



11/17-11/23

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# The Week in News

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UNIVERSITY  
of ALASKA  
SOUTHEAST

WHALESONG



# State and Local Headlines

- Alaska's Ranked Choice Voting and open primary system will remain in place, now that all ballots have been tallied. The Nov. 20 final count showed the RCV repeal failing by 664 votes.



# State and Local Headlines

- Nick Begich III, of Anchorage, will take Alaska's sole U.S. House of Representatives seat, according to the Nov. 20 unofficial results. After the third round of ranked-choice tabulation, Begich, a Republican, received 51.31% of the vote, compared to Mary Peltola's 48.69%. The Bethel Democrat served out the late Rep. Don Young's term, and was then elected to a full term in 2022. She was the first Alaska Native to be elected to the U.S. House. The Division of Elections will certify the general election results on Nov. 30.



# State and Local Headlines

- For the first time in Alaska's history, the state House of Representatives will be majority female. The 21 women serving in the upcoming Alaska Legislature will be among seven state legislative chambers in the country, with a majority of women or gender parity. Sen. Cathy Giessel, R-Anchorage, also intends to form a "Women of the Alaska Legislature" caucus this coming session. The state legislature convenes in Juneau on Jan. 21.



# State and Local Headlines

- The future of a copper and zinc mine near Klukwan and Haines is uncertain. DOWA Metals & Mining Co., a major Japanese smelting company, pulled out of the project on Nov. 18. American Pacific Mining Corp., a Canadian company with no current operating mines, will take over the Palmer Mine. The Palmer project has raised environmental concerns over the years due to its proximity to the Chilkat River.



# State and Local Headlines

- A team of biologists from various Anchorage institutions are studying the remains of a 47-foot juvenile female fin whale that washed ashore near downtown Anchorage. Samples are being sent to the Lower 48 for testing. According to NOAA biologist Barbara Mahoney, the test results will determine the whale's health status and cause of death, if possible.



# State and Local Headlines

- Anchorage 8th grader Emily Brubaker won the first ever National Civics Bee in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 12. Brubaker has been involved on Capitol Hill since age 6, advocating for the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (ELSA). She was born with a condition called hypohidrotic ectodermal dysplasia, which means she will need extensive dental work in the next few years. Currently, insurance does not cover these procedures, a practice that ELSA seeks to change.



# State and Local Headlines

- Tidal Echoes, the UAS literary and art journal featuring Southeast Alaska writers and artists, is accepting submissions until Dec. 1. To submit an original piece of poetry, prose, or artwork of any medium, follow the link below:

[https://uas.alaska.edu/arts\\_sciences/humanities/english/tidal-echoes/submission-guidelines.html](https://uas.alaska.edu/arts_sciences/humanities/english/tidal-echoes/submission-guidelines.html)



# Sources

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