



Wrangell, Alaska  
July 13, 2022

# WRANGELL SENTINEL

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## Senior tax exemption covers 25% of Wrangell's residential property

By LARRY PERSILY  
Sentinel writer

As Wrangell's population continues to age, an increasing number of homes in town qualify for the state-mandated exemption from property taxes.

About 25% of the assessed value of residential property in Wrangell is senior-owned and exempt from taxes, according to borough data.

The tax-exempt status will cost the borough \$427,000 in lost revenue this year. The borough expects to collect almost \$1.8 million in property taxes this year on taxable residential and commercial property.

The total assessed value of all privately owned residential property in the community this year is just over \$127 million, with \$33.6 million exempt from taxes because it

is owned by senior citizens, defined in state law as age 65 and older or a surviving widow or widower age 60 and older.

State law since 1972 requires municipalities to exempt from property taxes the first \$150,000 in assessed value on a senior-owned home, though some municipalities have gone beyond the minimum exemption.

Seniors in Wrangell pay the full tax rate on any value in excess of \$150,000.

The Legislature stopped reimbursing cities and boroughs for the mandatory tax exemption almost 25 years ago, even though the statute says the state shall cover the cost. The Legislature and governors started phasing out the reimbursement during budget deficits in 1986 before completely stopping the payments to cities and boroughs in 1997.

The unfunded tax exemption will cost cities and boroughs across the state about \$100 million this year.

Wrangell property taxes are due this fall. Assessments are based on property values as of Jan. 1 each year.

Wrangell had a higher percentage of residential property owned by seniors or disabled veterans exempt from taxes than any other municipality in the state, according to the Department of Commerce 2021 Alaska Taxable report, issued in January. Nenana, Petersburg and Haines were next on the list.

The number of senior-owned homes on Wrangell's tax-exempt list is 295 this year, up from 280 last year, 259 in 2020 and 215 homes in 2016 as Wrangell's population ages. The community has just over 1,000 households, according to census data.

The state Department of Labor Research and Analysis Division estimates the median age of residents in Wrangell at 47.1 years old in July 2021, based on 2020 census data, an increase from 46.4 years old after the 2010 census. Almost one-quarter of the population is over age 65, according to the Census Bureau.

The statewide median age as of July 2021 was 36 years old, according to the Labor Department numbers.

Wrangell is not alone in its aging population and shrinking tax roll. The median age in Haines was 47.4 years old last year, according to the state, up from 46.9 years old in 2010. More than \$38 million in residential property in Haines owned by seniors and disabled veterans was exempt from property taxes in 2021, according to the Alaska Taxable Report.

## Car owners left with few options after DC Auto closes shop

By MARC LUTZ  
Sentinel editor

DC Auto, the only automotive mechanic shop in Wrangell, closed its doors for good last Friday, after being in business for about seven years.

The closure leaves a void in auto services with not many options to get a vehicle repaired, oil changed or other needed fixes.

There are a few mechanics in town who provide service to select clients or friends and family, but that's of little comfort to someone with a trashed transmission or blown head gasket.

"We're thinking about getting back into it, and we're actively trying to find guys for a shop," said Dave Miller, who owns Dave's Welding.

Miller said he bought all the equipment for a shop, including diagnostic computers last year. A mechanic from Montana was hired and moved to town. "He didn't make the winter."

Part of the difficulty in opening a shop — or any business lately — is finding reliable staff.

"It's a fine line with employees," Miller said. "Who I've got here (in the welding shop) have been in Wrangell all their lives."

Miller said his shop currently services vehicles for SEARHC

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## The bear necessities

### Festival returns for 13th year

By MARC LUTZ  
Sentinel editor

BearFest is coming out of hibernation and is planned for July 27 through July 31 throughout Wrangell.

The popular event, in its 13th year, will offer pie contests, live music, art and music workshops, symposiums, a marathon and more.

"It's a celebration of bears. That's the short of it," said Sylvia Ettefagh, chairperson for the event. "Its mission is to promote Wrangell and to promote the environment; one part of our environment — a very important part of our environment — the bears."

Not only is BearFest meant to attract visitors to Wrangell like bears to a salmon-laden creek, hungry for culture and fun, it's meant to give residents something more than day-to-day life on the island.

"We want to showcase our environment, our culture, our resources — we want to showcase how it all comes together," Ettefagh said. "In that, we have opportunities for the underserved population in Wrangell to have some fun and be exposed to things they may not be exposed to otherwise, which is why pretty much everything except the dinner is free."

The dinner and auction, held at 6 p.m. on July 29, is the main fundraiser for BearFest. Upscale meals are prepared



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Statues of bears throughout Wrangell announce and await the annual BearFest event planned for July 27 through July 31. Not only will there be bear safety and education workshops, but live music, food, a foot race and other fun events are planned for the five days.

by "high-end chefs" with locally sourced ingredients "that, in Seattle, they'd be paying hundreds of dollars for," Ettefagh said.

Tickets for the dinner went on sale at 9 a.m. on July 7 and were sold out by afternoon. Organizers are keeping a wait list. One person will be picked from the tickets sold and will win two roundtrip

tickets on Alaska Airlines to anywhere the airline flies.

On average, about \$10,000 is raised per year from all the work, which wouldn't be possible if not for donations and volunteer hours contributed, Ettefagh said. "If we took the true cost and didn't think about (volunteers and donations) and what we bring in from the dinner and from

grants, we're way in the red."

Each year, more volunteers sign up to help.

"We get more community volunteers every year who are interested in chairing their own events or putting on a workshop or just getting involved in the marathon," Koch said.

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## Chamber will need to raise money for next year's 4th of July celebration

Sentinel staff

The chamber of commerce will work to raise money over the next nine months or so as it looks ahead to paying for next year's Fourth of July fireworks and events.

The annual royalty raffle is the chamber's major fundraiser for the summer celebration, and this year's proceeds are short of what's needed to fully stage the 2023 Fourth, said Brittani Robbins, executive

director of the chamber.

The chamber would like to raise an additional \$20,000 to \$30,000 before next summer to ensure the fireworks, events and prizes can continue at the same level as past years, she said.

Royalty contest ticket sales totaled \$56,260 this year, on par with the \$57,648 in sales in 2019, when there also was just a single royalty contestant selling raffle tickets in town. Two contestants last year

sold \$114,564 in tickets.

The record is \$126,408, set in 2016, also with two contestants.

The royalty contestants receive 30% of ticket sales proceeds, Robbins said, and after other costs are deducted, such as the cash prizes, ticket printing and electricity for the downtown food pavilion, the chamber is left with about 40%.

This year, that works out to about \$22,000 for the chamber to put toward

next year's Fourth. The fireworks alone can cost up to \$20,000, Robbins said.

"The funds raised should pay for all the fireworks and all the prize money," she said.

"We're going to try to do extra fundraisers," she said last Friday. Maybe a couple of small carnivals, too.

Another option could be looking for businesses to sponsor portions of the fireworks, Robbins said.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

The Sentinel extends its best wishes to the following people listed on the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce Community Scholarship Birthday Calendar.

**Wednesday, July 13:** Betty Abbott, Maggie McChargue.

**Thursday, July 14:** J.C. Gillen, Stanley Guggenbickler, Koen Kohrt, Marshall Peterman; Anniversary: Winston and Renate' Davies.

**Friday, July 15:** Kay Nesbitt, Kevin Smalley.

**Saturday, July 16:** Carmen Villarma Pavlina, Casey Seimears.

**Sunday, July 17:** Daniel B. Nore Sr; Anniversary: Dave and Sue Brown.

**Monday, July 18:** Rick Brock, Elizabeth Kissinger, Dave McGuire.

**Tuesday, July 19:** Dorianne Sprehe.

**Wednesday, July 20:** Erin Galla, Samantha Southland; Anniversary: Dave and Sharon McGuire.

## Senior Center Menu

*Open for in-person dining.  
Must be fully vaccinated.*

### Thursday, July 14

Liver and onions, stewed tomatoes, apple cabbage raisin salad, wheat bread

### Friday, July 15

Lasagna with beef, zucchini, tossed salad

### Monday, July 18

Ham, peas, tossed salad, au gratin potatoes

### Tuesday, July 19

Sweet and sour chicken, steamed broccoli, spicy fruit cup, rice pilaf

### Wednesday, July 20

Chili with beef and cheese, tomato slices, creamy coleslaw, cornbread

Please call the senior center at 907-874-2066 24 hours in advance to reserve a seat at lunch at the center or to request delivery. The senior van also is available to transport seniors to medical appointments, reasonable errands such as collecting mail, getting prescriptions or other essential items.

## Ferry Schedule

### Northbound

**Friday, July 15**  
Matanuska, 3:45 p.m.  
**Tuesday, July 19**  
Matanuska, 7:45 p.m.  
**Saturday, July 23**  
Matanuska, 4:15 a.m.  
**Friday, July 29**  
Matanuska, 3:45 p.m.

### Southbound

**Monday, July 18**  
Matanuska, 6:45 a.m.  
**Thursday, July 21**  
Matanuska, 6:15 p.m.  
**Monday, July 25**  
Matanuska, 5:30 a.m.  
**Monday, Aug 1**  
Matanuska, 5:30 a.m.

All times listed are scheduled departure times.  
Call the terminal at 907-874-2021 for information  
or call 907-874-3711 or 800-642-0066 for recorded information.

## Tides

### High Tides

### Low Tides

	AM	PM	AM	PM
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
July 14	01:24	19.2	02:33	16.0
July 15	02:15	19.1	03:20	16.2
July 16	03:05	18.5	04:06	16.3
July 17	03:55	17.5	04:51	16.2
July 18	04:46	16.0	05:37	15.9
July 19	05:41	14.4	06:27	15.5
July 20	06:44	12.9	07:21	15.1

	AM	PM
	Time	Ft
July 14	07:59	-4.2
July 15	08:45	-4.0
July 16	09:31	-3.2
July 17	10:16	-2.1
July 18	11:01	-0.7
July 19	11:47	0.9
July 20	00:34	2.9

## Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
July 13	4:18a	9:30p	17:12h
July 14	4:20a	9:29p	17:09h
July 15	4:21a	9:28p	17:06h
July 16	4:23a	9:26p	17:03h
July 17	4:24a	9:25p	17:00h
July 18	4:26a	9:24p	16:57h
July 19	4:28a	9:22p	16:54h

## Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

**WRANGELL SCHOOL BOARD** will hold a special school board meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 18, in Evergreen Elementary School Room 101. The purpose of this meeting is to conduct the superintendent's evaluation. It is anticipated that the evaluation will take place in an executive session.

**BRAVE** will meet at 1 p.m. Thursday, July 14, at the Public Health Center for its monthly meeting. Email brave.wrangell@gmail.com for a link to join online or receive an agenda, or call Kay Larson at 907-209-9117.

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICE** is hosting a webinar on using diet and exercise to reduce the symptoms of dementia and Parkinson's disease and how to do it on the cheap with speaker Dr. James Tuggle at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 19. Free, no registration required. Link to join: <https://bit.ly/3ltyZQn>. Call Denise Darby at 907-463-6181 or email denise.darby@ccsjuneau.org for more information.

**PARKS and RECREATION** is hosting a youth strength and conditioning camp July 18 through July 22 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the community gym for middle and high school-age students looking to reduce injury risk, increase strength and mobility, and build endurance. Come learn about the importance of nutrition and set simple, daily goals. A \$25 fee. Register online at [www.wrangellrec.com](http://www.wrangellrec.com) or call 907-874-2444 for more information.

**CAMP LORRAINE**, a Christian summer camp for kids between the ages of 8 to 16, is planned for July 31 through Aug. 7. The camp is located on Vank Island. The cost is \$199. Applications available online: [www.alaskacamps.org](http://www.alaskacamps.org).

**NOLAN CENTER THEATER** presents "Elvis" rated PG-13, at 7 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12, for the biography drama music film that runs two hours and 39 minutes. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

**MUSKEG MEADOWS** will hold the First Bank, nine-hole best-ball and special hole-in-one contest tournament starting at 10 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 16-17. Must register by 9:30 a.m.

