Arctic communities turn out for police brutality protests

Residents hope to confront racism at home and nationally

SHADY GROVE OLIVER
The Arctic Sounder

Dozens of community members across the Arctic made their voices heard during two marches — in Kotzebue and Utqiaġvik — in protest of the death of George Floyd and police brutality nationwide and in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

"I wanted to show that even at the top of the world we see what's happening and want to be a part of the change," said Malcolm X. Noble, Qavvik, an organizer of the Utqiaġvik protest. "Utqiaġvik has such a diverse population and this community had stories to share when we marched."

In Utqiaġvik, marchers gathered at the iconic whale bone arch and took pictures with the summer sea behind them.

"The weather was cloudy, damp and windy. Spirits were high. You could feel people coming together knowing they were doing what was right," said Kelly Forster, a marcher. "There were families with young children in strollers, groups of teenagers and most people knew someone else there. (It was) truly a community event."

The mother of Pamiuq Nageak holds a sign during the Utqiaġvik march calling for accountability in the shooting death of her son. Nageak was shot by police after they responded to a call at his home made by a family member.

Wilhelm appointed Ilisaġvik president

Wilhelm takes over for Pearl Brower

Utqiaġvik resident Justina Wilhelm has been named the next Ilisaġvik College president. The board of trustees announced its decision in a statement Monday.

"The college will surely grow and prosper under her direction, as an active participant in our cultural way of life and part of the fabric of our Utqiaġvik community," said Board Chair Lilian Lane in a written statement. "Sending you best of wishes for successful, enjoyable and many happy years as our new president."
As people across the state join protests and marches, Alaska Native artists are using their craft to speak out. For some Native artists, the recent work has included elements that touch on systemic racism and police brutality, while others have centered around Indigenous solidarity for the Black Lives Matter movement. Three artists shared their work and words with The Arctic Sounder:

Words shared by her mother, Whalen-Lunn: “She says, as a 14-year-old she doesn’t feel there is much she can do, so this is a way for her to raise awareness and try to make change where she is. She has put these signs up everywhere in our adjoining neighborhoods.”

Sandia Whalen, age 14, daughter of Sarah Whalen-Lunn

Amber Webb, Yupik, Aleknagik

“In solidarity with those protesting, I made this meditative, unpolished, honest drawing. Sending prayers up for George Floyd and his family. To the spirit of racism: I see you. I see you in all the places where you exist. This is my prayer that brown people heal from lateral oppression and that white people do their own work to deconstruct systems founded on and funded by the oppression of racism: I see you. I see you in all the places where you exist. This is my prayer that brown people heal from lateral oppression and that white people do their own work to deconstruct systems founded on and funded by the oppression of brown people and brown bodies. Educate yourself about the doctrine of discovery. Educate yourself!”

Who Done It

Jadene L. Kignak, 21, pleaded guilty to the class C felony charge of domestic violence assault in the third degree for causing fear of injury with a weapon and reached a plea agreement, through which one additional charge of criminal mischief was dismissed. Kignak has been sentenced to 24 months in jail with all 24 months suspended and credit for time served. He must pay a $1,500 fine, due within one year, along with an initial jail surcharge, police training surcharge, and her first offense cost of imprisonment.

Jada Rene Morry, 20, of Anaktuvuk Pass, pleaded guilty to the class A misdemeanor charge of operating a vehicle while the influence of alcohol or drugs and reached a plea agreement. She was sentenced to 30 days in jail with 27 days suspended. She must pay a $1,500 fine, due within one year, along with an initial jail surcharge, police training surcharge, and her first offense cost of imprisonment.

Nathan D. Fishel, 30, of Utqiagvik, pleaded guilty to the class C misdemeanor charge of domestic violence assault in the fourth degree for causing reckless injury and reached a plea agreement. The charge was amended by the state to a misdemeanor charge of domestic violence assault in the third degree, for which Fishel pled guilty. He has been placed on probation for three years, during which time he must also obtain a domestic violence evaluation and risk assessment from an approved provider.

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Teacher returns to Alaska village where she was abused

In Chuathbaluk, Sakar says she will not stay silent

This article was produced in partnership with ProPublica as part of the ProPublica Local Reporting Network and is part of a continuing series, Lawless: Sexual violence in Alaska

MICHELLE THERIAULT BOOTS
Anchorage Daily News

A few years ago, Marie Sakar moved to the village of Chuathbaluk in Western Alaska to teach at the tiny village school.

It meant returning to the place she’d been running away from for her entire adult life. She grew up in the fish camp-turned-village on the banks of the Kuskokwim River, enduring years of sexual abuse.

She left as soon as she could, becoming a mother and earning a college degree in elementary education. But nothing chased away the memories of being molested, or the self-destruction that had followed.

And yet, Sakar now 48, knew she had to return home to the community of 100 people.

