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WEATHER | We're in for another warm one. High 76, Low 56. B8

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PEOPLE OF JUNEAU

Civics education advocate. A3.

LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STARS

Tournaments set to begin. B1.

JUNEAU HITS 80 DEGREES

Warm weather to continue. A4.



Walker urges halt to child separation

Alaska Native leaders oppose concept, compare practice to federal boarding schools

By JAMES BROOKS
JUNEAU EMPIRE

Gov. Bill Walker has joined opponents of the Trump administration's effort to separate illegal immigrant children from their families.

In a statement Tues-

day, Walker called for an immediate halt to the practice.

"I understand that border security is a complicated policy discussion. However, frightening children by separating them from their parents in order to deter adult conduct is cruel and counter-productive. This policy should end today," Walker wrote in a statement shared on social media. "Children belong with their families. Period."

Walker's statement follows remarks by Alaska's Congressional delegation on Monday.

Austin Baird, a spokesman for the governor, said by email that the governor "spoke out about the Department of Homeland Security's practice of separating families because he feels strongly that it says something about the values of everyone in our country, even those of us who are geographically far away from the South-

west border."

Amid growing outcry over the policy, various state governors have withdrawn support for National Guard deployments along the American border with Mexico. Baird said the Alaska National Guard has not provided support, or been asked to provide support, for that effort.

The policy is a result of the Trump administration's decision in April

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U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
People who've been taken into custody related to cases of illegal entry into the United States sit in one of the cages at a facility in McAllen, Texas on Sunday.

CLEARING THE CONGESTION



MICHAEL PENN | JUNEAU EMPIRE

The intersection of Riverside Drive and Stephen Richards Drive in the Mendenhall Valley on Tuesday.

Valley intersection may get redesign

Congestion, emissions prompt look at Stephen Richards and Riverside Drives

By GREGORY PHILSON
JUNEAU EMPIRE

A Mendenhall Valley intersection may be getting a redesign to cut down on traffic congestion and vehicle emissions.

The intersection at Stephen Richards Memorial Drive and Riverside Drive is currently an all-way stop. The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities Southcoast Region is working on solutions that may include a roundabout or enhanced traffic signals. DOT/PF is also soliciting other ideas from public and agency comments, and neighborhood association feedback.

Aurah Landau, DOT/PF Southcoast Region spokes-



VIDEO

How busy is this intersection? Watch a time-lapse video at juneauempire.com.

woman, said the department has been studying traffic patterns in the Valley and found that there was a lot of congestion at that intersection. The DOT/PF contracted with Kinney Engineering, LLC., of Anchorage, to analyze the intersection and develop traffic

control alternatives to reduce congestion in the area.

"Right now we are quantifying the congestion and figuring out just how bad it really is," Landau said in a phone interview with the Empire Tuesday. "The next step is figuring out potential ways to solve the congestion. The goal is to improve traffic flow."

Primary findings of the report presented to the DOT/PF

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Mother, daughter die after Wrangell car crash

Two other daughters in hospital in Seattle

By ALEX MCCARTHY
JUNEAU EMPIRE

A mother and daughter died last week in Wrangell after their car went off a road, according to the Wrangell Police Department.

Two other children were flown to Seattle for their injuries, WPD Chief Doug McCloskey said Tuesday. The mother, 32-year-old Rainie Doak, was driving, and her 7-year-old daughter Stacy was also killed in the crash. McCloskey said the cause of the crash has not been determined yet, but accelerated driving appears to be a factor.

Nobody in the car was wearing seat belts, McCloskey said, and all the passengers were ejected from the car as it flipped down an embankment. The other girls are 12 and 3 years old, McCloskey said.

Friends of the family set up a GoFundMe page entitled "Doak Family," which raised more than \$10,000 in its first seven days. The page is still accepting donations for travel, medical and lodging expenses.

The crash is believed to have occurred around midnight as Sunday, June 10 turned to Monday, June 11, McCloskey said, as Doak and

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NATURAL RESOURCES

University board approves timber lease near Haines

The controversial sale of 150 million board feet will be used to fund UA system

By KEVIN GULLUFSEN
JUNEAU EMPIRE

The University of Alaska Board of Regents approved a controversial land lease near Haines and Klukwan to a logging contractor at special meeting Tuesday. The 13,426-acre area

includes a portion of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve.

The sale is the largest in Haines in recent memory. It includes about 150 million board feet of Sitka spruce, western hemlock, cottonwood and birch to be logged over 10 years.

