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HUMBOLDT COUNTY

DOGE fires 9 AmeriCorps members

Local social workers terminated in resource centers across county

By Sage Alexander
 salexander@times-standard.com

Editor's note: This reporter served as an AFACTR AmeriCorps member from August 2022 to February 2023 at Pine Hill Family Resource Center.

The latest casualty of the Department of Government Effi-

ciency's funding cuts is social workers who aim to prevent child abuse and address poverty in Humboldt County. On Sunday, nine AFACTR AmeriCorps members positioned in schools and community centers from Bridgville to Redway were terminated and told not to report to their sites the next day.

Grant funding for AmeriCorps programs was cut last week by \$400 million by Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency, according to reporting from the Washington Post. It amounts to 41% of the agency's annual budget for 2025.

AMERICORPS » PAGE 5



Hundreds of new AmeriCorps volunteers are sworn in for duty at a ceremony on Sept. 12, 2014, at the White House.

J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

FIRST 100 DAYS

TRUMP PROMISED LOWER FOOD COSTS



JOSE CARLOS FAJARDO — BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

Kay Briggs, of Alamo, talks about the cost of groceries while shopping at Trader Joe's in Walnut Creek on April 24.

He pledged to slash prices 'starting on day one,' but did he succeed?

By Ethan Varian and Caelyn Pender
 Bay Area News Group

Surrounded by a veritable feast of packaged deli meats, Oreo cookies, sliced Wonder Bread and other grocery items, then-presidential candidate Donald Trump promised that if re-elected, he would "immediately bring prices down, start-

ing on day one."

Not so simple, it turns out.

Now 100 days into Trump's second term, the costs of everyday goods continue to rise, despite his false claims to the contrary. Meanwhile, warnings of even higher price spikes, fueled by his sweeping tariffs, have many shoppers worried that the worst is yet to come.

"I was in Whole Foods yester-

day, and whoa boy," Kay Briggs, an 86-year-old resident of Alamo, a suburb outside Walnut Creek, said recently.

Briggs found a better deal on a trip to her local Trader Joe's, paying \$11.99 a pound for salmon fillets — still well above the price she had been used to. "It was \$9.99 for years," she said.

COSTS » PAGE 3

ELECTION 2026

Lieutenant governor candidate tours area

Janelle Kellmen highlights successes, promise of Klamath restoration

By Robert Schaulis
 rschaulis@times-standard.com

Janelle Kellman kicked off a slate of campaign trail events with a trip to the Klamath Basin last week. A town councilmember for and former mayor of Sausalito, small business owner and founder of the global nonprofit Center for Sea Rise Solutions, Kellman is running for lieutenant governor of California. It's a role she says she is uniquely qualified for — one that manages educational and environmental responsibilities she is eager to help succeed.

"We started on Tuesday in Yreka," Kellman told the Times-Standard on Saturday morning. "We went right off to it, (and) met with the Siskiyou Economic Development Council folks ... Today, we're going to go through the Avenue of the Giants and maybe do a little hiking. We went up to Prairie Creek Redwoods yesterday and did five miles (of hiking) up there."

In total, Kellman spent five days in the North Coast, meeting with local leaders and community members to learn more about the region's economy, ecology and culture.

"I wanted to hit the North Coast first because I wanted to see how ... the dam removal (along the Klamath River) could

KELLMEN » PAGE 3

Daily Average CO2:

Week beginning on April 20: 430.01 ppm
 Weekly value from 1 year ago: 427.67 ppm
 Weekly value from 10 years ago: 403.24 ppm
 Last updated: April 29, 2025

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



EUREKA

Town hall planned to bust mental health myths

The event will include panel discussions with mental health professionals and individuals with lived experience. PAGE A2

BUSINESS

Dow Jones 40,527.62 (+300.03)
 S&P 500 5,560.83 (+32.08)
 Nasdaq 17,461.32 (+95.18)

UNLEADED GAS PRICES

Costco (Eureka): \$4.89
 Bear River (Loleta): \$4.90
 Play Station 777 (Blue Lake): \$4.99
 Renner (Fortuna): \$5.09
 Last updated: April 29, 11a.m.
 Source: GasBuddy

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Kellmen

FROM PAGE 1

be a model for aging infrastructure projects statewide and because it really is a great demonstration of multi-stakeholder management from the tribes to the farmers to the environmental groups to the (state, federal and local) government,” Kellman said.