**COMMUNITY POTLUCK** 6 p.m. Fridays through August at the sheltered site on Nemo Point Road. All are welcome.

"**READ WITH A RANGER**," sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, at 11 a.m. Fridays through July. Join Forest Service naturalists for a summer of nature-themed books and fun activities. Meet at the gazebo outside the Irene Ingle Public Library.

**PARKS and RECREATION** is offering multiple activities and programs to get your body moving. For more information on any of the activities visit [www.wrangellrec.com](http://www.wrangellrec.com) or call 907-874-2444.

Want more attendance at your meeting or event? Send information for Roundup to [wrgsent@gmail.com](mailto:wrgsent@gmail.com) or call 907-874-2301.

## Continuing Events

**PARKS and RECREATION** [www.wrangellrec.com](http://www.wrangellrec.com)

Open swim is open by appointment, at reduced capacity. Locker rooms are available.

**Weight room:** 6 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 6 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 - 8:30 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Saturday

**AA Meetings:** North Star Group meets from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays, St. Philip's Episcopal Church.

## The Way We Were In the Sentinel 100, 75, 50 and 25 years ago.

### July 6, 1922

The U.S. Secretary of Commerce has approved an amendment to the general rules which requires that no candidate for original license as master, mate, pilot or engineer shall be examined unless he has completed a course of instruction in first aid. "The manual is intended primarily to furnish officers and men of the American Merchant Marine a simple but comprehensive textbook on ship sanitation and hygiene, an outline of surgical and fundamental information regarding the treatment of disease," an announcement by the Health Service says. "The information contained in the manual will be of greatest value to officers and men of vessels that do not carry a ship's doctor and

lack facilities for the care of the sick and injured," the announcement says. "Sanitary conditions on shipboard are in many instances not what they should be - conditions that are due largely to ignorance regarding the elementary rules of sanitation and hygiene. Aside from the humanitarian point of view, it is highly desirable from an economic viewpoint that the sanitary conditions be improved."

### July 11, 1947

A construction crew from the Alaska Communications System in Ketchikan has installed a remote control receiving station for the local ACS station. This facilitates better reception for the local station. The remote control apparatus was constructed on the marsh back of Bishop Rowe Hospital on land given to the government by the city some time ago. The construction crew included a mascot and special guard, Lady, a German shepherd.

### July 14, 1972

The filming of "Timber Tramp," the biggest movie production in Alaska, got underway at Sykes Logging Camp at Bradfield Canal last weekend. This movie, starring Claude Akins as the tramp, with supporting actors Joseph Cotton, Caesar Romero, Roosevelt Griener, Tab Hunter and Leon Ames,

will be largely shot the next six weeks at the camp. A number of Wrangell residents have bit parts in the film, and Dick Sykes is acting as technical director during the production. The company will also be shooting in Wrangell for a full week at the Brig Bar, starting about July 25. "This movie is about a breed of men that have never been given their rightful place in history," says producer and cameraman Chuck Keene, who was a logger himself until 12 years ago.

### July 10, 1997

The city council on Tuesday night gave the green light to a covered playground area, estimated to cost as much as \$300,000 and probably to be located at Volunteer Park near Evergreen Elementary School. The facility, long a priority of the Parks and Recreation Department, could be used for sports, crafts fairs, musical events and a skateboard park. The city administration was directed to issue a request for proposals for the design. Councilmember Bernie Massin worried that the proposed playground area is muskeg and may sink under heavy equipment or the weight of a concrete or asphalt pad. City Manager Scott Seabury said this will be addressed in the request for proposals, with the contractor required to determine if the ground is stable.

# Program focuses on reducing injuries through strength training

BY MARC LUTZ  
Sentinel editor

A new Parks and Recreation Department program focuses on keeping student athletes stronger, more flexible and injury-free to keep team rosters healthy and full this coming school year.

From July 18 to July 22, the Youth Strength and Conditioning Camp will teach high school and middle school-aged students how to set and attain physical and nutritional goals.

"We'll certainly emphasize the importance of all the work that we put in, including strength, mobility and range of motion in the spirit of reduced risk of injury," said Lucy Robinson, who is leading the camp along with middle school running club coach Laura Davies and Mason Villarma, who has a background in collegiate running.

Robinson is working on a take-home packet that will show all the activities participants will learn over the five days in hopes that it can spur goal setting within families. "We want to promote that crossover to home life, including nutrition."

She said the camp will teach about hydration and touch on nutrition without diving too deep. "Nutrition can kind of be complex, so we just want to touch on the surface and be able to set some attainable daily goals. They can come in and see their progress throughout the camp."

Robinson said that less calories doesn't necessarily equal better, so there's an emphasis on improving the quality of the calories taken in.

The hope with the program, which will run from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in the community gym, is that kids will get enough information to stick with conditioning on their own as the various sports seasons



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Lucy Robinson, of Parks and Recreation, holds a medicine ball in the weight room at the rec center. Robinson, along with Laura Davies and Mason Villarma, will teach a youth strength and conditioning course from July 18 through July 22 to help middle and high school student athletes set fitness and nutrition goals, while learning injury-prevention techniques.

approach.

"It's going to be fast and furious for sure, with the understanding that the way kids learn is little snippets," Robinson said. "We want to do more active-based experiential learning rather than theoretical. We'll do the things, introduce the challenges and goals, and as we head toward the end of camp, we want to set them up for success."

The high school cross country and swimming seasons will be starting soon, and Robinson is reaching out to coaches to let them know about the program in

the hopes that athletes will sign up. There were eight registrations as of last Friday.

"It's definitely 100% something we encourage kids to do to prevent things like shin splints and other injuries," said Kayla Rooney, head coach for the cross country team. She believes any training techniques that help her athletes get stronger and stay injury-free is worth running after.

Along with strength and mobility, Robinson said the camp will touch on running drills that include tempo runs, hill repeats, fartleks (interval training)

and others. "We're not necessarily going to dive into any long runs or even in the 5k (3.1-mile) region."

Robinson said they would like to hold the camp two or three times throughout the school year so that athletes in different sports can benefit from it, "that way, kids can kind of reset and get that work in, setting some personal goals."

The Youth Strength and Conditioning Camp is \$25 per student and is open for registration at [wrangellak.myrec.com](http://wrangellak.myrec.com) or by calling 907-874-2444.

## Reduction in food stamp benefits will hit Wrangell households in September

BY CERI GODINEZ  
For the Wrangell Sentinel

More than 100 Wrangell households will see their food stamp payments reduced beginning in September as a result of the official rescinding of the state's public health emergency order on July 1.

As of May, 125 Wrangell households were participating in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), with an average benefit of \$469, up 88% from March 2020, the last pre-pandemic month.

SNAP, which traditionally assists low-income families with food purchases, began issuing emergency allotments in April 2020 as part of the federal government's pandemic response. The emergency allotments guaranteed SNAP households the maximum allowable benefit for a household their size, regardless of income.

The average SNAP payment in Wrangell has fluctuated over the course of the pandemic, but in general, payments have been significantly higher than pre-pandemic amounts.

The 125 households enrolled in the food aid program represents about one in eight households in Wrangell, according to U.S. Census Bureau counts.

In the months leading up to the pandemic, the aver-

age Wrangell household SNAP benefit fluctuated between \$208 and \$260. Since April 2020, monthly SNAP payments have averaged \$430.

Salvation Army Lt. Jon Tollerud, who administers the organization's food pantry in Wrangell, said he can think of specific cases where the expanded benefits helped residents.

"In one instance, we had a family who normally would come to our pantry based on need and they actually didn't have to come for a time," Tollerud said.

In a June 6 press conference, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Commissioner Adam Crum announced the state would rescind the public health emergency order that granted state government a number of tools to address the pandemic, including the federally funded expansion of SNAP benefits. Crum cited a "mellowing out" of the COVID situation as the reason for ending the order.

States are allowed to extend emergency SNAP allotments by a month after their emergency orders end, which Alaska has opted to do, allowing the expanded benefits to continue through August.

Once the SNAP emergency allotment program expires, Shawnda O'Brien, director of the state's Division of Public Assistance, said she expects payments will

return to pre-public health emergency levels.

State food aid organizations have said the reduction in SNAP benefits is particularly poorly timed — the need remains high as prices surge and other pandemic benefits expire.

Tollerud said he hasn't heard Wrangell residents express concern about the upcoming end to expanded SNAP benefits.

"Based on my experience, I would say that the need is probably always greater than the available resources in our smaller communities," he said.

The number of Wrangell SNAP cases has climbed over the course of the pandemic, from 110 in March 2020 to 125 in May 2022, although the increase hasn't been steady. Cases dipped below 100 during winter 2020-2021.

O'Brien said it's hard to determine why case numbers and benefit amounts have fluctuated month to month.

"Any changes in income, resources, housing, household members, utilities, etc. have an impact on the amount of benefit a person (or) household is eligible for," she said.

As of April, roughly 56,000 households with 97,000 Alaskans statewide were participating in SNAP, an increase of 17,000 Alaskans pre-pandemic.

## Wrangell has recorded 20% of COVID cases since start of pandemic in past 3 months

Sentinel staff  
and Anchorage Daily News

Of Wrangell's 667 COVID-19 cases reported to state health authorities since the count started in March 2020, almost 20% — 128 infections — have been recorded in just the past three months.

That is double the statewide average, which shows about 10% of pandemic cases have been reported in the past three months.

New variants of the coronavirus are pushing up infection rates across the United States as the nation works through its third year of the pandemic. Alaska's seven-day case rate per 100,000 people was second highest in the nation as of last week, behind Hawaii, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Amid heavy summer tourist traffic, last week's total in Alaska included 2,271 cases

among residents and 1,052 among nonresidents, according to state Health Department statistics issued July 6. Those numbers do not include at-home tests, which have become increasingly popular and are not reported to the department.

At least a fifth of Alaska's recently genetically sequenced cases are now caused by two relatively new and fast-spreading omicron subvariants, BA.4 and BA.5, which health officials have said appear to be among the most contagious variations of the virus yet, but have not been linked to more severe illness.

The statewide death toll in Alaska since March 2020 is 1,286, with just one death reported in Wrangell. No virus-related deaths have been reported in the state since early May.

About 65% of eligible Wrangell residents 5 years and older have been vaccinated

against COVID-19, equal to the statewide average, with boosters administered to 37% of eligible Wrangell residents, according to state Health Department statistics as of July 5. Statewide, the booster rate is 29%.

SEARCHC continues to offer vaccination shots, first and second boosters in Wrangell, both the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines, said Randi Yancey, medical office coordi-

nator at the medical clinic. Call 907-874-7000 to schedule an appointment.

"We have received our supply of pediatric vaccines. We have the Moderna brand avail-

able for children ages 6 months to 5 years," Yancey said last week. SEARCHC held a vaccination clinic on Tuesday, "and will schedule future clinics as needed," she said.

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Katie Eddy,  
Commercial Lines Agent

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

# Bouncy year ahead for state revenues

By LARRY PERSILY  
Publisher

“Bouncy” sounds less dramatic than “volatile,” and certainly less depressing than “money-losing.” And it’s not nearly as scary as “billion-dollar bust.”

But bouncy is an appropriate word for forecasting state earnings this year.

It’s not unexpected, as pretty much all of Alaska’s money is based on oil prices and investment returns, and both are about as stable these days as a small boat on rough seas, with an underpowered outboard.

And though Alaska needs leaders who know what to do to safely ride it out, it’s an election year and Alaska has several candidates for governor and Legislature who want to be skipper because they think they know better how to steer — even though they never took the Coast Guard license exam. They will work to convince enough voters who are seasick from past promises that they know how to find calm waters and clear skies amid the hard bounces.

Don’t believe that they can do anything to control the seas — no matter what they say. World markets control oil prices and investments, not anyone in Alaska. Any candidate who reassures you that down investment markets are a fluke and that oil prices will be strong forever is suffering from vertigo and needs to stop spinning false tales.

The thick, brownish Alaska North Slope crude oil, which turns green when the tax and royalty checks are deposited into the state treasury, had been climbing in price since fall of 2020, reaching almost \$128 a barrel on June 8. That’s triple what it was at the start of the rise more than 18 months ago.

Then, as happens with oil, it reversed direction. Prices were down to \$103 per barrel

as of last Friday.