Board members expressed concern about the area being logged responsibly, but said they were bound by a fiduciary responsibility to move forward with the sale. The plan passed 9-1.

"In my mind, it's not about being for or against timber sales, it's about the right balance for this particular approach," board member Karen

Perdue said.

A responsibility to fund education, including some 9,000 Alaska high school scholarships backed by timber sales, swayed board member Dale Anderson in favor of the lease.

"Our fiduciary responsibility as board members is to the University of Alaska and the well-being of that school. So I

encourage all of us to take a close look at our intent in our votes to know that that's where our loyalty lies," Anderson said.

The board will now work with a contractor, whose name it has kept confidential to protect their business interests. A permitting process is expected to take two years before cutting can begin.

Haines has been split on the lease. A McDowell Group report found that 65 percent of Haines households "strongly support of support timber sales." But public testimony at a special Haines Borough Assembly meeting in April weighed against the project and what some are viewing as a rushed timeline for

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HERE COMES THE SUN



ANGELO SAGGIOMO | JUNEAU EMPIRE

The \$150 million luxury yacht Here Comes The Sun, owned by Russian billionaire Alexander Dzhaparidze, is docked at Don D. Statter Memorial Boat Harbor in Auke Bay.

Agency seeks stolen 10,000-year-old mammoth tusk

By DAN JOLING
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANCHORAGE — A federal agency wants its woolly mammoth tusk back.

The Bureau of Land Management in Alaska on Tuesday asked the public's help in recovering an approximately 10,000-year-old tusk stolen from the Campbell

Creek Science Center, an interpretive center in east Anchorage.

The woolly mammoth is Alaska's official state fossil. The tusk was on display when the center was burglarized March 8. Anchorage police say a thief broke in through a window and took only the tusk, which weighs 100 pounds.

The curved tusk is

dark- and light-brown, mottled and about 5.5 feet long. The tusk is 8 inches in diameter on the large end and 6 inches in diameter at the narrow end.

BLM spokeswoman Maureen Clark said the tusk was one of several found in the mid-1980s near the Colville River, which flows into the Arctic Ocean north of the Brooks Range.

"People were allowed to touch it," she said by email. "It was a popular item at the science center."

Pat Druckenmiller, earth sciences curator at the University of Alaska Museum of the North, said mammoths generally died out at the end of the Pleistocene Era 11,000 to 12,000 years ago. A few survived on islands such

as Wrangel Island off northeast Siberia until about 4,000 years ago, he said.

The legal sale of a mammoth tusk depends on whether it's found on private land. A property owner may sell tusks found on their land. Tusks cannot be sold if found on state or federal land.

Druckenmiller said he's not qualified to say

how much a tusk could fetch and he's only interested in their scientific value.

"But I'm not naive. There's a market for them. The do sell and they're either used for display as is at home, or there's a thriving trade that carves mammoth ivory," he said.

The BLM is offering a \$500 reward for the return of its tusk.

VALLEY:

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showed lower crash rates since stop signs were installed in 2008 but there have been excessive delays during morning and evening peak-hour commutes. Nearly one-quarter of daily traffic travels through the intersection during those peak times, Landau said. According to the findings, vehicles wait for an average of about 90 seconds during morning commutes from 7:15-8:15 a.m.

and evening peak-hour commutes from 5-6 p.m. If no change is made, Landau said vehicles are predicted to wait 112 seconds in the morning and more than two-and-half minutes in the evening by 2040. Landau added that the primary finding also found that traffic could back up as much as a one-quarter mile.

"We know there is a problem and we want to get ahead of it," Landau said.

Landau added that the DOT/PF has asked Kinney Engineering for relevant comparable intersection delay times and is waiting on the results.

With the cars idling for long periods of time, Landau said, there is also the concern of vehicle emissions.

"(DOT/PF) know that vehicle emissions can be an issue and want to minimize or prevent it when we're considering infrastructure changes," Landau said.

During the project phase, the DOT/PF will measure and quantify traffic problems at the intersection, develop and evaluate traffic options for addressing the problems and assess the impacts associated with various intersection redesign options. The DOT/PF will

present these options to the CBJ and public. The public will have 30 days to provide feedback on the proposed options.

The Federal Highway Administration is paying for approximately 91 percent of the potential project, Landau said. DOT will be using funding from Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds. These funds are prioritized by the state for communities and areas out of attainment for ozone, carbon monoxide and particulate matter and can only be used for transportation matters. The City and Borough of Juneau, which is also involved

in the project, is providing the remainder of the funding for the project. The cost has not yet been determined because the exact project has not been defined.

