

## SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL

Annual Homer event is the perfect place for parents to bring the flock

## ALL-AROUND ATHLETE

UAA decathlete Cody Thomas rules the 1st day of GNAC championships

☆ Final Edition

# Alaska Dispatch News

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ALASKA'S INDEPENDENTLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

## Paramo hired as new ASD superintendent

Anchorage School Board President Kameron Perez-Verdia, right, named Dr. Deena Paramo as the next superintendent of the Anchorage School District on Monday.



BILL ROTH / Alaska Dispatch News

Current Mat-Su schools chief agrees to 3-year deal at \$235,000 annually.

Devin Kelly  
Alaska Dispatch News

Deena Paramo will be the next superintendent of the Anchorage School District, officials announced Monday.

Paramo, 46, is currently the superintendent of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District. She beat out more than 80 other applicants vying for the job of overseeing a school district of more than 48,500 students.

Steve Atwater, interim dean of education at University of Alaska Fairbanks, was the other finalist.

"We got a lot of great feedback from the public about both candidates," Kameron Perez-Verdia, president of the Anchorage School Board, said at a news conference announcing Paramo's selection Monday evening. "We felt like Dr. Paramo's energy, experience and innovative thinking were the things that set her apart."

Paramo and the district have agreed to a three-year contract paying \$235,000 a year — a boost of nearly 31 percent over departing

superintendent Ed Graff's salary, not including benefits, and a huge raise from her job with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District, where she is being paid \$178,500. Perez-Verdia called the salary "really competitive" compared to pay for superintendents in similarly sized districts in other states.

The school board voted 7-0 to ratify Paramo's contract at its Monday night meeting.

The board hired an executive search firm, Ray and Associates of Cedar

See Page A-8, SUPERINTENDENT

### What will Trump be like as GOP nominee?

Some feel his image will improve; others expect the same attack style.

Dan Balz  
The Washington Post

After a primary season that broke the rules and confounded the experts, Republicans and Democrats are now grappling with the same questions: What kind of candidate would Donald Trump be in a general election and how should Hillary Clinton run against him?

At Trump headquarters, where the principal focus remains on securing the 1,237 delegates needed for the nomination, officials are beginning to think seriously about the shape of the fall campaign. That includes the core issues of his message, the look and feel of the Republican convention this summer, electoral map strategies and what, if any, changes the New York billionaire might need to make — stylistically or otherwise — to expand his appeal.

**Indiana:** Trump victory could be final nail in coffin for his competitors. **Page A-4**

**China:** Trump's tough talk on trade and tariffs could create backlash. **Page A-4**

Officials say two things are not likely to change. First, Trump will continue to be an outspoken candidate prepared to say unpopular or imprudent things.

"What has been a certainty in this race is that Mr. Trump is going to be Mr. Trump," said campaign manager Corey Lewandowski. "That is to say, his appeal has been as a person who tells it like it is."

Second, officials say, Trump's lack of predictability — what critics regard as his lack of discipline — will prove to be an asset against Clinton, whom they regard as a far more conventional candidate.

"Mr. Trump is a candidate who has the ability to change the narrative at any moment," Lewandowski said. "Any other candidate would run a traditional campaign against Hillary Clinton."

Clinton's team and those at outside groups allied with her campaign are making similar assessments, looking for their own opportunities to expand the map into some traditional Republican states while going to school on mistakes made by Trump's rivals during the primaries. One big lesson is that Trump's opponents waited too long to go after him and were timid when they did. Clinton and the Democrats probably will go early and hard against him.

Clinton allies see Trump as a deeply flawed candidate

See Page A-7, TRUMP

### LOOKING DEEP WITHIN



Graduate Leah O'Hearn plays with her children during a lull in her graduation ceremony from the Rural Human Services program in Bethel on Monday.

Photos by LISA DEMER / Alaska Dispatch News

## Rural Human Service program teaches as it heals

Students tap their own pain and experiences so they can reach out to help others.

Lisa Demer  
Alaska Dispatch News

BETHEL — Some of the students graduating Monday from a little-known but potent college program designed for rural students say they didn't know what they were in for when they signed up two years earlier.

As it turned out, in classes about personal growth and grief, addiction and mental health, they studied more than the techniques and theories designed to help villages grow their own counselors and helpers. They also looked deep into themselves.