The difference to the state general fund between \$128 and \$103 oil is about \$130 million less each month.

At \$103, Alaska is still rich, just a lot less so. And with declining gasoline consumption in the U.S. and elsewhere due to high prices at the pump, and a serious risk of a recession, oil could fall much further than \$103. The difference between \$80 a barrel and \$103 is another \$130 million-a-month drop in state general fund dollars.

But there is always the Alaska Permanent Fund to generate investment earnings and help cover any decline in oil dollars. The fund is solid, well invested and managed for the long term. But it can lose money just as fast as oil prices drop.

The Permanent Fund fell in value more than \$5 billion in the first six months of calendar 2022. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost about 15% in market value in the first six months of the year. Rising interest rates, inflation and other factors are making it easy to lose money on a

wide range of investments.

In time, markets will turn back up and oil prices will stabilize — until they turn down, again. But no one knows when, and a lot will depend on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the world’s reaction to the attack and how it affects the global economy.

Until then, the worst thing would be sudden, irresponsible turns because a candidate wins the helm and proclaims to know more than the weather charts, telling voters, “Trust me, I know better, this isn’t that hard.”

Be skeptical when listening to candidates over the next few months. The ones who tell you there is nothing to fret over, that they can painlessly solve the bounce in oil prices and investment earnings, probably are not the ones you want to go to sea with.

“Any candidate who reassures you that down investment markets are a fluke and that oil prices will be strong forever is suffering from vertigo and needs to stop spinning false tales.”

## DC Auto

Continued from page 1

and other private clientele, but they aren’t taking on work from the general public. He’s not sure if another shop will open in Wrangell, but he said, “There’s definitely a huge market for it.”

Will Shilts, who worked for DC Auto off and on for around four years, said last week he wasn’t sure what he was going to do after the shop closed on Friday.

“I’ve been a mechanic a long time, a very long time,” Shilts said. He staffed the shop so that clients

could come in to pick up parts they had ordered which had not been used to fix their vehicles. Though Shilts has been a mechanic for years, he doesn’t think he will pursue another automotive job.

A statement posted on Facebook by the shop read: “DC Auto will be closing their doors permanently. We apologize for this turn of events. We realize there is an outstanding amount of parts that have been ordered for our customers and want to make sure they receive them.”

Customers were encouraged to pick up their parts last week

while the shop was still open. “Any parts not gotten will be discarded,” the statement continued.

The owners of DC Auto have not returned calls or messages from the Sentinel for comment.

Eric Yancey, who offers drive-aboard boat service to Petersburg, said he hasn’t had anyone use his service to get their vehicle fixed at one of the three automotive service shops there. However, Shilts said it wasn’t uncommon for clients to come from Petersburg and Ketchikan to get their vehicles fixed at DC Auto in Wrangell.

## BearFest

Continued from page 1

Funds raised through the dinner are put toward the schools’ arts programs or things like the routing machine used in the high school shop.

“ Sylvia bought an upright bass and donated it to the music program,” said music and art teacher Tasha Morse. “That happened because she brings up a band during BearFest and each year she would ask if we had a bass to loan out, and every year I said that we had an iffy electric bass.”

Morse said Ettefagh went to Seattle and bought the upright bass with BearFest funds to donate to

the music program, with one stipulation.

“She donated it to the school program and said, ‘Now you have a bass. I just ask that you let us borrow it for BearFest bands on occasion,’” Morse said.

This year’s guest band, The Banta Band, will pull triple duty like past years’ bands. They will play at the dinner, the music workshop and at Rayme’s Bar.

Ettefagh said she believes BearFest draws about 400 participants across all its events and it’s an even mix of residents and visitors.

To see a list of events and times, visit [alaskabearfest.org/schedule.html](http://alaskabearfest.org/schedule.html).

EDITORIAL

# Take elections seriously and vote next month

Alaskans in less than five weeks will elect the state’s first new member of the U.S. House in almost 50 years. Literally, this could be a once-in-a-lifetime chance to choose who will represent the state as its lone member in the chamber.

Voters on Aug. 16 will choose from three candidates to fill the unexpired term of the late U.S. Rep. Don Young. On that same day, Alaskans will cast ballots in a primary election to decide which of 22 candidates will advance to the November general election for a chance to win the seat for a full two-year term.

It’s important that people vote — something Wrangell has not excelled at in recent years.

Back in 2012, more than 48% of registered Wrangell voters cast ballots in the state general election. “More than” because that number only counts voters who cast ballots in person on election day. It does not include people who voted early or absentee.

The number has been in steady and steep decline since then: 46% in 2014, 44% in 2016, 38.5% in 2018, and 37% in 2020.

Those are not the numbers of a strong democracy. They are an embarrassment, and there are a lot of reasons to reverse that trend this year, most importantly to show people, especially young people, that voting is important. With all the false claims, accusations, shouting, conspiracy theories, lawsuits and TV appearances alleging — without proof — that Joe Biden and his supporters stole the 2020 presidential election, who could blame a young voter for staying home and thumbing through social media rather than checking a circle on a ballot.

Another reason to vote is the stark difference between the candidates to represent Alaska in Congress. Former Gov. Sarah Palin is the loudest and fastest with the insults; Nick Begich III is the most politically conservative in the traditional sense before Donald Trump took hold of the Republican party; and former Bethel state legislator Mary Peltola is a truly moderate Democrat in a state where Democrats prefer the “moderate” label instead of “liberal.”

Though registered Republicans outnumber registered Democrats in Wrangell almost 4-to-1 — 543 to 148, as of the state’s latest tally — the overwhelming number of registered voters in town are nonpartisan or undeclared, 1,170. The numbers are similar statewide. Those voters, without allegiance to any political party, will determine the winner on Aug. 16 and again in November.

The deadline to register to vote in the August election is Sunday. Residents can go online to register at [voterregistration@alaska.gov](mailto:voterregistration@alaska.gov). Absentee ballots must be postmarked no later than Aug. 16, the day that polls will be open across Alaska, including at Wrangell’s Nolan Center.

Put the dates on your calendar — either paper or digital — and make a choice on who will serve Alaska in the U.S. House. Failing to vote is giving up on democracy, and that is a sad commentary on the country and our community.

— Wrangell Sentinel

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Juneau resident warns: Bewary of too many cruise ships

Be careful what you wish for. I hope the large cruise ship operations never “discover” Wrangell. Downtown Juneau is like New Orleans’ Bourbon Street. Crowded and noisy, indiscriminate COVID spreaders. My downtown neighbor-

hood is overrun by tourist vehicles — one day in June saw 499 trips through our narrow streets.

Wrangell and the Stikine River are world-class destinations. Major cruise lines will make a Disneyland out of your paradise.

Kim Metcalfe, Juneau

### Policy for Letters to the Editor

- Letters should be typed or clearly written and no longer than 400 words.
- All letters must be signed by the writer and include a phone number and any affiliation with a group which pertains to the letter.

**The Sentinel reserves the right to edit any submissions.**

The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon for Wednesday publication.

Letters are run on a space-available basis.

**WRANGELL SENTINEL**

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# Summer reading program heads into final chapter

BY MARC LUTZ  
Sentinel editor

It's summer break, but some kids are only taking a break from the writin' and 'rithmetic portions of school. There are 158 who are immersed in the readin'.

The Irene Ingle Public Library summer reading program, which kicked off in June, has about two weeks left before wrapping up with a pizza and pool party for those who earn 10 points or more.

According to Margaret Villarma, head librarian, children grades kindergarten to ninth read accelerated reader books. Before starting the program, kids take a test on a library computer to assess which books would best suit their reading comprehension levels. They take a test after finishing each book to continue assessments and provide more challenging reading levels.

"Each book is worth a certain number of points," Villarma said. "Each week we total the students' points and for every point they earn a coupon that they can enter into whatever prize they are trying to win."

Large jars are found throughout the children's section of the library and each one is associated with a different prize like basketballs, various toys and bigger-ticket items such as the one Clara and Mariah Carney are vying for.



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Mariah Carney, 8, reads the book "Area 51" about the famous top-secret military base best known for its secrecy about extraterrestrial life and unidentified flying objects. She's reading the book as part of the Irene Ingle Public Library summer reading program.

"I'm trying to win the mini Kindle," Mariah, 8, said. She wants the Kindle to read more books, but she also wants it to play games. Sister Clara, 11, has the

same goal. "The prizes give them motivation, all the toys and awards they can get," said Jack Carney, Clara and Mariah's dad.

"Sometimes they'll be focused on one prize and put all their tickets in one jar, or sometimes they'll be very diplomatic and put it into the ones with the least tickets."

Carney said all his children love to read on their own and the summer reading program gets them excited about reading. "This really just gets them more focused, begging to go to the library and check out new books."

Clara is finishing up "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," which is 752 pages long. A book that size could earn her around 20 tickets. Although she enjoys the "Potter" series of books, her favorite series at the moment is "Percy Jackson."

Mariah is reading a book about Area 51, though she prefers graphic novels such as the "Wings of Fire" series. "I love reading," she said. "Once I read a graphic novel about (an inch) thick." That book was "New Kid" by Jerry Craft. Books like "Area 51" will earn Mariah half a point.

Assistant librarian Sarah Scambler said there are 158 kids signed up for the program; registration ended on June 30. She said students can earn up to 100 points and they have to read in their reading level.

"We don't want a fifth grader reading a kindergarten book," she said. "We're trying to challenge them a little bit."

# Trump calls Murkowski 'by far the worst' at Anchorage rally

BY JAMES BROOKS  
Alaska Beacon

In front of more than 5,000 cheering supporters in Anchorage on Saturday, former President Donald Trump fulfilled a year-old promise to campaign in Alaska against incumbent U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, one of seven Republicans who voted in favor of his impeachment following the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection that targeted Congress.

With a 90-minute speech that included a story about a trip to Iraq, conversations with foreign leaders and his thoughts on a variety of issues, Trump endorsed Murkowski's lead Republican challenger, Kelly Tshibaka, in this year's U.S. Senate election.

Trump also endorsed former Gov. Sarah Palin — a longtime Trump supporter — for Alaska's sole U.S. House seat and incumbent Gov. Mike Dunleavy, who is seeking reelection.

"She's by far the worst," said Trump of Murkowski, who voted in favor of impeaching the then president for his role in the Jan. 6 riot at the Capitol.

"She voted to impeach me, and I did more for this state than any president in history. She wanted to impeach me!" Trump said.

Trump also criticized Alaska's other U.S. senator, Dan Sullivan, for endorsing Murkowski and said he should be ashamed.

The former president highlighted policy moves popular with the audience, including the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling and



PHOTOS BY JAMES BROOKS/ALASKA BEACON

Former President Donald Trump endorsed Kelly Tshibaka for U.S. Senate, former Gov. Sarah Palin for U.S. House, and incumbent Gov. Mike Dunleavy for reelection during his remarks at Saturday's rally in Anchorage.

a border permit for a proposed Alaska-Alberta railroad.

Only the state and two small companies bid on the lease sale, and one of the private-sector bidders later relinquished its leases. The other private company to win a lease was a real estate company. The ANWR leases were canceled by the Biden administration, which is subject to ongoing lawsuits.

The company behind the railroad project that Trump touted at Saturday's rally at the Alaska Airlines Center on the University of Alaska Anchorage campus has filed for creditor protection after Canadian investigators found financial irregularities.

Trump summed up his policy positions with a line that received loud applause: "I'm in favor of guns, God and oil," he said.

Murkowski spent the day on the Kenai Peninsula, meeting constituents in Kenai and Soldotna, an aide said. Saturday was the opening of the Kenai River's dipnet fishery.

Tshibaka delivered a speech before Trump took the stage, then shared time on the stage with the former president after his late arrival from an event in Nevada.

Patricia Chesbro, the leading Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate, said she intended to attend a pride festival in Palmer and a pro-choice rally in Anchorage. That rally was one of several planned for locations across Alaska on Saturday afternoon.

Aside from Trump, Tshibaka drew the largest cheers from an audience whose members waved Tshibaka signs and wore stickers with her name.