As an endurance athlete and active trail runner, the phrase “campaign trail” struck Kellman differently than it might other candidates for office, she told the Times-Standard. And as she’s running for an office with important ecological oversight responsibilities, Kellman said, she thought that the Klamath Basin would be a perfect opportunity to hit some actual trail and tour one of the state’s — and the world’s — most expansive dam removal and ecological restoration projects — as well as an important engine of the state and local economy.

Kellman met with stakeholders up and down the river to share her vision for California’s future, including representatives from the Karuk Tribe’s Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and CalTrout. During her trip, Kellman also conferred with Yurok Tribe river guides and representatives from the Humboldt Area Foundation and the Wild Salmon Center — to learn more about the restoration economy built up along the watershed and throughout the region.

“The Klamath River restoration project is a prime example of how we can create a more resilient California,” Kellman said in a LinkedIn post on the occasion of the beginning of her trip. “This \$450 million in-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

“Today, we head into the redwoods, then connect with key leaders from Humboldt County Democrats, the Eureka Chamber of Commerce, and the Humboldt County Schools Superintendent,” Kellman posted on LinkedIn this Friday, documenting her five-day excursion along the North Coast. “We’re eager to learn about the region’s leadership in education, offshore wind, and regenerative agriculture—and to explore how rural innovation can shape California’s future.”

vestment is already creating jobs, boosting eco-tourism, stabilizing agriculture and protecting vital salmon habitats.

“But it’s more than just environmental restoration — it’s about honoring Indigenous rights and restoring the ancestral lands and resources that have been central to the region’s tribal communities for millennia. The removal of the Klamath dams represents a major step toward restoring the river’s health, and I’m honored to be learning from the

tribes leading this transformative effort.”

Offshore wind

Kellman discussed the Humboldt Bay Offshore Wind Heavy Lift Marine Terminal with the Times-Standard, as well. As an environmental and land-use lawyer and the founder of the Center for Sea Rise Solutions, an organization focusing on coastal resilience, climate risk and the blue economy, Kellman said she is uniquely positioned to offer insight into what a lieu-



Janelle Kellman, a lawyer, small-business owner, Sausalito civic leader, global nonprofit founder and candidate for California lieutenant governor, poses with education, local business, economic development and community building leaders in Humboldt County.

tenant governor might do to facilitate the project and protect it from overreach at the federal level.

“I remember in early 2024 when the federal government announced this really historic \$426 million grant to modernize the Humboldt Bay into a heavy lift terminal, and it was really seen as a lynchpin for launching offshore wind development along the West Coast (and bring) jobs, infrastructure, a more resilient economy,” Kellman said. “And now we’re waiting for that money to land. The money has been granted. Some money has already been delivered, and some work has already been performed, but we’re seeing ... some uncertainty surrounding the macroeconomic climate (from some partners in industry).

“My perspective is that we risk losing momentum when we need it most. The climate resilience strategy that the project supports also supports local economies — union jobs, non-union jobs and port revitalization.”

Kellman said that “we really don’t get many second chances” with regard to addressing climate change,

noting that “offshore wind, sea level rise, water flows — these are all things I deal with on a daily basis through my nonprofit.”

Kellman said, as lieutenant governor, she would use her position on the California State Lands Commission, “an important partner in California’s offshore wind permitting,” to accelerate permitting.

She said she would convene a multi-agency coalition to “help align environmental reviews and workforce development.” And she said she would lean on her relationships in Washington, D.C., to ensure that the federal government honors its commitments to Humboldt County and work with local tribal authorities and communities, such as commercial fishermen, to ensure that concerns were addressed and the project had broadly equitable benefits.

Kellman said that her unique set of experiences and her position as someone outside the Sacramento Beltway position her to address California’s needs now.

“I’m not looking for a place to hold myself for four years and move elsewhere,”

Costs

FROM PAGE 1

Since Trump took office in January, the Consumer Price Index, which measures the goods and services purchased by a typical U.S. household, has risen about 0.7%. That’s a slightly faster pace than in the months leading up to Trump’s return to the presidency. But it’s still far behind the surge in post-pandemic inflation during the Biden administration, which Trump seized upon in his successful bid to win back the White House.

Grocery items that have seen substantial price jumps recently include coffee, up 5% to \$7.39 per pound, and ground beef, up 3.5% to \$5.79 per pound, according to federal data. Egg prices, which have soared due to the avian flu, spiked 26% to \$6.23 a dozen.

