

FAIRBANKS NATIVE ASSOCIATION

A Voice for the People of Fairbanks

Summer 2022

Wallis tells of FNA's early days and land claims



Tim Wallis, past FNA president

One of the first things Tim Wallis did as president of Fairbanks Native Association was put a pool table in the lobby of the new FNA office in downtown Fairbanks.

“There was really no place for Native kids to go after school,” Wallis said. “I put a pool table in and pretty soon that became a hang out.”

Youth have always been an important part of FNA. Under his presidency, from 1970-72, Wallis brought in the Johnson O’Malley Program, which continues to this day.

But it was Indigenous land claims that brought Wallis to FNA in 1968. The organization, which formed in 1963, had frequent meetings to discuss land claims. Alaska had become a state and the new government was selecting Native land as its own. It was a big concern, and he

wanted to know more.

FNA founder Ralph Perdue invited him to the FNA meetings, which were being held in the basement at the old Presbyterian House. The discussions brought together the young people who would further develop FNA, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Doyon, Ltd. and the Alaska Federation of Natives. While land claims spurred them, all were concerned about education, jobs and the wellbeing of Alaska Native families.

By 1970, Wallis was elected FNA president. He leased a former doctor’s office on Fourth Avenue. He, Mary Jane Fate, Ralph Perdue, and others cleaned up the place, and opened the doors. That was where the pool table went in.

He was able to negotiate a contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to provide services to Alaska Natives in Fairbanks.

“From there I hired Hannah Solomon to work for FNA, giving assistance,” he said.

FNA also provided office space for the newly formed Tanana Chiefs Conference, he said, along with telephones and per diem for TCC travelers. Soon DNH Development Corporation, a for-profit operation owned by TCC, moved in.

“Then we got a couple of other (FNA) programs, and we were getting too big for that building,” Wallis remembered. So then he bought a two-story building on the corner of Lacey Street and Wendell Avenue.

“The FNA board wasn’t happy about that, because they didn’t approve to buy it,” he said. “But I didn’t get terminated.”

Everyone moved to the new building, taking the pool table with them.

By that time, land claims took on a larger concern. Oil was discovered on the North Slope in 1968, and oil companies proposed to build an oil pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez, transecting Native land. However, in 1966 Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall ordered a land freeze on any selections. That meant the pipeline couldn’t be built until land claims were settled.

It was a complicated discussion. Alaska Natives wanted 290 million acres of Alaska’s 375 million acres. They also wanted monetary settlements, according

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Steve Ginnis

Executive Director



Left: Brian Ridley, Tanana Chiefs Conference president, signs in to vote.



Right: A member casts her ballot.



Right: Jessica Black, FNA board president, does a live interview about the election with KTUV-11.

Annual elections bring changes to the board

The membership of FNA voted to retain one board incumbent, and elected two new board members in March 2022.

Roxanne Frank and Jolene Malamute join incumbent Jessica Black for a three-year term, which ends in 2025.

“I want to thank everyone who came out to vote,” said Steve Ginnis, FNA executive director. “It’s good to know that people feel strongly about their leadership at FNA. I also want to congratulate Jessica, Roxanne and Jolene, and I look forward to working with them.”

Ginnis thanked outgoing Glenn “Manny” Carlo, and Andrea Nield for their years of service on the board.

Black is the current board president, and employed by the University of Alaska Fairbanks as an associate professor with the Department of Alaska Native Studies and Rural Development. She has been on the FNA board for six years.

Frank is the wellness and prevention manager at Tanana Chiefs Conference. She is a past FNA board president.

Malamute works as a realty probate specialist at TCC. This is her first term on the FNA board.

Membership cast 307 votes, and had to be over 18, a descendant of Alaska Native or Indigenous people, and a resident of the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

FNA serves everyone in the Fairbanks area, and beyond, with education, community and behavioral health services.



