

NEWS

Cost estimate for shore power at cruise docks soars
P. 8



VOICES

Weighing in on the fall elections and e-bikes
P. 17



SPORTS

JDHS sweeps cross country regional championships
P. 14



Juneau Independent

The True Local Newspaper of Alaska's Capital City

September 27, 2026

Peterson reelected to 7th term as president

Peterson gets 68.1% of vote, four other candidates get between 11.6% and 2.9%; Pata ousted as 1st vice president on Tlingit and Haida's central council at Tribal Assembly

By MARK SABBATINI, Editor

Chalyee Éesh Richard Peterson was resoundingly elected to a seventh two-year term as the president of the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska on Thursday, getting 68.1% of the vote in a five-way race in which the runner-up finished with 11.6%.

However, a shakeup in top leadership occurred as First Vice President Ku.seen Jacqueline Pata, who finished fourth in the presidential vote, then lost her current position to Clinton
See Tlingit and Haida on Page 9



Chalyee Éesh Richard Peterson hugs an attendee after being elected to a seventh term as the president of the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska during its 91st annual Tribal Assembly at Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall on Thursday, Sept. 24, 2026. (Mark Sabbatini / Juneau Independent)

Bear missing after charging a man and being shot; no human injuries reported

By JASZ GARRETT, Managing Editor

Fish and Game warns it's the time of year bears enter hyperphagia, again advises securing trash and other attractants; man says he acted in self-defense

A Mendenhall Valley resident shot a bear that charged him early Saturday morning, according to the Juneau Police Department. It's unknown if the animal is deceased.

"My wife woke me up, and she said there was a loud banging on the door and walls," Saula Tuiqalau told the Juneau Independent in an interview



The big black bear seen at a neighbor's residence on Meadow Lane on Sept. 5, 2026. (Courtesy of Doug Jones)

Thursday. "She thought someone was trying to break in and I did too, so I
See Bear on Page 4

Per-passenger fee increase for charter vessels proposed by Docks and Harbors

Whale watching operators say costs should be more equitably shared, residents say current situation at Statter isn't equitable to residents

By ELLIE RUEL, Reporter

Over 30 vessel operators and non-commercial Statter Harbor users filled the Mendenhall Valley Public Library meeting room earlier this month to weigh in on a proposed 266% increase to per-passenger fees levied on commercial boats.

Chartered vessels currently pay \$2.05 per passenger to use Statter Har-
See Docks and Harbors on Page 6

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 reasonable effort to contact the author about any changes prior to publication.

Fuel surcharge for AML rising to 22.5% on Sept. 27

Iran war caused spike from 11% this March to 18.5% in April; current rate of 16% among lowest in Alaska as other regions have also seen significant cost increases

By MARK SABBATINI, Editor

Alaska Marine Lines is increasing its fuel surcharge to 22.5% on Sunday, up from the current rate of 16% and a rate of 9.5% in June 2025.

The rate increased to 12% late that month, then dropped to 11% in November before spiking to 18.5% in early April — mirroring a large increase in global fuel prices due to the Iran war that started in late February. Fuel prices would subsequently drop — as did AML's surcharge to 14.5% in late June before rising to 16% in late August — but are again surging, with some predictions they could go much higher.

Other regions served by AML in Alaska, Hawaii and the Yukon have also seen a sharp increase in surcharges, but increases set for Sunday are only for Southeast Alaska, the Yukon (at 29.5%, up from 23%) and inland trucking (13.4%, up from 12.9%).

Questions submitted Sunday by the Juneau Independent to Lynden Inc., AML's parent company, about the latest surcharge increase did not receive a reply as of Tuesday morning.

About 95% of goods in Juneau arrive via ship, with Alaska Marine Lines as the primary cargo shipper, said Brian Holst, executive director of the Juneau Economic Development Council, in an interview Tuesday. He said shipping typically accounts for about 10% of the cost of grocery store items — so a 6% jump in shipping would equate to a 0.6% price increase for groceries.

"I also think it's important for people to
*See **Surcharge** on Page 4*

'I never met a more tenacious person,' says cousin of Ryan Jollimore, who died in motorcycle collision last Thursday



Ryan Jollimore at his home in Douglas on Dec. 7, 2025. (Photo by Danielle Peterson)

Family members say Jollimore, who moved from Florida to Juneau two years ago to work as a helicopter mechanic, had a strong interest in experiencing new things

By MARK SABBATINI, Editor

Ryan Jollimore, 26, developed a fondness for motorcycles in high school and, after he graduated, a passion for repairing helicopters. The former fueled his sense of exploration and the latter an opportunity to move from his family's hometown in Florida to Juneau two years ago.

"He was scouted by his company for his job and they made very good offers," his sister, Katrina Jollimore, said in an interview Saturday. "But on top of that it was just the sheer beauty that Alaska offers."

Ryan Jollimore worked as a mechanic for a local helicopter company, and spent his spare time hiking, trying new things such as learning to fish, and riding his motorcycle, according to family members. On Thursday afternoon he died when his motorcycle

collided with a postal truck on North Douglas Highway.

His cousin, Alex Kuiper, who followed Ryan Jollimore from Florida to Alaska and became his roommate, said Monday that "I never met a more tenacious person."

"If he could be Atlas, the man holding up the world, he would," Kuiper said. "That man was chivalrous with a heart of gold. He saw the world as what it should be and he was willing to put anything he could in to make it happen."

Ryan Jollimore's sister said he liked new experiences.

"After he got out of high school he was just kind of traveling, bouncing around, trying new things, trying different jobs," she said. "And then it was about three years ago that he was going to the aeromechanics trade school here."

Their grandfather owned a motorcycle, which sparked Ryan Jollimore's interest, his sister said. She said as a teen her brother was more restless, but "he really changed things for himself

and he became a very generous, very kind person."

"He was still a risk taker," she said. "But he learned to be safe about taking his risks."

Kuiper said he had a cautionary talk with his cousin when he announced his move to Alaska.

"I was not trying to talk him down," Kuiper said.

"You have to make sure it's safe. You have to make sure you have your backup plan," he told his cousin. "You don't get lost out there, trapped out there — you know, lose your job and not have the money to get back."

Kuiper went to visit his cousin about six months later.

"Just wanting to make sure he's good, make sure he's safe out there," he said. Alaska ended up being a life-changing experience for Kuiper as well.

"As soon as I got off that plane, it's all these mountains," he said. "He then immediately started planning it out. His first place — well before I can even get out here — he made sure I had a spare room."

Ryan Jollimore, while in Juneau, "swallowed his time with work," his cousin said.

"He didn't like having idle time, and if he could get some money to do something to help someone to make something happen, he just filled up the time with work," Kuiper said. "He would often take a bunch of jobs, work himself way too far."

But he still found time to explore and try new things away from work, according to his cousin.

"We even learned how to fish out here together because we never did in Florida," Kuiper said.

Ryan Jollimore's sister said she visited him last July and they explored local trails.

See Jollimore on Page 4

JOLLIMORE

Continued from page 3

"He would go hiking every day after work," Katrina Jollimore said. "He had amazing trails. He showed me some of them. And loved biking as well — motorcycling. There was nothing that could separate him from his bike."

Their mother visited him about two weeks before the fatal accident occurred, she said.

Kuiper said he learned about the accident from his cousin's co-worker, and went to the scene when people were unable to reach Ryan Jollimore by phone.

"I thought I'm just going to drive up and take a look...get rid of that nagging feeling," Kuiper said. But "I rode up and I almost knew almost immediately as soon as I saw his bike."

The family is planning a memorial service in Juneau as well as a funeral in Florida, with dates for both still pending, according to Katrina Jollimore. A GoFundMe has been established to help the family pay funeral-related expenses.

Kuiper said he plans to remain in Juneau, given his experiences since moving here. He said his cousin also was fond of the community, but had talked about further adventures.

"He loved Juneau, no question about it," Kuiper said. "But he also wanted to do other things. He wanted to explore the planet."

"As much as he loved the company, the next place he was talking about was Australia," he said. "Never been there before, had no connection to it, but for the same reason why he came to Alaska. It sounded cool. So that was going to be kind of his next thing up years from now."

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

SURCHARGE

Continued from page 2

know that these (surcharge increases) don't immediately change the prices of an item," he said. "These companies all have contracts, but, yes, over time if these surcharges are maintained they translate into higher prices."

The updated surcharge for Southeast Alaska remains lower than for most other regions AML serves, according to the company's website. Listed surcharges are 11.5% for Arctic/Western Alaska, 13.4% for inland/trucking, 29% for Central Alaska and Cordova/Valdez, 29.5% for the Yukon, 31% for Dutch Harbor, Kodiak and the Aleutians, and 31.5% for Hawaii.

Numerous other companies involved in transport, from airlines to mail services, are also imposing fuel-related surcharges and fees. Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, told CNBC earlier this month the total bill per household since the U.S.-Iran conflict began is about \$1,760.

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

BEAR

Continued from page 1

grabbed my gun and then came outside to check what was happening, and I saw the bear fence that we built was flipped over on its side and the garbage was everywhere."

He said he heard the bear puffing and huffing in the dark.

"I take a step off the stairs, and then I see the bear about a little over 10 feet away from me," he said. "Then it saw me and I got a little spook. I wasn't expecting to see that. I must have scared it or something because it started bluff-charging me."

He said he didn't want to turn his back on it. His gun was cocked while he yelled at the bear, trying to get it to leave or calm down while he backed away.

"But then it started coming at me so I put a bullet in its skull, and it took a few more steps toward me and I emptied five more into it," Tuiqalau said. "That's when it turned around and ran off...Thankfully I shot it before I could get hurt."

He said he called the cops after attempting to track it himself. JPD officers followed a blood trail, but failed to find the bear after the call came in at around 3 a.m. Saturday.

Officers advised the Alaska Wildlife Troopers and Alaska Department of Fish and Game of the situation. A trooper and officials from Fish and Game arrived six hours later, but heavy rain made the bear untraceable. There were also pockets of brush nearby and the bear could have crossed the Mendenhall River.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Austin McDaniel wrote in an email Monday that troopers couldn't locate an injured or deceased bear and are no longer actively looking.

"The shooting appears to be a lawful use of force to defend a person's life or property," McDaniel wrote.

The investigation is closed, he said.

McDaniel said no injuries were reported. He added that Fish and Game determines if a big game animal is an ongoing public safety risk.

Carl Koch, Juneau's area management biologist at Fish and Game, said if the bear is alive, it's unlikely to pose a risk unless cornered or provoked.

"You want to give them space," Koch said in an interview Monday. "We can't do a lot more than look as hard as we did and wait for other reports."

See Bear on Page 5

BEAR

Continued from page 4

He said it's a 50/50 chance the bear is still alive.

"If he struck the bear in the manner that he intended, and I have no way of knowing, then it was probably likely to have caused significant injury," Koch said.

If someone sees an injured bear, especially with a wounded head, chest, neck, or shoulders, they should contact Fish and Game at 907-465-4265. The bear is a large adult, based on residents' descriptions. If someone finds a dead bear, they should call the same phone number. In the event of an emergency, Koch said to call 911.

Per state statute, if the bear is found deceased, the shooter will be responsible for skinning the bear, salvaging the skull and claws, and then must turn the carcass in to the state.

Koch said that in his 13 years of responding to bear-human conflicts, there's typically one to two bear shootings every summer reported to the department. There have been three documented in Juneau this year.