See Page A-7, RURAL HUMAN SERVICE



At UAF's Kuskokwim campus graduation on Monday, many of the students who walked the aisle had spent the last two years in Rural Human Services.

See Page A-8, MODA

## Moda Health to exit Alaska's individual market

Company says market is financially unsustainable without reform.

Laurel Andrews  
Alaska Dispatch News

Moda Health will leave Alaska's individual health insurance marketplace in 2017, the company announced Monday, leaving only one health insurance provider in the state's market that, so far, has been defined by drastic annual rate increases for consumers and big losses for insurance companies.

Moda will focus on its other group and individual plans in the state, it said in a release. It may consider returning in the future but "the market requires significant reform in order to be sustainable," the company wrote.

The exit applies only to Moda's 14,000 customers who have health insurance plans on the individual marketplace. The company's other medical and dental plans are not affected by the decision, the company wrote.

"Obviously this is not good news," Alaska Division of Insurance Director Lori Wing-Heier said after the announcement.

About 23,000 Alaskans have health insurance plans from the individual marketplace, a component of the Affordable Care Act intended to provide coverage to people who

## Catching a flight? Budget hours, not minutes, for security this summer

Epic lines already reported as officials try to make travel less of a headache for passengers.

Jad Mouawad  
The New York Times

Security lines at airports are getting longer — much longer — and wait times could reach epidemic levels when air travel peaks this summer, according to airlines, airports and federal officials.

A combination of fewer Transportation Security Administration screeners, tighter budgets, new checkpoint procedures and growing numbers of passengers is already creating a mess at airports around the country.

While federal security officials say they are hiring and training hundreds of additional screening officers, matters are not expected to improve anytime soon.

See Page A-8, AIRPORT SECURITY



### NATION & WORLD NEWS

#### Australian says he created bitcoin

An Australian entrepreneur claimed on Monday to be the creator of the online currency bitcoin. Within hours, the skepticism started. **Page A-5**

#### Marine Corps investigating photo of Iwo Jima flag raising

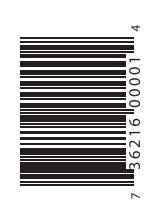
The Marine Corps has opened an investigation into whether it misidentified one of the six men shown raising an American flag atop Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima in February 1945, the Associated Press reported Monday. **Page A-6**

#### Vanishing Arctic ice shifts jet stream, melts Greenland glaciers

A recent set of scientific papers have proposed a critical connection between sharp declines in Arctic sea ice and changes in the atmosphere, which they say are affecting ice melt in Greenland and weather patterns elsewhere. **Page A-6**

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## Cover Stories

## RURAL HUMAN SERVICE: Eventually all students tell parts of their own stories

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"We are addressing the toughest social problems this state faces, and we are diving in," said Diane McEachern, an assistant professor on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus in Bethel. "We are looking at it from the inside out."

The Rural Human Services program began in 1992 as a direct response to the devastation of alcohol and suicide revealed in the Pulitzer Prize-winning Anchorage Daily News series "A People in Peril." The Alaska Federation of Natives wanted a pathway for village residents to get college training in mental health, said McEachern, who studied the program for her doctorate and who oversees both RHS and the companion associate degree in Bethel.

Twenty-four RHS students graduated Monday from the Kuskokwim campus in Bethel and another 21 finished up an Interior RHS program that splits coursework between Anchorage and Fairbanks. All told, more than 580 Alaskans now have graduated from the two-year Rural Human Services certificate program over the past 22 years.

"This is basically growing your own," said Rahnia Boyer, Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp. vice president over village health services.

Some plan to go on to get a specially designed associate's degree in human services and then a bachelor's. The program is backed by a \$1.8 million annual state grant that covers much of the costs.

Many of the students are Alaska Native — on the Kuskokwim campus, it's usually 100 percent Native — and the curriculum weaves together Alaska Native and Western teachings, McEachern said. Elders take part in every class, by design. Their presence soothes both non-Native professors and Native students, some of whom have little experience outside their home village.

In the old days of Bureau of Indian Affairs schools, students had to leave their Native identity at the door.

"We've kind of flipped the script," McEachern said. "Now in order to succeed they have to bring their whole self in."



Students in the UAF Kuskokwim campus Rural Human Services program gather in mid-April.

