NEWS
Assembly asked to nix OK of farm in Back Loop area
P. 15



VOICES
Weighing in as early voting starts Monday
P. 17-18



SPORTS
JDHS season ends with road loss in semifinals
P. 21



Juneau Independent

The True Local Newspaper of Alaska's Capital City October 18, 2026

Indigenous Peoples Day celebrated at UAS

'Pull With Me' organized by Wooch.éen students highlights past, future of dugout canoes



After the event, Brooke Rohweder Kenney looks at paddles carved by University of Alaska Southeast students of Wayne Price on Monday, Oct. 12, 2026. (Jasz Garrett / Juneau Independent)

By ELLIE RUEL, Reporter

Stories exploring the cultural revival of dugout canoes and journeys were shared at an Indigenous Peoples Day event on the University of Alaska Southeast campus. More than 70 people gathered in the Egan Library for film screenings and talks by Indigenous leaders, master carver Kaajis. yoodzi.áxk Wayne Price and his students.

Price carved his first canoe, an 18-foot dugout he dubbed "Little Brother" about 40 years ago. He was inspired to explore canoe carving after doing other carvings with an adze, a traditional woodworking tool with an elbow-like handle and steel blade.

"You have to hit that next chip just

*See **IPD** on Page 13*

Fired Switzer Village manager sued by mother for $7M+ in unpaid loans

Longtime manager and her husband accused by park's majority owner of diverting park funds and materials to couple's construction company; couple's attorney calls matter 'a family dispute'

By MARK SABBATINI, Editor

A longtime manager at Switzer Village Mobile Home Park and her husband are accused of diverting large amounts of money and other assets to their construction company, and also

*See **Switzer** on Page 11*

Trump touts Sullivan at Wasilla rally

President endorses Wilson for governor; claim Taiwan will buy 30% of gas from pipeline comes as he repeats falsehood about South Korea's investment in project

By MARK SABBATINI, Editor

President Donald Trump expressed strong support for U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan in Alaska's tight U.S. Senate race and Bernadette Wilson among the three Republicans in the four-candidate governor's race during a rally in Wasilla on Tuesday.

"In less than two years, Sen. Sullivan and I have delivered more for Alaska than any senator and any president," Trump said during his 90-minute appearance at what appeared to be a full 3,500-seat Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center.

Trump also made a multitude of false and questionable statements before and during the rally. Among those were claims that Republican gubernatorial candidate Dave Bronson reneged on a promise to drop out of the

*See **Rally** on Page 7*

About the Juneau Independent

Editor: Mark Sabbatini
Managing Editor: Jasz Garrett
Sports Editor: Klas Stolpe
Reporter: Ellie Ruel
Advertising Manager: Douglas Drazkowski
Volunteer Coordinator: Lori Thomson
Graphic Designer: Leo Kotlarov

Mailing Address :
Juneau Independent
130 Seward St., Suite 509
Juneau, AK 99801

Telephone: (907) 957-2306
E-mail: editor@juneauindependent.com

Republishing guidelines

Original content from the Juneau Independent may be republished. Credit must be given to the Juneau Independent and any co-reporting partners. The byline at the top of the story should include the original author's name(s) and publication(s). The end of the story should have a tagline stating "This story was originally published by the Juneau Independent, an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan online news source." Online publishers must include a link to the original story. Edits to conform to in-house style or for length are allowed. Photos and graphics can only be used with the story they originally appeared unless permission for other uses is given. The content itself may not be sold or used to sell advertising, beyond its normal inclusion as part of a commercial publication with ads already sold. For other uses of content contact editor@juneauindependent.com.

Submitting material

Letters, columns, photos and other material are welcome. Submissions in electronic form (text, Word documents, JPEGs, etc.) are highly preferred, although typing and/or scanning of items will be considered on a per-case basis. We reserve the right to edit submissions for length, clarity, accuracy, libel and other reasons, but we will also make every resonable effort to contact the author about any changes prior to publication.

Trash disposal issue moves forward on the Planning Commission's priorities list

Flood mitigation still top funding ask from state lawmakers, but commission members diverge from draft CBJ list by ranking new waste facility second instead of fourth

By MARK SABBATINI, Editor

Juneau's limited trash disposal capacity is a growing concern and it's time to make the issue a foremost priority, according to Planning Commission members ranking it above all other projects except glacier flood mitigation on a list of state funding requests during their meeting Tuesday night.

The 22-project list is an early draft of funding priorities submitted each year by the City and Borough of Juneau to the Alaska Legislature as part of the state budget process. The Assembly typically submits the list in February after getting input from local boards and commissions, with the number of projects and amount of requested funding generally far exceeding what state lawmakers approve for communities.

The top four project priorities in the draft sent to the Planning Commission for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2027, are $50 million for flood mitigation, $3 million for administrative work on a second Juneau-Douglas crossing, $6.3 million to upgrade the Mendenhall Wastewater Treatment Plant, and $14.6 million for design and construction of a solid waste transfer station.

The Planning Commission opted to rank the waste transfer station second, while dropping the Juneau-Douglas crossing one spot.

"I spent a lot of time this election season talking to people, both at the Assembly level and the state level, and one thing that was clear to me is that our solid waste situation is incredibly problematic," said Mandy Cole, a commission member, during the meeting, "Basically the refrain I heard over and over again is it won't be a priority until we make it a priority."

Cole said she has pushed hard for a second Juneau-Douglas crossing during the

*See **Planning** on Page 6*

The governor's race goes from 'Likely Republican' to 'Lean Democrat' in one month at Cook Political Report

Latest rating shift away from Republicans in Alaska races comes on day President Trump visits Wasilla to boost party's candidates

By MARK SABBATINI, Editor



Laura McDonnell, left, moderates a gubernatorial candidate forum between, from left to right, Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, Bernadette Wilson and Dave Bronson at the Baranof Hotel on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2026. (Mark Sabbatini / Juneau Independent)

A swing toward Democrats in Alaska's major races continued Tuesday when the governor's race was switched to "Lean Democrat" by The Cook Political Report, the third change by the ratings website since it classified the contest as "Likely Republican" a month ago.

An analysis at the election ratings website notes former state lawmaker Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, a Democrat, is polling far ahead of three Republican candidates — Bernadette Wilson, Dave Bronson and Treg Tayor — in the ranked choice contest.

"Other than Iowa, Alaska may be Democrats' best opportunity to flip a governors' mansion in a red state," Jessica Taylor, an editor for the site, wrote in her analysis. "Former state Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins (colloquially known as JKT) benefits from being the lone Democrat in the four-person field and is running comfortably ahead of conservative activist Bernadette Wilson and two other Republicans."

"The concern for Republicans is that, amid a divided GOP field, Republican voters will only choose one of their candidates on their ranked-choice ballots rather than ranking multiple options, allowing Kreiss-Tomkins to consolidate a majority."

The change is similar to rating shifts for the U.S. Senate, which have also shifted from favoring Republican incumbent Dan Sullivan at Cook Political Report as well as the election forecasting website Sabato's Crystal Ball. The latter rates Sullivan's race against Democrat Mary Peltola as "Leans Democratic," having shifted it left twice since a "Leans Republican" rating in Juneau. The Cook Political Report rates the race a "Toss Up," a shift made in June from "Lean Republican."

Alaska last elected a Democratic governor in 1998 and a Democratic U.S. senator in 2008.

The shifts in Alaska also mirror forecasts and polling across the United States showing Republican candidates are struggling in areas that historically have been favorable toward the party.

Those struggles are widely attributed to President Donald Trump, whose approval ratings have plummeted due to cost-of-living and other concerns. He has responded with a series of campaign appearances in states that traditionally vote Republican, including a visit to Wasilla on Tuesday following a visit by Vice President JD Vance to Fairbanks last week.

Both ratings websites classify Alaska's U.S. House race as likely Republican, with incumbent Rep. Nick Beigch III polling well ahead of independent challenger Bill Hill.

• *Contact Mark Sabbatini at editor@juneauindependent.com or (907) 957-2306.*

Juneau Independent

The Juneau Independent is a paywall-free, nonprofit online newspaper that is primarily funded by reader donations. Find out more at:

www.juneauindependent.com/donating-to-the-juneau-independent

Local movie theater, radio station and paint store owners win Chamber of Commerce's 2026 awards

Gross-Alaska Theatres is business of the year, Cliff and Lisa Dumas are citizens of the year, and Charlie Williams gets lifetime achievement award at annual gala on Saturday

By MARK SABBATINI, Editor



Erica Tate, an Alaska Juneau Mining Co. employee, bids on a silent auction item during the Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce's annual gala at Centennial Hall on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2026. (Mark Sabbatini / Juneau Independent)

A local movie theater company, a couple that owns several commercial radio stations in Southeast Alaska, and the owner of a local paint store for the past 40 years were honored with annual awards presented by the Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce at its annual gala Saturday night at Centennial Hall.

Gross-Alaska Theatres, founded in 1897 and in its fourth generation of family ownership, was named Business of the Year. Cliff and Lisa Dumas, leaders of Alaska First Media, were honored as Citizens of the Year. Charlie Williams, who opened Valley Paint Center 40 years ago and still owns it, received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The winners were recognized for achievements beyond the existence of their businesses, including support provided to the community, and the involvement of owners and other employees in civic activities.

Business of Distinction: Gross-Alaska Theatres

"We ask things like: Do they support our youth?" said Eric Forst, a chamber board member and co-owner of the Red Dog Saloon, when introducing the Business of Distinction winner. "Do they give generously to local causes? Do they offer opportunities for employment and growth? Are they locally owned, deeply rooted, and invested in the well-being of our community? Do they give not just of their resources, but do they give of their time, their energy, and their heart? This year's recipient embodies all of these qualities and more."

"Hundreds, if not thousands of people can say their first job was with this business," Forst, a former employee, said. "From the expensive conversion from film to digital cinema, to the devastating shutdown of the industry during the pandemic, and all of the ups and downs that come with the movie industry they have been steadfast in their commitment to their community, their employees, and the legacy of their family."

A video made in 1997 to celebrate the company's 100th anniversary narrated by David Gross, the grandson of founder William David Gross, was shown to the audience. The company over the decades established theaters in Ketchikan, Sitka, Juneau, Douglas, Haines, Petersburg, Wrangell and Skagway, offering live performances as well as films. But it has scaled back since that peak, currently operating Glacier Cinemas in Juneau after selling its lone other remaining theater in Ketchikan in 2025.