The first was in July, when a yearling bear was shot out of a tree downtown. It was euthanized due to suffering mortal wounds. The Alaska Wildlife Troopers are still investigating this case.

The second conflict was earlier this month, Koch said, with the homeowner acting in self-defense.

"It was dark out and (they) went in the backyard, and a bear came up be-

hind them and charged them, so they shot it while they were picking up their trash using a small-caliber handgun similar to the situation this weekend," he said.

Koch said this bear's body was also unable to be recovered, and it was assumed to be a miss or to have sustained a minor injury. No charges or citations have been issued in any of the three incidents.

All involved unsecured trash.

"He could have done a better job securing the garbage," Koch said regarding the incident Saturday. "I spoke with the person who shot the bear and emphasized ways to do that, and to secure any other attractants on the property."

State law defines that someone may take game in defense of life or property if not brought about by improper disposal of garbage or similar attractants, and if all other means to protect life and property "are exhausted" before the animal is killed. It's up to the Alaska Wildlife Troopers to enforce this. Penalties include the loss of a hunting license, fines and criminal charges.

Tuiqalau told the Independent that his only plan to better secure his trash is to rebuild the knocked-down fence to be bigger and stronger around his non-bear-resistant trash cans. The structure is currently set up as a bear shed with wire netting and is six by six feet. He was asked what he would do if another bear still came.

"Then I'll shoot it," he said.

The bear was defending the garbage

when it charged, according to Koch.

Tuiqalau said he was unaware of whether he needed to invest in an electric fence, how to set it up, and how much it would cost. He added bears have gotten into his trash before, but were easily scared away. He said he wouldn't have shot this bear if it hadn't charged him.

"But I just don't want a bear outside in my yard," he added.

Koch said Fish and Game has electric fences the department loans out to prevent wildlife conflict. A page on the department's website explains how to install them and state officials can also give advice. The website also details what to do if conflict with a bear arises.

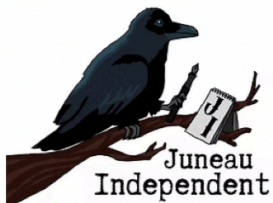
Koch reminded the Juneau community that it's the time of year bears are getting ready to hibernate.

"They're biologically driven to put on those last pounds," he said. "The salmon runs are slowing down; if people don't secure stuff, bears will come around, and they're going to get food rewards. People think that they hibernate as soon as it gets cold enough outside, or there's a little bit of snow — and it's just not true."

Koch said the reason bears typically hibernate in colder months is due to a lack of food and high calorie burn, "but if they can get all the garbage, et cetera that they want, they are known to sometimes delay hibernation." He added it's also too early to put out bird feeders.

He said that if a bear is killed for get-

See Bear on Page 6



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

BEAR

Continued from page 6

ting into garbage — but someone continues not to secure their trash — another one will come along and likely suffer the same fate.

Koch stressed now is the time for everybody to try and “batten down the hatches.”

“If you hear a noise outside, it's up to you whether you go outside with a gun or you call the police and ask for assistance,” he said.

Koch said people have the right to defend themselves, but to be cautious since shots fired in residential neighborhoods pose danger to nearby properties and people.

“If you think it's a bear and it's not causing severe damage — there's options,” Koch said.

He said even if someone is calm and has great aim, the bullets can still go through and through. Koch stressed calling 911 if there's an emergency — like a bear breaking into a house, car, or other immediate threats to life and safety. He said the police have a way to reach Fish and Game after hours.

“Most people want to do the right thing and, again, you have a right to defend yourself,” he said. “But if a bear's on your trash can, maybe don't walk outside less than 10 feet away from it. Yell out the window, maybe wait it out, clean it up and let us know what's going on.”

Tuigalau said he felt he had no other choice and was worried about his newborn inside.

“I'm not sure what else I was supposed to do when it was coming right at me,” he said.

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

DOCKS AND HARBORS

Continued from page 1

bor. Port Director Carl Uchtyl said based on capital project and staffing needs the proposed increase would make the fee \$7.50. Uchtyl said that's based on analysis of other tourism des-

ination passenger fees, citing proposed Mendenhall Glacier fee increases.

In an Aug. 18 memo to the board, Uchtyl noted while Docks and Harbors is financially sound, projections for fiscal year 2027 place the department's enterprise fund at a final balance of \$1.2 million, possibly lower than ever before.

“Recent Board direction has identified expansion of the North Douglas Launch Ramp facility, replacement of the Statter Harbor breakwater, recapitalization of the Aurora Harbor Office Building, Douglas Harbor uplands im-

See Docks and Harbors on Page 7



Boats in Statter Harbor on Thursday, Sept. 24, 2026. (Ellie Ruel / Juneau Independent)

Premium health and wellness products from “Alaskan Ginseng” essential oil (devil's club bark)



- made in Juneau • artisan distiller
- only natural ingredients
- GREAT for pain/inflammation
- Non-deet bug dope that heals
- Next generation of an ancient medicine

Discover its powerful therapeutic properties today!
2213 Dunn St. www.southeastdevilsclub.com

JWAC World Affairs Forum 2026

IRAN: Beyond the Crisis

October 1 & 2 @ KTOO
2 days, 4 speakers, 8 presentations

Details, Schedule @ JWAC.org

MALACHI THORINGTON FOR ASSEMBLY
From Juneau, For Juneau



Affordable Housing Thriving Local Businesses
Disaster Mitigation Community Well-Being

MalachiForJuneau.com

Filed for by Malachi Thorington for Juneau Assembly, 6350 View Drive, Juneau, AK 99801

DOCKS AND HARBORS

Continued from page 6

provements, purchase of the UAS property between Harris/Aurora Harbors and Statter Phase IV as needed capital improvement projects in excess of tens of millions of dollars,” the memo states.

A project replacing the Statter Harbor breakwater is underway and is anticipated to cost \$100 million, Uchytel said. Docks and Harbors will likely need to cover \$20 million as a local match.

“To get \$10 million for revenue bonds for this breakwater, we need to sell \$10 million revenue bonds, and we need to generate \$1 million of new revenue for 15 years,” Uchytel said.

Docks & Harbors has collected \$3,349,539 in revenue from passenger-for-hire fees since they were established in 2005, according to the agenda packet from the hearing.

Operators from the Southeast Alaska Whale Watchers Association (SEAWWA) presented a case against the increase, saying it would unfairly harm local businesses.

“These unpredicted price increases, such as the proposed 266% rate increase, will come directly out of local family businesses’ bottom line,” said Robie Janes, general manager of Gastineau Guiding. “The emerging markets in Southeast Alaska are getting a growing market share of shore excursions outside of Juneau. So our competitive pricing is extremely important.”

Janes said SEAWWA proposes reevaluating the rate hike, or adjusting it to be progressive and compatible with multi-year pricing contracts with cruise companies. He also said capital improvement funding should be separated from operational costs.

“This plan that is being proposed



Residents and whale watch operators listen during a Docks and Harbors hearing on a proposed passenger-for-hire fee increase on Sept. 8, 2026. (Ellie Ruel / Juneau Independent)

right now targets a single user group for capital improvement projects that benefits all users in Statter Harbor,” he said. “We agree to pay their fair share to support harbor operations, but at a 266% increase, it’s just not fair or equitable in all of our opinions.”

Before opening the meeting to public testimony, Docks and Harbors Board Chair Shem Sooter said the enterprise is looking for other areas to trim, and won’t rely solely on the fee increase to fund Statter Harbor.

“We’re not just targeting whale watchers. We’re going to take a look at all the commercial fees in order to start funding what we recapitalize the breakwater, recapitalize the existing float system. You folks are unique, and that your business is going to end here shortly for the season,” he said. “We’re not just looking at how we can raise rates; we’re looking at how we can trim some fat, how we can be a little bit more efficient.”

Some Auke Bay residents said the quality-of-life impact on locals justifies the increase. Others testified about heavy wakes from whale watching boats dangerously rocking their skiffs, and congestion and noise issues near the harbor.

“I see a brand new multimillion-dollar dock built for whale boats. I see bathrooms built for whale boats. I see a parking lot built for whale boats. I see captains parking for whale boats. When you talk about equitable, it’s not

equitable,” said Jim Parise. “I don’t know what the right number is, but it doesn’t make sense to me that the industry that is taking most advantage of Statter Harbor shouldn’t pay for it.”

Louis Jergens, co-owner of Juneau Lighthouse Tours, said he understands infrastructure needs but hopes for a solution that is more fair.

“There are going to be ripple effects between other harbors and it’s going to impact other operators differently depending on how reliant they are on Statter,” Jergens said. “Couldn’t come up with an example that was relevant to what we’re talking about with one user group taking up the slack that isn’t fairly applied to everybody.”

SEAWWA said most of the companies operating out of Juneau have agreed to policies against crowding whales, speeding in a way that creates a heavy wake, and causing dock congestion in the regular loading zone.

“We are working continuously on figuring out wakes out there,” said Serene Hutchinson, an owner of Juneau Tours. “There are a lot of boats in general, not just whale watching. So this is a work in progress.”

Sooter said the proposal will have to be further discussed before formally moving forward.

“The purpose of tonight’s meeting was to decide if it was worth moving forward, and I believe it is worth moving forward after listening to everyone,” he said. “I’m going to suggest that we put it on the ops committee for this next coming meeting, and we’re going to keep this in front of us.”

The next Docks & Harbors Operations and Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for Oct. 14.

• *Contact Ellie Ruel at ellie.ruel@juneauindependent.com.*

Soaring cost of shore power for Juneau docks due in part to the high demand for data centers and EVs



The Carnival Miracle at Juneau's lone cruise ship dock with shore power on Sept. 14, 2026. (Mark Sabbatini / Juneau Independent)

Electrical equipment prices are rising and availability is scarce, engineer with company designing proposed local project tells Docks and Harbors Board

By PAT FORGEY

For the Juneau Independent

The most recent cost estimate for bringing shore power to more cruise ships in Juneau had its first public airing before Juneau's Docks and Harbors Board on Thursday, and the first public explanation for what has been called a startlingly high cost.

Bringing electric power to two Juneau-owned cruise ship docks will enable ships to cut the cost of diesel fuel while in Juneau, as well as reduc-

ing pollution, according to advocates. Those have been goals in Juneau, and increasingly around the world, for more than two decades.

But it may cost as much as \$111 million, twice as much as a city estimate in 2024, according to H3 Engineering Solutions.

The California-based company paused its electrification design work at the 35% completion stage to enable analysis and first review by the Docks and Harbors board

Vahik Haddadian, an H3 engineer, said higher demand for electrical equipment such as transformers has been one of the factors driving up

costs. Transformers are in such short supply they have to be ordered two years before they are needed.

Haddadian said the high demand for electrical equipment is due to things as data centers and growing numbers of electric vehicles.

Completion of this project may take years, he said, in part due to seasonal restrictions on work.

"We're talking 54 months. If you say 'go' now it will probably take four and a half to five years," Haddadian said.

A key expense for Juneau is the need to provide electrical service to nearly all ships, meaning cables will have to be moved up and down the docks to reach each ship's varying access points, as well as moving up and down vertically to deal with Juneau's notoriously high tidal variations.

"An electrified dock designed only for a specific company's ships of a known size and configuration can be far less expensive to build than a dock that needs to be able to accommodate nearly all current ships or those to be built in the near future," Haddadian said.