DIANE MCEACHERN / UAF

## Joy of learning

About three-fourths of the RHS students stick with the program and eventually graduate. More typically, Alaska Native students drop out in big numbers, according to statistics from the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Emma Smith of Hooper Bay is among this year's standouts, McEachern said. She's 52. Most of the RHS students are in their 30s, 40s or 50s. Many haven't been in a classroom for years.

Two years ago, Smith enrolled at UAF to study psychology. Just before it was time to move to Fairbanks, she wanted to back out. Moving from a small coastal village to a strange Interior city with three young children seemed overwhelming. She was just two years sober and a single parent. Her adviser suggested RHS in Bethel instead. It was just right.

"Two years went by so fast!" Smith said Monday morning at the graduation breakfast. "I'm having so much fun, the time of my life. I just need Patrick Swayze to dance with."

Students come from Bethel but also villages throughout the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Akiak and Emmonak, Kotlik

and Kwigillingok. They live in their home villages during school and return there to do their work.

"This is what we need in the region, more people who are educated and experienced and grounded to be able to support tribal leaders and the families who are in crisis," said Ray Daw, a Navajo tribal member who serves as administrator of behavioral health for Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp., the region's tribally run health agency.

YKHC is one of a number of organizations that send workers through the program to gain insights, skills and college education. The rural program serves as a pipeline to more education, and even to management positions, he said.

The Kuskokwim campus students gather in Bethel one week a month for intensive study. In between classroom weeks they have homework, such as interviewing someone in their home village about mental illness, then analyzing what they were told. They realize what supports are lacking.

"If they were ever in a position of power, they would design things," McEachern said.

They become tight after two years of class work and what Smith called a shared "healing journey."

## Didn't know her 'good side'

Before helpers can do their work, first they must mend themselves, says Esther Green, one of the elders in the Kuskokwim campus program. She grew up in the tundra village of Nunapitchuk when it was all about subsistence, what she calls "the golden way of life." But when she was a young mother, her own home was dysfunctional.

She's long sober, a retired bilingual teacher and Sunday school teacher. But in the classroom she tells of her own long-ago drinking and a violent marriage. She took her six children and left her husband.

The chaos of that old life has become her treasure, a wealth of stories to share in class, Green says. She talks about how to fight the negative forces with the good.

"Munarcaaryaraq," she says, giving the Yup'ik word. "The way of doing the best in the world you know how to do, or say. It's part of deep thinking when you concentrate on something. It's like you're meditating. And you're doing

it, using that word."

She remembers how bad she felt about herself when she was drinking, and how that fed more bad behavior. Then an uncle, a lay pastor, told her he was so proud of her, of the good care she took of her children. He didn't talk about her sickness, her drinking.

"That stirred me up," Green said. "I didn't know I had good side."

She realized it wasn't too late to change, and it's not too late for others, she said.

That's how the Rural Human Services program works, with students examining their internal struggles and suffering, from childhood abuse to the loss of cherished grandparents, from their own drinking to violence in their homes. Some are quiet and shy but eventually everyone tells parts of their own, sometimes dark stories. Through that, they learn that others have had the same troubles, and find ways to apply those experiences.

Graduate Leann Jackson, 24, of Akiak said when she started RHS, she had a negative view of life. She said she was grieving her grandmother and "all the other deaths." Now, Jackson, who works as a

pull-tab operator in the village, said she is looking ahead with bright eyes to more training and a new career, maybe as a certified medical assistant.

## Full of knowledge

Many already have jobs, as Indian Child Welfare Act workers and wellness coordinators, behavioral health aides and tribal administrators, tribal judges and tribal welfare workers. RHS provides structure and tools for that work.

Smith works as a wellness coordinator in Hooper Bay, which suffered from a rash of suicides in the fall. For her practicum, a big project for which each student must devote 125 hours, she is introducing Hooper Bay to a new approach toward healthy communities being pioneered by McEachern and a University of Massachusetts professor. The idea is to present communities with key facts about social issues such as suicide, and let them figure out a strategy. So far, Smith has held two meetings and is getting ready for the third, as soon as village residents finish spring seal hunts and harvest of wild greens.

Other RHS students are working to develop village youth groups or women's groups. One wants to study changes in how Yup'ik men perceive themselves. Another wants to start a meditation program for young children. A Bethel graduate is working on a drop-off center for new parents to get a break from their babies. The McCann Treatment Center in Bethel began years ago through an effort of RHS students to address inhalant abuse.

