the air downtown, one day after crowds blocked off a major freeway and set self-driving cars on fire as police responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and flash-bang grenades. The law enforcement presence was heavy, with police cars blocking the street in front of the federal detention facility that was a focus of the protests.

Bonta accused Trump of fanning protesters' anger with his announcement of the deployment, saying he set off Sunday's clashes with law enforcement in downtown Los Angeles. "This was not inevitable," he said.

While much of the city was spared from any violence, clashes swept through several downtown blocks and

a handful of other places. It could take days to clear the debris from burned cars and to clean off or paint over graffiti sprayed on City Hall and other buildings near the detention facility. Sunday was the third and most intense day of demonstrations against Trump's immigration crackdown in the region, as the arrival of the first 300 Guard troops spurred anger and fear among many residents.

Trump said today that the city would have been "completely obliterated" if he had not deployed the Guard. Later, at a White House event, he added that state leaders "were afraid to do anything."

U.S. officials said about 1,000 National Guard members were in the city under federal orders by midday today. The full 2,000 members authorized by the president were expected to be on the ground by the end of the day. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the details of military operations.

The arrival of the National Guard followed two days of protests that began Friday in downtown Los Angeles before spreading Saturday to Paramount, a heavily Latino city south of the city, and neighboring Compton.

Multiple protests were taking shape Monday afternoon in L.A. and it was unclear if any would devolve into violence. More protests were scheduled for cities across the country.

Thousands of people gathered in a park across from City Hall to protest the arrest of labor leader David Huerta. He was arrested Friday, accused of conspiring to impede an officer during a demonstration. Protesters held signs lambasting Trump and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

Huerta, whose initial court appearance was expected to be held Monday afternoon, is the president of the Service Employees International Union California, which represents thousands of janitors, security officers and other workers in the state.

were in effect today morning. But the storm was expected to bring heavy rainfall to coastal areas of Guerrero, Michoacan, Colima and Jalisco states, with the possibility of localized flooding.

The hurricane center said swells from Barbara were likely to form life-threatening surf and rip current conditions along the southwestern Mexican coast, with gusty winds likely.

Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Cosme strengthened slightly today but remained well off the coast of Mexico, about 605 miles south-southwest of the tip of Baja California, the NHC said.

At 2 p.m. local time it had maximum sustained winds of 70 mph (100 kph) and was moving northwest at 9 mph. Cosme is expected to reach near-hurricane strength on Monday before turning to the northeast and picking up speed Tuesday into Wednesday.

have typically thrown it aside.

Now that antimony prices are surging, though, U.S. Antimony representatives say every little bit is valuable. A 25-ton truck could carry some \$600,000 worth of minerals, Bardswich said in an interview.

That means small loads of antimony ore from shallow, exploratory trenches that the company intends to dig at its Alaska prospects this summer also could be worth driving 2,000 miles to the Montana smelter, company executives said.

In the meantime, they intend to launch an advertising campaign to share their interest in buying the mineral from placer miners. "People don't realize this: Gold is not the best mineral to be mining, if you're looking for really good value," said Blakestad. "Antimony is."

*Northern Journal contributor Max Graham can be reached at max@northernjournal.com. He's interested in any and all mining related stories, as well as introductory meetings with people in and around the industry.*

# Gaza-Bound Aid Boat Taken To Israel Port

By **YESICA FISCH** and **TIA GOLDBERG**  
**Associated Press**

JERUSALEM (AP) — A Gaza-bound aid boat carrying Greta Thunberg and other activists arrived at an Israeli port today after Israeli forces stopped and detained them — enforcing a longstanding blockade of the Palestinian territory that has been tightened during the Israel-Hamas war.

The boat, accompanied by Israel's navy, arrived in Ashdod in the evening, according to Israel's Foreign Ministry. It published a photo on social media of Thunberg after disembarking.