“It’s so ironic — I’m finally at home,” she said. “But this is the toughest assignment I’ve ever had.”

Chuathbaluk was in some ways a sweet place to grow up. Sakar had loving parents and grandparents who taught her Yup’ik traditions. But starting around age 3 or 4, she was molested by older boys in the village.

The first boy to abuse Sakar was a cousin who lived outside the home to confide in. She hid her pain — not so different from the games she’d invented to see her father at a nursing home in Anchorage. By now her world had changed. She was deep into Alzheimer’s disease.

Though she wasn’t sure her dad could understand, she told him what the cousin had done to her.

“I used to be brought into abandoned houses, smokehouses, steam baths, in the trees or in the grass,” Sakar said. “Raped and molested.”

As soon as she could, Sakar left the village. She was raped again and became pregnant. Sakar placed her first daughter for adoption because she feared mistreating her.

She went to college and became a teacher. She had another daughter, and began raising her as a single mother.

Drinking became a quick and effective way to blot out her pain — not so different from the games she’d invented as a child where she’d close her eyes and try to travel to another world when she was being molested. Alcohol made her life an unmanageable mess.

She knew she had to quit.

“I was covering up hurt up until now,” she said. “I prayed like I never prayed before.”

She took her last drink on July 5, 2007. Sakar married and had three more daughters.

“They have only seen me sob,” she said.

Sakar heard someone say that silence about sexual abuse only served to protect the abusers. She began confronting the men who hurt her.

Those who felt guilty looked away, acted “like their bodies were on fire,” she said.

She and a cousin who abused her as a child went to see her father at a nursing home in Anchorage. By now he was deep into Alzheimer’s disease.

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The three held hands in a circle and prayed.

On the drive home, the cousin asked if she was sure she could forgive him.

“I have to,” she said. “I can’t hold on to this hate and this anger. I have to let it go. It’s bringing me down.”

She began telling her story to a broader audience. In 2009, she stood up in the middle of a child welfare conference in Anchorage and described the devastating impact of her childhood of sexual abuse. The chattering audience fell silent. People stood and clapped, and lined up to hug her afterward.

“She said, ‘You know what, that was my story too,’” she said. “And it wasn’t just women.”

Her words and picture landed on the front page of the Tundra Drums newspaper.

The biggest betrayal, and her biggest test of her sobriety, came in 2013, when Sakar learned that her husband — the father of three of her girls — had raped a family member.

Sakar helped police investigate her husband’s crimes. She learned he had lied to her about having been convicted of a similar crime years earlier.

In 2015, Sakar’s ex-husband, Peter Nick Jr., pleaded guilty to one count of sexual abuse of a minor. His attempt to appeal his conviction failed.

He is scheduled to be released from prison in 2048.

In a letter from prison at Alaska’s Spring Creek Correctional Center, Nick said he is still appealing his sentence on the grounds that he received ineffective assistance from his court-appointed attorney.

Sakar says she wants, but doesn’t expect, justice through the courts for the men who raped her.

Living in Chuathbaluk is sometimes painful.

Sharing Yup’ik dances and language with her students is a joy. But she grapples with the daily complexity of running into abusers at the post office or the sole grocery shop.

Only about 100 people live in Chuathbaluk, and Sakar interacts with nearly all of them.

During Slaviq, the Russian Orthodox Christmas holiday celebrated in Western Alaska villages, groups of people walk from house to house, entering to sing carols.

Earlier this year, Sakar stood fuming as a man who had assaulted her stood in her house.

It’s hard, but Sakar says she will stay. In villages like Chuathbaluk, teachers often quickly cycle through, disappearing after a year or two. Sakar didn’t have an Alaska Native teacher until high school.

Having an adult presence outside the home to confide in would have changed her girlhood. As a teacher, she wants to be that person for the children of the village today.

“I tell them, ‘I’m here,’ she said. ‘I’m not going anywhere. This is where I’m from.’

WHO DID IT FROM PAGE 2

week of judgement and complete all recommended treatment by the end of her probation. She has been placed on probation for one year, during which time she may not possess, consume, or buy alcohol or enter or attempt to enter premises where alcohol is sold or served.

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WHO DID IT FROM PAGE 2

week of judgement and complete all recommended treatment by the end of her probation. She has been placed on probation for one year, during which time she may not possess, consume, or buy alcohol by order of Magistrate Judge David Roghair, effective April 28.