Current owners Dorain Gross and Kenny Solomon-Gross accepted the award at Saturday's gala.

"I thank you, the chamber, the community of Juneau, and all of Alaska for this very prestigious award that we will honor forever," Dorain Gross said. "As you saw, my father spoke most of it for all our history, which is a very long legacy, and I'm proud of it today still for all that we have done and will continue to do to help support all the businesses in all of Alaska. This is quite an honor, so I thank you from the bottom of my heart for me and my family."

Citizens of the Year: Cliff and Lisa Dumas

When the fate of 10 commercial radio stations in Juneau and elsewhere in Southeast was under threat due to

*See **Commerce** on Page 5*

COMMERCE

Continued from page 4

bankruptcy proceedings, a former co-owner stepped in to reacquire them this year, leading to the honor presented by the chamber Saturday night.

"There are very few institutions that work tirelessly and sometimes under challenging circumstances to create and maintain a media network that serves Juneau and Southeast Alaska," said Craig Dahl, winner of last year's Lifetime Achievement award. "This year's recipients moved to Juneau to make it their home and take control over a legacy media network that has been serving the community of Juneau since 1935. And just when everything seemed to be going in the right direction, unforeseen events placed this business, its future, in jeopardy."

The complexities of a bankruptcy filing in May of 2025 would be resolved nearly a year later when Cliff Dumas, who became majority owner of the stations as well as several in Texas in a 2022 deal, reacquired the Alaska stations under the Alaska First Media company he formed last summer. He is listed as the company's owner and president, while his wife, Lisa, is listed as vice president.

The company earlier this year relocated its Juneau operations from its longtime location on Channel Drive to a new Juneau Media Center at the Mendenhall Mall.

"We are humbled to be recognized by a community that means so much to us," Cliff Dumas said in comments provided by video from Europe, where the couple is currently on vacation. "I've spent more than 40 years in broadcasting, working in different cities, meeting extraordinary people and having opportunities I could never have imagined. But after all those years I can honestly say that the greatest accomplishment of my career is what Lisa and I now have the opportunity to build right here in Juneau. Juneau has become so much more than a place where we live, work. It's home and being able to invest in these radio stations, give them new life, a new home, and a future is something we're incredibly proud of."



Cliff and Lisa Dumas offer their thanks for being named Citizens of the Year in a video address to the audience at the Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce's annual gala at Centennial Hall on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2026. (Mark Sabbatini / Juneau Independent)

Lisa Dumas, who is a board member of the Juneau Symphony and Glacier Valley Rotary, offered similar thanks as well as praise to the company's employees, stating "we really do share this honor with everyone who works towards a common goal at our Juneau stations."

Lifetime Achievement: Charlie Williams

When Southeast Paint Center closed in 1985, a person who four years earlier was learning the painting trade while still in college decided he wanted to fill the gap.

"So he leased 1,100 square feet in the space which Valley Liquor now occupies across from Super Bear, and undertook the work to open a paint supply store on April Fool's Day 1986," said Max Mertz, in an introductory speech honoring Charlie Williams, whom he nominated for the award. "Everything was in place to open, but he said he'd better pick a better day to open it. And so on April 2, 1986, Valley Paint Center opened its doors to the people of Juneau. Charlie was 25 years old."

Williams still owns the business in a new location, but has accomplished many other things over the decades, Mertz said. Those include starting a snowplow business in 1983 that he operated until 1998, being a licensed pilot and competitive bike racer, and serving as a member of the local ski team board and Glacier Valley Rotary. Through the latter association he was involved in the launch of numerous local projects such as playgrounds, as well as helping since 2008 on a project to educate poor children and agricultural workers in a small mountain village in Mexico.

A letter Mertz read from a person who supported his nomination of Williams states "what makes Charlie special is that I know we are not the only ones he has helped. Over the years I have watched him do the same thing for other contractors and people starting new businesses. He refers work, he shares his knowledge, helps

*See **Commerce** on Page 6*

COMMERCE

Continued from page 5

people stay busy, and generally wants to see other people succeed. That kind of support has a lasting impact on the community. Charlie does much more than sell painting materials. He builds relationships. He creates opportunities for others, and has helped strengthen many local businesses along the way."

While Williams received the longest introduction of the event, his acceptance speech was the shortest.

"I feel blessed," he said. "It's been a joy for me to serve this community, to be able to help people when they're doing their projects to help to be successful because I've always felt when I help someone to be successful, it comes back to me. And because of this community support it's come back to me in a big way and I really enjoy giving back to the community. Thank you for this honor and I truly, truly treasure it."

• *Contact Mark Sabbatini at editor@juneauindependent.com or (907) 957-2306.*

PLANNING

Continued from page 2

six years she's been on the Planning Commission because "I think it's the single most important thing on this list that we could do to make this city more livable, more drivable, more planable for housing." However, she added, "I think it's time to push up the transfer station as a priority because, again, we're not going to do it until somebody takes the plunge and puts it at the top of the list."

Among the concerns expressed by commission members — and other local officials for years — is Juneau's privately owned landfill is expected to be full within the next decade and could close with only a few months' notice to city officials. The increasing costs of disposal are also an increasingly serious concern.



City workers help clean up debris following the 2024 glacial lake outburst flood in the Mendenhall Valley. (City and Borough of Juneau photo)

"We are having more people disposing of household waste on the side of our roads or down at the end of the road, and that is a huge problem for a community that really thrives on the environment, the beauty, and all of that," said Carlee Simon, another Planning Commission member.

A waste transfer station allows trash to be compacted, sorted, recycled and otherwise processed before it is sent to a local landfill or elsewhere for disposal. The Juneau facility proposed near the existing landfill in Lemon Creek is expected to cost $15 million, with CBJ providing $420,000 so far.

The description for the solid waste transfer station in CBJ's draft projects list states it will give the city "the ability to control our waste future and be responsive to residents' desires associated with costs, hours, and operations, including the ability to increase waste diversion from the landfill, make reuse more accessible to residents, and protect our local landscape by reducing illegal dumping."

"It is anticipated to take 3-5 years from the point that full funding is available for design and construction," the project summary adds.

Protecting Mendenhall Valley neighborhoods from flooding has been a top priority for Juneau officials since 2023 when record glacial lake outburst floods from Suicide Basin began occurring annually every August. The city's draft plan estimates long-term mitigation efforts will cost about $400 million — although much higher figures have been cited for some options — and the $50 million request comes as local officials hope the federal government will cover most of the project's costs.

A second Juneau-Douglas crossing has been discussed for decades and last year a state Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study advanced five alternatives to a further environmental review stage. Juneau Public Works Director Denise Koch

*See **Planning** on Page 7*

PLANNING

Continued from page 6

told the Planning Commission on Tuesday she expects officials will have a better sense of a preferred crossing route a year from now.

However, the second crossing has also been omitted in the state's recently released draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) for 2027-30. Sonny Mauricio, a spokesperson for the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, told the Juneau Independent last month "once we have a better understanding of the project's scope and estimated construction costs, we will include additional funding in the STIP."

Other projects after the top four on the draft legislative list include housing redevelopment on Pederson Hill, security and safety upgrades for the Juneau School District, Gold Creek flood control rehabilitation near the top of the list. Items at the bottom include a waterfront Juneau Douglas City Museum, Capital Civil Center and North Douglas boat ramp expansion.

• *Contact Mark Sabbatini at editor@juneauindependent.com or (907) 957-2306.*

RALLY

Continued from page 1

race — which Bronson denied — and that Taiwan will buy 30% of the gas from a long-proposed pipeline in Alaska.

The claim about Bronson, a former Anchorage mayor, was made by Trump in a Truth Social message before the rally.

"Dave Bronson of Alaska begged me for my support and Endorsement, but I wouldn't do it because he didn't win the Primary and, therefore, wasn't



President Donald Trump listens as Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, speaks at a campaign rally at the Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center, Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2026, in Wasilla. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

deserving of it. I then asked him to get out of the Race, and he agreed!" Trump wrote.

Bronson told the Anchorage Daily News on Tuesday his "recollection is different from the president's."

Media reports in the U.S. and Taiwan note officials in that country have not confirmed Trump's deal involving the Alaska LNG Project. His announcement was made at the same time he repeated a false claim that South Korea is investing more than $50 billion in the project.

"Taiwan has just agreed to buy 30% of the gas coming off the pipeline for the next 20 years," Trump said during the rally. "That guarantees the success. It's one of the biggest commitments in history for anything. It's one of the biggest deals ever made. They're going to pay it and that's a 20-year period that guarantees success. And Taiwan will also invest $4.4 billion into the project, on top of $50 billion already committed by South Korea to Alaska."

Taiwan's economy ministry subsequently issued a press statement confirming "plans" to participate in the project once it comes online, possibly by 2032, according to Nikkei Asia. The news agency reported "Taipei said that specifics, including equity stakes and other terms, are still to be determined."

The Associated Press, reporting on Taiwan's statement, noted "state-owned oil and gas firm CPC Corporation signed a letter of intent in March 2025 on the natural gas project in Alaska, and the company and the U.S. side have made significant progress after more than a year of negotiations and evaluation." The report also noted the non-binding agreement is for up to $4.4 billion, rather than a pledge for that amount, and the statement from Taiwan did not specify how many years the purchases would occur.

Taiwan and South Korea both reached non-binding agreements of intent related to the project last year. Those agreements and the pipeline itself are still far from certainties, due largely to concerns about the project's financial feasibility among potential developers, customers and public officials.

South Korea also lodged a protest after Trump announced the country's investment was a done deal, with Trump responding by telling reporters

*See **Rally** on Page 8*

RALLY

Continued from page 7

"I'll just charge them more" — which some analysts stated could be a reference to imposing higher tariffs. Part of the tentative deal involved a reduction in tariffs imposed on South Korea by the U.S.

The Associated Press report notes Taiwan is still awaiting a $14 billion arms sales package from the U.S., but did not directly tie that to the gasline agreement.

Trump has made multiple other false announcements about large-scale projects in the U.S. as he has sought to boost Republicans' chances in November's midterm elections. He has made similar announcements about foreign projects, with Greenland's government on Wednesday pushing back against Trump's claim that "massive oil, gas and mineral exploration is getting ready to begin" in the Arctic territory.