Haddadian likened the ability to move shore power cables to precisely where they are needed to the ability to slide the wall outlet on your kitchen counter to just behind your toaster.

The Juneau design presented would

See Shore Power on Page 9

Cedar Clinic
PRIMARY CARE

**Primary Care
for Every Stage
of Life**

Preventive care, women's health,
well visits, and urgent needs.

Cedar Clinic
PRIMARY CARE

Healthy
People
Stronger
Communities

Hecla
GREENS CREEK

**RESPONSIBLE.
SUSTAINABLE.
INNOVATIVE.**

LEARN MORE

Let us hear from you!

Use the TBMP Hotline Webform

EMAIL: hotline@traveljuneau.com

Call: 907-586-6774

Please share your compliments, concerns or
complaints through either of our
Tourism Best Management Practices
hotline services



CELEBRATING OUR 30TH SEASON
HELPING TO MAKE JUNEAU A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!

SHORE POWER

Continued from page 8

accommodate nearly all ships. In California, new docks are required to accommodate 100% of ships, at a far higher building cost.

"You are lucky you are not in California," Haddadian said.

Some other costs are specifically designed for or related to the conditions in Juneau, he said.

A new dock next to existing city docks would be needed, calling for new steel pilings to be driven, Haddadian said. An existing uphill road to Alaska Electric Light and Power's transmission lines and equipment is built at a grade of more than 20%, twice the grade that a truck can be expected to haul a 100,000-pound transformer.

"A new road may need to be built," said Haddadian, "we need to knock that grade at least in half."

In other cases, the uncertain nature of alluvial soil and mine waste rock may complicate construction and drive up costs. H3's design includes a contingency of 30% to pay for unexpected costs, risks, or changes.

Shore power is currently available at Juneau's privately owned Franklin Dock, which was installed in 2001 to provide power specifically to Princess Cruises. Officials in Juneau and beyond hailed the dock as a pioneering achievement, but efforts toward additional local electrified docks in subsequent years have been stalled by cost and other factors.

Many of the specifications at the Franklin Dock have been implemented at other electrified docks worldwide.

"The global standard is exactly what you have here," Haddadian said. "You have Princess Cruises to thank for that."

AEL&P was asked what would happen in a situation where Juneau's reservoirs were running low or if another landslide knocked out power sources.

Cruise ships would be among the first to be turned off in such a situation, said Bryan Farrell, the company's chief generation officer.

"We're never going to burn diesel to serve an interruptible power customer," he said.

Farrell said revenue from selling power to cruise ships would be returned to Juneau's regular customers in terms of lower rates.

There was little public comment on the just-released plan, but Renewable Juneau's Steve Behnke said "this seems like a pretty good step forward."

• *Pat Forgey can be contacted via editor@juneauindependent.com.*

TLINGIT AND HAIDA

Continued from page 1

Cook Sr., the council's second vice president. She subsequently was not elected to the council's five other vice president seats.

Pata has served as the council's second-in-command since 2021. She will continue in her role as president and CEO of the Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority, a job she has held since 2019.

"I would like to thank everybody who supported me during my terms at Central Council," she told the delegates after all the vice presidential positions were filled. "I really appreciate being able to serve you and represent you; it gave me great honor and great privilege to do so. I look forward to seeing the next council take the leadership and do the things that they need to do."

The decisive presidential vote by 69 delegates at the council's 91st annual Tribal Assembly drew applause throughout Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall when the results were displayed. Peterson, the council's president since 2014, was in a contested race this year after facing abuse accusations from a former romantic partner last year, with a council review resulting in no finding as to

whether the accusations had merit.

Peterson, in an interview after Thursday's vote, said it was the most contested election he has faced since the four-candidate race when he was initially elected in 2014 and he didn't have a sense ahead of time how it would turn out.

"Really just my heart's full of appreciation," he said. "I wasn't running against anything or anybody, and I applaud everybody who stood up. I think that's actually a wonderful thing. I think we're supposed to stand up and make our case."

Peterson said he wasn't bothered about being challenged by Pata and the other three candidates.

"The reality is we have a lot of love and respect for each other, and I think people want to put themselves forward for positions in the way they can serve," he said of Pata.

The top-finishing challenger was Shkaadul.aat Lisa Gassman with 11.6%, followed by Melissa Kookesh with 10.1%, Pata at 7.2% and Jax Kóoste Tasha Hotch at 2.9%.

The votes for first vice president were Cook with 56.5%, Kookesh 17.4%, Pata 15.9%, Gassman 8.7% and Hitch 1.4%.

"I would just like to thank the delegation for supporting me and putting your trust in me as first vice," Cook told the attendees in the hall after the vote. "There's work still ahead to be done. I'm looking forward to it. Most people know how to get a hold of me and if you don't your neighbor probably does, so feel free to reach out, text, call, whatever you need."

Cook, according to Tlingit and Haida's website, is the president of the Craig Tribal Association, and a member of the Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority board and Haa Yakaawu Financial Corporation. The website states he is a certified petroleum technician with years of experience working in the heating and construction industry.

While Alaska uses ranked-choice voting
See Tlingit and Haida on Page 10

TLINGIT AND HAIDA

Continued from page 9

ing to reach majority votes in statewide and legislative races, the Tlingit and Haida elections require an outright majority. To get there, various groups of delegates meet in closed-door caucus meetings to hash out differences.

Before the first official vote, for instance, separate requests were made for caucuses of Juneau delegates, new delegates and small Southeast village delegates. An initial 15-minute period for those meetings in different parts of the building was extended to 20 minutes, and the delegates reconvened a few minutes past that.

The vote reelecting Peterson was cast shortly afterward.

The delegates, after another caucus, overwhelmingly selected Cook as first vice president. The five other vice presidents were selected in six balloting rounds, with caucuses occurring during each.

Elected were: Rob Sanderson Jr., Frances Mills, Will Micklin, Michelle D. Martin and William A. Ware. Under amended governing documents passed last year, those positions are no longer numbered or ranked, according to Dixie Hutchinson, a tribal spokesperson.

Also elected were Cheryl Demmert as associate justice and Shania R. Murphy as emerging leader.

The newly elected officers took their oaths at the conclusion of voting, which took about three-and-a-half hours.



Delegates get instructions before casting their votes for leadership positions at the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska's 91st annual Tribal Assembly at Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall on Thursday, Sept. 24, 2026. (Mark Sabbatini / Juneau Independent)

Peterson, by tradition, then offered a tribute and gifts to three now-former council members — Pata, former fifth vice president Delbert Kadake and former sixth vice president Paulette Moreno.

"I've had the good fortune to serve with a lot of executive councils, a lot of different vice presidents, and I can say from every one that's ever stepped up to serve they bring their heart, they give their time, their families make sacrifices for them to serve our people," he said. "And this is a group of people who have testified, they've stood up, spoken out for so many of us. They've brought voices from their community and made sure that all 39,000 tribal citizens have been well represented. So let us all take a moment, stand and give them applause for their service."

Pata, in an interview after the session concluded, said the outcome of the elections wasn't a surprise.

"There's a lot of new delegates here and they wanted to see change," she said. "And I think that's why I ran too, because we wanted to see change."

At the same time, she said Peterson's sizeable reelection showed support for what the tribal council has achieved.

"Our tribe has grown a lot," she said. "Every community has felt the benefit of the COVID dollars. We've delivered a lot and people are appreciative of that, so I'm not surprised. I think the tribe has done some really great stuff and we need to be proud of that."

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

Juneau's Organic Grocery in the Heart of Downtown



Click ad to see deli menu and other store updates

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

ConocoPhillips Alaska

VOLUNTEER

See Jump on Page

See our Impact

Committed to Alaska for more than 50 years

Orange Shirt Day in Juneau set for new events as Alaska set for a historic return of remains of Indigenous boarding school students

Inaugural walk/run, community potluck and film screening planned Sunday; traditional foods feast and healing activities planned Wednesday

By MARK SABBATINI, Editor

Orange Shirt Day originated in 2013 in memory of survivors of Indigenous boarding schools and children who didn't return. This year Juneau will observe the occasion with a series of gatherings at a time when the remains of some of those children are returning to Alaska after more than a century.

Local events are planned Sunday as well as Wednesday, the latter of which is the official date for Orange Shirt Day. The date of Sept. 30 was selected because "it is the time of year in which children were historically taken from their homes and their families to Indian residential schools," according to the Orange Shirt Society.

Sunday's events are scheduled to start at 10 a.m. with the first-ever MMIP & Orange Shirt Day 5K/1K Community Walk & Run at Sandy Beach. That will be followed by an also-new community gathering and potluck from 1-2:30 p.m. hosted by the Tlingit and Haida Community Council at the tribe's Community Hall at 3235 Hospital Drive, then a free screening of the film "Bones of Crows" at 4 p.m. at the Aurora Grand Theater downtown.

S'eiltin Jamiann Hasselquist, a member of the community council, stated she initiated the effort for the potluck and film screening because "It feels right for our Community Council to be hosting this gathering, and I am hopeful it will continue year after year."

"The potluck and film are part of creating a space where we can gather as a community, share food, remem-



Xeell. éesh Lyle James, left, leads the Woosh.Ji.Een Dance Group during a song at an Orange Shirt Day gathering inside the Zach Gordon Youth Center on Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025. (Mark Sabbatini / Juneau Independent)

ber, learn, speak our truths, and have support around us," she wrote in a text message to the Juneau Independent on Friday.

On Wednesday a litany of activities is planned during an Orange Shirt Day gathering hosted by the Haa Tóoch Lichéesh Coalition from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Zach Gordon Youth Center.

The events are occurring a few weeks after the Alaska Native Heritage Center announced four Alaska Native children sent to the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, who have been buried at Carlisle Cemetery for more than a century, are being returned to their home communities. The announcement notes "the process of bringing the children home will begin during the final week of September and will conclude on September 30, National Orange Shirt Day."

Local event organizers are calling attention to the historic significance of that event and the children being re-

turned: Edward Angalook (Iñupiaq), Lucy Spaulding (Tsimshian), Mabel Stack (Tsimshian), and Tummassak (Iñupiaq).

"That's why we are doing this, because every child matters," said Megan Lingle, a clinical intern for Tlingit and Haida's Community and Behavioral Services Healing Center who helped organize this year's race event at Sandy Beach. "It matters if it was over 100 years ago, or if it's today, or if it's the people who are still feeling the effects of historical and intergenerational trauma. We are here, our lives are sacred and we want our people to know that they matter."

More than 100 Native students, including 11 from Alaska, are still buried at the Carlisle cemetery, according to the online news publication ICT.

The walk/run at Sandy Beach was originally envisioned as an event for Missing and Murdered Indigenous
See Orange Shirt Day on Page 12

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Continued from page 11

Peoples Day, which is May 5, Lingle said. But community members she talked to "said it would be more meaningful to host it around Orange Shirt Day since they kind of go hand in hand, and so we decided to host it."

"It may seem like these are two separate issues, but there is a connection because for generations Indigenous people have experienced the forced removal of children," she said in an interview Friday. "The separation from family and culture, loss of language and identity, and other policies that have caused profound harm. And that doesn't just disappear, and it shows up in other ways where our people are still healing from that. It doesn't define us, but it has certainly affected our way of life."