Johnathan T. Rulland, 28, of Anaktuvuk Pass, pleaded guilty to the class A misdemeanor charge of importing a small amount of alcohol to a dry area and reaching a plea agreement. He was found guilty of transporting alcoholic beverages by common carrier after his charge was amended by the state. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail with all 30 days suspended. He must pay a police training surcharge and an initial jail surcharge. He has been ordered to contact North Slope Borough Behavioral Health or Tanana Chiefs Conference within one week of judgement and complete a screening, evaluation, and recommended treatment program and submit proof of completion by the end of probation. He has been placed on probation for one year, during which time he may not possess, consume or buy alcohol or enter bars or liquor stores. He has also been sentenced to 30 hours of community work service, which must be completed within 10 months of judgement, by order of Magistrate Judge David Roghair, effective April 30.

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All Alaskans deserve equal dignity and respect

My grandparents immigrated from Sweden to Yakutat in the early 1900s. My grandmother Jenny was a Christian missionary and my grandfather, E.A., an educator and missionary. Faith was their guiding light, and they believed strongly that all people were to be treated with dignity, compassion and respect. These values were instilled into their two children, Maud Evangeline and my father, Elmer Rasmuson, and my dad passed them on to me and to my two sisters, Lide and Judy.

In many ways, these values serve as the pillars upon which Rasmuson Foundation is built. And it is my belief that our work in Anchorage, where community members came together in solidarity to peacefully demonstrate, mourn the loss of a life and support each other. And we’ve seen the bad: the violence and division.

Under that backdrop, members of our board met this week to talk about our values and how to respond in this moment. We are living in a time where both action and inaction are statements about who we are and what you value. Going back to the days of Jenny and E.A., our family has always stood up against injustice. My grandmother fought to keep bootleggers out of Yakutat — quite successfully, I am told. My stepmother, Mary Louise Rasmuson, was a member of the first Women’s Army Corps and was recognized for her work in integrating black women into the WAC’s and fighting for equality. In addition to growing National Bank of Alaska into the largest bank in the state before selling it to Wells Fargo in 2000 to focus on philanthropy, my father was mayor of Anchorage. In his book, “Banking on Alaska,” he spoke about what he was most proud of from his tenure as Anchorage’s chief executive. One thing he identified was “peaceful progress on civil rights and equality for all, at a time when racial strife was tearing the nation apart.” Under his tenure, the Human Rights Committee was created, which called for a housing ordinance outlawing discrimination in the city passed. He was an outspoken supporter of equal rights for African Americans, and became a lifetime member of the NAACP.

We know there is no easy solution when talking about racism and color. But this is an issue we will continue to address. Our board meets later this month, and we intend to discuss the issue of racism, just as we have addressed homelessness, alcoholism and other societal challenges. I will close with an anecdote about my father. On one occasion in 1965, he received an angry letter from a Homer man who believed that an Anchorage demonstration in support of voting rights was communistic-inspired. “I hope you appreciate,” Elmer wrote back, “that people have the right to march and parade as you also have the right to write letters.”

Elmer truly did see the dignity, compassion and respect for all people across all different skills and talents, and disagreed with what they were saying. When my grandparents moved to a Tlingit village in the early 1900s they were greeted with open arms. When my brother and I grew up, the cure for cancer cleaning rooms at the Hilton because “people feel small when they should feel equal. Since we all have different abilities, diminishing and judging waters down the potency of the entire brew. Is the person who might have discovered the next police chief. There are a lot of people who are involved. At every place along the way, Alaska’s children need to feel like they are valuable and important people in our community or be part of a committee that sets policies for our youth organization where our youth are involved. 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Shungnak students sound off around the nation’s capital

Twelve students enjoy life-changing trip to Washington

BY ROGER FRANKLIN AND ANDIE ZINK
For the Arctic Sounder

On Feb. 28, 2020, at 10 a.m. in minus 32-degree tempera-
tures in Shungnak, we began on our journey to Cap-
tessential to children from Alaska... -by Roger Franklin

Shungnak students visit Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski during their trip to the nation’s capital.

Traveling via public trans-
poration was another one of
those firsts for the 12 inquisi-
tive students. The metro sys-
tem seemed a beast to them at
first. The upper platform being
175 feet below street level and
the lower platform being another
20 feet below that. Trains going 59 mph in
every direction and coming to
a complete standstill on a split second’s
notice. Hundreds of people getting
off while hundreds of others
await to get on. All somber-
dly orchestrated. Midway
through our trip 12 stu-
dents conquered the beast
and confidently tackled the rou-
tine. They too played a part in
the symphony the orchestra
played. Day in and day out our
12 young brave souls walked,
pranced, danced and ran all
over our nation’s capital. Ev-
every morning we took a ride on
the metro underground from
Arlington, Virginia, to Wash-
ington, D.C., to get to the places
we were to visit that day and
returning the same way back
to the hotel in the evenings for
their much-anticipated leisure
pool.