The last class work session was in mid-April. On the floor in the middle of the room, McEachern piled all the flip chart pages she had saved over the two years, pages full of the students' feelings and thoughts and ideas for helping others.

"You know, 90 percent of what is written came out of all of you," McEachern told them. "That should tell you everything you need to know is already in you."

Contact Lisa Demer at ldemer@alaskadispatch.com.

## TRUMP: 'He has the biggest upside and the biggest downside,' Gingrich says

Continued from A-1

— he has higher negative ratings than any past nominee in either party since polling began — with limited options to remake himself. They also doubt that he wants to change his style.

"I'm not expecting a lot of 'Etch A Sketch' with this guy," said Geoff Garin, a Democratic pollster and an adviser to Priorities USA, the pro-Clinton super PAC. "Not that it wouldn't be the right thing to do." Garin was referring to the popular children's toy that, with the shake of a hand, erases an image and offers a clean slate to create another.

## Waiting for insults

As a result, Clinton's team is preparing for what could be one of the nastiest campaigns in recent memory.

"Hillary set out a year ago to be a champion for everyday people and to help families finally start getting ahead again in this economy," said Robby Mook, Clinton's campaign manager. "That's what she's going to keep talking about in the general election. ... Trump, I'm sure, will try to bully and throw out insults. That's not going to derail her."

If some Republicans were hoping to see a more careful and judicious Trump as he moves toward the general election, they had to be disappointed last week when he attacked Clinton for playing "the woman's card" and claiming that, if she were a man, "I don't believe she'd get 5 percent of the vote."

To many strategists, that comment seemed like a classic mistake that took away from an otherwise celebratory event after sweeping five states. Instead, it could represent a template for the kind of campaign Trump runs this fall, one that is slashing, politically incorrect, ideologically inconsistent and designed to try to keep his opponent off balance. He could try to come at Clinton from both the right and the left.

Some current surveys, as well as electoral map analyses, suggest that Trump would be an almost certain loser against Clinton and that his defeat would be sizable enough to take many other Republicans down with him. That's the argument that Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and Gov. John Kasich of Ohio, Trump's last remaining opponents argue as they try to stop him.

Other recent polls show the former secretary of state with only a narrow lead, which gives Republicans hope that once the two nominating conventions are over, fears of a Clinton presidency will drive many in their party to support Trump. Still, even Republicans who see strengths in Trump's candidacy and admire the campaign he is waging for the nomination look toward the fall with great uncertainty.

"He has the biggest upside and the biggest downside of any candidate I've ever seen," said former House speaker Newt Gingrich. "If everything comes together and clicks, he'll be a historic figure. And if everything goes sour, we'll think of Goldwater and McGovern as medium-level disasters." Gingrich was referring to Republican Barry Goldwater in 1964 and Democrat George McGovern in 1972, both of whom lost their presidential elections by landslide margins.

Some leading Republicans say privately that unless Trump makes changes in his approach ahead of the general election, the party is destined to be outside the White House looking in for another four or eight years.

"Does he want to (change)?" a former Republican officeholder said. "Does he think he has to? Or is he just as happy as he can be and doesn't think he wants to change? If he is, he's not going to win." The official spoke on the condition of anonymity in order to speak candidly about Trump's candidacy.

Paul Manafort, who was brought in recently as Trump's convention manager with a broad portfolio, made news recently when he told members of the Republican National Committee meeting in Florida that Trump had been playing a "part" in seeking the nomination and would change as he looked to the fall campaign.

Trump has made clear since then that whatever those changes are, they could be minimal. One bow to becoming the prospective nominee was to deliver a foreign policy address, using a teleprompter, last week at a Washington hotel. His advisers are hoping to develop better lines of communication — and relationships — with national and state party officials in preparation for the convention and the general election.

"It's important to have a convention that focuses on introducing the

candidate, believe it or not, and getting the message coordinated with the message of the party," Manafort said. "Having a successful convention will also drive the negatives down and link the party to Donald Trump."

Contrary to claims of Democrats, Manafort said he anticipates that Trump's image will improve with time.

"As he becomes the Republican nominee, there will be a consolidation behind him," he said. "Once he is the nominee, some of that is going to come down naturally. ... It's a big deal when you're the presumptive nominee as opposed to being the nominee."