An older brother "encouraged me to stay active from an early age through running," Lingle said. She said the way that has helped her find peace in difficult moments is a reason she was interested in the race as an MMIP/Orange Shirt Day observance.

"If I'm having a hard time or a hard day, if I go out for a run and connect with nature there's healing and medicine in that, and that's something that I want to encourage our people to do," she said.

The event won't just be the one-mile

and 5K race, Lingle said. The Woosh. jii.éen Dance Group and Tlingit and Haida Elders Program Dance Group are scheduled to perform, and "we have a lot of speakers who are there to share some words because this is a meaningful day."

Other activities at the gathering include youth activities by the Tlingit and Haida's Wayfinders program, a smudging ceremony before the start of the race, and orange and red handprint paintings on faces of willing participants, she said.

The potluck will feature a keynote speech by Kaaháni Rosita Worl, a 2023 National Humanities Medal recipient who at the age of six was forcibly taken from her home near Petersburg to the Haines House residential boarding school institution at the age of six. She is now the president of Sealaska Heritage Institute, and has been a cultural and political advocate for Alaska Natives for decades.

Hasselquist noted that Worl was removed at the same age as Phyllis Webstad, who was removed from her family in 1973. Webstad also had her clothes taken — including an orange shirt from her grandmother — which became symbolic when she created Orange Shirt Day in 2013.

Also planned during the potluck is a distribution of orange shirts featuring a design by Tlingit Deisheetaan artist Mike Kinville called "Speaking Our

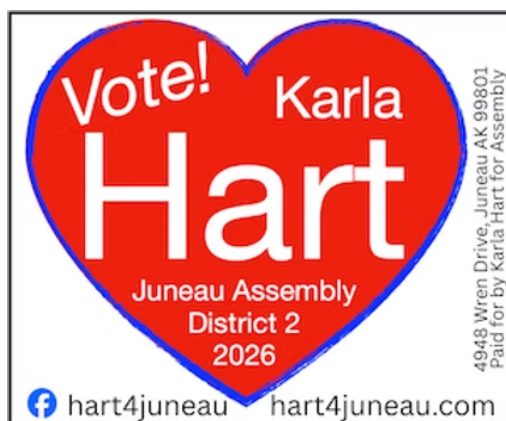
Truths," according to Hasselquist. She stated he created the design in 2021, shortly after the remains of 215 Indigenous children were found in a mass grave at a former boarding school in Canada.

"At that time, I began calling schools in Kamloops and connected with Tracy Thomas, a teacher at Valleyview Secondary School," Hasselquist wrote. "She told me students were adding blue hearts to their orange shirts and around their school. When I asked why blue hearts, she explained that they called themselves the Blue Generation, the Healing Generation. We know the orange shirt represents survivors, while the blue heart creates a place for descendants of survivors, the children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, to speak our truths and tell our own stories and experiences of the intergenerational impacts of residential boarding school institutions."

The potluck is free, with participants asked to bring a dish to share if so inclined.

"Bones of Crows" is a 2022 Canadian film, followed by a five-hour television series, about an Indigenous family's multi-generational struggles with forced boarding schools and other hardships, as well as their achievements such as their matriarch becoming a code talker for the Canadian Air Force during World War II.

See Orange Shirt Day on Page 13



ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Continued from page 12

The Yées K̓u.oo Dancers are scheduled to perform at the potluck and following the film.

Wednesday's gathering at the Zach Gordon Youth Center, similar to an inaugural event last year, includes a traditional foods feast, healing village activities, dance performances and historical presentations, according to organizers.

"Partners have generously contributed traditional foods for a community feast, including Goldbelt Inc.'s donation of herring eggs, smoked fish from Tlingit & Haida's Traditional Food Security Program, smoked herring from Goldbelt Heritage Foundation, Coho and King salmon from local fishermen Patrick Baum, Deer meat donated by the Andrews family, locally made jams and jellies, berries, and other foods still coming together," wrote Ati Koon Ya Nagoodi Nasiah, executive director of the Haa Tóoch Lichéesh Coalition, in an email to the Juneau Independent on Friday.

The healing village activities include Orange Shirt Day block art printing, t-shirt and button making, Native Youth Olympics events "and opportunities to make additional items that will be gathered as gifts for Elders later this fall," according to Nasiah.

"We are also creating space for people to learn more about boarding school history and receive support researching their own family and community connections to boarding schools," Nasiah wrote. "This research is supported by HTL staff and the Juneau Public Libraries, along with a grief-tending fire ceremony for those who would like a place to remember, honor, and tend to what the day may bring forward."

A centerpiece feature of the event will be Orange Shirt Day artwork created by local youth leader and Tsimshian artist Elizabeth Anderson.

"This piece was created to remember and honor every child who suffered from residential schools," Anderson said in a statement provided by Haa Tóoch Lichéesh. "We honor the children who were survivors. We honor the children who did not make it home. We honor every child who had to suffer from boarding schools, because every child does matter and deserves to be loved and cared for."

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

First modern-day Tlingit opera ends after selling out all shows; recording will be free to view from SHI

By MARK SABBATINI, Editor

The opera is over, but the show will go on.

"K̓utulagaaw: The Tlingit-Russian Battles," billed as the world's first Tlingit opera in recorded history, ended its stage debut Sunday after selling out all performances during a two-week run, according to Sealaska Heritage Institute, which co-produced the opera with Perseverance Theatre.

A video crew filmed the opera, which is expected to be shown at free public screenings and available to people at SHI's archives in the Walter Soboleff Building.

There is also discussion of further live stagings outside of Juneau, said Kathy Dye, an SHI spokesperson, in an interview Friday.

"We just want people to understand that we're open to those opportunities because we know there were people who really wanted to go, but just couldn't because it was in Juneau," she said.

When, where and if there will be future live shows depends on a number of factors, Dye said.

"We'll see if we can find an interest in a community," she said. "We would look into that and see how would that look? How would that be funded, because then there's travel and all that stuff? And by then is everybody still available?"

More than 2,000 people, many from outside Juneau, attended the live productions at the Thunder Mountain Middle School auditorium between Sept. 11 and 20, according to an SHI press release issued Friday. The opera that was nearly a decade in the making featured an all-Indigenous cast and crew, and was performed entirely in the Lingít language.

"Putting on the world's first modern-day Tlingit opera was a huge undertaking, and all of us at SHI are endlessly grateful for our partners at PT and the support we received from various organizations," SHI President Rosita K̓aaháni Worl said in a prepared statement. "Although many Southeast Alaska Natives were once actors who drew upon ancient forms of oration and dance in natural amphitheatres, these performances stopped post-contact. This outpouring of support for the opera proves that our stories have the power to enlighten so many people to the richness of cultural diversity within our country."

The SHI release notes the opera "focused on stories from the Tlingit-Russian War waged in Alaska first in 1802, when the Tlingit and Haida united against the Russians because they were assaulting Native women and appropriating land and resources throughout Southeast, and again in 1804."

Recordings by a film crew are now being produced into a video of the opera by KTOO, but due to contractual obligations it will not be streamed online, Dye said.

Sports

JDHS sweeps DI cross-country regions

Mangacat leads girls and Thompson leads boys to podium dominance

By KLAS STOLPE, Sports Editor

Juneau-Douglas High School: Yadaa.at Kalé senior Kaia Mangacat did something she likes to do every day — running with like-minded harriers.

“I love to run with my friends,” Mangacat said after finishing the Region V Championships course along the Treadwell Historic Mine Trail on Saturday. “I had fun and I think the team did great, and I am really excited for state.”

Mangacat hit the fastest female time of the day across the three division races in 18 minutes 29 seconds — the second-fastest time across the state this season — on a course that is traditionally harder, especially with traditional Southeast weather. Mangacat’s time is the second fastest female time for the JDHS course, trailing only JDHS senior Sadie Tuckwood (17:51 in 2019).

“The corners are definitely tricky,” Mangacat said. “So I try to take the outside when it is rainy like this. I am really grateful for all the support from the team and it is really motivating. I wouldn’t do it if it wasn’t for the team and the coaches. I love running with



Juneau-Douglas High School: Yadaa.at Kalé senior Kaia Mangacat wins the girls' Division I and DII race during the Region V Cross Country Running Championships at Juneau's Treadwell Historic Mine Trail on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026. DI and DII racers were scored separately. (Klas Stolpe / Juneau Independent)

my friends and pushing myself and getting faster. I love running.”

Following Mangacat were JDHS junior Sigrid Eller in 21:09, freshman Coralynn Nelson in 21:11 and junior Nevah Lupro in 21:25.

“I love running in the rain and all the mud,” Eller said. “It just makes me feel like I am completely in it, in the race. I love it. It was definitely cold,

though. Going into it I was kind of just thinking that you run as a team in regions, but you are also individually placing. My mindset was to support my team, but also focus on my own race. It was great because I had a teammate in front of me, a teammate right behind me, so it was totally easy to step out of my own race and focus on

See REGIONS on Page 15

RAMADA
BY WHIDAR
JUNEAU

COMFORT.
CONVENIENCE.
ALASKA.

Relax in comfortable rooms,
enjoy friendly service and
easy access to all that
Juneau has to offer.

*Your Adventure
Starts Here.*

COMFORTABLE
ROOMS

GREAT
LOCATION

RESTAURANT
& BAR

FREE
HIFI

Stay and recharge
in our new rooms
and enjoy the view
from our bar.

Locally Owned, Proud to be Part of Juneau

Ramada Juneau
375 Whidarr Street, Juneau, AK 99801
907.226.3476

Book Your Stay Today!

NORTHERN CREDIT SERVICES

SE ALASKA'S LOCAL CHOICE
COLLECTIONS - JUDGMENTS - LEGALS

SERVICE WITH RESULTS!

Ketchikan: (907) 225-5131
Juneau: (907) 723-8601
Sitka: (907) 789-0098

Assembly Candidates

School Board Candidates

Learn more at our election guide

REGIONS

Continued from page 14

teammates. And my own race was great. To prepare for state now I mostly focus on something I could have done better, like if I slowed down on the bottom of a hill I can work on that. Bartlett (state course) is really hilly, so it is good to focus on the hills and that is probably what I will look forward to next week.”

Ketchikan senior Ryan Elerding broke up the JDHS dominance with a 21:32.

“Ryan did amazing,” Ketchikan coach Sean Vail said. “I have a rule you need to beat a Juneau runner to go to state. So only one girl will go this year. Both Sarah (Kleeman) and Mad-die (Gass) did give it their all to try to get there.”

JDHS freshman Grace Rumsey placed sixth in 22:20, junior Sunna Schane seventh in 22:33, sophomore Maya Mothershead eighth in 22:37, and Ketchikan seniors Sarah Kleeman and Madelyn Gass grabbed the final two individual state qualifying placings in ninth and 10th with 23:03 and 23:19, respectively. Ketchikan sophomore Chloe Beach placed 11th in 25:07, sophomore Becky Fields 12th in 26:21, senior Piper Caskey 13th in 27:10 and freshman Vada Headley 14th in 28:04.

“On both sides they are showing that they are dialing in,” JDHS co-coach Zack Bursell said. “I saw our runners looking poised and moving efficiently through this meet. We are looking ready to put together a strong performance next week.”