The itinerary was filled
with daily tours and visits.
The first museum visit was to
the Library of Congress. The
following days we toured and
visited the National Museum of
African American History and
Culture, National Museum of
American History, National
Museum of Natural History,
and the National Museum of
the American Indian, as well
as the United States Capitol
Building. We also had an op-
portunity to visit the Hart
Senate Office Building to visit
Senator Lisa Murkowski’s of-
nice. It was then followed by a
tour of the underground pas-
sage that leads to the capitol
building. While on our tour we
came across Murkowski. Our
students had an opportunity
to stop and chat with her for
a brief moment before con-
tinuing on with our tour. We
agreed to meet her within a
couple of hours on the House
steps of the Capitol Building
for a more intimate meeting.
Throughout the trip the 12
students sounded off daily,
walked in a line, looked out for
one another, and wore identi-
cal clothing. People were im-
pressed by our students out-
standing conduct and many
wondered where we were from.
Some read the students’ back-
packs while others read the T-shirts or sweatshirts and
pondered what and why. It’s a
“WE.”

Once they learned we were
from Alaska, the floods of ques-
tions poured in. “What does
‘It’s a ‘WE’ mean?” “Why is it
an ‘It’s a ‘WE’” “The students
answered with pride stating
that it meant no one gets left
behind, pushing education for
all students, and we all work

together to make every house
in America better as we forge
ahead. People continued with
questions intrigued by our
students, further asking them
how long did it take you to get
here? Are you really from the
Arctic circle? Is it really cold
and dark all day and night? These
were only a few of the many
questions our students
answered with enthusiasm.

However, the students weren’t the only one’s answer-
ing questions asked of them, they too had an opportunity
to ask questions, this time of their own company Akima.
Akima requested our stu-
dents visit their headquarters
in Herndon, Virginia. The first
part of our Tuesday morning
was dedicated to visiting the
company. The students expe-
rienced sitting in a boardroom,
asking questions and speaking
to the CEO. They participated
in a scavenger hunt that taught
them about the company and
the products they offer. After
lunch, we all took a trip to the
Smithsonian National Air and
Space Museum where the stu-
dents had the opportunity to
see the Apollo 11 command
module “Columbia” on display.
The day culminated after a visit
to the mall for some shop-
ping.

The trip was somewhat
unorthodox. Our 12 students
were not only taking this trip
to experience and learn about
our nation’s history, or to en-
rich their academic brains
through a daily workout of
recalling and absorbing old
and new historical informa-
tion. They came to blossom in
the vast portraits of this great
country as citizens. They took
this trip to experience life out
in America, away from the
known. To experience things
that many of us take for grant-
ed. The excitement of eating
different foods, trying a local bal-
cery, ordering food from lunch
trucks, safely crossing a major
intersection along hundreds
of vehicles, smelling and
touching freshly cut grass.

They read so many things
and bypassed so many others,
trying to absorb everything since
everything we did and saw
was a momentous event.

All 12 minds were so fasci-
nated in the world that cur-
rently surrounded them and
confused by it all the same.

They were learning how the
real world of America works
and why we defend this coun-
try with honor and pride. What
the red, white and blue waving
on every building stands for
and how they can seek out the
Constitution and the amend-
ments and live by them. They
were learning the importance of humanity and the bond that
binds us all.

The 12 students sounded
off daily with a goal in mind,
being student journalists.

They recorded their feelings,
thoughts and experiences of
the events in their journals
daily. This personal record will
help in the reshaping of their
own lives and their village lifestyle as they grow to adult-
hood. They learned of true ex-
haustion, physically and men-
tally, from the countless miles
we walked every day to all the
new learnings.

So many new things to take
in daily and such a short time
to process hundreds of new
other and to their loved ones
when they called home to let
them know about their day in
America.

Although 10 days weren’t
effective to experience it all,
it was enough for the 12 stu-
dents from Shungnak School
to have an insight of what life
in a large metropolitan city
is all about and that they too
have the opportunity to par-
ticipate in it.

We would like to thank
NWBSD, the entire village of
Shungnak, IRA-Shungnak,
NANA Corporation, and Ak-
ima, as well as everyone that
helped make this trip possible
for our students. Thank you
for giving these students the
blessing of helping raise our
children to us for a 10-day trip
across the country.

Our village mantra ‘It’s a ‘WE’”
was reflected in the support
we received from everyone.

Roger Franklin is the Shungnak
school principal.
said in a written statement on June 5. “This means staying home, practicing social distancing, washing your hands frequently and avoiding large gatherings.”

Community spread is when the virus is not brought into a community by someone traveling from outside, but instead passed from one person to another within the community through contact. The other cases in Kotzebue have been travelers who have flown in from further south.

Maniilaq said it has been in touch with the state of Alaska Section of Epidemiology to work on contact tracing, which maps out who may have been exposed to someone who has the virus.

Finding out who may have been exposed helps to “ensure precautions are taken to protect anyone who may have been in close contact with the individual,” Maniilaq said. “Anyone contacted should self-isolate for 14 days and contact the hotel for quarantine and monitoring symptoms.”