Trump's visit to Wasilla is part of a series of campaign stops in numerous parts of the country that typically elect Republican candidates as the party is increasingly facing the likelihood of losing control of the House and Senate in the midterm elections, according to widespread polling and other data. That possibility is being widely attributed to Trump as his approval ratings in recent months have plummeted due to economic and other concerns.

But Trump, among his many statements in Wasilla that have been made at previous rallies, urged the crowd to "pretend that I'm on the ballot."

"Every time I've been on the ballot we win," he said, a continuation of his ongoing false claim he was the true winner of the 2020 presidential election.

He also repeated a promise he'll give all adult citizens $5,000 if Republicans maintain control of the House and Senate, which has been met with widespread questions about legality and doubts from voters the payouts would actually occur.

An executive action Trump fulfilled at the rally Tuesday was pardoning two co-owners of an Alaska auto shop convicted of Clean Air Act violations when they removed required air pollution control equipment on at least 37 vehicles between July 2019 and September 2020. A third co-owner of the shop was similarly pardoned last month.

"The concept is that if you allow people to fix the engines they're going to take all of the environmental crap that makes it bad, makes it inefficient, makes it expensive," Trump said, describing what he called unfair prosecutions of the men. "That they're going to undo that, and when you undo that you therefore send fumes into the air. So we're going to put them in jail for 10 years."

The rally was a daylong political milestone in a community whose residents gave Trump more than 75% of their votes in the 2024 presidential election. Roads near the center were closed and people began taking buses to the center at about 10 a.m., with other speakers — including Sullivan — making appearances before Trump took the stage at about 4:30 p.m.

There was plenty of activity outside the venue as well, including protesters along the Parks Highway in Wasilla as well as in town, and Democratic state politicians hosting a news conference nearby.

• *Contact Mark Sabbatini at editor@juneauindependent.com or (907) 957-2306.*



President Donald Trump listens as Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, speaks at a campaign rally at the Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center, Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2026, in Wasilla. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)



President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally at the Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center, Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2026, in Wasilla. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)







Flood-zone residents share perspectives with city

Survey closed Friday; disaster response by individuals and agencies this year detailed in debrief



Debrief attendees answer questions from the City and Borough of Juneau about the 2026 glacial lake outburst flood on Sept. 16, 2026, at Thunder Mountain Middle School. (Jasz Garrett / Juneau Independent)

By JASZ GARRETT, Managing Editor

More than two dozen Mendenhall Valley residents who stayed or evacuated during the 2026 glacial lake outburst flood said the city's emergency response has generally improved compared to three years ago.

"I think this year was much better," said Amanda Hatch, who lives on Meander Way. "I think it still needs a little bit of work and some refining, but compared to the '23 and the '24 and the '25, this year was by far the best. It's not perfect, but it was better." She attributed this largely to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the city running industrial-level pumps to address seepage this year.

Last year, Meander Way residents ran water pumps during an all-time high crest of 16.65 feet. Hatch said she was also thankful for earlier road closures and the city opening its emergency flood hotline earlier.

Annual outbursts from Suicide Basin began in 2011. The first unprecedented record-breaking flood was in 2023, with a Mendenhall River crest of 14.97 feet. This year, the river crested at 14.7 feet on Aug. 13, with flood damage reported to be significantly less than in previous years, according to the City and Borough of Juneau. An Evening at Egan lecture by University of Alaska Southeast researchers Eran Hood and Jason Amundson is scheduled for Oct. 30 to talk about the science behind this year's crest, the lowest in four years.

The city hosted a debrief for flood-impacted residents on Sept. 16 at Thunder Mountain Middle School. "I know each year is different in terms of the flood, but it's also different in how we approach it, and how we treat it, and how we feel about these things," said Ryan O'Shaughnessy, the city's emergency manager.

The feedback aims to help the city continue improving emergency preparedness and response efforts. The information from the debrief session and a survey will be delivered to the Juneau Assembly.

Ashley Heimbigner, the city's communications director, said she thought about the roller coaster of information Juneau has been experiencing over the last four years.

"We, as an organization and with our partners, really set some goals based on the conversations we've had with you to adjust our communications in several ways, and what we heard from you and your neighbors was that you wanted more timely and more consistent information flows," she told debrief attendees. "You wanted to know what was going on with the HESCO barriers — you wanted to know what was going on with the long-term solution conversation — and you wanted to know how you were going to prepare for this year's glacial lake outburst flood."

She said the city officially established these efforts in 2025 by launching a joint communication strategy and wanted to remain consistent this year to avoid confusing residents. Improvements included flood inundation maps, social media outreach, door hangers, livestreaming press briefings, and extending hours for the flood hotline, Heimbigner said. The city revised its emergency alerts this summer, a process that began in 2024. As of 2025, the city started using the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System.

Residents attending the debrief agreed the city's alerts need further revision, particularly when announcing Suicide Basin is at capacity and when it starts releasing.

"The only problem we noticed was that first alert that went out to notify that the basin was full with the alarm was a little bit too alarming," Hatch said, adding it was especially confusing for the older population.

She and other attendees asked the city to distinguish between the two

*See **Flood** on Page 10*

FLOOD

Continued from page 9

sounds because the first alert notifying the public the basin was full on Aug. 11 scared some people into "go" mode. It was meant to shift the community into "set."

"Everybody had been gearing up for so long," Hatch said as an explanation for the reaction. "I think there should still be an alert that the basin is full, but maybe a different tone."

Other residents suggested sending a text, not blaring a citywide emergency alert.

Sandy Edwardson, a Killewich Drive resident, added that she didn't understand the "ready, set, go" model. The city began using this approach in 2025, ahead of statewide adoption.

"I was at work, and all 12 people's phones went off all at once, and I nearly had a heart attack," she said. "I called my boss up. I'm like, 'I'm leaving. It's gonna happen now.' And I run home, and then it's like, one to five days."

The basin began releasing later that same day, causing further confusion.

Attendees agreed pre-filled sandbags this year, provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the city, were helpful. Residents in the flood zone could drive up to collect them.

"In past years, we had to fill the bags ourselves, and that was like a three-week ordeal with me and my other four family members doing the bags," Edwardson said.

Residents added an Army Corps video on setting up sandbags was useful and widely distributed.



Ann Wilkinson Lind and Debbie Penrose-Fischer (left) share their perspective with Rep. Andi Story, D-Juneau, and Catherine Melville, the director of Juneau Public Library, on Sept. 16, 2026, at Thunder Mountain Middle School. (Jasz Garrett / Juneau Independent)

"I did change how I set them up this year," said Kristin Garot, who lives on Sharon Street. "One of the things that has been hardest is I don't really know how to prep my house."

Others said they'd like more preparation information in advance, like how to secure oil tanks. Volunteers for sandbagging houses are still needed.

Valley residents were asked if they chose to evacuate during the 2026 flood. Residents expressed feeling torn about the decision in August when the advisory was issued.

There was a similar mix of responses at the debrief.

Rebecca Bellmore said her family evacuated because a new map released by the city this year placed them in the evacuation zone. She said she would like more information about what would happen if the HESCO barriers, first installed in 2025, were to breach. Since the barriers were extended this summer, additional homes were placed in the zone to consider the possibility of a flash flood in case there was a HESCO failure. Bellmore said her house hasn't flooded and it's at the edge of the 18-foot-inundation zone.

"I don't think we ever really heard what the plan was if there was a breach, other than like flash flood warning," she said. "Like, where does the water go? Are they going to breach again downstream to let it back in downstream? We just didn't know what would happen, and it made us uncomfortable, and so we evacuated.

*See **Flood** on Page 11*

Juneau's Organic Grocery in the Heart of Downtown

Click ad to see deli menu and other store updates

Rainbow Foods

Weekdays: 9 a.m.-7 p.m., deli lunch 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Weekends: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

224 4th St., Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-6476

TWO COPPERS CASINO

EXPERIENCE THE NEWEST ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION IN JUNEAU!

NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!

Monday	2 PM - 10 PM
Tuesday	2 PM - 10 PM
Wednesday	2 PM - 10 PM
Thursday	2 PM - 10 PM
Friday	2 PM - 10 PM
Saturday	2 PM - 10 PM
Sunday	2 PM - 10 PM

@TwoCoppersCasino 907.523.0777 info@TwoCoppersCasino.com

Staying informed just got easier.

CBJ Public Notices — all in one place.

juneau.org/public-notices

FLOOD

Continued from page 8

We had a place to go."

Many people who evacuated reported staying with family and friends rather than the shelter operated by the American Red Cross at Floyd Dryden, which recorded a total of 24 people and three pets over the period of the advisory. Juneau Animal Rescue also offered shelter for pets.

Representatives and volunteers from the Red Cross attended the debrief to learn what they might do differently next year.

Ann Wilkinson Lind and Debbie Penrose-Fischer asked the Red Cross to improve the shelter for elderly and disabled residents.

The Red Cross hosted an emergency preparedness workshop with one-on-one guidance for seniors and people with access or medical needs ahead of the flood. Loren Jones, the volunteer partner to the disaster program manager, has responded to the last four floods with the Red Cross.

The shelter is in an open gymnasium with little privacy. Jones added foot traffic has increased since the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska began its daycare in the building.

"Generally, we don't provide medical services, and while we have some ability to change the structure, where we shelter is set by the city," Jones said in an interview.

He said the Red Cross doesn't provide transportation to the shelter and the city uses school buses, which are generally not wheelchair accessible.

"You can't have an alert to say leave, somebody call up and say, 'I want to go to the shelter, and I have a wheelchair, and I can't get out of my house.' You end up calling CCFR," Jones said, recalling this happened in 2024.

"We need to talk about what we can provide and what we can't provide," he said, adding he will see what is possible for the future.

"Like the city, like everywhere else, you learn every time you do something new," Jones said.

Juneau Flood Solution Advocates organized and fundraised for Eyes on the River in 2025. The neighborhood group added new cameras this year to monitor the Mendenhall River, blocked from view by HESCO barriers.

"There's tons more data, and that's good. But it also means that you can just sit there and stare at the screen, which changes your perspective," Sam Hatch said.

Wilkinson Lind agreed. She said she evacuated her pets and children, but stayed home to monitor her house on Marion Way. She said the amount of information was so overwhelming this year that she stopped looking at social media and the Suicide Basin monitoring page.

