



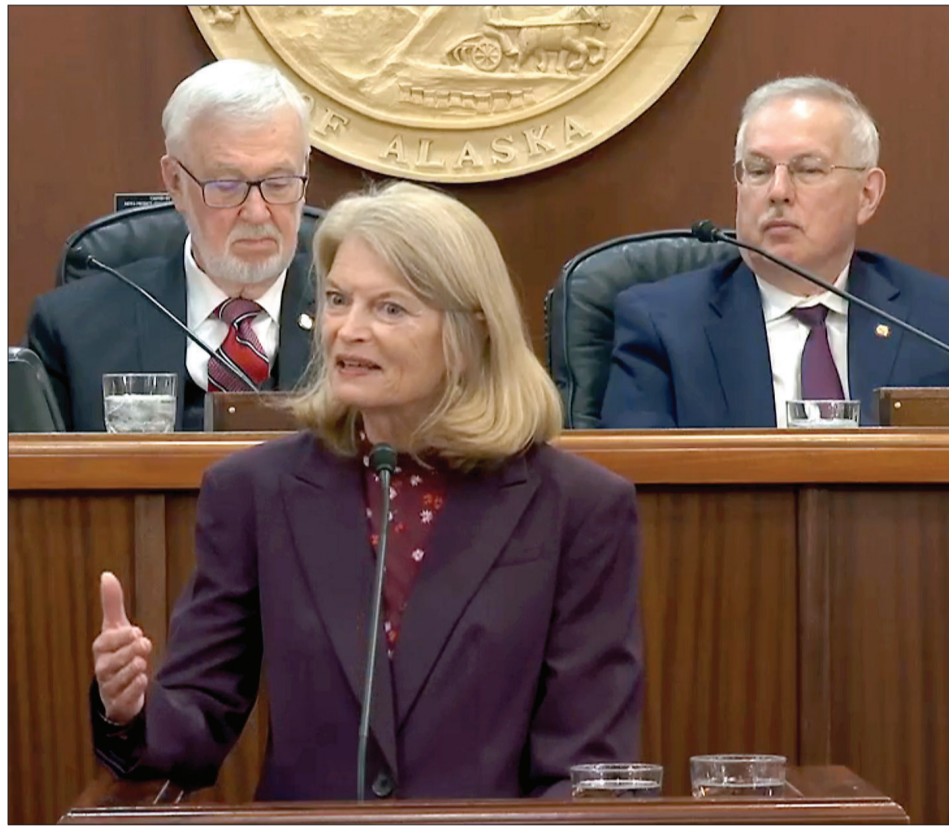
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Inside Today Artemis II astronauts bound for moon • **Page B3**

Murkowski urges 'long-term fiscal plan,' unity during annual address



KTOO IMAGE

U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski encourages state lawmakers to create a long-term fiscal plan and urges unity during her annual address to the Alaska Legislature on Tuesday.

By Jack Barnwell

In her annual address to the Alaska Legislature in Juneau on Tuesday, U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski urged state lawmakers to cement a long-term fiscal plan to meet its federal obligations and shore itself up for future constraints.

"The federal debt is projected to reach a shocking level of \$64 trillion in a decade," Murkowski said. "It's not Alaska's fault, but it's also not sustainable. We're going to have to address it, and Alaska will need a legitimate fiscal plan as the federal budget inevitably tightens."

Federal policies have already rippled into Alaska and other states as GOP-backed initiatives are transferring greater costs of food assistance and reducing response and prevention spending obligations.

Murkowski stressed the need for the Alaska Legislature to consider long-term solutions rather than rely on short-term gains as seen in the recent oil prices due to the war with Iran.

"The windfall will only go so far and last so long, and it's much better to get revenue from volume than it is from price," Murkowski said.

She commended the Alaska House Majority's call for fiscal restraint as the state cannot count on anything to "bail us out of our fiscal woes."

"Only a long-term plan will truly end the cycle of boom and bust," Murkowski said.

Gov. Mike Dunleavy proposed a fiscal package of legislation of what he considered a long-term solution. It called for a seasonal sales tax, adjustments to oil revenue, an end to the state corporate income tax and a proposed constitutional enshrinement of part of the Permanent Fund Dividend. The tax and oil production changes would end around 2032.