As of June 4, Maniilaq Public Health Nursing was still working on contact tracing for that individual “to determine the extent of contact and interaction they have had since arriving in Kotzebue.”

They noted that people who may have come into contact with the individual will be notified.

The day before announcing the most recent case, Maniilaq issued a statement about the third case in the community, which was an individual who had flown to Kotzebue from Anchorage.

“The individual arrived in Kotzebue on Monday, June 1,” Maniilaq wrote. “Their test results were received today from the Alaska Native Medical Center. Once the individual was located, they were brought to the MHC Respiratory Clinic and taken to the hotel for quarantine and monitoring symptoms.”

As of June 4, Maniilaq Public Health Nursing was still working on contact tracing for that individual “to determine the extent of contact and interaction they have had since arriving in Kotzebue.”

They noted that people who may have come into contact with the individual will be notified.

For others in the community, health officials say if you must leave the house, be sure to wear a cloth face mask and keep a safe distance from other people — at least 6 feet.

“Since it could be difficult for kids to stay 6 feet apart while playing, we recommend limiting interactions with other households,” Maniilaq noted.

Anyone who thinks they may have been exposed to COVID-19 at any time or who develops symptoms are advised to contact their health care provider for medical advice or call the COVID hotline.

Symptoms include:

- fever or chills
- cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- fatigue
- muscle pain or body aches
- headache
- sore throat
- new loss of taste or smell
- congestion or runny nose
- nausea or vomiting
- diarrhea
- COVID-19 testing is available at the Maniilaq Health Center Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, they said. If anyone has any questions, they can call 442-7047. More information is available on Maniilaq’s Facebook page and on their website.

When you take care of yourself, you take care of all Alaskans.

Together, Alaskans have done an excellent job of managing COVID-19. We responded quickly to keep cases low and our health care system ready to help patients. Now, Alaskans must continue to minimize the spread of COVID-19 by acting responsibly and taking care of each other. We can slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep our communities safe by taking the following actions:

- Stay six feet or more away from non-family members.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Wipe down surfaces frequently.
- Wear a face covering when in a public setting in close contact with others.
- Stay home if you are sick and get tested for COVID-19 if you have symptoms.
- Be mindful and respectful to those Alaskans that are most vulnerable to this virus.
Get a backbone.

Us.

ASTAC
BROADBAND, LLC
event.

The group walked from the arch near the Top of the World hotel to the parking lot by the bank. There, speakers stood on a raised walkway and shared words with the large crowd below.

“This is an opportunity to share my opinion to those in my neighborhood about the recent uptick in police brutality against people of color,” said Noble, in a speech he’d previously posted to social media. “No amount of memes you scroll will fully illustrate the toll this has taken on people of color such as myself. You may be tired of hearing from me and others like me, but I pray you don’t silence them because if we were silent, that would be akin to accepting the oppression that is here today, which was fought adamantly by leaders such as the late Dr. King, Rosa Parks, and Harriet Tubman.”

Several of the organizers shared “powerful speeches,” said Forster, about discrimination they and their families have faced. Some of the speakers shared about having “the yard with our neighbors; we have problems in our back-

“Justice for George Floyd” and “Say Their Names,” referring to the names of people of color killed by police.

“Supporting and showing up to the rally in town was something I will never re-
gret,” said resident Robert Wil-
lon. “Bringing my son and his friends, educating them, is something I hope they remem-
ber in life. I wanted to show them we alone are just rocks, but together thrown in the ocean, we make ripples. With the focus for true justice and equality for our Black Lives Matter family — I know our voices were heard.”

As Noble spoke, the crowd responded with cheers and support. When he raised his fist in the air, a symbol of soli-
darity, the crowd responded. One by one, people raised their fists with him. They then held an eight-minute moment of silence to commemorate the amount of time a police officer pinned George Floyd to the ground.

“It was a moving moment,” said Allie Akpik, one of the marchers. “It was filled with such healing energy and emo-
tion. We sang, we prayed, we

Protestors in Umiqagvik hold signs calling for an end to systemic racism.

Kuukpik

47th Annual Meeting of Shareholders EARLY BIRD VOTING

VOTE early and WIN

Ten (10) $200.00 Early Bird Door Prizes* | Early Bird Deadline: 12:00 pm AKST, Saturday, June 12, 2020

*Valid mailed and online proxies qualify. Early bird door prize recipients are also eligible for door prizes at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

There Are Two Ways to Vote

Option 1: On paper by mail, fax, or email

Shareholder packets were mailed on May 27, 2020. You may complete and sign the proxy included in your packet and return it in the envelope provided. Ballots may be returned the following ways:

Mail
Kohler, Schmitt & Hutchison, PC
P.O. Box 70807
Fairbanks, AK 99707-0807
ATTN: Gary Corrick

Fax
(907) 456-6431
ATTN: Gary Corrick

gccorrick@kshtcpa.com

Email

Kuukpik Corporation 47th Annual Meeting of Shareholders 1:00 pm, Saturday, June 20, 2020

How to Participate

Instructions on how to participate in the electronic meeting have been sent to shareholders by email. You can also find information on the Kuukpik website, www.kuukpik.com,

or by calling Kimberly Gregory at 907-279-6250.