Palin, seeking election to the U.S. House to replace the late Rep. Don Young, drew only slightly less applause than Tshibaka. Speaking to the crowd, she said this fall's elections "are no longer Democrat versus Republican. This is all about control versus freedom. This is good versus evil."

Palin faces Democratic candidate Mary Peltola in the race for

U.S. House and fellow Republican candidate Nick Begich, who finished second behind Palin in the June 11 special U.S. House primary election.

Begich stayed away from Saturday's rally, instead attending events across Anchorage.

Palin, Begich and Peltola are the finalists in the special U.S. House election that will take place Aug. 16. The winner of that election will finish Young's term. All three are also running for a full two-year term, which will be decided in November.

Trump's third significant endorsement was of incumbent Dunleavy, who is seeking reelection, but Dunleavy wasn't at the rally. Trump had previously said he would endorse Dunleavy as long as Dunleavy did not endorse Murkowski.

A spokesman for the governor said he was flying out of the state on state business. Andrew Jensen, a spokesman for the gov-

ernor's campaign and a member of the governor's state communications team, said Dunleavy had intended to meet Trump privately before leaving the state, but Trump arrived late and that meeting didn't take place.

Palin and Tshibaka each had tables distributing campaign merchandise and advertisements playing on the arena's screens. Dunleavy did not.

When Trump announced his support of Dunleavy, that statement received a mixture of cheers and boos, the only time the audience voiced anything but wholehearted support for the president's words.

Saturday's appearance was Trump's most significant visit to Alaska after several stopovers on Air Force One during his time in office.

The AlaskaBeacon.com is a donor-funded independent news organization in Alaska.



Margaret Borges (left), 15, and Noelle Davidson, 17, were among more than 5,000 supporters of former President Donald Trump who gathered Saturday in Anchorage for a political rally featuring Trump and Alaska Republican candidates.

First Bank's 20th Annual Wrangell

# GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sat & Sun **July 16&17**  
9am Registration • 10am Start

**\$50,000** hole-in-one prize!  
Hole-in-one prize is subject to a specific hole announced on the day of the tournament

Join us at our Wrangell Branch  
**Customer Appreciation Day**  
Friday, July 15th  
11am-2pm

Member **FDIC** For more information and registration, call Muskeg Meadows in Wrangell at 874-4653

**FIRST BANK**  
The one who's here.

# Fourth of July is over, but winners keep coming in

*Sentinel staff*

The chainsaws are quiet. The laughter and cheers have subsided. The splashing has passed.

The Fourth of July celebration and events may be over, but the memories, victories and bragging rights will live on. From catching fish and chopping wood to volunteering and counting raffle tickets, there were plenty of positive outcomes.

"I think everything went well considering this is only the second Fourth of July celebration since COVID," said Brittani Robbins, executive director of the chamber of commerce, which organizes the festivities. "It was a good turnout, it really was."

The royalty raffle competition, which raises funds for next year's Fourth of July events and fireworks, sold 56,260 tickets at \$1 each, Robbins said.

Results from the four-day celebration:

### Royalty raffle winners:

First (\$2,500): Brynlee Wolton  
 Second (\$1,500): Maggie McLaughlin  
 Third (\$1,000): Doug McCloskey

### Logging competition

#### Power saw bucking

First: James Montgomery, 35.3 seconds  
 Second: Mike Lockabey, 38.10 seconds  
 Third: Thomas Roland, 45.1 seconds

#### Underhand axe chopping

First: James Montgomery, 30.10 seconds  
 Second: Thomas Roland, 37.20 seconds  
 Third: Gavin Gladsio, 50.30 seconds

#### Obstacle pole bucking

First: James Montgomery, 18.65 seconds  
 Second: Thomas Roland, 24.15 seconds  
 Third: Joe Zarlengo, 33.45 seconds

#### Double buck (crosscut)

First: Thomas Roland and James Montgomery, 37.30 seconds  
 Second: Gavin Gladsio and Joe Zarlengo, 63.40 seconds  
 Third: Caitlin Cardinell and Sabrina Smith, 65.88 seconds

#### Women's rolling pin toss

First: Caitlin Cardinell, 6 points  
 Second: Ellen Jellum, 5 points  
 Third: Alex Sargent, 4 points

#### Single buck (crosscut)

First: James Montgomery, 22.10 seconds  
 Second: Thomas Roland, 23.50 seconds  
 Third: Chad Diffenbacher, 42.40 seconds

#### Ma and pa buck

First: Patrick Freeman and Sabrina Smith, 17.16 seconds  
 Second: James Montgomery and Caitlin Cardinell, 20.25 seconds  
 Third: Thomas Roland and Sierra Roland, 23.50 seconds

#### Choker setting

First: James Montgomery, 19 seconds  
 Second: Matt McPharin, 29.50 seconds  
 Third: Hunter Wiederspohn, 30.59 seconds

#### Axe throw

First: Caitlin Cardinell  
 Second: Ted Nielsen  
 Third: James Montgomery

#### All-around logger (most points)

First: James Montgomery, 28 points  
 Second: Thomas Roland, 20 points  
 Third: Joe Zarlengo, 10 points

#### Bull of the Woods sportsmanship award

as voted by competitors:  
 James Montgomery



PHOTOS BY VINCENT BALANSAG OF VINCE PHOTOGRAPHY

Jake Eastaugh, above, took third place in the unlimited horsepower race on the Fourth of July. Thomas Roland, below, took second place in the all-around logger competition on the Fourth of July.

### Boat races

#### Limited (engines under 115 hp)

First: Wayne Easterly  
 Second: Dustin Phillips

#### Unlimited (any higher horsepower)

First: Curtis "Curty" Kautz  
 Second: Gary Allen Jr.  
 Third: Jake Eastaugh  
 Fourth: Brandon Kenfield  
 Fifth: David Gillen

### Art Clark Scrap Fish Derby

#### Ages 6-9

Winner: Violet Allen

#### Ages 10-13

Winner: Luke Miller

#### Bike drawing

Winner: Gage Lewis

### Canoe race results

#### Ages 11-14 (two paddlers):

##### Cork Capture

First male boat: Da Bomb  
 First female boat: IDK  
 First coed boat: Bloominators  
 Ages 15-17 (two paddlers): Short Sprint  
 First male boat: Pioneer Spirit  
 First female boat: Sea Cucumbers  
 First coed boat: Armstrongs

#### Ages 18 and up (two paddlers):

##### Long Sprint

First male boat: Barbarians  
 First female boat: Taylor's Music  
 First coed boat: Speed Demons  
 Ancient Mariners (oldest combined ages): Knot to Worry

#### Ages 11 and up (five paddlers):

##### War Canoe

First place (tie): Average Joes and Pioneer Spirit

### 3-on-3 basketball games

#### High school first place women's

Taylor Young  
 Bradyn Young  
 Mia Young  
 Brynlee Young



#### Middle school boys first place

Aadyn Gillen  
 Michael Gillen  
 Boomchain Loucks

#### Men's first place

Jacen Hay  
 Brett Abrahamson  
 Sean Gillen

#### Women's first place

Kaelene Harrison  
 Christina Good  
 Cherrith Young

#### Disc golf tournament

Overall winner: Casey Marley  
 Women: Katie Marley  
 Youth: Jackson Powers

#### Toddler games

##### Babies not yet crawling

First: Everett Pempek  
 Second: Melany Shilts  
 Third (tie): Corbin Kettler, Ripley Miller

##### Babies not yet walking

First: Harlow Marshall  
 Second: Elena Merritt  
 Third (tie): Layla Conete, Khai McCloskey

##### Babies not yet 1

First: Khai McCloskey  
 Second: Miller Villarma

##### Girls not yet 2

First: Layne Bell  
 Second: Ariyah Howell  
 Third: Helen Sanford  
 Honorable mention: Emma Crandall, Hazel Gile, Marlee Gablehouse, Elianna Tollerud

#### Boys not yet 2

First: Tylon Grant  
 Second: Maxwell Rocket Powers  
 Third: Oliver Warren  
 Honorable mention: Emmitt Gerald

#### Girls not yet 3

First: Emilee Stewart  
 Second: Lola Pritchett

#### Boys not yet 3

First: Leo Marley  
 Second (tie): Paul Sanford, Joshua Harrison  
 Third: Braven Gillen  
 Honorable mention: Bronn Allen, Callum Silva

#### Girls not yet 4

First: Oakley Marshall  
 Second (tie): Lucinda Jansen, Adeline Yoder  
 Third (tie): Rory Roher, Espen Schilling-Freeman  
 Honorable mention: Marren Johnson, Juniper Kettler, Emma Marshall, Indiana Powers, Abigail Stack

#### Boys not yet 4

First (tie): Wilder Harding, Archer Howell  
 Second: Emmett Villarma  
 Third: Liam McCloskey

#### Ages 5 and 6

Maelie Freeman

**\*From the toddler game organizers:**  
 Apologies to those we missed who didn't wait to be counted or give us their names. And special thanks to volunteers Chris Ellis and Tawney Crowley

### Tongass Toughman Triathlon results

Solos	Swim	Bike	Run	Total
Sanoë Harrison	33.58	5:19	5:00	10:52.58
Lucy Robinson	33.00	5:31	5:05	11:09.00
Angie Flickinger	31.05	5:31	5:11	11:13.05
Kate Thomas	31.55	5:31	5:11	11:13.55
Andrew Simmonds	36.45	5:31	5:21	11:28.45

Teams	Swim	Bike	Run	Total
1	Scott Burt 28.40	Rob Cross 3:34	Jen Cross 3:37	7:39.40
2	Caitlin Cardinell 31.15	Stephen Todd 4:40	Sabrina Smith 3:48	8:59.15
3	Sage Smiley 26.50	Ryan & Patrick Howell 6:06	Patrick Howell 3:11	9:53.50
4	Robbie Rooney 30.30	Chadd Yoder 5:06	Jason Rooney 4:53	10:29.30

# Poll shows election wins for Murkowski, Dunleavy, Begich

By MARK SABBATINI  
Juneau Empire

Gov. Mike Dunleavy and U.S. House hopeful Nick Begich III are poised for dominant victories during this year's special and general elections, according to an online Alaska Survey Research poll of 1,201 likely voters conducted between July 2-5.

The survey also shows Sen. Lisa Murkowski eking out a narrow win due to the state's new ranked-choice voting system.

Ranked-choice voting also could shake up the U.S. House race, since Democratic candidate Mary Peltola appears to have a slight advantage in a head-to-head match against former Gov. Sarah Palin, who is in a close battle with Begich as the preferred Republican candidate, said Ivan Moore, head of the research firm conducting the survey.

"(Peltola) does narrowly beat Palin because she's got a 60% negative response," Moore said last Thursday. "It introduces all kinds of campaign dynamics."

Most of the numbers in the survey re-

leased Thursday are similar to a poll conducted by Moore's firm in May, although support for Begich has increased by about 5% since then, Moore said, putting him firmly in the lead to win the seat.

Moore said Peltola's increased support is also in line with expectations for a Democratic nominee since potential top contender Al Gross dropped out of the race following the 48-candidate special election primary last month.

"It was pretty much expected that Mary Peltola would get to 40% because that's the Democratic base in Alaska," he said.

In terms of favorability, Peltola scores 36.5% positive, 15.6% negative, 17.2% no opinion and 30.7% unknown, according to the survey. Her campaign manager, Kim Jones, said that suggests Peltola's chances against Begich can improve as more voters get to know her.

Moore, when asked about the possibility, said Peltola "will come up against the brick wall of partisan divide" and even the most popular of Democratic candidates tend to "come to a screeching halt"

at about 45% unless the Republican candidate is highly unpopular.

That's where Palin may be an enormous "X-factor" that has been seen in primaries elsewhere across the country, with Democratic candidates faring better in polls against controversial Republican candidates who win their party's nomination.

Murkowski has long been assumed to be perhaps the biggest beneficiary of ranked-choice voting, which the most recent poll illustrates clearly.

In the current four-candidate field, she trails Republican Kelly Tshibaka by a 35.3% to 42.6% tally, with Democrat Patricia Chesbro at 17.4% and Alaska Independence candidate Dustin Darden at 4.6%. That shifts to a 44.7%/35.7%/9.6% split for Tshibaka/Murkowski/Chesbro after the first elimination round, but nearly all of Chesbro's Democratic supporters flock to Murkowski and give her a 52.2% to 47.8% win in the final round.

