

Inside Today

Canada set to hit back in Trump’s tariff war, making consumers weary. Page A6

# 339 acres near Isberg Rec Area goes up for a rezoning proposal

By Jack Barnwell

The Fairbanks North Star Borough will consider rezoning a large swath of land adjacent to the Isberg Recreation Area from rural estates and rural/agricultural use to

outdoor recreational use during a public hearing Thursday.

The proposed rezoning covers 339 acres in the Contentment Estates and Graceland subdivisions.

Kellen Spillman, the borough’s community

planning director, said the large tracts of land were donated to the borough by the Interior Alaska Land Trust in 2025. The trust had purchased the land over time with the intent of expanding the Isberg Recreation

Area.

Borough planner Sarah Bingham said the 2007 Isberg Recreation Area Master Plan supports rezoning the donated land.



PATRICK GILCHRIST/KUAC

ZONING » A3    The Isberg Recreation Area.

## LABOR DAY



JACK BARNWELL/NEWS-MINER

Members and families of Teamsters Local 959 members walk in the 2026 Fairbanks Labor Day Parade on Monday.

# Solidarity: Fairbanks celebrates Labor Day

By Jack Barnwell

The sound of bagpipes, drums and chants carried up Airport Way on Monday as hundreds of people marched in the 42nd annual Fairbanks Labor Day Parade.

The parade featured graders, fire engines, dozers, school and municipal buses, delivery trucks and an assortment of union floats, all highlighting labor groups that helped build and support Fairbanks and Interior Alaska.

The Lathrop High School Malemute Battalion Junior

LABOR DAY » A8

Parade watchers scramble for tossed candy during the 2026 Fairbanks Labor Day Parade on Monday.

JACK BARNWELL/NEWS-MINER



# Fairbanks author honored for book ‘Finding Democracy’

By David James

Fairbanks author Margaret Merritt was pleasantly surprised to learn recently that her book, “Finding Democracy Through the Lens of a Young German Woman, 1944-1950,” had won the bronze award for the Living Well Evergreen Book Medal for World Peace.

“I wasn’t sure if my book

about World War Two would fit for them,” Merritt said, “but I do always try to inspire my readers and try to bring forward lessons from history that are relevant today.”

“Finding Democracy” explores how the U.S. military carried out its occupation of West Germany after the fall of the Nazi government in World War II and the efforts by high-ranking

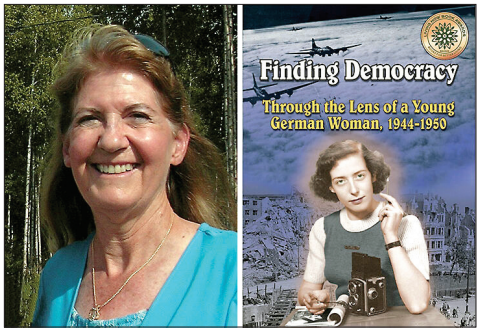
officers to establish democratic governance in a country devastated by the scorched-earth warfare between German soldiers and Allied troops who were closing in on Berlin to end Adolph Hitler’s rule.

“I focused on the interactions between the military occupiers and the residents in Germany as they navigated building a democratic Germany together,” Merritt

said, explaining how her book revolves around what happened in the war-torn nation after it was defeated.

Merritt chose to center her story on Tilly Keilitz, a young woman who had grown up under Nazism. She became an internal refugee in Germany in the years immediately following World War II.

AUTHOR » A3



NEWS-MINER COMPOSITE

Fairbanks author Margaret Merritt is the writer of the award-winning “Finding Democracy Through the Lens of a Young German Woman, 1944-1950.”

## GOOD MORNING



### The weather.

Cooler with rain later today.

High today ..... 56

Low tonight ..... 49

Sunrise: 6:51 a.m.

Sunset: 8:43 p.m.

WEATHER » A3

### The aurora

Moderate aurora activity forecasted. If skies are clear, moderate displays may be visible overhead from locations such as Utqiagvik to as far south as Talkeetna, and may be visible low on the horizon as far south as Bethel, Soldotna and Southeast Alaska.



### SOURDOUGH JACK:

“If your Labor Day parade doesn’t include a dozer, are you even in Alaska?”