Sean Randolph, a senior director with the Bay Area Council Economic Institute, strained to identify a single Trump policy that might meaningfully bring down costs. Instead, he echoed the view shared by most economists that Trump’s tariffs on nearly all imports — including a 145% tax on Chinese goods — will soon mean price increases on everything from avocados and orange juice to strollers and flat-screen televisions.

“Consumer prices will be significantly higher,” he said. “We just don’t know by how much.”

Even as his tariff announcements have triggered mass stock market sell-offs and shaken investor confidence in U.S.-backed debt, Trump maintains the economic impacts of his trade

policies have been overstated. He contends the higher tariffs are necessary to bring manufacturing jobs back to the U.S. and strike more favorable trade deals with other nations.

The American public, however, doesn’t appear to be buying his arguments.

According to a new Gallup poll, 62% of U.S. adults believe the tariffs will cost the country more in the long run than they will benefit it financially. Just 36% believe the opposite.

At the same time, consumer sentiment — a measure of people’s optimism about the economy and their personal finances — has fallen to near-record lows.

For San Jose resident Alyce Thornhill, steep grocery costs have meant cutting back on eggs and milk. The only meat she now buys is chicken, and the 24-year-old has even stopped picking up her daily medication because the price has skyrocketed.

“It’s pretty bleak to be a young person in the United States, especially in the Bay Area,” Thornhill said. “If it’s like, rent is whatever — more than half of our income, then what? What do you have?”

Thornhill, a graduate student and teacher, relies on food stamps to help buy groceries but has found herself turning more to fast food restaurants to save.

“If you’re low-income and your purpose is to just feed yourself and sustain yourself, sometimes eating not-so-healthy fast food is more sustainable than getting organic groceries and vegetables,” she said.

Since higher inflation began to take hold in March 2021, overall food prices in the U.S. have climbed 24%.

Sush Gill, of San Jose, said



SHAE HAMMOND — BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

Alyce Thornhill, 24, stands with her shopping bags outside of Trader Joes in San Jose on April 24.

high gas prices have forced her to make tough decisions about planning family vacations.

“We’re trying to be super conscious about what kind of road trips we’re making, because everything is so expensive,” she said.

Still, the price for a gallon of regular in California was \$4.79, down from \$5.40 a year ago, according to AAA.

Experts say that while lower prices at the pump may come as some relief to drivers, it could be the result of slowing global demand as economic activity stalls in response to the new tariffs. Trump has vowed to lower gas prices by opening up more areas for oil drilling, though a promised surge in crude oil production has yet to materialize.

Exactly when the full impact of the tariffs could be felt is unclear. That’s because most imported goods now on store shelves and in distributors’ warehouses came into the country before officials began assessing the new charges on items arriving at U.S. ports earlier this month.

“I know it feels like forever, but it was just a few

weeks ago,” said Christopher Thornberg, founder of consulting firm Beacon Economics in Los Angeles.

As a result, those pre-tariff items will likely continue to be sold at roughly the same prices until the inventory runs out, which economists say could happen by this summer. At that point, the increased tariff costs are expected to be reflected in the prices of most imports.

That assumes, however, that foreign goods reach the U.S. in the first place. Already, the shipping industry is reporting that cargo arrivals have started to drop, raising the prospect of barren shelves across the country in the coming weeks.

Briggs, the Trader Joe’s shopper from Alamo, said it’s hard to know what to make of the constant stream of tariff news, which can seem to change by the hour.

Even as financial analysts and experts make dire forecasts about the Trump economy, she remains cautiously optimistic.

“If we can just hold on a bit,” Briggs said, “I hope the tariffs can be effective in the long run.”

the impacts of his death are still huge, over a decade later.

The event is part of mental health awareness month. Other awareness events hosted by the Department of Health and Human Service include a mental health walk on Tuesday, May 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hope Center at 2933 H St. in Eureka and a wellness and connection barbeque at Jefferson Community Center on May 23 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m..

A 24/7 national suicide hotline can be reached by dialing 988.

Sage Alexander can be reached at 707-441-0504

Rent

FROM PAGE 2

Units under 15 years old would have continued to be exempt. Landlords would also have been allowed to charge new tenants any price upon move-in.

The bill would not have impacted local rent control ordinances in cities including San Jose, Oakland, San Francisco, Berkeley and Mountain View.