Because the Mendenhall Valley is an air quality special area, City Manager Rorie Watt said DOT took in account pollutants from the idling cars at the intersection and wanted to take action on city property. Watt said the project will still go through the city before it is finalized.

If everything goes as planned, Landau said the project, if there is one, should start in 2020.

The public's first opportunity to comment will be held from 5-7 p.m. July 11 at the Mendenhall Valley Public Library. At the open house, the project team will present ideas and listen to input about the project. After the open house, the project team will take the input and add it into a final design concept. The public will be invited to second open house to learn about revised plan options.

• Contact reporter Gregory Philson at gphilson@juneauempire.com or call at 523-2265. Follow him on Twitter at @GTPhilson.

POLICY:

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to prosecute anyone who doesn't arrive at an appropriate port of entry to claim asylum. With adults detained and prosecution pending, any children accompanying the adults are taken away. More than 2,000 children have already been separated from their parents or guardians under the program.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, issued a strong statement against the policy on Monday.

"The time is now for the White House to end the cruel, tragic separations of families. They are not consistent with our values," she wrote in a statement shared on social media. "If the administration does not fix this and fast, we in Congress must."

Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, did not call for an immediate end to the practice but said "no one wants to separate children from parents" and urged a Congressional solution.

"Going forward, we must work towards a legislative solution to allow immigration proceedings to be conducted much

more rapidly without splitting up families," he wrote in a statement provided Tuesday to the Empire.

A spokeswoman for Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, said by email to the Empire on Tuesday that "the Congressman is sympathetic to the separation of families and remains committed to ensuring humane treatment of families that are in the process. He also believes it is possible to implement successful border security and enforce our laws while keeping families together. The Congressman believes there are practical solutions to avoid separating

children during detention and looks forward to considering legislation that accommodates family unity."

In a letter to the editor, Rosita Worl, president of Sealaska Heritage Institute, said Tuesday that the "issue is personal and resurrects old wounds" because it resembles the treatment of Alaska Natives by federal boarding schools.

"When I was six, a missionary kidnapped me in Petersburg and took me to an orphanage in Haines, where I was kept for three years apart from my family. I know firsthand the despair felt by children longing for their

loved ones and the terror of being a child alone," Worl wrote.

She asked that the administration "act immediately to stop this barbaric, inhumane act."

Richard Peterson, president of the sovereign Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska government, offered similar thoughts.

"I think as Alaska Natives, as Tlingits and Haidas, this is an issue that hits really close to home for us. Even now it's happening where children are being taken from families," he said.

When Native children are placed by court pro-

ceedings in non-Native homes, they can lose connections to their heritage, he explained.

"To this day, we deal with the historic trauma caused by that," he said. "In this day and age, we would hope for a more sensible and more thoughtful reaction rather than pulling babies from the arms of their parents."

He said there's a lot of rhetoric about the issue, but it doesn't really matter.

"I don't know who started it, but I know who can end it," he said.

• Contact reporter James Brooks at jbrooks@juneauempire.com or 523-2258.

CRASH:

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her children were coming home from being out the road south of Wrangell. The car was not found until the following evening as a man on his bike was passing the scene and saw the car off the road, McCloskey said.

Police arrived at the scene just before 6 p.m. June 11, McCloskey said, to find that the car had flipped. EMTs quickly got the two surviving passengers away from the scene and on a plane to Seattle, McCloskey said. He said he has not heard any official update, but the word around town is that the two surviving daughters' conditions are improving in Seattle.

McCloskey said fatal

car crashes are very rare in Wrangell.

"In 26 years of being here, this is the third," McCloskey said.

The police investigation is still continuing, McCloskey said, and they're waiting for the State Medical Examiner's Office to get back to them with toxicology reports.

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TIMBER:

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public comment.

After the April Assembly meeting, the project's public comment period was pushed back 10 days. The Board of Regents included some new provisions in the project's plan, based on requests

from the public, that logs be supplied to Alaska buyers and small mills. The board also added stipulations to make biomass supplies available for Haines and wood for local niche markets like those who make musical instruments.

The contractor can now draw up a final contract, which it will submit to the board sometime in July or August. The plan will then need to pass regulatory

and environmental processes from several government agencies before loggers can begin work.

The timber lies in an area west of the Chilkat River and within the southwestern portion of the Haines State Forest. The UA system has generated \$46.5 million from timber sales since 1988.

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