"Some days I would wake up and sit in my chair all day and just be paralyzed. I couldn't do anything," she said. "So after the event, when all this started to let go, I felt like I was falling apart."

Wilkinson Lind was not alone in this feeling. Others at the debrief described "flood fatigue" and counseling to cope with the recurring disaster. They also talked about experiencing an adrenaline crash since the crest was lower than previous years.

Edwardson said livestreams of the river helped relieve her stress after evacuating.

"I know my neighbors like I've never known them before," she added, expressing gratitude for the Juneau Flood Solution Advocates. A group chat started by Penrose-Fischer connected about 30 people throughout the release.

The neighborhood group also organized community meetings after the flood, capturing similar perspectives presented to the city.

O'Shaughnessy and Heimbigner acknowledged the stress annual flooding causes and said it was important to hear people's thoughts.

Near the end, debrief attendees were asked if there was an aspect of flood response preparation where people felt unsupported this year.

A request was made for the broader community to change its outlook.

"This is more than just a Valley problem. This is a city problem. We have wastewater treatment plants. We have schools. We have grocery stores," Edwardson said. "I hear that this is a Valley problem a lot from other people, and they just don't understand it could wipe out our water treatment plant."

"We've got two bridges — if both of them go out for some reason we're stuck," Julie Coffin, her neighbor, agreed. "It's even way bigger than that," said Steve Bowhay, who lives on James Boulevard. "Everything about what's going on is a world event. How we handle this is going to be viewed all the way around the world."

NHK-WORLD-Japan was filming at the debrief session last month. The city asked September debrief attendees not to focus their discussion on a long-term solution to Juneau's annual outbursts. The Army Corps is scheduled to sign an award agreement for a final project by Dec. 11.

• Contact Jasz Garrett at jasz@juneauindependent.com or (907) 723-9356.

SWITZER

Continued from page 1

failing to repay $7 million in loans, according to a lawsuit filed last week by the manager's mother, who is the majority owner of the park.

Josette Duran was fired in June after overseeing operations at the mobile home park since 2011, according to the lawsuit by S & S Development LLC

*See **SWITZER** on Page 12*

SWITZER

Continued from page 11

and Marlene Schneider, who owns 80% of the company that owns the park. Also named as defendants in the lawsuit are Marciano Duran and the couple's company Duran Construction Company LLC.

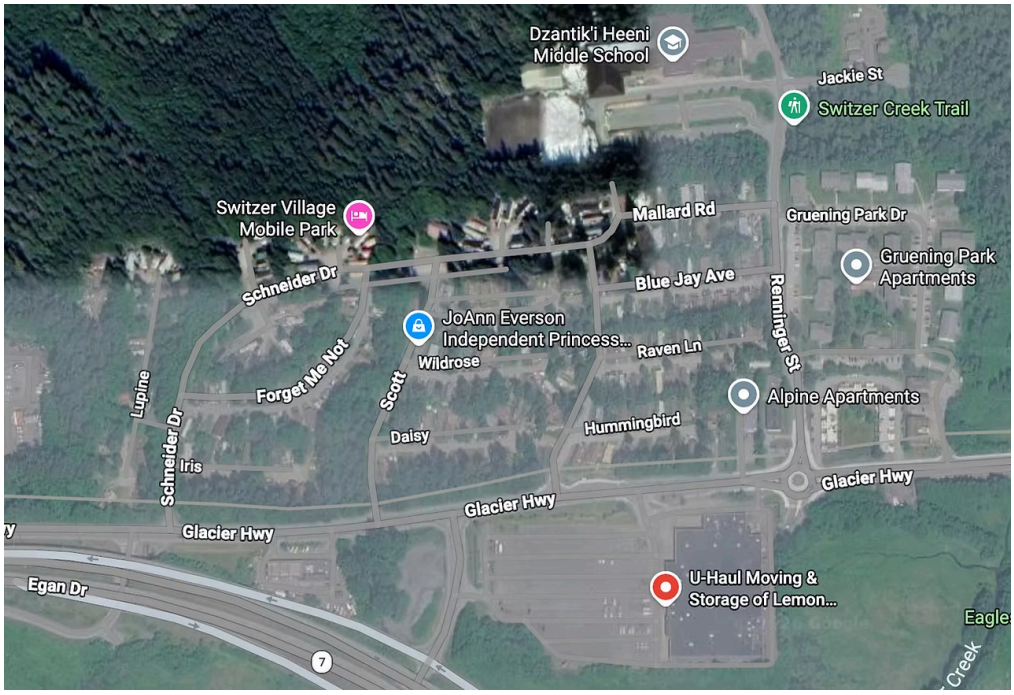
"Entrusted with the management of S&S's property and operations, Josette instead treated the Park as a source of money, labor, materials, and assets for Duran Construction and for members of her family," the lawsuit alleges. "Among other things, Josette purported to sell multiple Park-owned mobile homes to Duran Construction without authority and without payment to S&S; used Park funds, credit, fuel, and work crews to benefit Duran Construction projects; paid herself far more than her agreed compensation; and, on the transition of management, withheld titles, records, keys, and other Park property."

Josette Duran also failed to pay water and sewer bills, "bringing the Park within approximately 48 hours of a utility shutoff affecting 289 families and spaces in February 2026," was delinquent in tax payments and "allowed the Park to fall into severe physical disrepair," according to the lawsuit.

"Josette knowingly undertook these actions despite S&S being a family business, the ongoing concern of which is of great significance to her siblings and mother," the lawsuit states.

Separately, more than $7 million in loans provided to the defendants since the early 1990s remains unpaid, Schneider and her company allege in the lawsuit.

Brandon C. Marx, an attorney representing the defendants, stated in an email to the Juneau Independent on Tuesday morning the couple had not yet seen the lawsuit and thus was not able to respond to its specific allegations, but they "deny any wrongdoing."



A map shows Switzer Village Mobile Home Park and the surrounding area. (Google Maps image)

"This matter is, at bottom, a family dispute," Marx wrote. He noted that the remaining 20% of S&S Development is owned by Schneider Family LLC, which is "comprised of Josette and her four siblings."

No further response to follow-up inquiries by the Independent had been received as of midday Thursday. Attempts by the Independent to contact Schneider and her attorney of record in the lawsuit were unsuccessful.

No hearings were scheduled in the lawsuit as of Thursday, according to the Alaska Court System's online database.

Switzer Village Mobile Home Park opened in 1970 with 190 units and by 2018 has expanded to more than 300 units on 40 acres, according to a City and Borough of Juneau planning document for the Lemon Creek area. The lawsuit notes Charles Schneider — Josette Duran's father — was the founder and principal owner of S&S Development until his death in 2011, after which his daughter managed the mobile home park.

"Josette's agreed-upon compensation as manager was a salary equal to 8 percent of the Park's gross income," the lawsuit notes, adding "it appears that Josette paid herself compensation well above the agreed-upon percent of gross income."

After she was fired in June of this year due to what the lawsuit called increasing concerns about her lack of transparency, other issues came to light.

A partial list of those accusations includes using park funds for her construction company's expenses and paying the company for work at the mobile home park that was not performed, and illegally transferring some of the mobile home properties in the park to the construction company, according to the lawsuit. Also, it alleges, "Josette used Park work crews for more than twenty hours per week on Duran Construction jobs, paying those crews with Park funds, and used the Park's account to purchase diesel fuel for Duran-owned fuel tanks from 2012 through 2026."

The lawsuit also alleges Josette Duran used park funds for her construction company's legal expenses.

*See **Switzer** on Page 13*

SWITZER

Continued from page 12

Among Duran Construction's legal disputes is a case filed by federal and state agencies for multiple violations of the Clean Water Act by dredging and dumping in several wetlands without permits. A settlement in that case was announced in August that could result in the company paying $350,000 and agreeing to perform much of the cleanup work at additional cost to the company.

The biggest monetary claim in the lawsuit involves numerous loans made to Josette Duran, her husband and their company by Marlene and Charlie Schneider beginning in the early 1990s.

"While Charlie was alive, the loans were generally secured by promissory notes, and the Durans made payments," the lawsuit states. "After Charlie's death in 2011, the borrowing increased, was largely made without securing documents, and the payments substantially decreased."

The lawsuit is seeking payment of more than $7 million that is still alleged owed, plus other damages.

• *Contact Mark Sabbatini at editor@juneauindependent.com or (907) 957-2306.*

IPD

Continued from page 1

right, same spot, and you try to make it better and better all the time," Price said. "I felt I was walking with my ancestors when you get good at it; I could feel them around me all the time, helping, being there, encouraging me to keep going, and this led to wanting to do a dugout."

He was mentored by Archie Klaney, and carved "Little Brother" out of a red cedar log he towed from Wrangell.

Its inaugural journey from Skagway to Chilkoot was the first in a dugout canoe in over 50 years, Price said.

"I was just young and dumb," he said. "I wanted to learn about dugouts, but you know, I had time to think about it later. That was a pretty awesome thing we just did."

Now, Price's 18th canoe is nearing completion. The canoe's steaming is scheduled for Oct. 27 at the UAS campus. He started the project a year ago and is mentoring four apprentices.

Before the screening, he told his students to stand up.

"Honor these; they're next," Price told the audience. "I've been training them as hard as I can, so that they're going to be the next boat builders."

Price plans to step away from teaching at UAS, but said he'll still be involved in canoe making.

"My canoe's paddling in a different direction, but the culture and the students that are trained —that is going to go on," he said. "I've seen so much

*See **IPD** on Page 14*



Filmmakers, students and carvers stand for a photo with master carver Wayne Price after an Indigenous Peoples Day event concludes at the University of Alaska Southeast's Egan Library on Monday, Oct. 12, 2026. (Jasz Garrett / Juneau Independent)



People gather for food, including sockeye salmon and fish stew with seaweed, as Kolene and Xeetli.éesh Lyle James introduce the Indigenous Peoples Day Event at the University of Alaska Southeast Egan Library on Monday, Oct. 12, 2026. (Jasz Garrett / Juneau Independent)

IPD

Continued from page 13

healing, historical trauma, generational trauma, addiction trauma, sexual abuse trauma, all kinds. I've seen it all. Somewhere out there, on that water, you come to an agreement, and when you get to the beach, you have a better outlook on what you're going to be doing next."

In an interview, Price said he's at a fun place in his life, and hopes to see more canoes on the water.