In the boys’ race, JDHS senior Erik Thompson led the field from start to finish, blasting across the line in 17:06. His time is the 22nd fastest all-time for the JDHS course. Sitka senior Dominic Baciocco ran 15:56 in 2019,



Fans cheer on Juneau-Douglas High School: Yadaa.at Kalé senior Kaia Mangacat in the girls' Division I and DII race during the Region V Cross Country Running Championships at Juneau's Treadwell Historic Mine Trail on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026. DI and DII racers were scored separately. (Klas Stolpe / Juneau Independent)

JDHS senior Arne Ellefson-Carnes 16:26 in 2018, Sitka senior Connor Hitchcock 16:30 in 2014. On Saturday Craig senior Aulis Nelson hit 16:31 in the DIII race for the fourth fastest all-time mark. Thompson also ran a 16:49 on the course as a sophomore in 2024, for the 11th fastest all-time.

“It means a lot. It is really great,” Thompson said of his repeat region crown. “I am really happy that we took the top three podium spots. That is really good to see from the team. Today I definitely decided to kick it back a little, take it off a bit of the grind, save a little bit of that for state. I was hoping I could pull Logan (Fellman) through to maybe get a sub-17 race, but it just wasn’t in the cards. We are hoping to go back at it again at state and I think that will be a great spot with the competition up there. It was a little tricky warming up today in this weather, because if you go too early you can’t feel your hands, your toes go numb. And if you go too late, which I did today, then your legs aren’t quite ready and you just get shocked into it. Sometimes it works out but it is really

difficult on days like today...It means a lot to have this team, though, because if I get tired in the race I can’t stop, I have to keep going because I know those other six guys out there are working as hard as they possibly can. I have to respect that as well and keep working and putting in the effort.”

Thompson was tailed by classmates Logan Fellman in second with 17:13 and Zachariah Bos third in 17:16.

“This means that we are going to be ready for state,” Fellman said. “We are going to be fired up and we have a good group of boys. We are going to make a push at state.”

Added Bos, “Quite honestly, right off the bat, it just means God is good. This is a fun race, crappy conditions, but we were still able to pull through. I personally got really excited when I caught up to Logan, but he has that kick. I am excited for state. It has been in our head all year. We have been taking steps to get better at that course. The regions meet was our halfway

See Regions on Page 16

REGIONS

Continued from page 15

point and now we are there.”

JDHS senior Austin Huang grabbed fourth in 18:06, Ketchikan freshman Benjamin Thompson fifth in 18:06 and Ketchikan junior Isaac Evi-son sixth in 18:11 and JDHS junior Emmett Hightower seventh in 18:13.

“Getting five guys to qualify for state is pretty amazing since our top guy Ben (Thompson) finished with one shoe, he lost it on the second loop,” Ketchikan coach Vail said. “We possibly could have gotten a sixth in there, but Maxton (Glover) fell pretty hard at the start. It was a sloppy course for sure. Everyone should be very proud of themselves.”

Ketchikan grabbed the last three state individual qualifying placings with freshman Paul King eighth in 18:18, senior Henry Vail ninth in 18:19 and senior Blaine Garlick in 10th with 18:29.

JDHS senior Max Webster placed 11th in 19:09, junior Anderson Murray 12th in 19:24, Ketchikan sophomore James Armstrong 13th in 20:54.4 and Ketchikan junior Maxton Glover 14th in 20:54.6.

The top 10 individuals and all seven members of the top team earn entry into the ASAA/First National Bank Alaska Cross Country Running State Championships next Saturday at Anchorage’s Bartlett High School Trails.



Photos by Klas Stolpe / Juneau Independent

“They ran really awesome today,” JDHS co-coach Abby Jahn said. “So proud of all of our runners in the varsity and open races. This week we will focus on continued team building and getting our state team ready to race.”

REGION V DIVISION I AWARDS

Good Sport: JDHS - Zach Bos and Grace Rumsey; Ketchikan - Blaine

Garlick & Rebecca Fields.

All Academic: JDHS - Joseph “Max” Webster, Logan Fellman, Austin Huang, Kaia Mangacat and Erik Thompson; Ketchikan - Gavin Alderson Bell, Piper Caskey, Ryan El-erding, Blaine Garlick and Henry Vail.

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

Vote Paul Kelly

for Juneau Assembly Area-wide!

Pick Paul
He Listens

- Experienced Leadership
- Supports Childcare & Education
- Economic Development & Tourism Management

- Housing Security
- Supports our seniors
- Long-term Flood Solution

PAUL4JUNEAU.COM

Paid for by Paul for Juneau, PO BOX 20981, Juneau, AK 99802

JOYCE FOR JUNEAU

JOYCE FOR JUNEAU ASSEMBLY

JOYCEFORJUNEAU.COM

- BALANCE THE BUDGET
- PROTECT JUNEAU FROM FLOODING
- STRENGTHEN OUR ECONOMY
- EXPAND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES
- IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

PAID FOR BY JOYCE FOR JUNEAU, 8111 CIRCLE DRIVE, JUNEAU AK 99801

WE ARE HIRING!

We are looking for a new business manager

Support The Juneau Independent's day-to-day operations and our growing team

We are looking for a highly organized and strong administrator with accounting and HR experience

Click to learn more!

Voices

The value of regret

By JOSHUA ADAMS

In retrospect, it is common to muse on the things we would change if we could. Some see revisiting past losses and mistakes as time spent idle, but there is value in regret. If you regret nothing you have done, it may simply mean you failed to learn from the mistakes of the past. The value of regret is in not repeating them.

Three ballot initiatives have been brought to voters in response to policies advanced by fiscal conservatives. Ballot Initiative B would raise the mill-rate cap by three mills. If it passes, the Assembly could raise property taxes by nearly a third over their present level.

There is a myth that this would affect only wealthy property owners. I should remind folks that many rental properties in Juneau are owned by government entities or institutional investors. Those investors see rental units on a spreadsheet and vote on price setting. If you think those investors won't raise your rent when their property taxes go up, I have a gondola I'll sell ya.

We already pay very high taxes in Juneau. So where did the money go?

Instead of addressing the strategic mistakes inherent in a funding rubric driven by idealistic thinking, the Juneau Assembly recently voted to give CBJ staff a raise, even though the city manager was already paid more than the governor of the State of Alaska. The richest people in Juneau aren't land barons — they're contractors on the government dole and CBJ employees.

Giving tax abatements and no-interest loans to large developers brought us regrettable projects like the disastrous Ridgeview Apartments fiasco, a

blight behind Fred Meyer that produced barely a handful of overpriced condos. Telephone Hill is another example, where tax funding has literally been weaponized against the public. It has cost taxpayers more than \$600,000 in consultancy before we even get into staff time and lawsuits, and yet regret is a word I seldom hear on the lips of the Assembly.

Strong leaders harbor deep regrets. The value of regret is not in punishing ourselves for poor decisions, but in demanding accountability so we can learn from our mistakes. To regret is to vow to do better. There is no use raising taxes until we fix our government, because otherwise we are simply giving more money to an Assembly that is still hallucinating about bulldozers and gondolas.

Ballot Initiative B should be seen for what it is: a way for CBJ to subsidize its own pay increases with your rent.

• *Joshua Adams is a local author and member of Friends of Telephone Hill.*

Follow the money

By TANIA LEWIS

A quick internet search finds that 9% of the current U.S. cabinet secretaries are billionaires and 35% of the current administration are worth over \$100 million. Millionaires make up 73% of the U.S. Senate and 50% of the House. Only 10% of Americans are millionaires and only 0.005% are worth over \$100 million. Why would our ultra-wealthy politicians actually represent the needs of average Americans? They do not!

Ultra-wealthy politicians have created a culture war in this country by dividing us while they continue to amass wealth and consolidate power. While we argue and fight about abortion, trans rights, immigration and more, the rich quietly put more money

into their own pockets through tax breaks, mergers, and wars. They maintain their control by limiting our voting rights through executive orders and legislation.

Why would the ultra-wealthy worry about gas or food prices, or even outrageous medical costs? They can afford it. They create a smokescreen of blaming the most vulnerable people in our country for all of our problems while they steal the resources that keep us all alive: clean air, drinkable water, fertile farmland.

Issues surrounding abortion, trans rights, and immigration need to be worked out with civility and cooperation from all sides. The polarization on these topics is not only toxic; it is an intentional divide-and-conquer method that has worked throughout history. We need to fight this with all the determination and humanity we can muster. We must work together.

I am not going to tell you who to vote for. I just ask that you follow the money in your districts and find out which candidates serve the ultra-rich, and which serve you, the American people. Not planning on voting? Well you may as well just send the rich your wallet, credit cards and house. They will take it all if we let them.

• *Tania Lewis - Gustavus*

Losing could help Sullivan salvage a little dignity

By RICH MONIAK

Sen. Dan Sullivan is not a free man. At least not as free as Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.). And maybe not as free as his brother Frank. Unlike Alaska's junior senator who tethered his political fortunes to the unforgiving tyranny of President Donald Trump, they can talk about how the war with Iran and his tariffs have created economic havoc

See Sullivan on Page 18

SULLIVAN

Continued from page 17

for American households and businesses.

Along with Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Cassidy was one of the seven Republicans who voted to convict Trump for inciting the Jan. 6 insurrection. Despite efforts to atone for that, he wasn't able to assuage Trump's thirst for revenge. The president endorsed a Republican House member for Cassidy's Senate seat. Then celebrated his third place finish in Louisiana's Republican primary by crowing "it's nice to see that his political career is OVER!"

But as Cassidy recently told a reporter from The Dispatch, he's "much freer to point out that now gasoline prices are up because the president started a war that he doesn't know how to get out of." He noted diesel and fertilizer prices are also much higher. And he blamed Trump's "on-again, off-again tariffs" for increasing the costs of other goods.

Frank Sullivan has been the chairman and chief executive officer of the Sullivan family business, RPM International, since October 2008. According to the NY Times, in April he complained to analysts and investors that the war and tariffs are contributing to volatility that "is frustrating a lot of folks."

Granted, that's not the same as Cassidy's on the record criticism. But while Frank Sullivan is a private citizen with no obligation to go public with his concerns, his brother Dan is a U.S. senator who shouldn't be self-censoring his perspective on issues impacting his constituents.

Sen. Sullivan never spoke up to correct Trump's flawed argument that foreign businesses are paying the cost of his tariffs. What makes his silence even worse is as an RPM stockholder, he benefited from the increased cash dividend it paid this year that was made possible in part by its decision to

raise prices to offset some of its losses due to the tariffs.

Sen. Sullivan didn't attend the so-called midterm convention Republicans held in Dallas last week. But he would have fit right in. Except for the two hours Trump hogged the stage both nights, they did little more than shower him with undeserved praise.

Trump was the only party official who mentioned the tariffs. But if his claim that they delivered "trillions of dollars" in revenue to the US treasury was true, every other speaker would have made a big deal about it.

Trump also tried to paint the war as a success story perched on the near horizon. As if he forgot the many other occasions he said it was already won, he predicted the price of "oil will be going down as soon as we win the war with Iran, which is taking place right now. We'll win it. We're winning it."

Then he blended an alternative reality with an ego satisfying fantasy.

"We control the Hormuz Strait," he said. And added the name should be changed to the "Trump Strait."

No one had the nerve to remind him that all ship traffic had enjoyed free passage through the strait until he started the war. And a few days later they all had to swallow the news that the war had expanded to the other side of the Arabian Peninsula. Iranian backed Houthis seized a port in Yemen that's vital for shipping oil from other Red Sea ports. And an Iraqi militia sympathetic to Iran launched a drone attack that forced Saudi Arabia to shut down a major oil pipeline.