Trump's rhetoric has sent those negative ratings skyrocketing, whether in his attacks on Mexican immigrants, his call for a temporary ban on Muslims coming into the country or his call — later retracted — for penalties for women who have abortions.

## A different view

His advisers see his rhetoric differently. They argue that, while he has said provocative things that have drawn condemnation or criticism, including that the United States should rethink its position in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, over time some of his ideas have come to be seen as more acceptable or open to fair debate.

"He will not bow to being politically correct," Manafort said. "His instincts of what the American people are thinking have been accurate."

"I think they can try to remake or remodel him in any way his consultants might choose," said Mook, Clinton's campaign manager. "But we have to take him at his word that he's going to do everything he said he would do."

## Eager for the attack

Attacks, rather than those issue contrasts, are likely to animate the fall campaign, and here there's no sign that Trump is ready to alter his approach. If anything, he appears eager to take on Clinton.

"The notion that the negatives can't change, or that we can't improve or more importantly can increase Hillary's negatives is a fallacy," Lewandowski said.

Gingrich said that on the basis of his reading of Trump's record, the

New York businessman has principles of action in which he truly believes.

"These are not habits or personality quirks," he said. "He always counterattacks ferociously. He also finds a way to define his opponent in a way that shrinks and limits them. These aren't just barroom brawl tactics. They are to define semantically his opponents in ways they can't get out of, Hillary being the next great experiment."

Dan Pfeiffer, former senior adviser to President Obama, said Trump presents a potentially unconventional target as a candidate.

"I think his unpredictability challenges all the conventions of campaign strategy," he said. "Everyone who's ever run a campaign on the Clinton side has a playbook. They've never had to run against anyone like Trump. He confounded a lot of very good strategists on the Republican side and he has the potential to do this here."

That, however, doesn't change Pfeiffer's broader analysis that Trump in the end cannot win the general election or that Clinton won't be prepared to parry the attacks.

"She has a lot of experience dealing with misogynistic males," he said.

When asked about this on Friday by CNN's Jake Tapper, Clinton said, "I have a lot of experience dealing with men who sometimes get off the reservation in the way they behave or how they speak."

Another Democratic strategist, who spoke on the condition of anonymity in order to offer thoughts about how Clinton could run against Trump, said the GOP candidate benefited immensely from the failure of his rivals to attack his weaknesses early enough or hard enough.

"They didn't go after him," the strategist said. "They didn't stand up to him. ... Nobody's going to do that in a general election."

Mook put it this way: "I think the election's going to be incredibly competitive. It's going to be close no matter what. The biggest risk that anyone can take on our side of the aisle is to assume that any part of this is going to be easy. It's not."

Lewandowski said Trump looks forward to drawing contrasts with Clinton on issues, from who can create jobs to their competing positions on trade to a foreign policy that puts

America first rather than one stressing nation building to a debate over the right size and role of the U.S. military.

Manafort said: "Trump's message is that he's an outsider who owes nobody but the American people and that he will break the gridlock that has caused people to lose faith in Washington. That's a message for the whole country. The message isn't going to change. The audience is going to broaden out."

Pfeiffer said aspects of Trump's message could appeal beyond the Republican base.

"If you take out his positions on immigration and women, he has the most pure, economic populist, reform message. He's got the best Republican message we've seen in a long time. Anti-trade, anti-Wall Street, anti-big-money-in-politics is very powerful."

"His economic message resonates with important parts of the electorate and makes it all the more important for Clinton to have a compelling economic message herself," Garin said. "But the economic message is a foundation that a candidate would have to build upon, and it's not clear that Trump is ready, willing or able to put much on that foundation."

## 'Carrying the baggage'

The view from others with a stake in Clinton's success is that there is enough else in Trump's economic message to undercut those populist appeals, including a tax plan that would offer significant cuts to wealthy Americans.

"He's carrying the baggage of the Republican Party on his back. There is no evidence that he is offering anything that makes him more appealing than John McCain or Mitt Romney," said one prominent strategist who is gaming out the fall campaign.

Yet at this stage in the campaign, as both Trump and Clinton try to close out their nomination contests and pivot toward what could be an epic campaign in the fall, the questions about Trump remain front and center.

Noting that Trump's success fooled many people, Gingrich offered this final thought about what comes next: "Since none of us knew what was coming, why do we now think we can project a Trump general election campaign — including, by the way, Trump."