The bill’s opponents, including the state’s most powerful landlord and real estate groups, argued that additional regulations on rents would have discouraged new housing construction because they would make it more difficult for developers to turn a profit.

They also pointed to academic studies showing that in areas with rent control, tenants are less likely to move, and some landlords opt to stop renting out their units. Fewer available rentals can mean higher prices for units that are not rent-controlled, or when new tenants move in.

LOTTERY

MONDAY’S WINNING NUMBERS

Daily 3 Afternoon:

5, 6, 2

Daily 3 Evening:

2, 8, 8

Daily 4: 3, 4, 6, 3

Fantasy 5:

9, 22, 28, 32, 38

DAILY DERBY

1st: 11, Money Bags

2nd: 1, Gold Rush

3rd: 9, Winning Spirit

Race time: 1:41.59

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

Saturday’s drawing:

8, 31, 33, 35, 42

Mega number: 6

Wednesday’s estimated jackpot: \$22 million

MEGA MILLIONS

Friday’s drawing:

38, 40, 60, 62, 70

Mega Number: 9

Tuesday’s estimated jackpot: \$70 million

POWERBALL

Monday’s drawing:

26, 43, 51, 56, 60

Powerball: 24

Wednesday’s estimated jackpot: \$30 million

Kellman said. “I actually think, if this was the private sector, I’d be hired for this job given my extensive background in law and policy and oceans and cultural resilience. I cannot stress this enough. I love this role. It’s a really exciting role — to map out California’s resilience between our education and our coastlines and economic development. I really want to be the lieutenant governor.”

Robert Schaulis can be reached at 707-441-0585.

Deaths and Funeral Notices

Trevlin D. Griffith
3-19-58 to 4-22-25

Born to Janet and Glenn Griffith of Eureka, Trevlin entered the world with style in 1958. He graduated from Eureka High School and went on to graduate from Frederick and Charles Beauty College in the 1970s.

During the 1980s and ‘90s, Trev was the owner of Daly’s Hair Designs (located in Daly’s department store) as well as Serendipity Antiques in Old Town Eureka. He was well known for his exquisite ability to create unique tablescapes and floral arrangements, not just for his own home but also for his friends’ gatherings.

Trev often spent his days off visiting his former clients who had become shut-ins or were in rest homes, still styling their hair to help keep up their spirits. He loved to travel and to entertain, and he was known for his amazing cooking at dinner parties, as well as the beautiful gardens he created wherever he lived. He was a great supporter of local theatre and the arts.

Trev was preceded in death by his parents, brother Mikel and sister-in-law Lani, late partner George Hooper, and husband Gary Thissell, all of Eureka.

He is survived by his sisters, Helena Griffith of Eureka and Kat Griffith of Fremont and their families, nephew John Griffith and nieces Samantha Griffith, Carylyn, Judy, and Katie White and their families, and of course his cousins by the dozens located throughout Humboldt County and beyond.

A memorial will be held on Saturday, May 10 at the Jefferson Community Center in Eureka.

David Wayne Smith



David Wayne Smith, age 81, passed away on April 17, 2025, in Ferndale, California.

He was born on August 12, 1943, in Albany, New York, to Albert A. Smith and Martha V. Welter, and was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Carol E. Smith (Earl). David was formerly married to Deb Oliver.

He had no children, but is survived by his nephew, Scotty Smith Jenkins. David had a remarkable and diverse career.

He was a NASA engineer and was involved in the Apollo program. Beyond his work with NASA, David also had a significant impact in the music industry as an audio engineer, collaborating with numerous iconic artists such as Billy Joel, Black Oak Arkansas, Lionel Richie, B.B. King, Ray Charles, Journey and so many more. Later in life, he also shared his love of music as a radio DJ, audio engineer, and program manager for KMUD in Humboldt County.

David was also a natural inventor, always exploring new ideas. In his leisure time, David enjoyed soaking up the California sunshine and loved getting a good tan and cruising in his convertible. David will be remembered for his brilliant mind, his passion for music and innovation, and his kindness towards others.

Though a private man, he was always supportive and shared his knowledge generously with those around him. There will be no formal services held.

Obits Available online at
www.times-standard.com



SAGE ALEXANDER — THE TIMES-STANDARD

Jacob Rosen, managing mental health clinician for Eureka’s CARE program, said he hopes the event will address myths and stigmas people hold around mental illness — especially because tragedies are preventable. “Mental health is one of those things where the stigma literally kills people,” he said.