"I struggled those first few, and then finally got my feet under me, and now I know what it takes to make a dugout seaworthy. That comes with a lot of practice. To do all that work and then to have it really tippy, it's not a good feeling," he said. "Studied and learned and did it again and finally started making them smooth and making them slowly roll. That's a good feeling. And then now teaching it, it's even a better feeling because I know it'll keep going."

UAS student Markayla Katchatag helped organize the event and shared her film "Paddling is an Honor – Journey to Celebration 2026."

"This knowledge was almost lost," Katchatag said in an interview. "Working together to keep it alive heals our people."

She is studying marine biology with a minor in Alaska Native studies. Katchatag said she was inspired to create her film because she wanted to capture her first canoe journey to Celebration, a biennial cultural event held in Juneau. The canoe journey was 100 miles over three days from Haines to Juneau, and at times they paddled through five- to six-foot white-capped seas. But the group made it to Shelter Island without taking on a drop of water, Price said.

"In that moment, I just had to trust that the dugout will take care of us. Our ancestors will take care of us, and Wayne will be able to take care of us. I just had to put all my trust into Wayne and our ancestors," she said in her film.

"He shared with us how it made him so happy to see all of us experiencing and having a fun time," Katchatag said. "Being able to go on a journey is just a small piece of mine and my family's healing journey. It's a way of healing past, present, future, generational trauma. It's an amazing opportunity to be able to keep this culture part of our cultural life, the traditional art."

The second documentary shown by Andrés Camacho for Goldbelt Heritage Foundation is still a work in progress. He said he's adding footage from an August canoe journey, and Monday was only the second time the film "Kugaaganeix̲ (Let the People Heal)" was publicly shown — the first was during Celebration in June. Camacho said he hopes to complete the film later this fall.

"Our culture is 10,000 years old. We should never doubt it," Price said. "It's taken care of us for so long, it's going to take care of us 10,000 more into the future, and could totally depend on it. And it's never let us down, not once yet. It's us that have to make the change to learn how to follow it."



Kolene James speaks to attendees at the University of Alaska Southeast event about the history of Indigenous Peoples Day as a holiday on Monday, Oct. 12, 2026. (Jasz Garrett / Juneau Independent)

• Contact Ellie Ruel at ellie.ruel@juneauindependent.com. Jasz Garrett contributed to this article and can be contacted at jasz@juneauindependent.com or 907-723-9356.

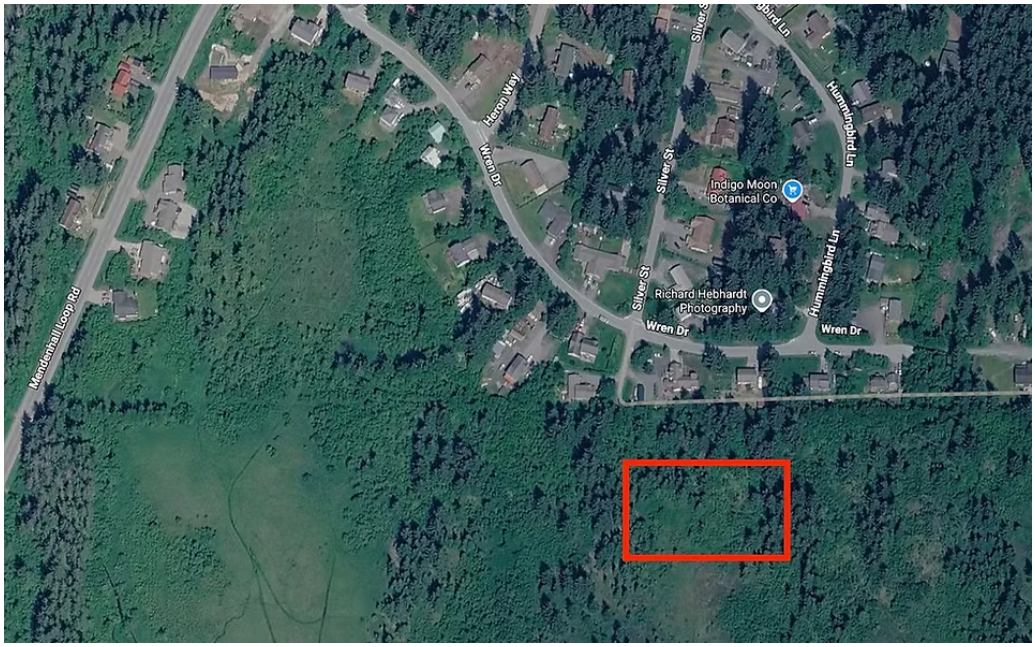






Neighbors seek to nix Back Loop farm with appeal to the Planning Commission's okay to the Assembly

Permit for family to keep up to 100 chickens and ducks, 15 other farm animals, approved last month; appeal by 22 residents cites long list of concerns, alleged procedural violations



An area marked in red shows the approximate location where a Juneau resident plans to raise chickens and other farm animals on his residential property. (Google Maps satellite image)

By MARK SABBATINI, Editor

An appeal by 22 residents seeking to halt a farm at a Back Loop area residence allowing up to 100 chickens and ducks, plus 15 other farm animals, is expected to be considered by the Juneau Assembly on Oct. 26, following the Planning Commission's unanimous approval of the project last month.

The Notice of Appeal lists 27 alleged "legal and factual errors" in the Planning Commission's approval of a conditional use permit for the non-commercial farm on a family's 2.2 acres of property at 10226 and 10228 Silver Street. The appeal asks the Assembly to vacate the approval and "Update City ordinances to adequately address needs of both existing neighborhoods and applicants for this type of variance."

Twenty of the applicants live in the immediate vicinity of the property where the farm is planned, while the other two reside near the neighborhood. Concerns are raised about possible odors, pollution, luring of wildlife, lowering of property values and other issues.

Shawn Kantola, who owns the property where the farm is planned, said in an interview Thursday the negative reactions to his plans are "based on a lot of assumptions."

"It's not based on anything that we have actually done, and it's not based on anyone seeing us do it well and then being upset with us after the fact," he said.

Also, Kantola noted, the complaint targets actions by city officials and Planning Commission members, so it will be up to them to respond. But he is willing to discuss and defend his plans before the Assembly if necessary.

The lead petitioner in the appeal, Maureen Hansen, could not be reached Thursday for comment. In a interview with the Juneau Independent after the Planning Commission approved the permit, she said the number of animals allowed will have a significant impact on her neighborhood. She also questioned how terms in it, like odor restrictions, will be measured and enforced.

"I think it's super short-sighted that they are trying to make a decision on something that they clearly stated is not addressed in our city code in any definitive way, and they just did the precedent," she said. "It's not in any of their neighborhoods."

The Assembly, if the appeal is indeed on the agenda at the Oct. 26 meeting, will determine whether there is sufficient merit to accept the appeal. If so, the appeal will go through a hearing and review process before the Assembly then decides whether to accept, modify or vacate the Planning Commission's decision.

The conditional use permit for Kantola's property allows him to keep 100 chickens/ducks and 15 other farm animals between March and September, and 50 chickens/ducks and four other farm animals during the other months. Conditions in the permit include noise limits, an electrified fence to protect against bears, water quality safeguards, odors not being detectable beyond the property for more than 48 hours, and keeping animal slaughter out of view of adjacent properties and public right-of-way areas.

Kantola told the Planning Commission at its Sept. 8 meeting he hopes to start small, possibly next spring after the home being built on the property is

*See **Farm** on Page 16*

FARM

Continued from page 15

complete, and potentially grow over time to meet many of the food needs for his seven-member family.

Among the points of objection in the Notice of Appeal:

• "The decision fails to address the cyclic nature of raising animals for slaughter, allowing a potential annual poultry headcount between 200-400 birds."

• "The record lacks written documentation researching or supporting the conclusion of 'no impact' on existing property values or how neighborhood harmony will be maintained."

• "It fails to address impacts on the neighborhood from transiting predators and vermin other than bears (e.g., ravens, crows, mice, rats, voles, ermine, mink, weasels, owls, hawks, eagles)."

• The odor restriction "is unenforceable as it specifies no unit of measure for 'odor,' no limit for allowed frequency (weekly, monthly), and no time limit for remedy of issue."

• "The Staff Report responses indicate a lack of knowledge regarding the sensitivity of the adjacent Montana Creek Wetlands, which are jurisdictional wetlands protected as a mitigation site under the Clean Water Act."

Kantola said he hasn't started work on the farm since he is building a house on the property — plus he wants to be sure the permit has gotten through the final process.

"I have been amazed at how much this issue has blown up over the past two months," he said. "I never thought that this was going to raise as much concern as it has."

• *Contact Mark Sabbatini at editor@juneauindependent.com or (907) 957-2306.*

Bicyclist, pedestrian hurt in two separate accidents over weekend

By JASZ GARRETT, Managing Editor

A 35-year-old female driver of a 2012 Honda was cited for failing to exercise due care on Saturday afternoon after hitting a 45-year-old woman on a bicycle on Glacier Highway.

The cyclist was transported to Bartlett Regional Hospital with minor injuries, according to Capital City Fire/Rescue.

The Juneau Police Department also investigated a vehicle that hit a 49-year-old pedestrian near Sandy Beach on Sunday at about 1 a.m. Officers found the man injured on a trail leading from the parking lot of Savikko Park toward Sandy Beach.

The vehicle left the area after the strike, according to JPD. Paramedics transported the injured man to the hospital.

The patient reportedly sustained a broken pelvis and was medevaced to Seattle for treatment of his injuries, according to a JPD press release Monday.

Officers located a 2005 Ford Explorer believed to be involved in the hit-and-run in the 2100 block of Lawson Creek Road on Sunday around noon.

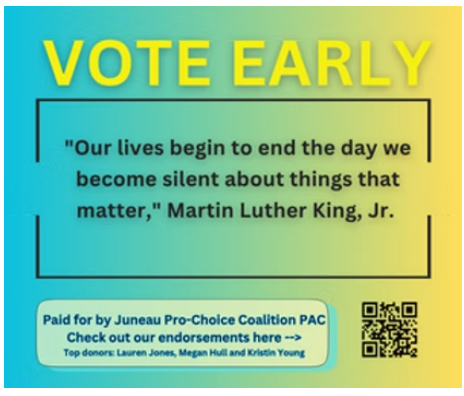
The vehicle's operator, Juneau resident Darien Fritz McCallum, 32, came to the JPD substation and spoke with officers at approximately 1:10 p.m. Sunday.