"Without (ranked-choice) she would have had a zero percent chance of winning because she would have had to go through

a Republican primary," Moore said.

Dunleavy appears to have an easy path to a second term in a three-way general election race and would still prevail if one of his two presumed opponents drops out to avoid a split vote. He is favored by 50.9%, with 26.4% of respondents supporting Democrat Les Gara and 22.7% Independent former Gov. Bill Walker.

The statewide primary is Aug. 16, during which up to four top-finishers will advance to the Nov. 8 general election. Voters on that date will also choose a U.S. House member to fill the remainder of the late Rep. Don Young's term.

Ranked-choice voting means voters will rank their candidates by preference. If no candidate wins a majority of first-preference votes, the lowest-scoring candidate is eliminated and the second-preference votes are added to candidates' totals. If there is no candidate among the remaining three with a majority the lowest finisher is eliminated and the third-preference votes are added to determine a final winner.

## Director of state Democrats arrested for driving under the influence near Soldotna

Anchorage Daily News

The executive director of the Alaska Democratic Party was arrested for driving under the influence early July 2 near Soldotna, according to law enforcement.

Lindsay Kavanaugh, 42, faces three misdemeanor charges for driving under the influence of a controlled substance, refusing to undergo a breath test, and unplugging trooper equipment following her arrest.

Kavanaugh has served as the executive director of the Alaska Democratic Party since 2019. Prior to that, she worked as a senior adviser to U.S. Sen. Mark Begich.

"I am disappointed that my friend and colleague may have exercised poor judgment while on personal leave and jeopardized the safety of herself and others," said Mike Wenstrup, chair of the Alaska Democratic Party. "As executive director, Lindsay's performance to date has been exemplary. I remain confident in her ability to perform her responsibilities as she

continues to move the Alaska Democratic Party forward."

Neither Kavanaugh nor her attorney responded to calls for comment.

Kavanaugh was stopped after 1 a.m. July 2 by Alaska State Troopers for moving violations on the Sterling Highway, according to a trooper report.

According to the trooper report, investigation revealed Kavanaugh "was impaired by alcoholic beverages." She was charged with driving under the influence of a controlled substance, a misdemeanor, according to court documents.

Kavanaugh refused to submit to a breath test following arrest and was subsequently charged for refused to submit to a chemical test, also a misdemeanor.

According to the trooper report, Kavanaugh unplugged trooper equipment while at a trooper post, resulting in a charge of fifth degree criminal mischief, a misdemeanor.

Kavanaugh was held at the Wildwood pretrial facility in Kenai and later was released.

## Summer lunch program still has open slots

Sentinel staff

Families with children in first through sixth grade still have time to sign up for The Salvation Army's summer lunch program. The program, which began in June, runs through July 29. Ten spots are still available and there is no deadline to sign up.

"This is the second year we have done this program and both years it has been a great

(program) for us to do," said Lt. Jon Tollerud of The Salvation Army in Wrangell. "We believe that providing meals for working families is helpful so that parents can worry a little less during summer about their kids."

Tollerud said on average there are about 12 children who participate in the program Monday through Friday. There are no income qualifications or other restrictions to participate

in the program, he said. Parents need only call 907-874-3753 to sign up their children.

City Market is providing lunches for the program. On the menu for the rest of the season is as follows:

- Monday: Chicken bowl
  - Tuesday through Thursday: Sandwiches
  - Friday: Chicken nuggets and jojo potatoes
- The Salvation Army is located at 611 Zimovia Highway.

## Wrangell gets an extra-large, extra cruise ship visit in September

By LARRY PERSILY  
Sentinel writer

The 1,918-passenger Holland America Noordam has added Wrangell to its end-of-season itinerary, with a stop scheduled for Sept. 21.

The 935-foot-long ship will be on its final Alaska summer-season voyage, a 14-day trip from Vancouver, British Columbia, with visits to Ketchikan, Juneau, Icy Strait Point (Hoonah), Skagway, Sitka and Wrangell, with cruises into Glacier Bay, Endicott/Tracy Arm, Hubbard Glacier and Misty Fjords.

A stop also is planned for Prince Rupert, British Columbia.

The company plans to work with Wrangell tour operators to offer activities for passengers while in port, said Erik Elvejord, director of public relations at Holland America Line. The ship is scheduled to be in Wrangell from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. that day.

The port call in Wrangell is scheduled for the ship's northbound run, between Ketchikan and Juneau. The cruise is scheduled for Sept. 18

through Oct. 2.

The company's more common Southeast Alaska cruises run seven days, with just a single "glacier day," rather than three on the 14-day voyage.

The borough announced the extra cruise ship visit last week.

Fred Angerman, Wrangell port manager for Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska, said the Noordam will be the second-largest ship he can remember calling on the community. Several years ago, the Royal Caribbean Serenade of the Seas, at 27 feet longer than the Noordam, diverted to Wrangell due to bad weather in Sitka, he said.

Tying up the Noordam at the City Dock will require use of the satellite dolphin, which is not connected by a walkway to the dock, Angerman said.

The Noordam, with a beam at almost 106 feet, can carry a crew of 800. It is powered by six generators with a total output capacity of 84,000 horsepower for propulsion and to provide electricity for the vessel.

## Fireworks kill 19-year-old in Gustavus

Anchorage Daily News

A 19-year-old from Wyoming died in Gustavus when he was struck by fireworks he had lit, according to Alaska State Troopers.

Benjamin Jorgensen of Green River, Wyoming, was reported dead late July 4 to the Gustavus Fire Department, troopers said.

Jorgensen lit a commercially produced mortar-style projectile that struck him, killing him instantly, trooper spokesman Austin McDaniel said. Troopers were notified of the death at 11:36 p.m., and National Park Service rangers from Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve responded around 1 a.m. July 5. Troopers flew to the area the next morning.

Jorgensen was working in Pelican and Gustavus, according to McDaniel.

Law enforcement in Wyoming notified Jorgensen's family, troopers said. His body was flown to Anchorage for an autopsy by the State Medical Examiner's Office.

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# Blind, lost dog reunited with Sitka owners after 3 weeks

SITKA (AP) — The family had given up hope of finding their blind, elderly golden retriever who wandered away from their Sitka home three weeks ago, but a construction crew found Lulu in salmonberry bushes after initially confusing her for a bear.

Lulu was barely alive after being found July 5, but she is being nursed back to health and is back home with her family, the Daily Sitka Sentinel reported.

"She means everything," owner Ted Kubacki said. "I have five daughters and they're 4 to 13 years old, so they've spent every day of their life with that dog."

The Kubacki family searched for weeks after Lulu wandered off June 18.

"She's just so helpless, and you kind of imagined that she can't get real far because she can't see," he said.

It didn't help when the family was the subject of a terrible joke when someone claimed they found Lulu a few days into the search.

"We put the kids to bed and got a text saying, 'We found your dog,' or 'I have your dog,' and we're like, 'Oh my god, this is incredible,'" he said. "Then the person texted me, 'Just kidding.' This happened, yeah, that was all part of this terrible story."

After searching weeks, the family had given up hope.

But then a construction crew this week spotted Lulu lying in the brush alongside a road not far from the Kubacki's home. She was about 15 feet down an embankment, and at first the crew thought it was a bear.

"They got a closer look and they realized that it was a dog, and they got her out of there," Kubacki said.

All the sadness melted away when he got the call that Lulu had been found.

"I called my wife from work and it was just screaming. ... She just starts yelling, then she yells to the kids. And I just hear them screaming like crazy," Kubacki said.

Although alive, Lulu was in bad



PHOTO BY JAMES POULSON/THE DAILY SITKA SENTINEL VIA AP

Ted Kubacki gets a lick from the family golden retriever, Lulu, outside their house after being reunited last Thursday in Sitka. The elderly, blind dog who had been missing three weeks, was found by a construction crew in salmonberry bushes after initially confusing her for a bear. Behind Ted is his wife, Rebecca, and their children Ella, Viola, Star, Lazaria and Olive.

shape. The 80-pound dog had dropped 23 pounds since she was lost; she was dehydrated, dirty and her fur was matted.

"I just expected to come back and be like 'Hey, here's my dog.' She's going to jump up and wag her tail and kiss my face, and she couldn't even pick up her head," he said. "She'd been through the wringer."

Lulu's condition has markedly improved with medical care, food and rest.

"Slowly but surely she started eating and she was kind of able to pick her head up," Kubacki said. "But then yesterday, she propped herself up on her front paws by herself, like nestled into me and gave me a kiss and wagged her tail and it was just so great."

A day later, she was able to stand

on her own.

Kubacki, a grocery store employee and the sole provider for his family of seven, then worried about the veterinarian's bill.

Those fears were unfounded as Sitka residents donated hundreds of dollars to cover Lulu's recuperation bills.

"We have our family member home," Kubacki said.

## Southern killer whales at risk for lack of salmon, study says

BELLINGHAM, Wash. (AP) — Southern Resident killer whales of the U.S. and Canadian West Coast have not had enough food for several years, which could affect their already small numbers, according to a study by the University of British Columbia.

Researchers looked at requirements and availability of prey for Northeastern Pacific Southern Resident killer whales. The study found a fluctuating level of salmon from spawning areas on rivers had a detrimental effect on killer whale health, threatening a small and fragile group of whales, the Bellingham Herald reported.

"It really appears like they cannot take (many) more rough years," said Fanny Couture, lead researcher for the study.

About 75 of the Southern Resident killer whales span from the California coast to Haida Gwaii in British Columbia's Queen Charlotte Islands.

They feed on chinook salmon, but number of chinook has decreased even as fishing regulations attempted to bolster their numbers. That leaves animals high on the food chain, like killer whales, without adequate prey.

The study showed a significant decrease in salmon between the years 1979 and 2020.

Studies have shown that a lack of food intake for killer whales has led to lower birth rates and higher death rates. The current study agreed, showing a slightly higher birth rate in years where the killer whales met their dietary needs.

## Skagway merchants oppose cruise line digital payment system on local purchases

*Skagway News and Chilkat Valley News*

Princess Cruises will not add any additional Southeast businesses to its MedallionPay program this summer, taking time after the season ends to better explain to merchants the digital payment system that can be used by passengers to buy goods and services while in port — with a substantial commission retained by the cruise line.

The program takes as much as an 18% commission on local purchases.

Objections from merchants and the mayor in Skagway were part of the company's decision to pause adding new Southeast businesses to the payment system, which Princess offers across its operations.

"We will not be expanding MedallionPay beyond existing participants during the current cruise season. This will provide adequate time in the off-season for us to work individually with local businesses to more thoroughly demonstrate the significant advantages of the program and its associated benefits," Vicki Johnson, head of communications at Princess Cruises, said July 6.

Several merchants in Skagway and Ketchikan are enrolled in MedallionPay, but no one yet in Haines, Johnson said.

The acting director of the Haines Chamber of Commerce doesn't think the program would be very welcome in that community.

It's the cut it takes out of merchant revenues that concerns Andrew Letchworth, of the Haines chamber. "I feel like it wouldn't be a good thing," he said last week.

A lot of businesses operate on narrow profit margins, and an 18% commission "is pretty high," he said.

Of the service fee, 7% is directed back to the passenger as a credit for goods and services purchased onboard, much like a cash-back or points program on an airline or other credit card.

The fee retained by Princess also covers the credit card and bank fees normally paid directly by the merchant, Johnson said.

The program, a quarter-sized digital medallion worn or carried by the cruise passenger, allows travelers to access their rooms, pay for onboard purchases, check in when returning to the ship after visiting a town, track traveling companions on the ship, get directions on the ship and access WiFi and activity schedules. It also keeps track of a customer's onboard purchases.

Princess ships are scheduled for 100 visits to Skagway this summer.

Skagway business owners had sent a letter, signed by 67 people, to Mayor Andrew Cremata, urging him to tell the cruise industry that they are opposed to any system such as MedallionPay coming to town.

Carol Bourcy, of Richter's jewelry and gifts, helped write the letter. She shared concerns of other business owners that those who do not sign up with the program will be at a disadvantage, especially if passengers decide to only use the Princess system to make purchases while in port.