Jessica Black



Roxanne Frank



Jolene Malamute

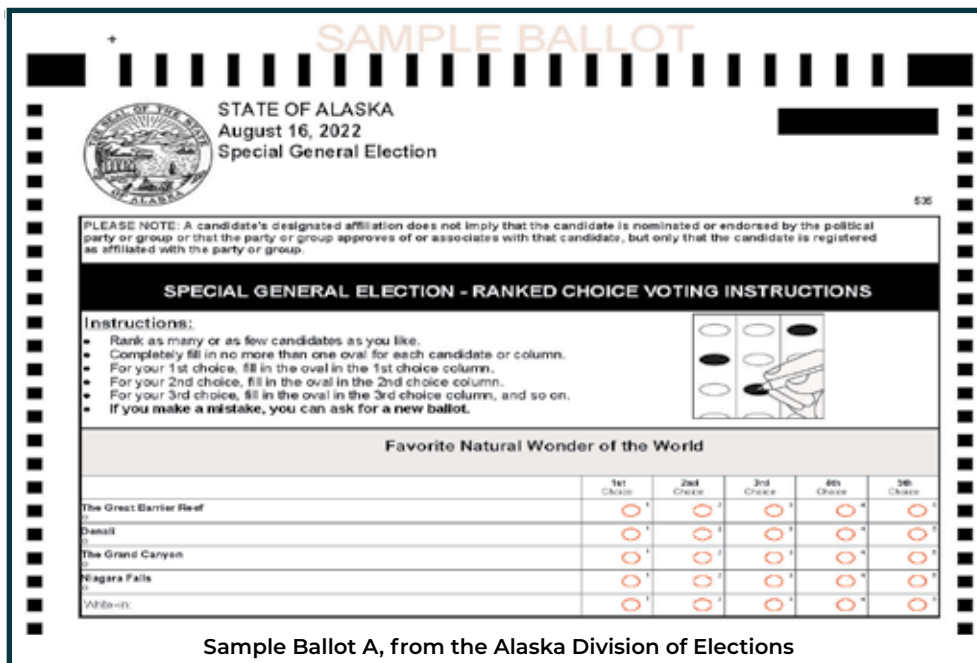


Glenn “Manny” Carlo



Andrea Nield

Two different elections: One lone congressional seat



There are two different elections being held to fill the seat left vacant by the death of U.S. Congressman Don Young. One is a special election, and is meant to choose someone to fill the remainder of Young's term that ends January 2023.

The second is a regular election, which is to elect a new U.S. Representative for a normal two year term starting in January 2023.

The first election process, to choose who will fill the remainder of Young's term, has already begun. A mail-in ballot ended June 11, Alaskans chose four top candidates out of a field of

55. The candidates are Nick Begich, Mary Peltola, and Sarah Palin. Al Gross, who was among the top four, dropped out of the race.

On Aug. 16, a general election will be held for Begich, Palin, and Petola. This will be by a ranked choice ballot. Voters chose their first, second, and third choices. Only one oval per column, and row should be

continued on page 7

Young learners sought for Denaakk'e class

The Denaakk'e Classroom at FNA Head Start is seeking pre-school students interested in learning Denaakk'e, Koyukon Athabascan language, for the 2022-2023 academic school year beginning in August. Three to five year olds have an opportunity to be exposed to language, culture and traditions of Koyukon Athabascan people.

Each child enrolled in the classroom will use their own Indigenous name. If they need a name, families and staff work together to come up with a name based on the child's personality, or a name handed down through family.

If interested in enrolling your child into the dual language classroom, fill out the Head Start application online. In the notes section of the application, please indicate that you want your child to attend the Denaakk'e Classroom of FNA Head Start 0-5.

If you have questions about the Denaakk'e Classroom, please contact Lorraine David, project director at 907-452-1648, ext. 6402 or 907-251-6995, email ldavid@fairbanksnative.org

Enaa Baasee' for all the people who want to revitalize the language, culture and traditions of Alaska. It is so important for the people to be grounded in where they come from, and be proud of who they are.



Debra Sue Nictune



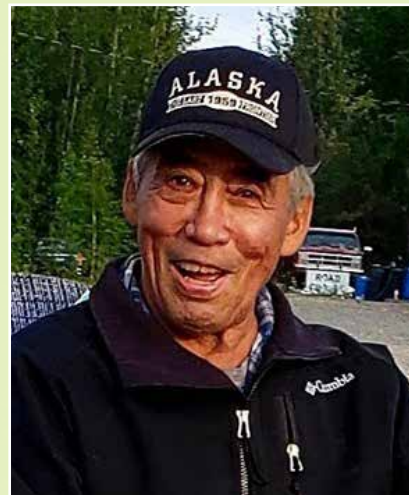
Last seen on the evening of Aug. 18, 2020 at the Northward Building in Fairbanks, Alaska. She was 59 at the time, with brown eyes, and graying black hair. She was wearing a black jacket, a green shirt, and loose fitting jeans.

Contact: Fairbanks Police Department at 907-450-6500, or investigations@fairbanks.us.

Use the
anonymous
text tip
line. Text to
847411 and
then type
AKTIPS



Frank Minano, Jr.



Last known whereabouts was Standard Creek Road on Aug. 17, 2020. At the time he was 69 years old, 5'10" and about 140-160 lbs. He has black hair, and brown eyes

Contact: Alaska State Troopers at 907-451-5100.