McCallum was arrested and charged with Assault in the First Degree, a class A felony, and Duty of Operator to Give Information and Render Assistance, a class B felony. He was lodged at Lemon Creek Correctional Center.

• *Contact Jasz Garrett at jasz@juneauindependent.com or (907) 723-9356*







Voices

I worry about the next generation

By DEEDIE SORENSEN

Back in the early '60s when I was just becoming politically aware, my father told me earnestly that the real difference between U.S. representatives and senators was, "the House members think about the next election, you want senators that think about the next generation."

My dad grew up on a dryland ranch in central Montana, came to hunt and trap near Lake Iliamna in the late 1930s, was working construction at Dutch Harbor when it was bombed, served in the Navy, returned to Alaska after the war as a union operating engineer and eventually returned to Montana. It was clear to me that he was not talking about the next generation of a state which at that time had barely a half million people altogether.

I am deeply worried about the next generation, not just in Alaska, but nationwide. I am worried about their educational opportunities and their access to quality healthcare. I am concerned about their access to clean water and clean air, their access to affordable housing, their access to a safe and regulated food supply, and their opportunity to live in a nation governed by the rule of law. I worry about what will happen to their privacy rights as they become the first generation to live in a surveillance state. I wonder about their ability to find meaningful jobs that provide them an opportunity to be part of what we used to describe as the middle class. The next generation is in real trouble.

Actually, there are several recent generations that have been systematically dealt successively fewer opportunities. The downward pressure has accelerated in the last 12 years. Sen. Sullivan claims he has done a lot for Alaska. But what has he done for the next generation of Alaskans, the ones that are part of the great outmigration? The young people leaving Alaska need a senator who can talk about how their legislative actions have improved the quality of life for them and all Americans.

In July of 2015, the U.S. Senate was asked to ratify the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the multilateral comprehensive Iran nuclear agreement that guaranteed international inspections of Iran's nuclear facilities to insure they were not developing weapons; Sen. Sullivan refused to ratify in a partisan decision. That decision allowed Trump to unilaterally withdraw from the agreement early in his first term. A decade later, our younger generation of service members are paying the price for this shortsighted early career decision. More recently, he voted to confirm a weekend infotainment personality with minimal military training to be the Secretary of Defense. He has repeatedly voted to support the "war," while remaining silent on the continuing appalling disinformation, disenfranchisement and misuse of American military personnel and resources.

The senator voted to confirm Gorsuch, Kavanagh and Barrett to the Supreme Court. This resulted in entire generations of younger women having less bodily autonomy, fewer healthcare rights and more dangerous pregnancies than their mothers and grandmothers. While women in Alaska are protected by our state constitution, many women across America have been sorely harmed.

The next generation has been damaged by virtually all the Trump appointees that Sullivan has voted to confirm and who have been tasked with dismantling important government agencies and deregulating programs designed to protect air and water quality, scientific research, healthcare policy, human trafficking, data privacy, monopolistic business practices, civil rights, education opportunity, financial institutions, veterans affairs, national parks and public lands, and the pending apocalypse of unregulated AI. We can add Sullivan's votes to cut financial support for the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition benefits in order to provide significant tax cuts for the richest of the rich. With people like Sullivan in office, many, if not most, in the next generation really don't have a chance.

Large states with small populations are particularly vulnerable to the influences of both big and dark money. Clearly, these interests are reaping considerable economic benefits from the current political status quo. Their media messages want us to believe that Dan is great and Mary is an imminent threat to this economic golden age we are all currently experiencing. I have recently had to extrapolate Dan's possible future actions from a barrage of negative ads against his opponent. If Dan Sullivan is unemployed in February '27, he would never be a lobbyist. While it is common and legal, it is profoundly offensive. Regardless of the legal use of his leftover campaign funds, the ads imply that he would never make any personal use of them. So what is left? Will he dedicate every dime to char-

*See **Generation** on Page 18*

GENERATION

Cotinued from page 17

ity? Recently, I am frequently advised that women who express emotions in the workplace are mean or unstable. In contrast, men who boil over in a high-pressure situation are fighters, driven and passionate in their pursuit of success. The double standard is tiresome.

I can't pretend to see the future, but I am supporting Mary Peltola because I believe she will think about the next generation. I believe Mary will think about the impact of her actions and votes on the lives of constituents, the real people she represents. Mary understands that the responsibility of being a United States senator is both daunting and humbling. She has proven that she is not a mindless partisan; she is independent and understands that legislation with toxic additions or amendments have toxic consequences and cannot be supported. I might not agree with her every decision, but I am confident she will make those decisions based on serious research, debate, and deliberation — and I am confident in her support for the interests of actual people. I am also confident that if elected she will return to Alaska on a regular basis to meet with and speak to her constituents. She actually lives here.

• Deedie Sorensen is a 45-year Alaska resident, retired elementary and special education teacher, past school board member, and past school board president living in Juneau.

I hope I'm not like him when I am 80 years old

By LARRY PERSILY

It was hard as a kid to accept life when I didn't get what I wanted, when my parents did not think my behavior was worthy of high praise and honors, when I did not receive the rewards that I thought I was due.

Like many teens, I would stomp around, blame everyone but myself, maybe kick the door for good measure in a bad outburst.

But, grudgingly, I grew older and even a bit wiser. I matured. At least I don't kick the door anymore, though sometimes I still find it hard to accept that the entire world doesn't see everything my way.

I turned 75 this past Saturday, accepting birthday well wishes, a chocolate bar and a book about punctuation (my brother knows me well). No prizes in the mail, no special honors, other than being in good health and knowing friends cared enough not to send me a second book about punctuation.

I have mostly learned to do the right things for the right reasons, not for rewards. Besides, what trophy could compete with the engraved bowling pin in my living room from the winning team in the 1993 legislative league in Juneau. Everyone should get one big reward in their life, and that was mine. I'm satisfied.

Too bad one of my elders sets a bad example by wanting — demanding — the highest praise, the biggest rewards even when he doesn't deserve them.

President Donald Trump, who is five years older than me and should know better, stomped around and threw a tantrum on social media the day before my birthday when once again the Nobel Committee did not award him the peace prize.

In his so-called Truth Social posts, the president whined that he should have won "8 Nobel Peace Prizes" because he ended eight wars, or so he claims. I assume he did not deduct for the wars he started, or the war that he now supports by approving the purchase of diesel fuel from Russia, which will provide more money for Russian President Vladimir Putin to kill more Ukrainian civilians.

The president kicked the wall, blaming Norway for the fact that he can't add the Nobel Prize to the gold ornaments he is accumulating for his office.

Early in his Friday wailing, at a political rally in Syracuse, New York, the award-seeking president proclaimed: "We will not forget, Norway, that you didn't give this prize."

He continued his tantrum later that day with his social media posts: "This is an indelible stain on the country of Norway and those people that made such a disgraceful and embarrassing decision." If "those people" had any thoughts about Trump last week, I suspect they're thinking about the diesel fuel they can't afford because of how much of a mess he has made of world energy supplies.

And, like most sore losers, not only did he blame the judges, but he also dissed the winner, calling her a "mystery person" he had never heard of. As if he is an expert on peace.

If Trump wants a coveted award, maybe he should take up bowling. If I could win a league, so could he. Besides, it'd be better for his health — he'd get more exercise than posting to social media.

• Larry Persily is the publisher of the Wrangell Sentinel, which first published this column.

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY TO US OR THE COMMUNITY?



Send your letters, opinion essays, questions and suggestions to editor@juneauindependent.com

Sports

Kaia Mangaccat runs Alaska's fastest girls time this season

JDHS senior places fifth at prestigious Nike XC Invitational



East Anchorage High School senior Katahdin Staples and Juneau-Douglas High School: Yadaa.at Kalé senior Kaia Mangaccat are shown at the prestigious Nike Hole In The Wall XC Invitational at Washington's Lakewood High School, Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026. Staples placed 12th in 15:08 in the elite boys race and Mangaccat fifth with 17:41 in the girls race. (Photo courtesy JDHS coach Abby Jahn)

By KLAS STOLPE, Sports Editor

Juneau-Douglas High School: Yadaa.at Kalé senior Kaia Mangaccat, age 16, continued her aptitude for collecting fast 5-kilometer times with a personal best of 17:41 for fifth place at last weekend's prestigious Nike Hole In The Wall XC Invitational at Washington's Lakewood High School.

Only four women ran faster in the Nike Invite Womens Elite race, Mt. Si (Snoqualmie, WA) senior Sophia Rodriguez, 18, ran a PB 17:12; Eagle (Eagle, ID) freshman Adalyn Bello, 15, ran a PB 17:23; and Sehome (Bellingham, WA) juniors Kirsten Ludeman, 16, and Sloane Clines, 16, ran 17:35 and 17:39, respectively.

The female meet record of 16:43 was set in 2024 by Ballard (Seattle, WA) junior Cassidy Armstrong, 16, now running at Duke University.

"The weekend in Washington was a great cap to our 2026 season," JDHS coach Abby Jahn said. "We like to take these trips with the kids to gain experience racing in bigger, competitive fields. It is also an opportunity to improve your time and see how you can run on a faster Lower 48 course. There was jostling and tight quarters, but the kids didn't let it get them down. They ran really well and finished strong."

According to Athletic.net, Mangaccat's run is the fastest high school girls time in Alaska this year. The top five Alaska times were all set at the Nike race on Saturday, October 10. Chugiak freshman Claire Shaha, 14, ran 18:05; West Anchorage sophomore Chloe Hayner, 15, ran 18:17; West Anchorage senior Kendall Barnett, 18, ran 18:30; and Eagle River senior Ashlyn Paynter, 17, ran 18:31.

Mangaccat won the ASAA cross country state championship on Oct. 3, with a time of 18:32, Shaha placed second in 18:44, Hayner third in 19:03, Barnett fourth in 19:05 and Paynter was 11th in 19:32.

Hayner won Saturday's Nike Invite Womens Varsity Gold race (AQT 19:40-20:59), in 18:17 with Barnett fourth in 18:30 and Paynter sixth in 18:31. JDHS junior Nevah Lupro placed 117th in 20:52 and junior Sigrid Eller 146th in 21:21. Chugiak's Shaha was 17th in the Womens Elite race with 18:05.