Alaska Fairytales owner Billi Clem testified at the June 16 Skagway borough assembly meeting that she had conversations with a Princess passenger

that set off alarms. Clem said the tourist planned on using MedallionPay in town.

Clem informed the tourist that MedallionPay wasn't used in most Skagway stores.

"She said to me, 'Well, all the shops in this town are owned by Princess.' And I said, 'No, they're not. We are a local town. And we are not owned by the cruise ships.'"

Tina Cyr, of Inspired Arts, nearly lost an \$80 sale when a passenger expected to use MedallionPay. When Cyr let her know she wasn't set up for the program, Cyr said the passenger told her, "Oh, I'm so used to using it for everything on the ship. I didn't even bring my wallet." The woman's husband used his Apple Watch to pay for the purchase.

Cyr downloaded the MedallionPay app to see what it showed for Skagway. She saw three businesses displayed, two of which were jewelry stores. Cyr said she saw Ketchikan had 12 businesses marked as participating merchants.

Deb Potter, a member of the Skagway assembly, said she and the mayor have met with representatives from Holland America and Princess Cruise Line regarding the program.

"It's at a minimum, coming off of two years of a devastated economy, tone deaf — and it's just not compatible with the independent spirit and nature and character of Skagway. And we made that very, very clear. And I feel like they heard us," Potter said.

Cremata reported he is in continued talks with Princess officials.

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# Historian traces lineage of Chilkat weavers back to 1850s

By LISA PHU  
Alaska Beacon

It's called Between Worlds. And it features a diving whale.

"Peering through the bones of this diving whale pattern is this ancestor with her face and hands pressed against the veil between worlds," Alaska Chilkat and Ravenstail Weaver Lily Wooshkindein Da.Áat Hope said. "Because we talk about the Chilkat dancing blanket as the veil that separates our physical realm to the spirit realm on the other side."

Hope and weaving assistant Nadezdha Hughes are working on a full-size ceremonial Chilkat dancing blanket in Hope's studio in downtown Juneau. It's for the Houston Museum of Natural Science and due in less than nine weeks. Chilkat weaving is one of the most complex weaving techniques in the world.

"We've got a cohort of people coming in to help. It's totally fine," Hope said. "My mother would say, 'It's going to be done because that's the deadline it has to be done.'"

Hope's mother Clarissa Rizal, renowned Chilkat and Ravenstail weaver who died in 2016, along with Hope and Hughes are part of a teaching lineage that goes back hundreds of years. In a newly published book, historian Zachary Jones has traced that lineage to the 1850s when Clara Newman Benson, whose Tlingit name was Deink.ul.át, was born.

"Clara Benson taught (Ester Johnson) to weave. (Johnson) taught her daughter Jenny Thlunaut to weave. Jenny Thlunaut taught Clarissa Rizal to weave. Clarissa Rizal taught a number of people to weave, including Lily Hope, of Juneau, who is a weaver today and helping other weavers learn about this skill and art," Jones said.

"A Life Painted in Yarn: A Biography of Tlingit Chilkat Weaver Clara Newman Benson" is the first-ever biography of the Klukwan artist who lived from 1856 to 1935 and was a significant Chilkat weaver of her day. Of the G.aanax.teidí clan, Yéil Hít (Raven House) of Klukwan, Benson was known for weaving Chilkat tunics and Chilkat robes.

Jones said she was one of the most prolific and sought-after weavers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He first heard about Benson when he was an archivist and collection manager for Sealaska Heritage Institute.

"I would acknowledge the late Johnny Marks. He was an elder and former coworker at Sealaska Heritage, and he would come to my office and bring a picture of her and say, 'This is Mrs. Benson. She was a great weaver from our community,'" Jones said.

At that point, Jones didn't even know her first name.

"He just said she was known as Mrs. Benson. And there were a few people who would say, 'This is Mrs. Benson.' There was not a lot of information known



PHOTO BY LISA PHU/ALASKA BEACON

Chilkat and Ravenstail Weaver Lily Wooshkindein Da.Áat Hope (background) and weaving assistant Nadezdha Hughes work on a full-size ceremonial Chilkat dancing blanket in Hope's studio in Juneau on July 5.

by anyone that I talked to or that could speak about her, so it really prompted me to try and address that. Who was this woman? What was her story?" Jones said.

Jones' research into Benson's life involved talking to individuals who had any information about her, including weavers and tribal historian Harold Jacobs who's a cultural resource specialist at Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. Jones researched hundreds of museum collections from all over the world, as well as historic records at archival and museum repositories that he could locate.

"I've reached out to every museum in the United States that holds ethnographic material in hopes of piecing together all the clues that I can," Jones said.

He even found Benson's own words.

"Clara Benson was interviewed by an anthropologist around 100 years ago, and she shared her words about Tlingit history and provided some clues about her own life to him," Jones said.

Jones hasn't been able to locate any family or descendants of Benson. Still, he

thinks his book offers "a window into her life and understanding of who she was."

Jones said Benson was a leader in her community who served others.

"To be a weaver is not just to be an artist. It is to be a person who has immense patience and dedication to producing an item that takes many hours of labor," he said.

"That creation - though it's an absolute, beautiful piece of art that takes many, many hours, sometimes six months to a year or more to create and gather the materials for - is something that's important in the Tlingit community. These robes are used ceremonially and have a very important role," Jones said. "Claire was not only just an artist, she's someone that produced items that continue to live on and serve her community."

The Shangukeidí (Thunderbird Clan) of Klukwan holds a robe that Benson weaved, according to Jones. People can still see it danced or worn at events in Juneau, like Celebration, or elsewhere in Southeast Alaska. As a leader of the Shangukeidí, the late Tlingit elder and culture bearer Kingeistí David Katzeek

used to wear it.

Benson is one of about two dozen historic Tlingit individuals that Jones originally profiled in his dissertation, which he finished in 2018 for a doctorate in ethnohistory through the University of Alaska Fairbanks. "A Life Painted in Yarn" is published by Sealaska Heritage Institute.

There were limitations to Jones' research, unanswered questions about Benson's life he still can't figure out - whether Benson had any kids of her own.

"In the course of her life, she had three husbands that I've been able to document," Jones said. "She had stepchildren through her second and third marriage, but I've never been able to document a biological child."

Another unanswered question: Who taught Benson to weave? Who precedes Benson in the teaching lineage?

"I could never determine that aspect," Jones said. "It remains a mystery I'd like to solve someday."

*The AlaskaBeacon.com is a donor-funded independent news organization in Alaska.*

## Pope Francis will make limited stops on apology tour to Canada

By ROB GILLIES  
The Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) - Indigenous leaders met with Canadian bishops and were told Pope Francis will not add any more stops - despite their request - during his trip to Canada this month, when he will apologize in person for the abuse suffered by Indigenous people at the hands of the Catholic church.

Pope Francis, who has been using a wheelchair because of a bad knee, will head to Canada on July 24 and visit Alberta, Quebec and Iqaluit, a small town in the far north that is closer to Greenland than it is to any major Canadian city. The pope will depart Canada on July 29.

"Three locations were picked. The survivors had no say in that. We weren't asked," said Ken Young, a former regional chief of the Assembly of First Nations in Manitoba.

"We asked the bishops if that could change to include oth-

"The church has to accept ownership and responsibility for what happened to First Nations people and families. The impacts were life changing and life lasting."

Ken Young,  
former regional chief  
Assembly of First Nations in Manitoba

er venues, perhaps Kamloops (British Columbia), and that answer was no."

Richard Smith, the archbishop of Edmonton, said the Vatican made it clear the trip had to be short, considering the pope's health. "The Vatican has announced those three sites, and when the Vatican announces it, that's it," Smith said.

With the Canada trip, Francis, 85, will be testing his stamina. After weeks of limping badly due to what the Vatican has said is a badly strained knee liga-

ment, Francis began arriving at some public appearances in a wheelchair.

In Edmonton, the pope will take part in an open-air mass at Commonwealth Stadium to mark the feast of St Anne on July 26. The next day, he will travel to Quebec City, where he is expected to meet Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

He will hold mass on July 28 at Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupre, in Quebec, one of the oldest pilgrimage sites in North America. On July 29, the pope will trav-

el to his final stop on the trip in Iqaluit, in the northern territory of Nunavut, where he will hold a private meeting with residential school survivors before joining a public event.

Pressure for a papal apology to Canada's Indigenous people increased when the apparent remains of more than 200 children were detected buried in unmarked graves in Kamloops, British Columbia, last year at what had been Canada's largest Indigenous residential school. There are also unidentified remains in unmarked graves at other residential schools across Canada. Indigenous leaders wanted Francis to visit Kamloops.

From the 19th century until the 1970s, more than 150,000 Indigenous children in Canada were forced to attend state-funded Christian schools as an effort to assimilate them into Canadian society. Canada's government has admitted that

physical and sexual abuse was rampant in the schools, with students beaten for speaking their native languages.

Earlier this year, Francis made a historic apology in the Vatican for abuses in Canada's church-run residential schools and expressed "sorrow and shame" for the lack of respect for Indigenous identities, culture and spiritual values. He said then that he wanted to go to Canada to deliver the apology personally to survivors.

Young said the apology at the Vatican didn't go far enough but said he's confident the pope will say the right thing.

"The church has to accept ownership and responsibility for what happened to First Nations people and families," Young said. "The impacts were life changing and life lasting. We expect, at least I expect, the pope to apologize on behalf of the Catholic Church in the right way."

# Troller crew rescued as boat sinks off Chichagof Island

By ZAZ HOLLANDER  
Anchorage Daily News

Howard Starbard knew he had a problem when the pumps couldn't keep up with the water pouring into his 37-foot commercial fishing boat, Miss Amy.

The 63-year-old retired Alaska State Troopers commander couldn't know he was about to spend 45 minutes in the sea, fighting to stay afloat before a relative, two Good Samaritan vessels and the U.S. Coast Guard intervened to help him survive his boat's sinking off the Southeast community of Pelican.

Starbard was power trolling for king salmon during a commercial opener July 4 with his 13-year-old grandson and 35-year-old nephew about three miles off the west coast of Chichagof Island. It was the first day the Miss Amy had been out all summer.

Then the high-water alarm sounded.

Within three or four minutes, Starbard said in a July 6 interview, he issued a Mayday call on the VHF radio. Then he told the others — grandson Timothy Drake II and nephew Chris Larsen — to haul up the fishing gear and powered the Miss Amy for the Cirus, a salmon tender some ways off toward shore.

"From that moment until I was released from the ER here in Sitka, the per-

ception of time was distorted," Starbard said as he and family members waited for a flight home to Juneau.

He'd never been on the receiving end of a rescue before.

U.S. Coast Guard watchstanders picked up the report that the Miss Amy was taking on water near Porcupine Rock and Lisianski Strait off Chichagof Island, the agency said. They issued an urgent marine broadcast, directed the launch of a helicopter and rerouted a cutter in that direction.

The Cirus and another vessel, the power troller Lucky Strike, responded to the broadcast, the Coast Guard said.

It was the Cirus that Starbard was making for as his boat took on water. Starbard sped up, dragging gear after the hydraulics to raise it went down, to get closer to the tender.

They came alongside. By then, the water was halfway up the engines and the boat was listing as it filled even faster, Starbard said.

His grandson jumped over to the tender first, with help from the Cirus crew as the churning water slammed the boats together. Then Larsen made the jump.

But at Starbard's turn, he missed, and plunged into the frigid 6-foot seas.

Somebody threw a rescue ring but

there was no footing on the boat's stern. The crew and his family couldn't pull him up. A ladder extended down was too high to climb out.

Starbard, growing exhausted and hypothermic, wrapped his arms around a rung and was pummeled by waves. There had been no time to put on survival gear, he said. His only mission had been to get his boat to the tender as fast as possible.

The other boat, the Lucky Strike, came alongside. Someone tossed a line into the water.

"At that point hypothermia was kind of getting to me. I was unable to really do anything," Starbard said.

That's when Larsen jumped into the water and got the line around his uncle so the Lucky Strike crew could hoist him aboard with an electric boat winch.

"I couldn't keep my head up," Starbard said, pausing a few times as he became emotional. "Chris swam with me. He kept my head up. He's the hero."

