

# ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

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POLITICS

## Bronson criticizes Wilson, party leaders as GOP jostles over strategy in governor's race

Former Anchorage mayor says Alaska Republican Party leaders have been “completely absent” in campaign for governor.

**Iris Samuels**  
Anchorage Daily News

For weeks, the Republicans running in Alaska's race for governor have avoided attacking each other. The three — businesswoman

INSIDE

Debates over Donlin mine, trawling and cost of living dominate tight race for Western Alaska House seat, **A4**

Bernadette Wilson, former Anchorage Mayor Dave Bronson and former Attorney General Treg Taylor — have denounced the lone Democrat on the ballot, former state lawmaker Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins. But they have done little to disparage each other.

That changed on Thursday, when during a televised debate, Bronson sharply criticized Wilson, who is leading the GOP field in fundraising and polling.

“There's three folks up here on this podium that have experience. There is one that brags that she does not. There's three folks up here who have their personal house in order that pay their personal bills. There

See **GOP STRATEGY**, A6



MARC LESTER / ADN

Dave Bronson, right, answers a question during a candidate forum at the Alaska Hospital and Healthcare Association annual conference at the Alyeska Hotel in Girdwood on Sept. 16. From left are Treg Taylor, Bernadette Wilson and Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins.



Photos by **BILL ROTH** / ADN

Jan Ronner, 26, a former alpine ski racer at UAA, developed the FlowLine ski coaching app that uses AI to analyze a skier.

EDUCATION

## Far north AI

*Tracking grocery prices, skiing speed and senior routines: UAA staff, students find uniquely Alaska uses for artificial intelligence*

**Tim Rockey**  
Anchorage Daily News

Mike Jones accidentally uncovered a creative use for artificial intelligence to help solve a problem facing thousands of Alaskans.

Jones, an assistant economics professor at the University of Alaska Anchorage, set out to study delivery of goods and medicine by drones to rural parts of the state, but stumbled upon inequitable pricing for recipients of food stamps in many of Alaska's far-flung communities.

SNAP benefits in rural Alaska are based on a 40-year-old formula. Those benefits often don't reflect the true price of food in grocery stores off the road system.

With the help of an AI-generated code, Jones and his team of researchers compiled more accurate price data for goods in rural grocery stores. The research hasn't been published yet, but Jones is hopeful that data will inform the U.S. Department



Mike Jones, a professor of applied economics at UAA's Institute of Social and Economic Research, set out to study delivery of goods and medicine by drones to rural parts of the state, but stumbled upon inequitable pricing for recipients of food stamps in many of the state's remote communities.

See **UAA AI**, A8

NATION

## Trump showers voters with checks and tax relief ahead of midterms

From diesel tax breaks to direct checks, the president is attempting to break through to economically anxious voters.

**Riley Beggin**  
The Washington Post

With less than one month until the midterm elections, President Donald Trump keeps trying to find ways to directly benefit voters to ease affordability concerns at the heart of the midterm elections.

Last week, Trump began sending \$500 checks to nearly 1 million Americans in 30 states as a refund for Affordable Care Act fees he said were overcharged under President Joe Biden, along with a letter touting his record.

Two days later, he announced plans to send \$90 payments to more than 20 million seniors. The checks were intended to

offset October Medicare premiums, Trump wrote in an email accompanying the payments that listed the administration's other health care policies.

But the proposals haven't been limited to checks. On Monday, Trump signed an executive order onstage at a rally in Nebraska that expanded the availability of tax-free dyed diesel, which is typically limited to off-road use on farms and construction sites. The average cost of diesel in the United States is now \$6.27 per gallon, according to AAA, nearly twice the cost of a year ago, driven up by fuel disruptions due to the Iran war.

“Pete and Jim, this should absolutely ensure your election, I guarantee you that,” Trump said after signing the order, referring to Sen. Pete Ricketts of Nebraska and Gov. Jim Pillen, both Republican incumbents running for reelection.

Trump also floated the idea of banning diesel exports as another way to bring down prices,

INSIDE

President Trump coming to Alaska next week to campaign for Republican candidates, **A3**

See **TRUMP CHECKS**, A13

WORLD

## 12 killed in latest attack on Riyadh airport, Saudi authorities say

President Trump says U.S. may join Saudi retaliatory strikes against Houthi rebels.

**Samy Magdy and Cara Anna**  
Associated Press

CAIRO — The latest attack on the international airport in Saudi Arabia's capital of Riyadh killed 12 people and injured over 300 others, civil aviation authorities said early Sunday, with some in critical condition. A Saudi-led coalition blamed Iran-backed Houthi rebels in neighboring Yemen.

It was the deadliest attack in any Gulf Arab country since the start of the Iran war, whose fronts have expanded to include the recent surge in fighting between the Houthis and Saudi-backed Yemeni government forces.

A missile struck a King Khalid International Airport complex housing terminals 3 and 4 for domestic flights, a regional official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak to the media.

The Saudi statement

See **AIRPORT ATTACK**, A16

INSIDE



MARC LESTER / ADN

Chugiak doubles tennis partners and brothers Nathan and Daniel Bingham play at the state doubles tournament in Anchorage on Thursday.

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**SIBLINGS AND FRIENDS TAKE THE COURT AT THE STATE DOUBLES TENNIS TOURNAMENT**

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**ASSEMBLY FURTHER DELAYS DECISION ON 'MISSING MIDDLE' HOUSING POLICY**

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**PARTNER HYPED FOR ELECTION SEASON BUT SHE'S EXHAUSTED**

NATION

## Botched execution, plans for one in public highlight US conflict over death penalty

Two-thirds of U.S. adults see capital punishment as justified for people who have committed murder; 6 in 10 say it does not deter crime.

**John Hanna, Deepa Bharath and Sarah Rankin**  
Associated Press

Americans have long been divided over the death penalty, with nearly half of states banning capital punishment outright and just a handful of others carrying out most of the nation's executions each year.

The longstanding but uneasy relationship with executing the nation's worst criminals has been on clear display in recent weeks, first after a botched lethal injection in Tennessee and later after the military announced plans to livestream a death by firing squad. Both have

prompted fresh calls for abolition from death penalty opponents and led supporters to publicly grapple with how to humanely carry out government executions.

When Christa Pike was sentenced to die in 1996 after being convicted of murdering a classmate, Tennessee was among 37 states that had capital punishment, and the number of annual executions in the U.S. was on the rise. Since then, 10 states have abolished capital punishment, and executions haven't approached their late 1990s peak.

Still, it is unlikely the U.S. is headed for complete abolition. Thirty inmates have been executed this year, and another eight executions have been scheduled, most of them in Texas and Florida. The military's planned firing-squad execution for Fort Hood shooter

See **DEATH PENALTY**, A16

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Rain showers likely with a high of 47, low of 46

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