Kuukpik Corporation | NUIQSUT: P.O. Box 81987, Nuiqsut, AK 99789 (907) 480-6220 | ANCHORAGE: 582 East 36th Ave., Ste. 600, Anchorage, AK 99503 (907) 279-6126 | www.kuukpik.com

As an alternative to submitting a paper ballot, you have the option to cast your proxy votes online. Details on how to submit ballots online are included in the shareholder packets, which were mailed May 27, 2020. You may also contact Kimberly Gregory at kgregory@kuukpik.com or 907-279-6250 for more information.

Option 2: Online

See page 11, PROTESTS
What a terrible time to increase oil production taxes

What a terrible time to increase oil production taxes

The pandemic threatens our lives and our livelihood, oil prices at rock bottom, the loss of the visitor industry for the season and commercial seafood at risk, this is a terrible time to raise oil production taxes by as much as 300%.

Ballot Measure I is a vicious and dangerous attack on the future of our state. It sends the message that “If you invest here, we will increase your taxes every time we run out of money.”

People say this is an oil company issue. It’s not. It’s an Alaska issue. Oil companies can take their money and invest it anywhere in the world — and they will. But where do the rest of us go?

This is where we have our homes, families, jobs and businesses. This is where we plan a future for our kids and grandchildren.

Why do we go when the pipeline shuts down, the jobs dry up, home values collapse and there is no one left to support our children’s education and our economic way of life?

Other industries, like mining, tourism, seafood, and the many service businesses, will ask the question, “Who’s next?”

Why would they want to invest here? Why would anyone invest in a state that is trying to kill itself? Proponents of Ballot Measure I imply that the oil industry pays little or no taxes. That’s wrong. In the past five years, according to information provided in a prior article by oil economist Roger Marks, the oil industry paid an average of almost $3 billion per year in taxes and royalties and kept about $1 billion. That’s a government take of 74% of the pretax value. The industry tax rate is less than 1%.

Increased oil production is the best solution to Alaska’s budget problems. The oil industry plans to spend $24 billion over the next 10 years, which could boost our oil production by several hundred thousand barrels per day. This investment would stop — and oil production would decline to dangerous levels — if we overtax this important industry. Why risk driving away what a 2019 study by the McPhee Group noted is a $5 billion annual payroll, 77,000 jobs, and $4 billion in annual payments to Alaska businesses?

This money runs throughout our economy and supports many charities and events that provide needed services to so many in our state.

Alaska is extremely concerned that if Ballot Measure I were to pass, it would begin an economic death spiral for Alaska. Our economy is fragile, and this initiative could tip us over the edge.

They call this the “Fair Share Act”:
• Is it fair that you will no longer have a job?
• Is it fair that your house will be worth less?
• Is it fair that your children will have little to no opportunity to stay and work in Alaska if this initiative passes?
• Is it fair that there is no industry left to pay for government services, our schools and support our charities?

A better name would be “The Job Killer Act of 2020.”

We have a choice:
• More oil or more taxes
• A strong economy or recession
• Jobs or no jobs

This is not the time to destroy what we have left in Alaska.

Jim Jansen is the chairman of the Lundeborg Group and a co-founder of the KEEP Alaska Competitive Coalition. Joe Schierhorn is the president and CEO of Northrim Bank, co-chair of the KEEP Alaska Competitive Coalition.

How we’re planning to upgrade Alaska’s online checkbook

The state of Alaska Online Checkbook is intended to provide an easy-to-use platform for Alaskans to have visibility and transparency into state spending. It is an important tool for Alaskans to help the state’s intention to continue to provide it to the public. However, the tool is only as useful as it is accurate and, as we all know, an inaccurate checkbook only causes confusion and distrust.

Transparency into state financial transactions is critical for government oversight and accountability. This administration fully supports the creation of a comprehensive online checkbook, which is open and understandable to all Alaskans. As such, we applaud Sen. Bill Wielechowski’s efforts to bring that sort of transparency to our state’s finances. But when he recently created his own version of an online checkbook, it is unfortunate, both the senator’s and the Department of Administration’s (DOA) version of an online checkbook have errors, in part because they pull data from the same place. For example, vendor payments are reported incorrectly in both versions, which do not show revenues of any type; total general fund versus expenditure totals; total assets versus liabilities at the end of the fiscal year and the preceding 10 years; number of full-time, part-time and temporary employees grouped by agency; number of independent contractors.