The 12 activists were undergoing medical checks to ensure they are in good health, the ministry said. They were expected to be held at a detention facility in Ramle before being deported, according to Adalah, a legal rights group representing them.

The activists had set out to protest Israel's military campaign in Gaza, which is among the deadliest and most destructive since World War II, and its restrictions on the entry of humanitarian aid. Both have put the territory of around 2 million Palestinians at risk of famine.

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition, which organized the voyage, said the activists were "kidnapped by Israeli forces" while trying to deliver desperately needed aid.

"The ship was unlawfully boarded, its unarmed civilian crew abducted and its life-saving cargo — including baby formula, food and medical supplies — confiscated," it said in a statement.

It said the ship was seized in international waters about 200 kilometers (120 miles) from Gaza, and Adalah asserted that Israel had "no legal authority" to take it over.

Israel's Foreign Ministry portrayed the voyage as a public relations stunt, saying on social media that "the 'selfie yacht' of the 'celebrities' is safely making its way to the shores of Israel."

It said the activists would return to their home countries and the aid would be sent to Gaza through established channels. It circulated footage of what appeared to be Israeli military personnel handing out sandwiches and water to the activists, who were wearing life vests.

## Israel says boat was carrying minimal aid

Israeli officials said the flotilla carried what amounted to less than a truckload of aid.

"This wasn't humanitarian aid. It's Instagram activism," Israeli gov-

ernment spokesperson David Mencer said. "Meanwhile, Israel has delivered over 1,200 truckloads in the last two weeks. So who's really feeding Gaza and who's really feeding their own ego? Greta was not bringing aid, she was bringing herself."

After its 2½-month total blockade aimed at pressuring Hamas, Israel started allowing some basic aid into Gaza last month, but humanitarian workers and experts have warned of famine unless the blockade is lifted and Israel ends its military offensive. About 600 trucks of aid entered daily during the ceasefire that Israel ended in March.

An attempt last month by Freedom Flotilla to reach Gaza by sea failed after two drones attacked the vessel in international waters off Malta, organizers said. The group blamed Israel for the attack, which damaged the ship's front section.

## Rights group questions Israel's seizure

The Madleen set sail from Sicily a week ago. Along the way, it stopped on Thursday to rescue four migrants who had jumped overboard to avoid being detained by Libya's coast guard.

"I urge all my friends, family and comrades to put pressure on the Swedish government to release me and the others as soon as possible," Thunberg said in a prerecorded message released after the ship was halted.

Adalah, the rights group, said in a statement that "the arrest of the unarmed activists, who operated in a civilian manner to provide humanitarian aid, amounts to a serious breach of international law."

Rima Hassan, a French member of the European Parliament who is of Palestinian descent, was among those on board. She has been barred from entering Israel because of her opposition to Israeli policies toward the Palestinians.

She was among six French citizens on board. French President Emmanuel Macron called for consular protection and the repatriation of the French citizens.

"Most of all, France calls for a ceasefire as quickly as possible and the lifting of the humanitarian blockade. This is a scandal, unacceptable, that is playing out in Gaza. What's been happening since early March is a disgrace, a disgrace," Macron said

Next week, Macron co-hosts a conference at the U.N. on a two-state solution and recently said France should move toward recognizing a Palestinian state.

# Murder . . .

## Continued from Page 1

citing the mayor's unavailability on Friday, but said that officials in Metlakatla are aware of the department's problems and the need to fix them.

"It's going to be a long, long-term project, but there's a lot of of the infrastructure and smaller things that we can take care of immediately and be very proactive in re-establishing all the relationships we have with the DA's office, working with the Alaska Police Standards Council, (Bureau of Indian Affairs) Justice System, they're involved now. We have a lot of support. We definitely don't feel alone," he said.

## Court hearings revealed new information

The turmoil surrounding the Metlakatla Police Department stems from the 2021 shooting death of Tyler Henderson. After an investigation by local police and Alaska State Troopers, the Department of Law charged Henderson's brother, Isaac, with his murder.