They are missed

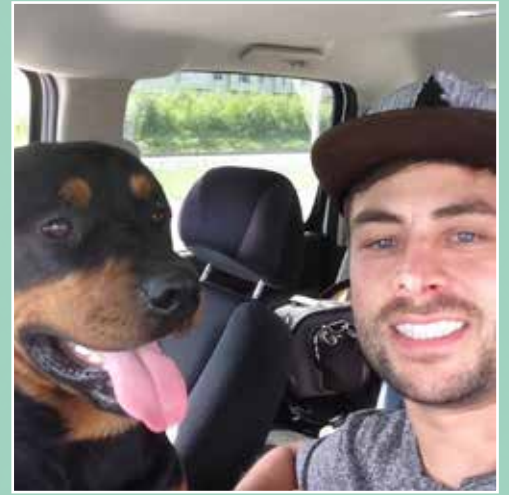
Doren Sanford



Last seen Aug. 28, 2020 in Fairbanks, Alaska. He was looking for his dog Groot. He was 34 years old, 5'10" and about 140-160 lbs. He has brown hair, and blue or hazel eyes.

Last seen in Fairbanks, but may be in the North Pole/Fairbanks Area.

Contact: Alaska State Troopers at 907-451-5100.



Willis Derendoff



Last seen in Fairbanks on Nov. 10, 2020, and was staying at Extended Stay. He was 34 years old, 5'7"-5'10" and about 160 lbs. He has brown/black hair, and brown eyes.

Contact: Alaska State Troopers at 907-451-5100.



Walter Harper statute installation set for July 2022

The Walter Harper Project announces the installation celebration of the Walter Harper statue will be held July 19.

The 13-foot-tall bronze statue of Harper, depicting him on the face of Denali with a pick ax in one hand, and the other hand stretched out to help the next person up, will be located at 1 Doyon Place, the headquarters of Doyon, Limited. A bronze dog and six interpretive panels will complete the display.

In 1913, Walter Harper, a 20-year-old Koyukon Athabaskan, was the first person to summit Denali, the highest mountain in North America. He was part of a four-person climbing team.

“Not many people know of Walter and this great achievement,” said Mike Harper, a great grandnephew. “We are happy that he is going to be remembered this way. We hope the statue will encourage young Alaskans with Walter’s remarkable story.”

Gary Lee Price, an internationally known metal artist, was selected last year to make the statue. He is known for his interactive works, such as the Circle of Peace work at Denali Elementary School. Site preparation has started, and is expected to be completed by the third week of July, said Bill Gordon, a member of the Walter Harper Project committee.

The statue will sit on a reinforced concrete platform, which will be covered with stone. Harper’s likeness is meant to be interactive, so that people may grab his outstretched hand. The bronze dog represents the work it took to bring the team to the northern base of Denali, and a feature for kids, Gordon said.

The interpretive panels will tell Harper’s story, Denali’s history, the dog teams, and the donors. Another prominent panel will have briefs of Hudson Stuck, Harry Karstens, Robert Tatum, who were part of the ascent team, and Johnny Fredson, and Esaias George, two teen Athabascans who helped supply the expedition.

The project committee raised \$216,000 of its \$250,000 goal. \$46,000 came from individual donations, and \$170,000 came from corporate donations. Notably, the Rasmuson Foundation, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, the Bill Stroecker Foundation, Alaska Airlines, and Doyon, Limited were among the top donators. Fairbanks Native Association also provided accounting services for the funds.

Lynden Transport delivered the statue in early July. If anyone is interested in donating to the project, go to www.walterharper.org.



Walter Harper statue by Gary Lee Price

FNA early days from page 1

to a report by the University of Alaska Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research.

The claims covered the most valuable land in the state, and the state would lose oil revenues and resource development in the halt, state officials said.

