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Final Edition

# Anchorage Daily News

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

BREAKING NEWS AT ADN.COM

Alaska's Newspaper

## What's Next ... '08 Clinton's prospects dwindle

There are six primaries left with 217 delegates to be won. The next primary is Tuesday in West Virginia for 39 delegates.

### ... for the Democrats



**94**  
delegates won Tuesday by Obama  
Total: 1,840

**75**  
delegates won Tuesday by Clinton  
Total: 1,684



\*18 delegates had yet to be decided

McCain says he'll choose 'better' judges: Page B-2

**PRIMARIES:** She barely takes Indiana; Obama wins easily in North Carolina.

By ADAM NAGOURNEY  
The New York Times

In this case, a split was not a draw. Despite narrowly winning Indiana, while losing North Carolina, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton did not fundamentally improve her chances of securing the Democratic presidential nomination. If anything, Clinton's

hopes for overtaking Sen. Barack Obama dwindled further on Tuesday night.

For Obama, the outcome came after a brutal period in which he was on the defensive over the inflammatory comments of his former pastor. That he was able to hold his own under those circumstances should allow him to make a case that he has proved his resilience in the face of questions about race, patriotism and political mettle — the very kinds of issues that the Clinton campaign has suggested would leave him vulnerable in the general election.

Beating Obama in Indiana, a state he had once been confident of winning, was an achievement for Clinton. But it was hardly the kind of strong victory she posted in Pennsylvania and Ohio. And when paired with his comfortable victory in North Carolina — which Obama pointedly described in his victory speech as “a big state, a swing state” — it hardly seemed enough for Clinton to persuade so-called uncommitted superdelegates to rally around her candidacy.

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## STATE'S EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS FAILING



MARC LESTER / Anchorage Daily News

College outreach volunteer Lora Jorgensen talks with Willow Crest Elementary School second- and third-graders about the importance of going to college. Jorgensen's presentation was an effort of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education and UAA.

# Alaska's bent learning curve

Rates for high school dropouts, college completion among worst

By MEGAN HOLLAND  
mholland@adn.com

One out of 20 children entering ninth grade in Alaska will have a college degree 10 years later, giving the state one of the worst postsecondary-education rates in the nation.

Alaska's efforts to improve the dropout problem over the past decade have also sunk. More than one in three ninth-graders will leave school before getting a diploma.

These results from a new state study released today show a faltering Alaska education system.

“(This) really sends the message of how immediate the need is and the gravity of the situa-

tion,” said Diane Barrans, executive director of the state's Postsecondary Education Commission, which released the study.

The report found Alaska ranking at the bottom of educational attainment indicators — from getting children through high school to achieving an advanced degree in a timely manner.

Alaska is:

- Eighth from the bottom among states in the number of ninth-graders graduating four years later.
- Fourth from the bottom in high school seniors going directly to college.
- Last in the number of college freshmen receiving a bachelor's degree within 150 percent

of the normal program length.

The commission, which was charged by statute with supporting postsecondary access in 2002, has achieved some gains with low-income Alaskans going to college, said Barrans, but the overall rate of Alaskans going to college has not changed.

The problem is cultural, she and the study's author say.

“Alaska is a state of individualism, of people doing their own thing,” said the study's author, Ron Phipps, of the Washington, D.C.-based Institute for Higher Education Policy. Phipps used to live in Juneau and was a previous head of the

See Back Page, EDUCATION

# Village rallies around art co-op

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The hurdles to a successful business in Bush Alaska are numerous: tiny markets, remote geography, harsh weather, massive fuel and transportation costs. But some do thrive. One study looked to uncover what it takes for businesses to succeed in rural Alaska. Here's what they found.

**MEKORYUK:** Native artist hires residents, calls town very supportive of his shop.

By ELIZABETH BLUEMINK  
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On an island 30 miles off Alaska's southwest coast, skilled hands create traditional Native artwork that travels the globe — as far away as Hong Kong and Germany.

Traditionally, the Cup'ik residents of Mekoryuk — the only remaining village on Nunivak Island — have fished, guided musk ox hunts and processed reindeer meat.

But thanks to the Internet and an enterprising Native artist who moved to the Bering Sea village to raise his children in a traditional lifestyle, some residents are also finding employment at the village's newest cottage industry, Oscar's Originals.

The company is a cooperative run by John Oscar in a refurbished formerly abandoned building. He and his employees use ivory, driftwood, reindeer hair and other materials to assemble shadow boxes, masks and

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Part 3 of 4

## WEATHER

**Anchorage**  
Morning sunshine  
High 54; low 37

**Wasilla**  
Sunshine  
High 56; low 39

**Kenai**  
Sunny  
High 51; low 35

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## Top Nation & World News



Myanmar soldiers unload boxes of supplies for cyclone survivors who are largely cut off from help.

### Myanmar opens doors for cyclone relief

A cyclone that destroyed a vast swath of coastal Myanmar and left many thousands of people dead prompted the country's military leaders to allow some foreign aid groups to deliver relief supplies.  
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### US says force in Iraq to be cut by 3,500

On a day when the U.S. military announced that it would withdraw 3,500 soldiers, fighting between Americans and Shiite militiamen continued unabated.  
Page B-1

### Cost of making a penny exceeds its value

It now costs more than a penny to make a penny. And the cost of a nickel is more than 7½ cents.  
Page B-1

### Suicide e-mail shouldn't have started with 'Shh!'

The Department of Veterans Affairs' top mental health official said he made a poor choice of words when he sent colleagues an e-mail about suicide data that started out “Shh!”  
Page B-2

# Wasilla woman charged in death of newborn baby left in Colorado

Body hidden in bedroom for weeks, police say

By JAMES HALPIN  
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On a recent visit to family in Colorado, 22-year-old Morgan Hite of Wasilla gave birth to a child, then fled back to Alaska without the newborn boy, according to Grand Junction, Colo., police. The infant's body was discovered hidden in a bedroom weeks after it had been killed.

Hite was charged Tuesday with first-degree murder and child abuse resulting in death, according to Alaska State Troopers, who assisted with the investigation and arrest on the Colorado charges.

Grand Junction police have been in Alaska since last week investigating the death of the child, whose body was found in the home of Hite's father and stepmother the morning of April 29, said Grand Junction Police Chief Bill Gardner.

“The pathologist has determined the baby was alive at birth,” he said. “We know that

“  
The pathologist has determined the baby was alive at birth.  
”

— Police Chief Bill Gardner, Grand Junction

she didn't report anything to the authorities. ... The baby was found by the stepmother and her father in her bedroom. The infant had been deceased for some time.”

Police have not disclosed the cause of the child's death. It was unclear exactly how long the newborn boy had been hidden in the bedroom, though Gardner said it was likely a pe-

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