However, neither the senator’s nor DOA’s checkbooks include data from the budget. They do not show revenues of any type; total general fund versus expenditure totals; total assets versus liabilities at the end of the fiscal year and the preceding 10 years; number of full-time, part-time and temporary employees grouped by agency; number of independent contractors.
ACROSS
1. Kind of lively dance
6. Greenwich time
9. Pilgrimage to Mecca
13. Belittle
14. A note to follow soh
15. Annie Oakley’s show
16. Hipbone-related
17. Chicago to Detroit direction
19. *Most gifted Father’s Day gift?
21. *a.k.a. Father of the Constitution
23. Have a cold, e.g.
24. Bog deposit
25. Styling product
28. Not yet final, in law
30. Squirrels away
35. “Metamorphoses” poet
37. Antioxidants-rich berry
39. Text that precedes the main text
40. Car brand, e.g.
41. “*Full House” father
43. Brazilian indigenous people
44. a.k.a. dropsy
46. Precedes shine
47. Paving stone
48. Early TV manufacturer
50. Bayonet wound
52. “Zip it!”
53. Popular form of communication
55. Part of a match
57. *Christopher Robin’s father
58. *Father known as “one-shot” Finch
61. *Father known as “one-shot” Finch
65. Largest deer
66. *John-John’s father
68. Precedes desist
69. Cuckoo
71. Friedrich Schiller’s “___ to Joy”
72. *Most gifted Father’s Day gift?

DOWN
1. It’s equivalent to pain?
2. Sound mind, ___ body
3. Not of the cloth
4. Japanese port
5. Jelly ingredient
6. High school club
7. “*Boy’s father in “The Road”
8. Recurring melody
9. Shakespearean people
10. Without further ____ , pl.
11. 1920s art style
12. “*John-John’s father
15. Cow’s favorite grass?
20. Homer’s classic
22. Pleasurable interjection
24. Adrian Brody in 2002 film
25. *Wednesday’s father
26. Dodge
27. Compare
29. *Antithesis to Mufasa
31. Liberal pursuits
32. Don Giovanni and such
33. Echo sounder output
34. *a.k.a. the father of modern economics
35. “Indecent Proposal” star Moore
38. Research facil.
40. “*Full House” father
41. “*Full House” father
42. Used for raising
45. U.K. Prime Minister, 1945-51
49. Lady lobster
51. “You ____!”
54. Xe
56. Make a connection, two words
57. In the thick of
58. Steak condiment
59. Express complaint
60. Antonym of is
61. All over again
62. *Popular Father’s Day greeting
63. Olympic cast-out
64. Bone-dry
66. *Your father in “The Road”
67. Commotion
68. Precedes desist
70. Friedrich Schiller’s “___ to Joy”
71. Personnel person
72. Job for a body shop
73. Parent’s order
74. Wrestling’s ___ the Giant

THEME: FATHER’S DAY
here and I wanted them to know that we stand by their side against police brutality and racism,” said organizer Stephena Smith. “Seeing videos circulating online of black people being killed in broad daylight was something that really pushed me to want to make it happen.”

Up north, in Utqiaġvik, residents shared similar stories of why actions like these are needed at a local level — not just a national one.

“My husband is black and I’ve seen how people treat him differently, and how he has to change up when someone sees him as a threat for being a tall black man,” said Thuraq Edwardson Moss. “When I watch the news and see how black men and women are being murdered by law enforcement or people of privilege, it makes me enraged. When they don’t get justice, it makes me sick to my stomach. We need greater awareness. We need real change.”

“These issues do not just occur in big cities,” said Forster. “It is important for everyone to speak up for what is right. Utqiaġvik has as many reasons as anywhere else to be part of this movement.”

Before the Kotzebue rally, Smith had posted on social media that she wanted to put together a march to address these issues locally.

“Spreading awareness on Facebook and Twitter wasn’t enough for us so planning this protest was one step forward,” said Smith.

Fellow resident Camille Nelson stepped up and set a date and time. Together, they made it happen.

Nelson said it’s important for people to use their voices to speak out against injustices and take a stand when action is needed.

Now, the pair is working to raise awareness in other ways, as well. They are gathering petition signatures around town in an effort to affect change.

“Yes, protesting along with donating and petitioning is pushing along the movement,” said Nelson. “A lot of them are similar stories, but with different faces. A number of deaths have occurred by the hands of police without any charges. The petitions are to hold police accountable for their actions. There are also some that call for cases to be reopened where the killers were acquitted.”

Back in Utqiaġvik, Noble finished his speech and other speakers stood up to share their stories.