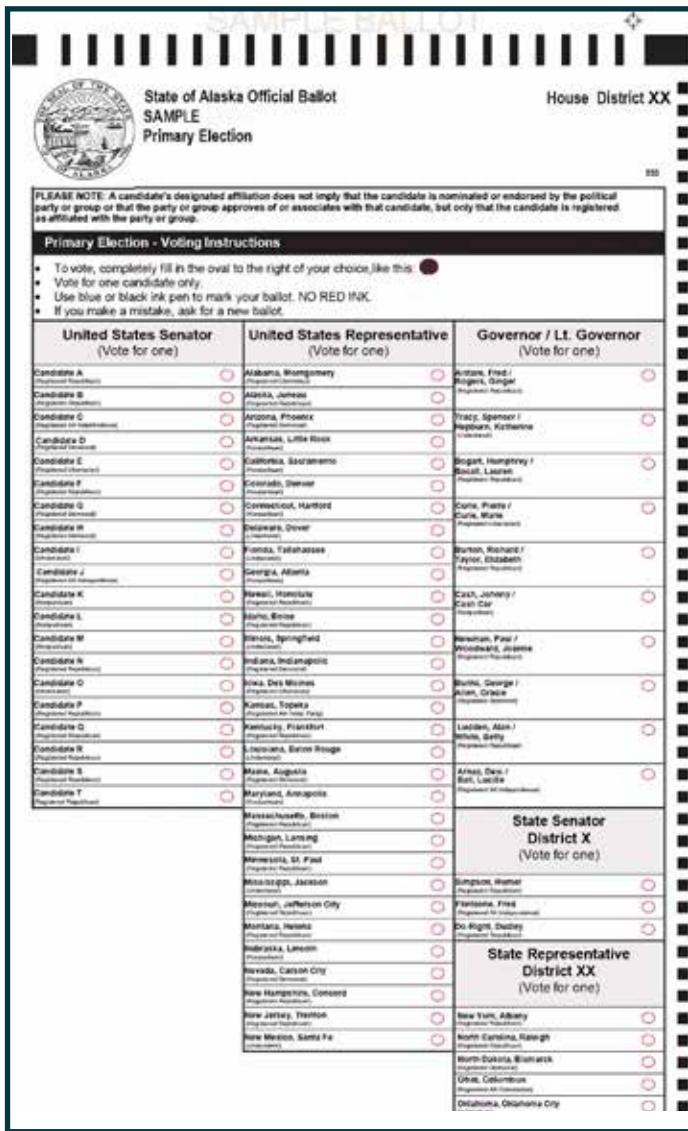
Udall wouldn't lift the land freeze until Congress passed a bill defining the aboriginal rights of Alaska Natives.

Getting Congress to pass such a law would be hard, but it was the best choice for Alaska Natives.

“Our attorneys wanted to settle for money, but we wanted the land,” Wallis said. “That meant we had to go to Congress to get the land.”

Leaders at TCC and FNA, along with the newly formed Alaska Federation of Natives, began to lobby in Juneau and Washington D.C. in earnest.

FNA continued next page



Sample Ballot B, from the Alaska Division of Elections

Two elections Continued from page 3.

filled. See Sample Ballot A. One of those three will serve in Congress until January 2023.

The second election is a regular election meant to choose someone for the next regular two year term. Congressional seats are up for election every two year. This one also has a primary and general.

The regular primary will be held on August 16, also. The top four vote getters from that election will go on to a regular general election on Nov. 8. See Sample Ballot B.

Still confused? Likely you're not the only one as this is the first election cycle using the ranked choice voting.

This type of voting was approved by Alaskans in 2020. It consists of primary election, called a Nonpartisan Top Four Primary election, where voters chose the top four candidates out of a larger field. The four candidates go onto the general election.

The general election, called a Ranked Choice Voting General Election, is where voters chose their choices for a winner by ranking the four candidates.

What is adding to the confusion this year is Young's death, leaving the remainder of his current seat empty. That election used the new voting system for the first time. For more information, visit the Alaska Division of Elections: elections.alaska.gov

FNA continued

Alaska Natives presented a united effort, eventually winning over the Alaska Chamber of Commerce, The Alaska Miners Association, and ultimately, Congress.

"We had a good show of strength at that time," Wallis told Walter Newman for Project Jukebox.

President Richard Nixon signed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in December 1971.

Wallis was at an AFN meeting in Anchorage. The group watched the signing via satellite link.

The signing meant FNA would add another tenant to their building: Doyon, Limited.

"FNA did play a role in land claims," Wallis said. "People don't realize how much."

When Wallis finished his term as FNA president, FNA had grown from a \$3,000 annual budget to \$3 million. Wallis went onto became a state legislator, TCC president and board member, Doyon president and board member, and AFN vice president.



Clockwise from far left: Sec. of Interior Wally Hickel; Tim Wallis, President Fairbanks Native Association; Charles (EtoK) Edwardson, Executive Director Arctic Slope Native Association; Eben Hopson, Barrow; Emil Notti; Attorney Barry Jackson (standing); State Senator William Hensley; Alfred Ketzler, Nenana; Barbara Trigg, Nome unknown; Delois Ketzler; Harvey Samuelson, Dillingham; George Miller, Kenai; unknown; State Senator Ray C. Christiansen (far right); Frank Degnan, Unalakleet; Moses Paukan; Morris Thompson; John Borbridge (back to camera). Courtesy of Alaska State Library Historical Collection.



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FNA Employees of the Month



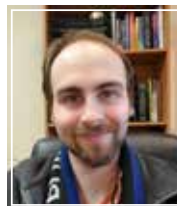
December 2021
Marie Estrada
Building Bridges



January 2022
Anastasia Agee
Head Start



February 2022
Lorraine Trask
Community Services



March 2022
Cameron Mutchler
Graf Clinical Supervisor



April 2022
Francisca Charriez-Miranda
Head Start
Education Manager



May 2022
Faren Humble
IT Administrator