The case was frequently delayed, and Isaac Henderson's defense was repeatedly reassigned to five different public defenders who apparently took little action on the issue as it lingered in court.

Four years on, it remains unclear whether the shooting was accidental, an act of self-defense — as Isaac Henderson claimed — or murder.

As Henderson's trial approached, his attorneys — John Phillips and Julia Graves — began challenging some of the evidence that prosecutors planned to present.

Neither attorney answered phone calls Friday seeking comment.

During a series of evidentiary hearings in April, former Metlakatla police officer Austin McKeehan said that he falsified evidence reports.

Former police chief Janes, under questioning, said he had made false statements to the grand jury that indicted Henderson, falsely claiming that he submitted a piece of evidence to the state crime lab.

At the hearing, Janes admitted that the investigation was "very sloppy" and "probably the worst I've ever done."

In another hearing, Janes testified that the department routinely destroys evidence logs every year, making it impossible to guarantee that evidence is properly stored and not tampered with. On May 5, at a hearing the judge called "shocking," Janes revealed previously undisclosed witness interviews to both prosecutors and defense.

During a trial's "discovery" process, prosecutors are required to share possible evidence with defense attorneys. Janes, at this point in the case, produced several pieces of hard-copy evidence from within the case file that had not been shared with either prosecutors or the defense.

"If the prosecutor did review the file, the prosecutor saw a number of items that he had not seen

before but failed to disclose those documents or identify them during the discovery

hearing. If the prosecutor did not review the file, the failure to do so is inexplicable," Doty wrote in his order.

Before another hearing, Janes provided several hard drives to the prosecutor. Those contained possible evidence. The state contends that there was no time to share them with the defense before the hearing; the defense argued that withholding them until the hearing was part of a continued pattern.

Under normal circumstances, it would be appropriate for a judge to postpone the case until everyone is certain that all evidence has been fairly shared.

In this case, Doty said, he doesn't have confidence that will ever occur.

"Police officers knowingly completed inaccurate chain of custody logs, destroyed chain of custody logs, made contradictory and irreconcilable statements under oath about what physical evidence had been collected or tested, and stated — repeatedly and falsely — that they had provided all the available evidence in the case," Doty wrote in his order.

"More importantly, though, the evidence here raised serious and substantial questions about whether the state has committed additional discovery violations that have not yet come to light," he said, using "state" to refer to both police and prosecutors.

Given that doubt, he said, it is appropriate to dismiss the case.

"In short, the police misrepresented or forgot so many facts about discovery that it is impossible to determine, and will likely not be possible to ever determine, whether the state complied with its discovery obligations in this case."

In court, the Hendersons' mother, Naomi Leask, said she and other members of her family moved from Metlakatla to Ketchikan in order to stay with Isaac Henderson and secure his bail.

Speaking to Doty, she said that regardless of how the case is resolved, they do not expect to ever return to Metlakatla.

In town, said King, the interim police chief, there's work to be done.

"The temperature of our community, it feels a little off, the anguish and stuff that people feel," he said. "But you know, it's improving from this day, moving forward. We have to make sure we do it right and do it right by our people."

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

# NIH Scientists Deplore Health Research Cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — In his confirmation hearings to lead the National Institutes of Health, Jay Bhattacharya pledged his openness to views that might conflict with his own. "Dissent," he said, "is the very essence of science."

## That commitment is being put to the test.

On Monday, scores of scientists at the agency sent their Trump-appointed leader a letter titled the Bethesda Declaration, challenging "policies that undermine the NIH mission, waste public resources, and harm the health of Americans and people across the globe."

It says: "We dissent." In a capital where insiders often insist on anonymity to say such things publicly, 92 NIH researchers, program directors, branch chiefs and scientific review officers put their signatures on the letter — and their careers on the line. An additional 250 of their colleagues across the agency endorsed the declaration without using their names.