Sullivan's answer to this latest oil price shock was to brag again about the waiver of the Clean Air Act he helped obtain. But that will do almost nothing to offset diesel prices hitting an all-time record high. Or the higher cost of heating oil Alaskans will be paying later this fall and likely through the winter.

The irony of all this is if Kamala Harris beat Trump two years ago,

Americans wouldn't be struggling with higher prices caused by an unconstitutional war or a senseless trade war. And Sullivan would be probably be cruising to reelection.

Instead, he's out campaigning to save his political life when, as Cassidy learned, losing is the best path to liberating himself from having to pretend Trump isn't making America a weaker and poorer country.

• *Rich Moniak is a Juneau resident and retired civil engineer with more than 25 years of experience working in the public sector.*

E-bike dangers

By SCOTT NOVAK

This Saturday while driving home on Mendenhall Loop Road I recorded on my dashcam a young person on his e-bike dashing across the road in front of oncoming traffic. He was using the crosswalk at the traffic circle but did not activate the caution light, he just blasted across the road. He then continued down on the bike path/sidewalk at 35 mph which was the same speed I was driving.

E-bikes that can travel at 35 mph are classified as motorcycles or mopeds, and require a full license and registration. I see this misuse of e-bikes way too often. It is also illegal for these higher power bikes to be used by kids with no license or training. It will only be a matter of time until we will be reading about a tragedy involving a kid seriously injured or killed.

I would strongly suggest that our police department start to issue some PSA's about these e-bikes addressing safety and regulations. I also wonder if the parents, who supply these e-bikes to kids who get injured or injure someone else, would ever be held criminally liable for these injuries as we have seen happen with firearms given to kids.

• *Scott Novak - Juneau*

Sports

Crimson Bears feast in the waters of the Kings

JDHS swim and dive athletes sweep boys and girls team titles at Ketchikan Invitational



Juneau-Douglas High School: Yadaa.at Kalé's Kennedy Miller wins the women's 100-yard butterfly race during the Kayhi Swim Meet at the Gateway Aquatic Center on Sept. 19, 2026. (Photo by Christopher Mullen/ Ketchikan Daily News)

By KLAS STOLPE, Sports Editor

The Juneau-Douglas High School: Yad to aa.at Kalé swim and dive teams were ravenous over the weekend at the Ketchikan Invitational. The Crimson Bears brought 39 healthy athlete appetites the Kings Gateway Aquatic Center and claimed the meet team titles.

"There was an incredible amount of teamwork and sportsmanship this weekend," JDHS assistant coach Dakota (Isaak) Hubert said. "A lot of encouragement, cheering, laughing, and positivity amongst the team."

The JDHS girls earned 13 first place finishes over the two day meet, 21 second-third place finishes, and 55 fourth-eighth place finishes. The JDHS boys earned 10 first place finishes in their two day swims, 16 second-third place finishes, and 24 fourth-eighth place finishes.

"We are looking for the team to just get up and race," Hubert said. "We aren't focusing too much on the times they're posting, but the small details

— starts, turns, under-waters, breath control. We want takeaways from each meet that we can focus on in practice.. And academics, of course, come first. On our travel trips we have required study hall for the team to do their homework."

On Friday, in combined scoring across both girls and boys, JDHS scored 452 points (Girls 258, Boys 194) with Sitka second at 254 (G 94, B 160), followed by Petersburg 142 (G 85, B 57), Ketchikan 122 (G 59, B 63), and Wrangell 31 (G 13, B 11).

On Friday the JDHS girls 200 medley relay team of senior Kaelyn Szeffler, sophomore Cora Soboleff, senior Amy Liddle and senior Bailey Fisher won in 1:59.46 and the 200 free relay team of Fisher, Szeffler, senior Avery Smith and Liddle won in 1:48.35.

Liddle also added wins in the 50 free with 25.56 and 500 free with 5:24.24. Soboleff won the 200 individual medley with 2:25.81 and senior Moira Bahn won the dive event with 166.65 points.

The JDHS boys 200 medley relay

team of seniors Kaden Aldrich and Josh Edwards, junior Liam Kiessling and sophomore Levi Phelps placed first in 1:45.27 and the 200 free relay team of Phelps, Kiessling, Edwards and Aldrich won in 1:33.42.

Kiessling also won the 200 free in 1:51.80 and the 500 free in 5:13.69. Senior Brady Newport won the dive competition with 196.40 points.

"We are at the midpoint of our season and we are continuing to focus on the fundamentals- core strength, balance, and strong board work," JDHS dive coach Savona Kiessling said. "We have also worked hard these past several weeks helping our new divers to develop confidence in a variety of dives to help ensure they can compete. Our seasoned divers have been working hard on reviving and polishing their dive list, and some of the divers have worked to add one or two new dives to their repertoire."

On Saturday, in combined scoring, JDHS totaled 450 points (G 262, B 188), Sitka 233 (G 76, B 157), Petersburg 149 (G 95, B 54), Ketchikan 131 (G 59, B 72), and Wrangell 10 (G 4, B 6).

On Saturday the girls 200 medley relay of Liddle, senior Kennedy Miller, sophomore Annabelle Woodruff and Fisher won in 1:57.42. The 200 free relay team of Smith, Miller, and sophomores Maddie Manlulu and Brook Taintor win in 1:49.69. The 400 free relay of Fisher, Liddle, Soboleff and Woodruff won in 3:57.80.

Liddle also had first place finishes in the 100 free in 55.19 and the 100 back in 1:02.63, Miller won the 100 fly in 1:05.98 and Bahn won the dive competition with 186.95 points.

See Swim and Dive on Page 20

SWIM AND DIVE

Continued from page 19

The boys 400 free relay team of Kiessling, Aldrich, Edwards and Phelps won in 3:23.71. Kiessling also had first place finishes in the 50 free with 22.79 and the 100 free in 49.17. Edwards won the 100 back in 1:03.70 and sophomore Keagen Andrews won the 100 breaststroke in 1:11.68. Senior Easton Berger won the dive competition with a point total of 208.15.

With the season approaching the half-way point the Crimson Bears are on target with their training and searching for various point scoring events for swimmers while also providing quality relay times.

"We have also talked a lot about proper fueling this season," assistant coach Hubert said. "We are reminding the kids that they need to be eating something every 45 minutes when we are at a meet."

Next on the horizon, JDHS travels to the Sitka Invitational Oct. 16-17 and hosts the Region V championships Oct. 30-31. The state championships are Nov. 6-7 at Anchorage's Bartlett High School.

"For the next few weeks, the divers will be continuing to add height, improve form, and clean up their execution so that they are ready for Sitka," dive coach Kiessling said. "Sitka will be their last chance to test out their lineups before Regions."

KTN INVITE EVENT PLACINGS
(top finisher and/or JDHS finishes)

FRIDAY GIRLS:

200 MR - 1. JDHS (Kaelyn Szeffler, Cora Soboleff, Amy Liddle, Bailey Fisher) 1:59.46; 3. JDHS (Avery Smith, Kennedy Miller, Annabelle Woodruff, Brook Taintor) 2:00.25; 4. JDHS (Mae Crocker, Maddie Manlulu, Maddox Rasmussen, Kaylin Janz) 2:11.56; 6. JDHS (Hannah Plang, Clara Van Kirk, Augustine Kvasnikoff, Sarah Anderson) 2:18.61.
200 free - 1. SIT Taryn Fleming



Juneau-Douglas' Liam Kiessling wins the men's 50-yard freestyle race during the Kayhi Swim Meet at the Gateway Aquatic Center on Sept. 19, 2026. (Christopher Mullen / Ketchikan Daily News)

2:09.87; 2. Manlulu 2:23.24; 4. Plang 2:27.63; 5. Nyah Harris 2:28.71; 6. Ellinore Higgins 2:29.07; 7. Sarah Anderson 2:31.75; 8. Van Kirk 2:41.51; 10. Janz 2:41.77.

200 IM - 1. JD Soboleff 2:25.81; 2. Woodruff 2:27.94; 3. Miller 2:28.36.

50 free - 1. JD Liddle 25.56; 2. Fisher 26.66; 3. Szeffler 27.19; 4. Taintor 28.45; 5. Crocker 30.01; 6. Genevieve Coleman 31.61; 7. Saana Amundson 31.89; 11. Ila Mannino 39.83.

Dive - 1. JD Moira Bahn 166.65; 5. Adeline Williams 114.95.

100 fly - 1. SIT Fleming 1:03.65; 3. Soboleff 1:06.57; 5. Van Kirk 1:29.36; DQ Higgins 1:20.85.

100 free - 1. PSG Lexie Tow 57.31; 2. Woodruff 59.43; 3. Taintor 1:02.78; 5. Anderson 1:05.44; 6. Plang 1:05.96; 9. Crocker 1:09.38; 10. Harris 1:09.58; 13. Kvasnikoff 1:12.64; 14. Coleman 1:12.85.

500 free - 1. JD Liddle 5:24.24; 3. Fisher 5:57.01; 5. Szeffler 6:04.63; 6. Avery Smith 6:10.24; 7. Rasmussen 6:11.68; 9. Miller 6:33.72.

200 FR - 1. JD (Fisher, Szeffler, Smith, Liddle) 1:48.35; 2. (Soboleff, Woodruff, Taintor, Manlulu) 1:48.62; 4. (Miller, Rasmussen, Janz, Plang)

1:57.50; 6. (Crocker, Higgins, Amundson, Van Kirk) 2:04.94.

100 back - 1. SIT Olivia Jarvill 1:07.04; 5. Janz 1:22.59; 6. Amundson 1:25.14.

100 breast - 1. PSG Tow 1:11.54; 3. Manlulu 1:18.89; 5. Smith 1:20.36; 11. Rasmussen 1:30.16; 14. Mannino 1:45.04.

400 FR - 1. PSG (Bella Miller, Olivia Hinde, Kendyl Lachapelle, Tow) 4:11.77.

FRIDAY BOYS:

200 MR - 1. JDHS (Kaden Aldrich, Josh Edwards, Liam Kiessling, Levi Phelps) 1:45.27; 4. JDHS (Sam Pallenberg, Ben Pallenberg, Axel Boily, Chedi Giron) 1:59.73; 6. JDHS (Josh Ely, Keagen Andrews, Henry Thatcher, Brooks Pinney) 2:07.67.

200 free - 1. JD Kiessling 1:51.80; 2. Aldrich 1:58.22; 4. Phelps 2:01.69; 5. Edwards 2:06.74; 6. S. Pallenberg 2:07.84.

200 IM - 1. SIT Zach Martens 2:05.03; 2. Thatcher 2:31.24; 3. B. Pallenberg 2:32.25; 4. Giron 2:33.47; 5. Ely 2:39.81.

50 free - 1. SIT Corin Colliver 22.66; 5. Boily 26.71; 12. Pinney 31.79.

See Swim and Dive on 21

SWIM AND DIVE

Continued from page 20

Dive - 1. JD Brady Newport 196.40; 2. Easton Berger 185.30; 6. Alex Davis 121.60; 7. Traeus Mateo 79.60.

100 fly - 1. PSG Hakon Eddy 57.08; 4. Thatcher 1:05.82; 5. Andrews 1:08.13.