The Womens Varsity Silver race (AQT 21:00-22:29) was won by Unity Christian (Chilliwack, BC, CAN) junior Tielmann Jayda, 16, in 18:52. South Anchorage senior Alise Elliott was fastest Alaskan, placing 13th in 19:43, and Kodiak freshman Lilly Brown 23rd with 20:05. JDHS senior Kaycee Parady placed 80th in 21:26, junior Larkyn Woltring 134th in 22:18, senior Adele Fanning 164th in 22:49, junior Sunna Schane 23:16, senior Sabine Auger 187th in 23:18 and senior Ellie Jo Wall 210th in 24:32.

JDHS senior Jillian Levy placed 243rd with a time of 27:45 in the Womens JV Silver race (AQT over 24:00-25:29), and senior Raegan Adams 253rd in 29:31. Lincoln (Seattle, WA) senior Anna Haber won the race in 20:27.

The combined girls races had 142 teams represented and 1,491 runners.

Among all female race times combined, Mt. Si's Sophia Rodriguez topped the charts with 17:12.9, JDHS' Mangaccat (17:41.4) still placed fifth, Chugiak's Shaha (18:05.4) 17th, West's Hayner (18:17.6) 27th, West's Barnett (18:30.7) 38th, Eagle River's Paynter (18:31.7) 40th, JDHS' Lupro (20:52.9) 338th, JDHS' Eller (21:21.5) 426th, JDHS' Parady (21:26.5) 442nd,

*See **Mangaccat** on Page 20*

MANGACCAT

Continued from page 19

JDHS' Woltring (22:18.5) 605th, JDHS' Fanning (22:49.9) 701st, S. Schane (23:16.0) 778th, Auger (23:18.4) 7891st, Wall (24:32.8) 991st, Levy (27:45.4) 1289th, and Adams (29:31.0) 1381st.

The male Nike meet record of 14:36.80 was set in 2025 by Camas (Camas, WA) senior Cohen Butler, 17, now running at the University of Washington.

In Saturday's Mens Elite (AQT under 16:20), Shorewood (Shoreline, WA) senior Elijah Graves won in 14:36.9 and East Anchorage ASAA state champion senior Katahdin Staples placed 12th in 15:08 - now the fastest Alaskan high school boys time this season.

In the Men's Varsity Gold race (average qualifying times 16:30-17:59), JDHS senior Logan Fellman placed 100th in 16:55 and senior Austin Huang placed 248th in 18:01. West Anchorage senior Atlin Frederick, 18, was top Alaskan, placing seventh in 15:49 and South Anchorage sophomore Ethan Elliott 11th in 15:53. Frederick and Elliott now have the second and fourth fastest Alaskan times this season.

Bishop Blanchet (Seattle, WA) senior William Knox, 17, won the Gold race in 15:31, and Craig senior Aulis Nelson had the fastest boy's Southeast Alaska time, placing 36th in 16:17. His time is 10th fastest on the Alaskan times list for this season.

In the Men's Varsity Silver race (AQT 18:00-19:29), Hockinson (Brush Prairie, WA) senior Tanner Hood, 17, won in 16:07. The fastest Alaskan was East Anchorage junior Holden Aquino in 16th place with 16:55 and Kodiak junior Valentine Trout in 20th with 16:59. JDHS junior Niklas Uschmann placed 175th in 18:31, junior Anderson Murray 203rd in 18:43, and junior Caleb Schane 220th in 18:54.

The combined boys races were represented by 152 teams and 2,657 runners.

Among all the male race times combined, Shorewood's Elijah Graves was fastest with 14:36.9, East's Staples (15:08.7) 12th, Craig's Nelson (16:17.3) 131st, JDHS' Fellman (16:55.0) 284th, JDHS' Huang (18:01.0) 687th, JDHS' Uschmann (18:31.7) 934th, JDHS' Murray (18:43.7) 1015th, and JDHS' C. Schane (18:54.5) 1102nd.

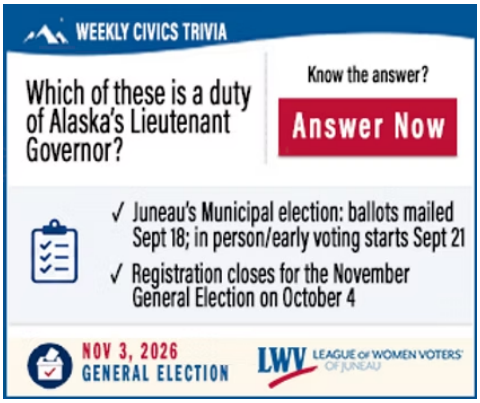
• *Contact Klas Stolpe at sports@juneauindependent.com*



Juneau-Douglas High School: Yadaa.at Kalé senior Kaia Mangaccat is shown on the top 15 medal stand at the prestigious Nike Hole In The Wall XC Invitational at Washington's Lakewood High School, Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026. Mangaccat placed fifth in 17 minutes 41 seconds. (Photo courtesy JDHS coach Abby Jahn)







Wolverines bite Crimson Bears in state football semifinals



Juneau-Douglas High School: Yadaa.at Kalé senior Jaxin Jim (20) and junior Sylvion Washington (5) tackle South Anchorage senior Ethan Yarrington (5) during the Crimson Bears' 42-12 loss to the Wolverines in the ASAA First National Bowl semifinal football game at South High School, Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026. South advances to play West Anchorage next weekend for the state championship. (Photo courtesy Stephanie Burgoon)

South prevails 42-12 over JDHS to face West in championship next week

By KLAS STOLPE, Sports Editor

The Juneau-Douglas High School: Yadaa.at Kalé Crimson Bears played with heart in Saturday's ASAA First National Bowl Division I football semifinal at South Anchorage High School, but the Wolverines had more bodies and prevailed 42-12.

"I told the kids after the game that I thought we prepped well all week," JDHS coach Rich Sjoroos said. "And we did. But it just didn't work out today."

South was the second seed in the state tournament and boasted Cook Inlet senior co-offensive player of the year Ethan Yarrington. JDHS, the third seed, also boasted a co-offensive player of the year, senior Krew Ridle. Yarrington would run for three touchdowns and pass for another. Ridle and classmate Ethan Van Kirk each ran for one score.

After JDHS junior linebackers Jarry Maghinay and Caleb Aube joint-tackled Yarrington on the first play of the game, Yarrington broke the next for 77 yards and a touchdown. But a holding penalty negated the athleticism of the run. JDHS senior Sonny Mazon had a big tackle to stop Yarrington on the next play and senior Avei Tuvaifale tackled South senior Kaiden Coleman for a loss, forcing a South punt.

"We got the start we were looking for," Sjoroos said. "We got them off the field with a punt on their first drive, but we just couldn't get anything going offensively for large stretches of the game. Their defense has been tough all year and today was no different. We just couldn't get the momentum. In these kind of games if you get the momentum you can build on it. We just weren't really able to do that. Credit to South, they were able to keep themselves distanced from us and it just never really got tight like we were hoping for."

JDHS' Ridle would start the Crimson Bears' first possession with three straight runs to earn nine yards and senior Ethan Van Kirk ran for five more for a first down. South would stop the attack and gain their own possession but go three-and-out and have to punt.

JDHS had no gains on their next two runs as South defensive back Bryson Jackson clogged up the line. Ridle threw deep on third-and-nine, but South senior linebacker Lincoln Marchant picked off the ball at the Crimson Bears' 48-yard line.

South's Yarrington connected with Wolverines junior Raden Willis for 47 yards to the one-yard line, and on the next play Yarrington smashed through the line for a 6-0 lead. South's Willis kicked the extra point for a 7-0 lead with 1:28 left in the first quarter.

"South has a lot of talent," Sjoroos said. "We have talent too, but number five (Yarrington) is a legit, really good football player and it takes a group effort to get him down. He was able to find the space where we had one guy and that is not going to get the job done with him. We just weren't able to swarm as well as we did in week one when we played them."

JDHS sophomore Carter Day brought the following kickoff from the 15-yard line out to the 43, and Ridle ran twice as the quarter changed over to the second stanza. The Crimson Bears punted from their own 47-yard line.

South looked to be on a drive from their own 17-yard line, earning two first downs, including a 29-yard pass from Yarrington to senior Kaiden Coleman. But JDHS defensive tackles by Mazon, sophomore Hendrik Van Kirk, Maghinay, Aube and a great pass breakup by E. Van Kirk forced a punt. The JDHS line disrupted the play and the ball went past South kicker Willis' head. It was recovered by JDHS on the 35-yard line. On the next play, JDHS senior Avei Tuvaifale looked deep on a throw, but South junior defensive back Austin Duffus intercepted the pass.

In four plays, South scored for the second time. Yarrington ran for 18 yards and a first down. Sophomore

*See **Football** on Page 22*

FOOTBALL

Continued from page 21

Tachaphiat Jariaha Souhala-Tuinei ran for three more. A JDHS penalty moved the ball to the 35-yard line and Yarrington broke through for a touchdown with 3:08 remaining in the half. Willis kicked his second extra point of the game for a 14-0 lead.

The game seemed to be getting away from the Crimson Bears as a penalty on the previous score put them back on their own 20-yard line after the South kickoff. Ridle rushed for three yards and Aube for five more. A South penalty moved JDHS to their own 39-yard line, where they were stymied on a first-and-10 run. Ridle broke the next play for 61 yards and a touchdown with 1:12 left in the half. The extra point missed and JDHS trailed 14-6.

South did not falter, moving the JDHS kickoff to their own 35-yard line. Yarrington ran for six yards, passed to sophomore Ezekiel Lealaisalanoa for six more and a first down and then connected with Willis on a 53-yard scoring pass with 19 seconds left in the half for a 20-6 lead. Willis kicked his third extra point for a 21-6 advantage.

"We had that chance," coach Sjoroos said. "We cut it to 14-6 and that kid made that good catch and they got the score right before the half, that was tough. But credit to them. Just playoff football. Sometimes it goes your way, sometimes it doesn't.

The first half showed the strength of South's defense which included seniors Conner Trotter, Riley Gunderson, Salefasa Matatule, Leo Mendoza, junior Ficher Stewart, and sophomores Lyric Wakefield, Malotumau Matatule, and Lealaisalano and Jensen, among others.