The letter, addressed to Bhattacharya, also was sent to Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and members of Congress who oversee the NIH. White House spokesman Kush Desai defended the administration's approach to federal research and said President Donald Trump is focused on restoring a "Gold Standard" of science, not

"ideological activism."

The letter came out a day before Bhattacharya is to testify to a Senate committee about Trump's proposed budget, opening him to questions about the broadside from declaration signers, and it stirred Democrats on a House panel to ask the Republican chair for hearings on the matter.

## Confronting a 'culture of fear'

The signers went public in the face of a "culture of fear and suppression" they say Trump's administration has spread through the federal civil service. "We are compelled to speak up when our leadership prioritizes political momentum over human safety and faithful stewardship of public resources," the declaration says.

Bhattacharya responded to the declaration by saying it "has some fundamental misconceptions about the policy directions the NIH has taken in recent months," such as suggestions that NIH has ended international collaboration.

"Nevertheless, respectful dissent in science is productive," he said in a statement. "We all want the NIH to succeed."

Named for the agency's headquarters location in Maryland, the Bethesda Declaration details upheaval in the world's premier public health research institution over the course of mere months.

local leaders, since Sitka is one of five communities that could be "gravely impacted" by this regulation.

"I want to make sure we get input and that we protect the will of citizens to support their schools the way they want to," she said.

Sitka's Sen. Bert Stedman, who is co-chair of Senate Appropriations, said if the regulation passes, it will affect not only Sitka, but Juneau and Anchorage and a few other smaller communities. He said the regulation would affect both the local and state budgets.

"If we fail the disparity test, which the state is claiming we do, then that roughly \$80 million can't be used to offset the state contribution in K-12," he said. "So the state would have to come in and pick up that \$80 million or cut the Base Student Allocation by \$80 million. So it's a big issue. We'll have to wait and see what they actually do."

Mayor Steven Eisenbeisz said he became aware of the potential regulation change earlier this year. He said plans to meet with the Sitka School Board on Wednesday to assess potential impacts to the district, and how to respond.

"It definitely would limit our ability to help our district," Eisenbeisz said.

A story from the Alaska Beacon explained last week that the new rule is being driven in part by the state's choice to use \$81 million in federal "impact aid" for schools as a replacement for state funding. Impact aid is distributed to states to compensate for federal land that is non taxable and doesn't contribute to local property taxes, which typically benefit local schools.

The Beacon reported that Alaska is the only state in the country to use that federal money as a replacement for state money, rather than an additive. As a result, the state must pass what's called a "disparity test" — it looks at how much is spent per student at each of the state's school districts, then removes the bottom 5% and top 5%. The difference between the remaining schools can be no more than 25%.

# School . . .

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meeting. "The Anchorage attorney said if it went through as an emergency, they would file a motion."

The proposed rules could include in-kind services as part of the local contribution. The Assembly has approved contributing to the maximum allowed but also funds a number of non-instructional services.

The state board defends its proposal as its response to the complaint by the federal department of education that the state has failed the "disparity test," which is aimed at ensuring per-student spending does not vary greatly among school districts.

The state school board set the 30-day comment period, and will schedule a special meeting in July.

Himschoot said the main problem in Alaska is not equity but inadequate funding from the state, which has prompted a number of districts to fill in the funding gaps.

"If the state would grow the pie, there would be more flexibility in how it's sliced," she said. "If the pie is bigger overall, the slices become less important, and how it's sliced is less important."

She noted that Sitka funds to the cap every year as a community choice, and made efforts to increase access for all students to activities.

"That's been a commitment that the community has made; and Sitka is looking to provide more opportunities for students, and to do it in a way that's equitable," Himschoot said. She mentioned the activities fund created from the marijuana tax, to increase student access to activities.

"That's a commitment we've made as a community that would be impacted by this new rule," the representative said. "We found a way to go above and beyond for our kids and we're being told we can't."

Himschoot said she plans to provide a comment to the board, working with her co-chair of the House Education Committee. She's also working with