100 free - 1. SIT Colliver 49.08; 6. Phelps 53.71; 9. Giron 58.14; 10. Boily 1:00.00; 13. Pinney 1:05.44.

500 free - 1. JD Kiessling 5:13.69; 2. Edwards 5:20.01; 3. Aldrich 5:30.39; 6. S. Pallenberg 6:10.03; 7. B. Pallenberg 6:21.51.

200 FR - 1. JD (Phelps, Kiessling, Edwards, Aldrich) 1:33.42; 2. (Andrews, S. Pallenberg, Giron, B. Pallenberg); 5. (Ely, Boily, Pinney, Thatcher) 1:50.86.

100 back - 1. SIT Elliott Galanin 1:00.66; 3. Andrews 1:09.19.

100 breast - 1. SIT Martens 1:03.81.

400 FR - 1. SIT (Martens, Sawyer Bastian, Ben Lihou, Colliver) 3:24.69.

SATURDAY GIRLS:

200 MR - 1. JD (Liddle, Miller, Woodruff, Fisher) 1:57.42; 2. (Szeffler, Soboleff, Smith Manlulu) 2:03.47; 5. (Higgins, Van Kirk, Harris, Plang) 2:17.20; 7. (Anderson, Mannino, Kvasnikoff, Amundson) 2:28.51.

200 free - 1. PSG Tow 2:04.07; 2. Smith 2:10.97; 4. Fisher 2:14.46; 5. Rasmussen 2:17.50; 8. Harris 2:30.31; 9. Crocker 2:34.79; 12. Coleman 2:46.15.

200 IM - 1. PSG Tori Miller 2:28.21;

3. Taintor 2:36.72; 4. Kvasnikoff 2:52.41.

50 free - 1. PSG Tow 25.97; 3. Woodruff 27.19; 4. Manlulu 27.79; 5. Soboleff 28.10; 8. Plang 29.26; 9. Higgins 29.44; 10. Van Kirk 29.76; 12. Anderson 30.10; 14. Janz 31.13.

Dive - 1. JD Bahn 186.95; 2. Williams 179.10.

100 fly - 1. JD Miller 1:05.98.

100 free - 1. JD Liddle 55.19; 2. Fisher 58.70; 5. Szeffler 59.21; 8. Smith 1:01.01; 9. Taintor 1:02.09; 10. Rasmussen 1:02.89; 12. Amundson 1:11.46; 14. Coleman 1:17.19.

500 free - 1. PSG Kendyl Lachapelle 6:24.80; 3. Manlulu 6:46.35; 4. Higgins 6:51.44; 8. Janz 7:44.59; 9. Mannino 8:42.91.

200 FR - 1. JD (Smith, Miller, Manlulu, Taintor) 1:49.69; 5. (Anderson, Rasmussen, Janz, Crocker) 2:01.15; 6. (Amundson, Kvasnikoff, Mannino, Coleman) 2:16.25.

100 back - 1. Liddle 1:02.63; 3. Szeffler 1:09.91; 4. Soboleff 1:10.52; 5. Miller 1:13.75; 6. Anderson 1:17.68; 8. Plang 1:20.69.

100 breast - 1. KTN Josephine Jackson 1:16.78; 2. Woodruff 1:19.55; 3. Van Kirk 1:24.69; 4. Crocker 1:26.60; 5. Kvasnikoff 1:27.29; 7. Amundson 1:36.39; 9. Harris 1:41.65; 10. Mannino 1:43.66.

400 FR - 1. JD (Fisher, Liddle, Soboleff, Woodruff) 3:57.80; 2. (Szeffler, Taintor, Plang, Rasmussen) 4:12.37.

SATURDAY BOYS:

200 MR - 1. SIT (Galanin, Martens,

Colliver, Lihou) 1:43.02; 2. JD (Kiessling, Aldrich, Edwards, Andrews); 5. (S. Pallenberg, Boily, B. Pallenberg, Giron) 1:58.97.

200 free - 1. SIT Martens; 6. Andrews 2:12.37; 10. Pinney 2:37.57.

200 IM - 1. PSG Cyrus Hulebak 2:07.74.

50 free - 1. JD Kiessling 22.79; 2. Aldrich 23.10; 3. Phelps 24.21; 5. S. Pallenberg 24.31; 8. Thatcher 26.23; 9. Ely 26.33; 10. Giron 26.41; 11. B. Pallenberg 27.05.

Dive - 1. JD Berger 208.15; 3. Newport 169.35; 5. Davis 151.60; 7. Mateo 100.

100 fly - 1. SIT Colliver 56.00; 2. Phelps 58.30; 5. Boily 1:05.54.

100 free - 1. JD Kiessling 49.17; 4. Aldrich 50.48; 5. Edwards 50.89; 10. Giron 57.92; 14. Pinney 1:08.52.

500 free - 1. SIT Ben Lihou 5:13.55.

200 FR - 1. KTN (Hunter Eckert, Evan Roskam, Drake Abigania, Nathaniel Duran) 1:43.01; 3. (B. Pallenberg, Ely, Pinney, Thatcher) 1:49.57; (Phelps, Andrews, Giron, S. Pallenberg) DQ 1:39.41.

100 back - 1. JD Edwards 1:03.70; 2. S. Pallenberg 1:04.79.

100 breast - 1. JD Andrews 1:11.68; 2. Thatcher 1:13.20; 3. Boily 1:16.00; 4. B. Pallenberg 1:18.82; 6. Ely 1:25.70.

400 FR - 1. JD (Kiessling, Aldrich, Edwards, Phelps) 3:23.71; 4. (Ely, Thatcher, Pinney, Boily) 4:11.08.

• *Contact Klas Stolpe at sport-s@juneauindependent.com*

Ready for the next big one.

Orthopedic care built on expertise.



Bartlett
Orthopedic Specialists

Sports Medicine • Rehabilitation
Joint Replacement • Injections

JUNEAU
Yes!



A Extend 3% Sales Tax

B Restore Mill Rate Cap

C 1% Seasonal Sales Tax

Paid for by: juneauyes.org

WEEKLY CIVICS TRIVIA

Which of these is a duty of Alaska's Lieutenant Governor?

Know the answer?
Answer Now

- ✓ Juneau's Municipal election: ballots mailed Sept 18; in person/early voting starts Sept 21
- ✓ Registration closes for the November General Election on October 4

NOV 3, 2026
GENERAL ELECTION

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF JUNEAU

Sports

JDHS tennis team honors senior players

Crimson Bears seniors reflect on careers during Region V tournament

By AURORA MADSEN
For the Juneau Independent

The Juneau-Douglas High School: Yadaa.at Kalé Crimson Bears tennis team recognized its six senior players during this week's Region V tennis championships at Juneau's Alaska Club Valley tennis courts.

Following are the JDHS senior tennis profiles.

ISAAC HILL

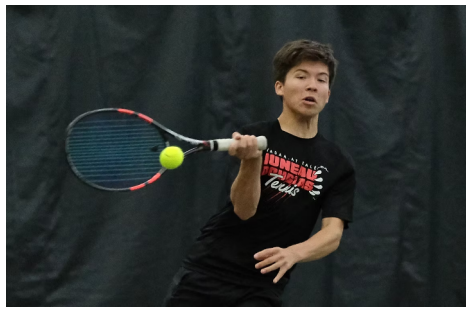
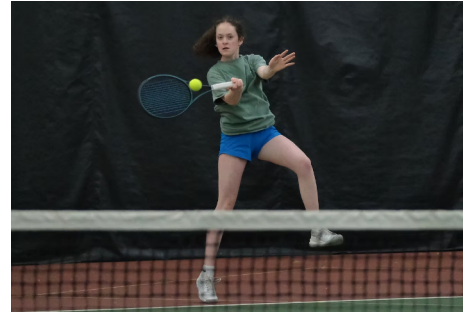
Isaac Hill is a fourth-year tennis player on the team. His teammates know him for his enthusiasm at practice, his unreturnable serve and his obsession with grind drinks.

Isaac started playing tennis during the summer before his freshman year, but grew up as a strong soccer player. He wishes he had started learning tennis earlier, but he thinks his freshman-year self would "think highly" of his skills now and "be intimidated," he says.

Isaac was chosen to represent JDHS at the 2025 ASAA Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament last year with his teammate, 2026 graduate Bella Reyes-Boyer, and hopes to compete again this year.

Throughout his four years of tennis, he says his favorite memories have been on the Anchorage Invitational team trips. "They were a great way to spend time with the team and have fun and get experience," he says, especially remembering "playing card games and getting food" with the team.

After graduating high school, Isaac hopes to attend college somewhere outside of Alaska and "definitely keep playing tennis."



Juneau-Douglas High School: Yadaa.at Kalé Crimson Bears tennis team seniors (clockwise) Isaac Hill, Riley Dale, Dan Degener and Katherine Hieb. (Photos by Klas Stolpe / Juneau Independent)

He says he will miss the high school team, especially the "fun coaches, teammates, and environment at practice." Isaac hopes to be remembered for his "bright pink tennis shoes."

RILEY DALE

Riley began playing tennis during the summer before her freshman year, taking lessons with Coach Mona Mametsuka, like many new tennis players in Juneau.

She's enjoyed all four years on the team, but her favorite memories are "winning girls' doubles in the region tournament" during her junior year and "hanging out and watching movies with the team," she says. Riley believes her freshman-year self would be surprised by how much she has grown and improved.

Last year, Riley was chosen to represent JDHS at the 2025 ASAA Girls'

Doubles Tennis Tournament with her partner, current senior Aurora Madsen, and hopes to compete in the event again this year.

After graduating high school, Riley hopes to attend nursing school and earn her CRNA license in pediatric anesthesia. She also hopes to continue playing tennis for fun.

DAN DEGENER

Dan Degener is a third-year tennis player on the team. His teammates know him for his laid-back nature and fondness for shawarma.

He started playing tennis during his sophomore year of high school, taking lessons with Coach Mona Mametsuka.

Dan was chosen to represent JDHS at the 2025 ASAA Boys' Doubles Tennis Tournament last year, with his part-

See **TENNIS** on Page 23

TENNIS

Continued from page 22

ner, current sophomore Isaac Kirsch, and hopes to compete again this year.

During each season, Dan has managed being a multi-sport athlete, often coming straight from cross-country practice to tennis practice.

Dan notes that he particularly enjoys “traveling with the tennis team and making memories.” His biggest piece of advice to younger players on the team would be to “keep playing during the off-season,” which he points out makes a big difference in maintaining skill consistency.

After high school, Dan plans to study mechanical engineering at a college on the West Coast. He also hopes to keep playing tennis.

KATHERINE HIEB

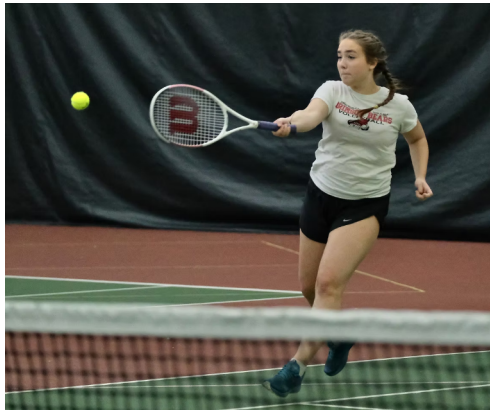
Katherine is a third-year player on the team, having started the summer before her sophomore year of high school. Tennis is the first sport she has played, which was difficult for her, but also extremely rewarding. She’s enjoyed building her endurance and agility each day at practice and hopes her teammates remember her for “the significant effort” she put in and her “enthusiasm on the court.”