Alaska lawmakers stripped out many of Dunleavy's provisions and replaced them with tax and oil gas production increases. Some lawmakers are also eyeing the potential for increased oil revenue as a way to put off any stark financial decisions.

Murkowski, along with the rest of Alaska's congressional delegation, has largely backed the war against Iran, citing it as a prolonged threat against American and allied interests and supporting decades of proxy terrorism.

However, she told reporters later on Tuesday that she intends to sponsor a bill that will allow Congress to determine "whether the conflict in Iran is a war subject to the War Powers Act."

"It would require the removal of any troops within a 60-day period," Murkowski said. Murkowski acknowledged that

FISCAL » A2

GOOD MORNING



The weather.
Intervals of clouds and sunshine.
High today 25
Low tonight 14
Sunrise: 7:03 a.m.
Sunset: 8:46 p.m.
WEATHER » A3

Aurora forecast.
Low aurora activity forecasted. If skies are clear, low-level displays may be visible overhead from Utqiagvik to Fairbanks, and may be visible low on the northern horizon from as far south as Anchorage and Juneau.

This information is provided by aurora forecasters at the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. For more information about the aurora, visit <http://www.gi.alaska.edu/AuroraForecast>

SOURDOUGH JACK:
"My long-term fiscal plan is the pennies under my mattress."



CONSTELLATION GREETSS THE AURORA



CAROL COLOGIE, NORTH POLE

"The Northern Lights hanging out with the Big Dipper." Thanks to Carol for submitting this photo, to submit your best photo visit newsminer.com.

Takeaways from Trump's address: No end date for Iran war, no direct criticism of NATO

By Lisa Mascaro, Matthew Lee and Michelle L. Price
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump sought on Wednesday to explain his rationale for the war against Iran at a pivotal moment at home and abroad, but he offered few new details as he amasses extraordinary executive authority to prosecute the military operation.

The war is fast becoming a signature of his second-term agenda and the speech was a

capstone to a remarkable day flexing presidential power.

Trump started the morning as the first sitting president to show up for a U.S. Supreme Court hearing, a stunning reach of the executive into the affairs of the judicial branch. He ended with his first primetime address from the White House about a war he launched on his own, bulldozing past Congress.

On an early spring night when many Americans may have been looking upward as Artemis II astronauts lifted

off for NASA's return to the moon, Trump gave a nod to that historic milestone. Then he quickly refocused attention back to him — and to the conflict with Iran that has killed more than a dozen U.S. service members and appears to have no easy exit in sight.

"America, as it has been for five years under my presidency is winning — and now winning bigger than ever before," Trump said.

"We're going to finish the job

TRUMP » A2

University of Alaska staff vote to form a union

By Anna Lionas

Permanent staff of the University of Alaska have voted to unionize, forming the largest union for the UA system, the Coalition of Alaska University Staff for Equity, or CAUSE, made up of 2,300 employees.

The voting was conducted by the Alaska Labor Relations Agency and took place online over a period of two weeks. Votes were counted on April 1. About 75% of the 2,300 eligible employees voted with 64% of the vote in favor of unionizing.

CAUSE, which is organized as part of the national union United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, encompasses most staff in the UA system, not including supervisors, UA Foundation

CAUSE » A5

FAST Planning provides update on Chena Riverwalk project

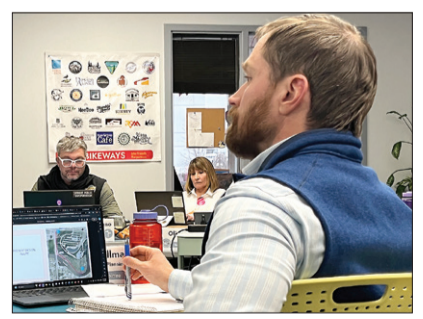
By Jack Barnwell

The Fairbanks Area Transportation Planning Technical Committee received an update on recommendations from a volunteer committee on the best path for the expansion of the Chena Riverwalk.

Jackson Fox, FAST Planning's executive director, said there are a lot of decisions that need to be addressed by the organization's Policy Board.

The Chena Riverwalk Stage III project recommends a route west

CHENA » A5



JACK BARNWELL/NEWS-MINER

Kellen Spillman reviews a design plan for the Chena Riverwalk Phase III project during a FAST Planning Technical Committee meeting on Wednesday.