JDHS' two-way offensive and defensive roster of seniors Isaiah Galletes-Fale, Jake Chambers, Tyler Oudekerk, Jaxin Jim, Avei Tuvaifale, E. Van Kirk, juniors Leonidas Taualo-Tasi, Helaman Aitaoto-Tele'a, Sylvion Washington, Logan Womack, Sean Fairchild, Maghinay, Aube, and sophomores H. Van Kirk and Day, among others, stood up to the relentless South physical pressure.



Juneau-Douglas High School: Yadaa.at Kalé senior Avei Tuvaifale (8) tackles South Anchorage senior Kaiden Coleman-Arroyo (3) during the Crimson Bears' 42-12 loss to the Wolverines in the ASAA First National Bowl semifinal football game at South High School, Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026. South advances to play West Anchorage next weekend for the state championship. (Photo courtesy Stephanie Burgoon)

JDHS' Mazon, E. Van Kirk, Aitaoto-Tele'a, Galletes-Fale and Ridle all would have brief injury moments in the first half. Ridle would not return in the second half and Aitaoto-Tele'a went out of the game in the opening minutes of the third quarter.

"I am proud of the kids that stepped into roles today," coach Sjoroos said. "Carter Day played great all year, but even he took it to another level today. He was returning kicks, he's lined up in the backfield right behind the ball - he hasn't done that all year. I am pretty proud of the effort of our guys. Some of them maybe played a position earlier in the year, and now here we are dusting them off and putting them back out there after three or four weeks where we did something different. Andrew Sanders had to step into a much bigger role than he had been doing lately, credit to him. When Helaman (Aitaoto-Tele'a) went out we went back to sets we did early in the year, but that wasn't the challenge, he knows that really well. But I decided to that early set which required him to take on of those tight end roles, and that was a tough ask. He did a really nice job of getting to the line and executing his blocks and running the right routes. And Jake Chambers played three different positions on the offensive line today, and he is a first-year offensive lineman for us. I told the kids, 'there was never a time where we had 10 players on the field or 12 players on the field.' We lined up correctly. They did a good job of always being engaged in what we were doing and adapting to what was thrown at them. Unfortunately it didn't lead to enough points and a win, but I just will never look back and think this group did not lay it out there for everybody."

The first possession of the second half secured the game for South.

JDHS received the second-half kickoff, but a low snap lost five yards and two subsequent runs resulted in no

*See **Football** on Page 23*

FOOTBALL

Continued from page 22

gain and forced a Crimson Bears punt.

South took possession on their 46-yard line and battled to barely break the 50, but on a punt, JDHS was flagged for holding, giving the Wolverines a fourth-and-short from the JDHS 42-yard line. Yarrington broke a 21-yard run. JDHS stopped two plays on great defensive plays by E. Van Kirk and forced a fumble that Yarrington fell on at the 12-yard line. South went for the end zone on fourth-and-two with Yarrington handing the ball to Souhala-Tunei, who ran in for a 27-6 lead. Willis hit his fourth extra point for 28-6.

South would be called for their second excessive celebration on the score, and the resulting kickoff gave JDHS field position on their own 46-yard line. The Crimson Bears offense was stopped and their punt mishandled, but the ball went to the Wolverines on their own 45-yard line. South's Jackson ran for eight yards, Coleman five and Yarrington ran on third down for 42 yards and a 34-6 lead with 3:24 left in the third quarter. Willis kicked his fifth extra point for a 35-6 lead. The Wolverines were whistled for their third excessive celebration penalty.

JDHS' Day received the kickoff on the Crimson Bears' 20-yard line and ran out to the 40. JDHS would work across the 50 to the 48-yard line on short runs by E. Van Kirk and Day, but backup sophomore quarterback Parker Katasse had a pass broken up on fourth-and-nine to start the fourth quarter.

Yarrington would scamper 23 yards on South's first play to the 25-yard line, but the next Wolverines play was a bad snap that JDHS junior Leonidas Taualo-Tasi recovered with 11:55 left in the game. JDHS would mount a strong 11-play drive on runs by eight runs by E. Van Kirk and one apiece by Maghinay and Aube. E. Van Kirk completed his first career pass with a toss over the middle to Washington for five yards, then broke a long run to inside the five-yard line. Van Kirk would break the goal line from four yards out to trail 35-12. The two-point pass conversion was stopped.



Juneau-Douglas High School: Yadaa.at Kalé junior Caleb Aube (23) runs behind a block from junior Leonidas Taualo-Tasi (79) as South Anchorage junior Austin Duffus (7) and senior Bryson Jackson tackle during the Crimson Bears' 42-12 loss to the Wolverines in the ASAA First National Bowl semifinal football game at South High School, Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026. South advances to play West Anchorage next weekend for the state championship. (Photo courtesy Stephanie Burgoon)

"Ethan (Van Kirk) is always a gamer," Sjoroos said. "He will be one of those legendary Crimson Bears players that everyone remembers. He'll be a Brian Felix, or a Ryan Wilson, one of those great running back/linebackers that came through the program. A pretty awesome career he has had."

JDHS was flagged on the kickoff and South brought the ball out to their own 41-yard line. A first run was stopped by the JDHS line. A second run by South senior Kyler Jensen went 52 yards before JDHS' E. Van Kirk saved a score with a tackle. South's Jensen would run six yards untouched on the next play for a 41-12 lead with 3:22 left in the game. Willis kicked his seventh extra point for the 42-12 final tally.

JDHS would mount the game's final possession, battling to the end from their own 16-yard line. E. Van Kirk would carry most of the yardage, broken up by a run apiece from Washington and Aube. A South penalty put the ball on the 23-yard line and E. Van Kirk ran to the 14. Day ran for eight yards to a first-and-goal as time expired.

JDHS continued their swarming team defense with linebackers Aube, Day and Jim leading with multiple joint tackles and E. Van Kirk two pass deflections and junior Andrew Sanders plugging multiple lanes. Tuvaifale and Van Kirk also had multiple tackles from the secondary.

"Jaxin (Jim) was so dialed in with film study that he was calling out their

*See **Football** on Page 24*



FOOTBALL

Continued from page 23

plays," coach Sjoroos said. "At one point South had to call time out because Jaxin had called their play and we had shifted. Definitely he got them thinking twice about a couple of their play calls today."

Chambers played four different line positions on the day — the Crimson Bears five, seven and three spots. The three spot he had never played before but spent most of the second half there.

"It is a whole different blocking scheme when you are in that spot," Sjoroos said. "He had never played defensive tackle before either and he did some of that today as well. Our guys are always willing to take on the challenges thrown at them and make the most of it. You can't feel bad about that, that's for sure."

Unofficial South stats show Yarrington ran the ball 14 times for 168 yards and three touchdowns. Jensen ran twice for 58 yards and one touchdown. Souhala-Tuinei ran twice for 15 yards, Coleman twice for 11 yards and Jackson three times for five yards. Yarrington passed nine times for 149 yards and one touchdown.

"We tried to get something established," Sjoroos said. "That starts with South, though. They just did a really nice job of getting off blocks and tackling and really limiting our ability to do what we like to do. We just had trouble establishing if we would be good up the middle or the side or our counter. We just couldn't establish anything on a regular basis."

Unofficial JDHS stats show Ridle rushed 13 times for 97 yards and one touchdown. E. Van Kirk rushed 18 times for 90 yards and one touchdown. Jim rushed three times for five yards, Tuvaifale two times for four yards and Aube once for five yards. Ridle passed twice for five yards, Katasse three times and E. Van Kirk once.

"We just needed to sustain a couple drives early in the game to find some momentum," Sjoroos said. "Maybe take some time off the clock or get an early score. We just weren't able to do that. It makes it tough on the road when you can't get some early success. Credit to South, they were able to get a little bit of a cushion. We tried to make some adjustments in the third quarter without Krew in the game and just kind of found ourselves climbing an uphill battle the whole second half."

Sjoroos said he thanked his seniors first following the game.

"We have seniors whose careers are ending, either totally or just in the high school program," Sjorros said. "So they were in a tough state of mind at that moment. Then we have players who know they are coming back next year, so they might be feeling a little different. So we had to navigate both sides of that and at the same time just really appreciate what our seniors did, the season they had, and getting us back to a winning program. We are just grateful for their dedication. We spent some time talking about our seniors. And then we fast-forwarded and talked a little about the players coming back and what we can build on from today and learn from and take into next season. We talked about all that a little bit. I did tell the seniors that this was the most energy I have had in several years, and I really think they caused that to happen with their enthusiasm and their ability to get everybody to show up for practice every day. Our attendance was phenomenal this year and that goes a long way into leading success on the field when everybody has that commitment Monday through Friday."

South Anchorage will face top-seed West Anchorage, a 27-6 winner over fourth-seed Colony in Friday's semifinal at the Eagles' home, "Nest on Hillcrest." West and South will play the state championship game next Friday at Colony High School.

"It was also really nice to see some of our fans up there," Sjoroos said. "They were super loud, and making noise and trying to give the kids some inspiration and energy. Some of our fans in Anchorage came out too, that is always nice. It would have been nice to get one more week, but at the same time there is no way to look back at this as not a successful year. We did a lot of good things. We'll learn from that, build on it. I told them this is the tough part of sports, when they turn on the scoreboard and you end up with less points than the other team, it always hurts. We will get through it and still find time to enjoy what we accomplished."

SCORE BY QUARTER

Juneau-Douglas 0 - 6 - 6 - 0 = 12

South Anchorage 7 - 14 - 14 - 0 = 42

HOW THEY SCORED

1ST QTR

0:56 - Wolverines - Yarrington 1-yard run. PAT Willis 7-0.

2ND QTR

3:08 - Wolverines - Yarrington 35-yard run. PAT Willis 14-0.

1:12 - Crimson Bears - Ridle 61-yard run. PAT misses. 6-14.

0:19 - Wolverines - Yarrington 53-yard pass to Willis. PAT Willis 21-6.

3RD QTR

6:25 - Wolverines - Souhala-Tuinei 12-yard run. PAT Willis 28-6.

3:24 - Wolverines - Yarrington 42-yard run. PAT Willis 35-6

4TH QTR

5:02 - Crimson Bears - E. Van Kirk 1-yard run. 2-point conversion pass fails. 12-35.

3:22 - Wolverines - Jensen 52-yard run. PAT Willis. 42-12.

• *Contact Klas Stolpe at sports@juneauindependent.com*