Her advice to younger players on the team is to “keep going at it. Even if you have a day where none of your shots go in, you just have to keep going.”

After graduating high school, she hopes to study anthropology or a history-related subject. She also hopes to keep playing tennis for fun.

STAHLY SHEEHAN

Stahly Sheehan is playing her first



Juneau-Douglas High School: Yadaa.at Kalé Crimson Bears tennis team seniors (clockwise) Stahly Sheehan and Aurora Madsen. (Photos by Klas Stolpe / Juneau Independent)

year on the team, having started tennis just two months ago “just to try something new,” she says.

However, Stahly is a lifelong hockey player who will be entering her 11th year in the sport this winter.

Her biggest struggle has been joining the tennis team later than her teammates, but she notes that this season has been “super fun.”

Her favorite memory from the season was an intense mixed doubles match at the Anchorage Invitational earlier this month. She recounts a “really difficult but really fun tiebreaker,” in which she won the match with her teammate, current sophomore Oscar Lamb, against a mixed doubles team from West Anchorage High School.

She hopes to be remembered by her team for her “silly and fun attitude at practices.”

After graduating high school, Stahly hopes to study psychology at a university down south and keep playing tennis for fun.

NOTE: JDHS senior Aurora Madsen is in her third year as editor of the school's newspaper, the *Crimson Chronicle*. Madsen is also a contribu-

tor to the *Juneau Independent*. Following is her senior tennis profile.

AURORA MADSEN

Aurora is a fourth-year player on the team, having started playing tennis her freshman year of high school.

Aurora represented JDHS at the 2025 ASAA Girls’ Doubles Tennis Tournament last year with her partner, current senior Riley Dale, and hopes to compete again this year.

Her favorite memories with the team have been getting froyo and jumping into Auke Lake after practices.

She believes her freshman-year self would be proud of the hard work she has put in and happy to see it has paid off.

After graduating high school, Aurora plans to study engineering at a university on the West Coast and continue playing tennis for fun.

• *Aurora Madsen can be contacted via the Juneau Independent’s editor at editor@juneauindependent.com. Contact Klas Stolpe at sports@juneauindependent.com.*

IF YOU DON'T HAVE HEART,
YOU'RE IN THE WRONG BUSINESS.

Crimson Bears nipped by Lynx on the road

JDHS loses to Dimond 28-27 on a last-minute touchdown

By KLAS STOLPE, Sports Editor

The Juneau-Douglas High School: Yadaa.at Kalé Crimson Bears football team were stunned on the road by the Dimond High School Lynx, losing 28-27 Saturday on a late touchdown drive with under four minutes to play.

Dimond senior quarterback Braden Pili scampered 12 yards to give the Lynx the late lead, capping off an eight-play drive from the Lynx's own 37-yard line.

JDHS still had a chance to win the game, working from their own 37-yard line with 1:09 remaining in the game.

The Crimson Bears secured one first down, working the ball to the 47-yard line and needed to get across the 50 to test the kicking prowess of senior Sonny Mazon.

The Lynx defense put up their best series of the day, forcing an incomplete pass, stopping a run at five yards and then forcing two more incomplete passes to earn possession and take a knee with 33 seconds remaining to end the game.

"Dimond played with great energy and jumped on us early," JDHS coach Rich Sjoroos said. "We did a nice job of coming back a few times to regain the lead, but they answered every time. They definitely outplayed us and deserved to win."

Dimond took the game's early lead in the first quarter. After both teams had one possession that ended in punts, the Lynx were guided by Pili's foot and arm as they moved from their own 25-yard line in seven plays, capped off by a Pili two-yard pass to senior Jaeden Leonard. Lynx junior Kai Walker kicked the extra point for a 7-0 lead.

JDHS went four-and-out on their next possession, and Dimond capitalized with a six-play drive from their



Juneau-Douglas High School: Yadaa.at Kalé Jaxin Jim (20) tackles West Anchorage senior Manny Maga (5) during the Crimson Bears' loss to the Eagles at Adair-Kennedy Memorial Park on Friday, Sept. 18, 2026. Jim had five solo tackles in the Crimson Bears' 28-27 loss at Dimond, Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026. (Klas Stolpe / Juneau Independent)

39-yard line that ended with Pili scrambling for a two-yard touchdown run and a 13-0 lead. The JDHS line forced the extra point wide.

JDHS sophomore Carter Day brought the Crimson Bears' next possession to their own 46-yard line. Classmate Hendrik Van Kirk ran for two yards, quarterback Krew Ridle ran for nine and senior Jaxin Jim broke off a 22-yard gallop to the 21-yard line. Ridle was stopped on a run, but broke off 11 yards on the next play to the 10-yard line and senior Ethan Van Kirk battled for two yards as the first quarter ended. Ridle was tackled for a two-yard loss by Pili on the next play, but on third-and-goal he connected with Ethan Van Kirk for a 10-yard touchdown pass to close to 13-6 with 11 minutes remaining in the half. JDHS drew Dimond offside on the extra-point lineup, moved half the distance to the goal line, and Ridle scrambled in to close the lead to 13-8.

Dimond would have four new possessions in the half, but JDHS responded to each series with a defense

that included tackles by Jim, E. Van Kirk, sophomore Tayt Whiteley and juniors Andrew Sanders, Helaman Aitaoto-Tele'a and Sylvion Washington — all behind the stout line of the Crimson Bears.

JDHS opened the second half on a nine-play drive from their 35-yard line that was capped by Ridle keeping on a scramble for 35 yae extra point for a 15-13 lead.

Dimond responded with a five-play scoring drive from their 25-yard line in just over a minute. Pili completed a pass to junior Jeremiah Converse for 14 yards and another for seven yards, then connected with sophomore Kaiden Graytrix for 15 yards and field position on the 32-yard line. After an incomplete pass, Pili connected with Graytrix for 32 yards and a 19-15 lead. JDHS stopped a two-point pass attempt.

JDHS responded with a 13-play scoring drive from their own 20-yard line. The drive included a 17-yard pass to freshman Liam Bigelow, runs by Ridle of nine and three yards, an eight-yard run by Jim, a nine-yard pass by Ridle to E. Van Kirk, runs by Ridle of 14 and six yards, a one-yard ram by Jim and three runs by Ridle that moved the ball to the seven-yard line. Ridle kept the ball for a run off center and a 21-19 Crimson Bears lead. JDHS again drew Dimond offside on the extra point lineup, but their two-point conversion run on the next play was stopped short by Dimond's Pili.

Dimond responded on their possession with 1:05 remaining in the third quarter and took two plays into the fourth quarter and four more to set up a field goal by Walker for a 22-21 lead with 10:07 left to play.

JDHS went four-and-out in their next drive, ending with a fake punt
See FOOTBALL on Page 25

FOOTBALL

Continued from page 24

that was stopped on their own 33-yard line by Dimond junior linebacker Owen Severson.

Dimond had good field position and Pili broke a 12-yard run, stopped by JDHS' Jim at the 23-yard line. Three pass attempts were thwarted by the JDHS secondary of E. Van Kirk, Ridle and junior Andrew Sanders forcing a field goal attempt. The Lynx kick was short and JDHS senior Avei Tuvaifale played the kick to the 20-yard line.

JDHS went 80 yards in seven plays, including runs by Ridle of 17 and 22 yards, E. Van Kirk of 21 and 16 yards, and Ridle with two scrambles of four yards, putting the ball at the three-yard line. Ridle ran through the middle for a touchdown and a 27-22 lead with 4:44 remaining. The Crimson Bears opted to secure a seven-point lead but Ridle was stopped short on a pounding run by the Lynx defense led by Pili.

JDHS put a squib kick into the front of Dimond's return, but the Lynx recovered on their own 37-yard line. Pili started the drive with a four-yard run, then recovered a bad snap. On third-and-six, Pili hit junior wide receiver DJ Evans for 17 yards, then again for 11 yards. Two incomplete passes forced by the defensive pressure of the Crimson Bears' Jim and Ridle put the Lynx in a fourth-and-seven predicament from the JDHS 43-yard line. Pili responded with a 32-yard pass play to Graytrix, moving the ball to the 11-yard line. Pili then ran

straight through the Crimson Bears' middle for a touchdown and the 28-27 score.

The JDHS line tipped the extra point attempt, but JDHS could only move 11 yards on their last possession from their own 37-yard line, ending with the Dimond defense losing two players but filling the ranks and stopping the drive.

Unofficial JDHS stats show Ridle connected on four of 14 passes for 48 yards and rushed 33 times for 160 yards. E. Van Kirk carried eight times for 74 yards, Jim five times for 33 yards, H. Van Kirk and Aube rushed once. E. Van Kirk caught four passes for 33 yards and Bigelow was targeted once for 18 yards. Jim recorded five solo tackles and E. Van Kirk three.

SCORE BY QUARTER

Juneau 0 - 8 - 13 - 6 = 27

Dimond 13 - 0 - 6 - 9 = 28

HOW THEY SCORED

1ST QTR

6:31 - Lynx - Pili 3-yard pass to Leonard. Walker PAT, 7-0.

3:05 - Lynx - Pili 2-yard run. PAT missed, 13-0.

2ND QTR

11:06 - Crimson Bears - Ridle 10-yard pass to E. Van Kirk. Ridle 2-Pt run, 8-13.

3RD QTR

8:22 - Crimson Bears - Ridle 1-yard run. Mazon PAT, 15-13.

7:07 - Lynx - Pili 32-yard pass to Graytrix. 2-Pt conversion pass failed, 19-15.

1:29 - Crimson Bears - Ridle 7-yard run. 2-Pt conversion run failed, 21-19.

4TH QTR

10:07 - Lynx - Walker 27-yard FG, 22-21.

4:44 - Crimson Bears - Ridle 3-yard run. 2-Pt conversion run failed, 27-22.

1:29 - Lynx - Pili 12-yard run. PAT blocked, 28-27.

The loss does little for JDHS' play-off standing. The Crimson Bears are fourth in the Cook Inlet Conference with a 3-3 record (4-3 overall) and will host a first-round playoff game.

West is 6-0 CIC (6-1 overall), South 5-1 CIC (5-2 OA) and Colony 4-2 CIC (4-3 OA). Service is fifth with a 2-4 CIC mark (3-4 OA), East sixth at 2-4 (2-5 OA), Bartlett at 1-5 CIC (2-5 OA) and Dimond 1-5 (2-5 OA).

JDHS closes the regular season hosting Bartlett on Saturday, Oct. 3. A Crimson Bears loss and a Service win over Dimond or East win over South, still gives JDHS leverage as they defeated Service 47-12 in the fourth week of the season and East 17-14 in week two. If JDHS wins and Colony loses to West, the Knights and Crimson Bears would have identical records but, again, JDHS has the leverage of a 41-27 win over Colony in week five.

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



Fall Land Sale Auction

Multi-use parcels now available

Bids due by Nov. 16

[Learn More](#)



JUNEAU INDEPENDENT 2026 ELECTION GUIDE

- Assembly Profiles
- School Board Profiles
- Ballot Propositions
- Voting locations
- Election Coverage

Bartlett Family Medicine

Expanding Care.
Powered by Local
Partnerships.

Providers you
know and trust.