Looking ahead, he said he hoped people would seek out resources to continue the conversation and pointed to a list of demands from the NAACP and others. With regard to police action, they include a full demilitarization of police, the establishment of a police oversight committee, the enacting of universal training standards for police, requirements that officers be licensed, and the repeal of the law that protects police officers from being sued. They are also calling for a ban on the use of knee holds and choke holds, ensuring every state’s open records act includes officer misconduct information, the implementation of citizens’ review boards, and a clear use of force outline with many steps for officers.

“From what we can do here,” Noble said, “is talk to those around us since racism is taught, not inherent.”

Residents of both Kotzebue and Utqiaġvik say they hope their actions will lead to positive outcomes for their communities and the generations to come.

“I have faith that our engagement now will create a better America for our kids,” said Moss. "I have faith that policies will begin to change. But faith without works is dead, and we have to put in the work.”

For Noble, he said he was moved by the amount of support he saw at the northernmost rally in the U.S. It may have been remote, but it was no less meaningful or powerful than any other in the nation.

“It was overwhelming with love,” he said. “I wasn’t fearful about protesting and couldn’t get over how much joy it brought me to see so many familiar faces, but also strangers.”

Shady Grove Oliver can be reached at sgooarctic@gmail.com.
Wilhelm will take over from longtime President Pearl Kiywan Brower, who announced her resignation last fall. Brower has been with the college for 13 years and has spent the last eight years in the leadership role.

“We thank all of the candidates and the other finalist for the opportunity to have the conversation about what the future leadership looks like at Ilisaġvik College,” said Brower. “I wholeheartedly endorse Vice President Wilhelm for the position and know she will bring considerable energy, talent, perspective and cultural experience to the role of president of Ilisaġvik College.”

Wilhelm grew up on the North Slope and attended school in the district, graduating from Barrow High School. She has a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of Hawaii at Hilo and a master’s in social work from the University of New England.

Wilhelm spent 14 years at Ilisaġvik College, Wilhelm spent 14 years as the deputy director of behavioral health. She has been with Ilisaġvik College for 13 years in the leadership role.

At that time, President Brower had planned to complete her tenure this summer, but with the many significant events that have happened this year, the board extended her contract until Sept. 30, to see the college into the start of the next school year.

“At that time, President Brower will transition into an advisory capacity supporting the new president until January 2021,” the college wrote. “Wilhelm will take over the president’s position this fall. Wilhelm grew up on the North Slope Borough School District School Advisory Council, North Slope Borough Personnel Hearing Board, Arctic Women in Crisis Board, Eben Hopson Memorial Scholarship Committee and the Utqiagvik City Council.

“Wilhelm will be married to Whaling Captain Ross Makałik Wilhelm and together, they have four children: Madison, Gabriel, Juliana and Hunter,” the college wrote. “Wilhelm says that while she is privileged and honored to wear so many hats over the years, she most enjoys spending time with her family, which includes spending time with her family, which includes family vacations.”

“Wilhelm will continue to be actively engaged in the region,” the college wrote in its announcement.

She has served on the North Slope Borough School District School Advisory Council, North Slope Borough Personnel Hearing Board, Arctic Women in Crisis Board, Eben Hopson Memorial Scholarship Committee and the Utqiagvik City Council.

“Wilhelm is married to Whaling Captain Ross Makałik Wilhelm and together, they have four children: Madison, Gabriel, Juliana and Hunter,” the college wrote. “Wilhelm says that while she is privileged and honored to wear so many hats over the years, she most enjoys spending time with her family, which includes family vacations.”

“A community leader since her high school days, Wilhelm continues to be actively engaged in the region,” the college wrote in its announcement.

Northern Air Cargo is committed to continuing our cargo operations. There’s enough worry in the world, you need to be able to count on getting the supplies you need. For the most up-to-date information visit www.nac.aero

Taguqimuullu Nunamiullu Housing Authority is looking for a community member from either of the villages of Atqasuk or Anaktuvuk Pass.

Use your voice
Opportunity to serve and represent your community.

Become a housing champion
Get to know us, and all that TNHA does.

Paid travel
Paid travel to meetings, trainings, and conferences.

Contact Cheryl Humme at 907-852-7155 or email at Cheryl.Humme@tnha.net

How can you help?
Take photos, note location, and immediately call:
North Slope Borough:
(907) 750-5466, Raphaella Stimmelmayer
Bering Strait region:
(907) 434-1149, Gay Sheffield or
(907) 434-2951, Brandon Ahmasuk (Kawerak, Inc.)
Bethel or Kotzebue:
(877) 925-7773 NOAA Fisheries Alaska 24-hr Stranding Hotline

NOAA Fisheries and partners are investigating what has caused the high number of deaths among bearded, ringed, and spotted seals in the Bering and Chukchi seas, especially between Kotlik to Utqiagvik since 2018. All results of this investigation will be provided to the tribes.