Fog and limited visibility prevented the vessels from leaving the area, the Coast Guard said. The survivors were hoisted into a Coast Guard Jayhawk helicopter and transferred to Sitka for medical care.

Just after 7 p.m. on July 4, Amy Starbard got a call: The Coast Guard was

receiving a distress signal from her husband's boat. Her daughter got a similar call. Someone mentioned one person was unresponsive. She knew that wasn't Larsen, an experienced deckhand. It was either her grandson or her husband.

She and her daughter boarded a flight to Sitka right away. She finally heard from Drake just before leaving.

"He said grandpa was going to the hospital," Amy Starbard said. "But that he was OK."

Her husband was treated for hypothermia, tested, and released.

On July 6, Starbard was battered and bruised but thankful not only for his nephew's help but the aid from the two Good Samaritan vessels that helped pull them all from the water.

"We're all very very very grateful," Amy Starbard said.

Howard Starbard doesn't know what caused the boat to take on water. The Miss Amy sank in about 150 feet of water, carrying salmon as well as about 260 gallons of diesel and small amounts of motor and hydraulic oil — Starbard was careful to note the precise estimates.

Starbard's Alaska State Troopers retirement badge was among the items lost when the boat went down.

## Both sides of abortion debate in Alaska look to constitutional convention vote

By LISA PHU  
The Alaska Beacon  
With last month's U.S. Supreme Court decision overturn-

ing Roe v. Wade, reproductive rights advocates in Alaska are encouraging voters to vote no on a constitutional convention

during the general election this November, while abortion opponents are encouraging voters to vote yes.

The right to have an abortion in Alaska is protected through the state constitution's provision on privacy, as recognized by the Alaska Supreme Court in 1997. This November, voters will be asked whether or not to call a constitutional convention, which would pave the way for changing the constitution and potentially taking away that protection for abortion.

Nancy Courtney is a board member of Juneau Pro-Choice Coalition, which organized a June 25 rally in the capital city. She said voting no on the constitutional convention in the November general election is included in its fundraising letter to supporters.

"That's one of the biggest fears that we have is that it's going to open up Pandora's box if we have a constitutional convention," Courtney said.

Opponents of a constitutional convention also argue it is the wrong time — with so much political divisiveness — to attempt a rewrite of the state constitution.

In 2021, Palmer Sen. Shelley Hughes sponsored Senate Joint Resolution 4, which proposed an amendment to the Alaska Constitution relating to abortion.

The resolution would've amended the constitution to add a new section: "To protect human life, nothing in this constitution may be construed to secure or protect a right to an

abortion or require the state to fund an abortion."

It passed out of two committee and didn't go any further. It never made it to the Senate or House floors to get the two-thirds votes needed to get on a statewide election ballot.

The legislative effort is the language that Jim Minnery wants to see taken up during a constitutional convention.

Minnery is a president of Alaska Family Action, a non-profit Christian public policy organization. He said the court's interpretation of the state constitution was wrong.

The Alaska Supreme Court in 1997 recognized that "reproductive rights are fundamental, and that they are encompassed within the right to privacy expressed in Article 1, Section 22 of the Alaska Constitution ... These fundamental reproductive rights include the right to an abortion."

Minnery said, "We believe firmly that the Supreme Court of Alaska interpreted the privacy clause in a manner that wasn't at all meant by the founding fathers when they put the privacy clause in there, (which) has absolutely nothing to do with abortion."

In addition to protecting "innocent, pre-born lives," Minnery wants a constitutional convention because he supports reforming the judicial selection process to be

Continued on page 12

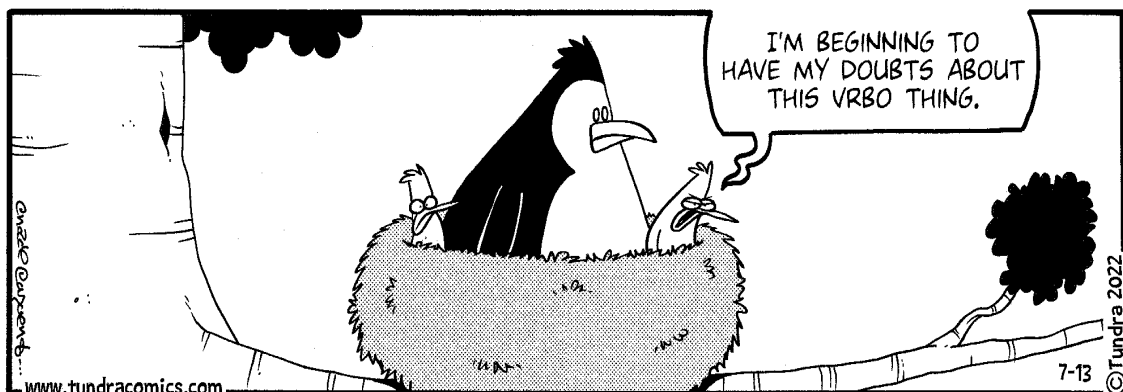
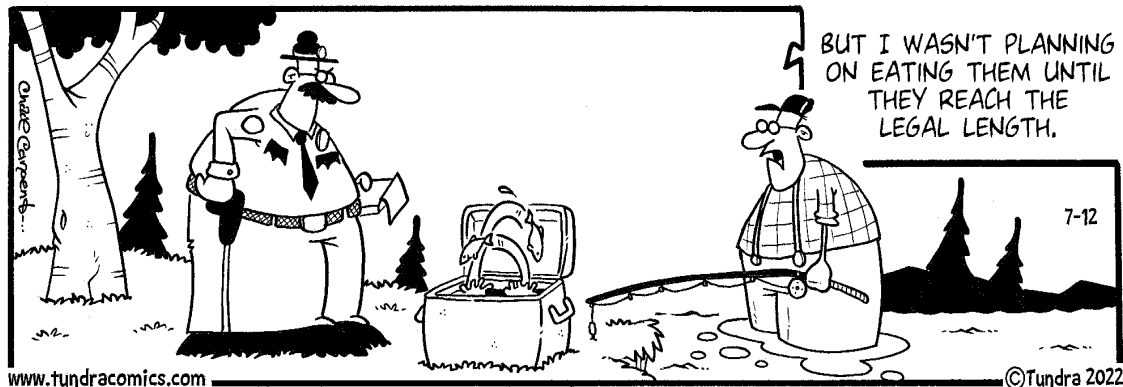
## Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



## Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



## Police report

Monday, July 4  
Courtesy transport.

- Theft.
- Dog complaint.
- Hazardous play.
- Disturbance.
- Driving under the influence:
- Arrested.
- Traffic stop.
- Noise complaint.

Tuesday, July 5  
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for defective headlights on 4-wheeler.  
Death investigation.  
Civil standby.  
Criminal mischief.  
Animal bite.  
Disturbance.

Wednesday, July 6  
Trespass warning.  
Citizen assist: Unlock vehicle.  
Traffic complaint: 4-wheeler.  
Agency assist: Dead deer.  
Traffic stop: Verbal warning

given for no headlights and failure to yield.

Thursday, July 7  
Traffic hazard.  
Agency assist: Department of Transportation.  
Criminal damage: Unfounded.  
Summons service.

Friday, July 8  
Citizen assist: Unlock vehicle.

Saturday, July 9  
Disturbance.

Sunday, July 10  
Traffic stop.  
Civil issue.  
Citizen assist: Power outage.  
Citizen assist.  
Vehicle unlock.  
During this reporting period there were five agency assists for the Hoonah Police Department, four firework complaints and four ambulance requests.

# Supreme Court gives states authority to prosecute cases on Native land

## Likely no impact on Alaska cases

By FELICIA FONSECA  
AND LINDSAY WHITEHURST  
The Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — A U.S. Supreme Court ruling expanding state authority to prosecute some crimes on Native American land is fracturing decades of law built around the hard-fought principle that tribes have the right to govern themselves on their own territory, legal experts say.

The June 29 ruling is a marked departure from federal Indian law and veers away from the push to increase tribes' ability to prosecute all crimes on reservations — regardless of who is involved. It also casts tribes as part of states, rather than the sovereign nations they are, infuriating many across Indian Country.

"The majority (opinion) is not firmly rooted in the law that I have dedicated my life to studying and the history as I know it to be true," said Elizabeth Hidalgo Reese, an assistant law professor at Stanford University who is enrolled at Nambé Pueblo in New Mexico. "And that's just really concerning."

Federal authorities largely maintain exclusive jurisdiction to investigate serious, violent crime on reservations across much of the U.S. when the suspect or victim is Native American. The 5-4 decision from the high court in a case out of Oklahoma means states will share in that authority when the suspect is not Native American and the victim is.

Criminal justice on tribal lands already is a tangled web, and the ruling likely will present new thorny questions about jurisdiction, possible triple jeopardy and how to tackle complicated crimes in remote areas where resources are stretched thin. States had power to prosecute crimes involving only non-Natives on reservations before last week's ruling.

"It will have an impact in Indian Country, so only the future will tell us if it's good or not," said Robert Miller, a law professor at Arizona State

University and citizen of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe. "Is it better to have more criminal prosecutions, more governments enforcing crimes or less?"

The court ruling likely will have no impact in Alaska, said an Anchorage attorney familiar with the issues.

"The entire case arises in Indian Country, specifically on Indian reservations. To that extent, the case is somewhat less germane to the situation in Alaska," Loyd Miller, an Anchorage attorney specializing in Indian law, said in an Alaska Public Media interview aired on July 5. "I think the direct application in Alaska is pretty limited, actually nonexistent."

In addition, Alaska is one of more than 20 states covered by a 1953 law "conferring full criminal jurisdiction on the state of Alaska to prosecute all crimes that come up in any Indian country that might exist," Miller said.

Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote a scathing dissent to the Supreme Court decision, joined by the court's three liberal members, saying "one can only hope the political branches and future courts will do their duty to honor this Nation's promises even as we have failed today to do on our own."

Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. of the Cherokee Nation said the court "failed in its duty to honor this nation's promises, defied Congress's statutes and accepted the 'lawless disregard of the Cherokee's sovereignty.'"

It's unclear how the decision ultimately will play out for tribes, but there is precedent. The tribal governance statute

Congress passed in 1953 was partly intended to relieve the federal government of funding public safety on some reservations. The law resulted in state authority over crime in several states, including Alaska and California where about three-fifths of the 574 federally recognized tribes are based.

Tribes did not consent to the system, and Congress did not fund the expansion of state authority on tribal land.

"Federal Indian law is just littered with cases in which tribes were denied the opportunity to speak on their own behalf," said Lauren van Schilfgaarde, a member of Cochiti Pueblo in New Mexico who directs the Tribal Legal Development Clinic at the UCLA.

Federal authorities have long been criticized for declining to prosecute cases in Indian Country — roughly a third, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. Authorities in states also have been criticized for a lack of response to crime in Indian Country, where law enforcement officers often must travel long distances to investigate reported crimes.

Tribes asserted that the federal government — with which they have a political relationship — is the appropriate sovereign entity to handle criminal matters. Congress maintains control over Native American and Alaska Native affairs, which are overseen by the Department of Interior.

States have no such obligation to tribes.

Kevin Washburn, dean of the University of Iowa's law school, said it will be interesting to see how the priority question shakes out.

"That is, will feds take pri-

macy or will state prosecutors take primacy in cases?" asked Washburn, who is Chickasaw and a former assistant Interior secretary for Indian Affairs. "And how do they decide who will be first or who will move at all?"

While the Supreme Court ruling is an expansion of power for states, it doesn't come with a similar increase for tribes. A 1978 ruling stripped tribes of any criminal jurisdiction over non-Natives on their reservations. The reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act in 2013 restored some of that authority in limited domestic violence cases

and further expanded it earlier this year.

Less than 1% of federally recognized tribes in the U.S. have implemented that authority. It raises the possibility of tribes, the state and the feds prosecuting a suspect for the same offense.

Most tribes can sentence convicted offenders to only a year in jail, regardless of the crime. A 2010 federal law increased tribes' sentencing authority to three years for a single crime. Few tribes have met the federal requirements to use that authority, including having public defenders and law-trained judges.

## THANK YOU

### THANK YOU

Thanks and Gunalchéesh to Alaska Vistas, ANB, the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce, Harbor Department, Parks and Recreation Department and WCA for all their support with the July 3 canoe races. Both scheduled and spontaneous helping hands made it possible for 100 entrants to participate.

John and Cindy Martin

### THANK YOU

Thank you to Alaska Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood for the donation and frybread sale on the Fourth of July. Gunalchéesh ho ho!

Wrangell JOM

### THANK YOU

The Stough family, James and Rachel, would like to say a big thank you to all the people who contribute to the Art Clark Scrap Fish Derby every year and for the first time. Just to name a few: Jeff and Dawn Angerman, Dustin and Kayla Phillips, Fathom with Seafoods, Vern Meissner with Rock Island Welding, John Agostine, City Market, Sentry Hardware, Aaron Powell with the Totem Bar, Pacific Sea-

foods, Scott Eastaughm and the Wrangell Sentinel. And thank you to all the volunteers who make the Art Clark Fishing Derby: Rynda Hayes, Katrina Ottesen, Brian McCloskey, Tammi and Gregg Meissner, J.C. and Solvay Gillen and many more. Thank you all for supporting the kids.

James and Rachel Stough

### THANK YOU

Moving to Wrangell is always a logistical juggling act, and moving two households at the same time, in the same AML container was like juggling a handkerchief, a bowling pin, a tennis racquet and a chainsaw, while spinning plates. Thankfully, Jack Carney and the Wrangell High School wrestling team stepped up, unloaded our container, brought in a flatbed truck and shuttled boxes and furniture to the second home site with efficiency, grace and good humor. We so appreciate the strength, energy and commitment of these young folk, and the warmth of Wrangell hospitality and welcome.

Pastor Sue, Bill, Michael, Sara and Sebastian Bahleda

## CLASSIFIED

### FREE

Community compost at the community garden! Add compostables to the bin labeled ADD and cover with three yellow buckets full of browns that are located in the fish tote. Fruit and vegetable scraps only please, no meat, bones, fats, breads or potatoes.

### FREE

Recycled newspapers. Stop by

the Sentinel to pick some up.

### FREE ADS

Do you have something to sell? Having a garage sale? Looking to buy something? Classified ads for individuals and community groups are free in the Sentinel. Contact Amber at 907-874-2301 or email wrgsent@gmail.com.

### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE OF JOB OPENING Harbor Maintenance/Security

The Wrangell Harbor Department will accept in-house applications from current IBEW-represented employees for the position of Harbor Maintenance/Security through July 22, 2022, at 5 p.m. This is a permanent position with all City and Borough benefits and is part of the IBEW collective bargaining agreement.

This position has considerable responsibility for operations at Port and Harbor Facilities. The post comes with autonomy, but also the duty to coordinate and cooperate with those outside the Harbor Department.

This position provides daily maintenance of all Port and Harbor Facilities and maintains a preventative maintenance program for all Port and Harbor Facilities. The work is performed under the supervision of the Port and Harbor Director but considerable leeway is granted for the exercise of independent judgment and initiative. The nature of the work requires that an employee maintain effective working relationships with other city departments and employees, State and Federal officials, business and community organizations and the public. Performs duties as part of the Department of Homeland Security Port Security Plan.

Requires knowledge of marine construction and maintenance operations. Requires basic carpenter skills. Requires boat handling skills. Requires basic computer skills. Requires the ability to weld steel and aluminum, or ability to learn those skills. Requires basic plumbing skills.

A High School Diploma or GED is required. Must have a valid Alaska driver's license, valid TWIC card, and basic First Aid/CPR certification or the ability to obtain all within 6 months.

Applications and job descriptions may be obtained and returned to Robbie Marshall at City Hall, 205 Brueger St., PO Box 531, Wrangell, AK 99929, or email to rmarshall@wrangell.com.

The City and Borough of Wrangell is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Jeff Good, Borough Manager  
City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

Publish July 13 and 20, 2022



## ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY NOW HIRING!

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Visit the employment page on our website for current positions open for recruitment and details on the application process.

**FerryAlaska.com/employment**

# Final finishers boat into Ketchikan after 21 days at sea

By SCOTT BOWLEN  
Ketchikan Daily News

With smiles and hugs, the 2022 Race to Alaska concluded last Thursday evening when the last two teams still in the race — Fix Oder Nix and Sockeye Voyages — arrived at the finish in Ketchikan's Thomas Basin.

It had taken both teams more than 21 days to complete the approximately 710-mile distance between Victoria, British Columbia, where the R2AK's second leg to Ketchikan had begun at noon Pacific time on June 16.

Sails, oars or paddles — no motors allowed.

"We made it," Joachim Roesler of Team Fix Oder Nix said after their arrival at the Baranof Excursions dock.

"And we're still talking to each other," added Zoë Sheeha Saldaña, the other member of Fix Oder Nix.

The couple exchanged big hugs and a kiss before ringing the R2AK bell on the dock to signal the conclusion of their race.

Their lighthearted mood was mirrored

by the three-person crew of Team Sockeye Voyages when they arrived at 7:45 p.m.

"We're the bow on the end of the race," said Tara Watkins after sharing hugs with teammates John Calogero and Olivia Lord.

The two teams were among the 32 teams that had started the second leg of the 2022 R2AK in Victoria — and were the 18th and 19th teams to complete the race. The rest had exited the competition earlier, several due to vessel damage sustained from striking floating logs in the water along the route early in the race.

Last Thursday's finishers were far behind the race-winning team of Pure and Wild, whose 44-foot monohull finished the race on June 20 with a time of four days, four hours and 32 minutes.

Team Fix Oder Nix and their 24.5-foot customized stretch Angus RowCruiser finished in 21 days, seven hours and 25 minutes.

"It's not a race boat," Roesler said. "It's not fast, but it's a floating camping cruiser."

Team Sockeye Voyages had a similar

size vessel and concept, with a 23.5-foot Bolger trimaran that Calogero described as a "wooden gaff-rigged schooner." They finished in 21 days, eight hours and 45 minutes.

During the course of those 21-plus days, Team Fix Oder Nix had held sizable leads over Sockeye Voyages. Fix Oder Nix tagged the waypoint at Bella Bella, British Columbia, on the evening of June 27, followed by Sockeye Voyages around midday on June 30.

Their routes from Bella Bella diverged, with Fix Oder Nix traveling north along the channels east of Princess Royal and Pitt Islands. That proved a difficult route, with the vessel fighting a strong current for much of the way, said Saldaña.

Sockeye Voyages kept to the west of those islands. By early morning July 5, Sockeye Voyages had inched ahead before being overtaken again by Fix Oder Nix. Both teams were hoping to maintain a pace that would keep them ahead of the "Grim Sweeper" boat that, if it passed them on its way north, would signal the end of their race.

On July 6, Sockeye Voyages passed

Fix Oder Nix, but the two-person team caught back up by mid-morning Thursday, July 7. Both teams made good use of southerly winds to cover much of the distance to Ketchikan during the day, with Fix Oder Nix able to widen its lead as the day progressed.

Earlier in the day, R2AK Race Boss Daniel Evans talked about the difficult conditions experienced by participants in this year's race — the first since 2019.

"It was a trying year," Evans said. "With (the final two boats) coming in, only 53% of the teams that started in Port Townsend (Washington) are making it. ... That's hard work. The logs this year were really tremendous, the weather took its toll on some of the smaller boats. And the first day out of Port Townsend was brutal, just brutal — a number of teams didn't make it past that first day."

"It's exactly what everyone thinks it is," Evans continued. "It's a race to Alaska on a boat without an engine and it's a lot of work. I think the statistics proved throughout this year that it was tough."

Ketchikan Daily News writer Kody Malouf contributed to this story.

## State allows distilleries to sell premixed drinks in small kegs to bars, restaurants

By JAMES BROOKS  
Alaska Beacon

Alaska's state alcohol regulator is declining to stop distilleries from selling kegs of premixed cocktails despite a warning by federal regulators, who have concluded that the process is illegal.

The Alaska Alcohol Control Board has rescinded an advisory notice that had cautioned distilleries against selling kegs to bars and other places with alcohol licenses. The board also voted unanimously to create a working group to consider the topic further.

"In the meantime, I'm not going to go after a guy who has been doing something, allegedly lawfully for (four) years under our nose," said Joan Wilson, director of the Alaska Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office.

Sassan Mossanen is the CEO of Denali Brewing and Spirits in Talkeetna and has been selling cocktails by the keg for four

years.

State law forbids distilleries from selling a keg to an individual — Alaska has strict limits on serving sizes — but there are no state laws that forbid a distillery from selling a keg to a bar or restaurant that has a liquor license.

In April, following a question from a Denali Spirits sales agent, the state licensing board began investigating whether federal regulations might bar the practice.

Alcohol sales practices are controlled by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, a section of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

The bureau has a section of regulations called "standards of fill," which dictate the size of bottles that a distillery, winery or brewery can sell.

"It sounds like the activity you described would not be allowed by federal regulations," a federal investigator told the state's lead enforcement officer,

after he asked about keg sales.

After that message, the state agency sent a warning notice. "The thought at that time was, 'Of course, we're going to enforce the (federal) standards,' and we sent out an advisory to people to let them know that," Wilson said.

Tom Hogue, a spokesperson for the Tax and Trade Bureau, confirmed the regulations.

"In terms of making a premixed product, like a margarita, or piña colada, somebody who's properly permitted as a distiller can go ahead and produce a product like that, as long as it's properly labeled and everything else. The thing is, they'll have to remove it from their premises in a container that meets one of the standards of fill requirements. There are certain container sizes that are allowable, and the largest container size that they could use would be 1.8 liters," he said. That equals a half-gallon.

Most cocktail kegs are one-sixth of a barrel, or just over 5

gallons.

Mossanen and Lee Ellis, board president of the Brewers Guild of Alaska, testified in front of the alcohol board in late June, urging the five-member body to disregard the federal guidance and continue keg sales.

"For us, this is a very, very big deal. There are significant financial consequences," Mossanen said.

Ellis' employer, Midnight Sun Brewing in Anchorage, also holds a distillery license.

"I would say we have already lost business opportunities because of (the uncertainty)," Ellis told the alcohol board.

Nationally, and within Alaska, the trend in alcohol sales has been toward "premiumization" — smaller volumes of higher-quality alcohol instead of bigger amounts of cheap products.

Alcoholic and nonalcoholic cocktails represent a larger part of the alcohol industry than they did a few years ago, and so-called "ready to drink"

cocktails, which don't require a bartender's intervention, are a particularly fast-growing niche.

Mossanen said it's common for distilleries to sell cocktails as a way to demonstrate to bartenders and the public how their liquor can be used.

Denali Spirits and many other distilleries in the state sell ready-to-drink cocktails by the can, but selling by the keg is more efficient and allows Mossanen's company to better compete with other kinds of alcohol, he said.

He acknowledged the federal regulation but said that because Alaska doesn't have a similar state law, it's unenforceable. He compared the situation to the way Alaska handles marijuana, which is federally illegal but legal within the state.

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## Convention

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more like the federal system.

"The governor should have the ability to be able to appoint people who are aligned with their belief system and how they believe jurisprudence should be carried out," he said.

Currently, when appointing justices to the Alaska Supreme Court, the governor must choose from a list of two or more nominees compiled by the Alaska Judicial Council. The Alaska Judicial Council is an independent state commission.

Every 10 years, the state constitution requires that voters decide: "Shall there be a Constitutional Convention?" Alaskans have rejected the ballot measure every decade, often by a 2-to-1 margin.

Voters will be asked the question during the upcoming general election in November. If the majority votes yes, what comes next is a multi-year process, Josh Applebee with the lieutenant governor's office said.

"The process could take as long as four-plus years or, depending on the Legislature, it could be as short as, say, two years," Applebee said. The Legislature would be responsible for outlining the delegate selection process.

According to the constitution, "delegates to the convention shall be chosen at the next regular statewide election, unless the legislature provides for the election of the delegates at a special election."

The next regular statewide election after this November isn't until the primary election in August 2024.

Once delegates are selected, the convention would be held. After the convention takes place, amendments or revisions to the constitution must be ratified by voters in another election.

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