

Editorial



Minority wins hollow victory

The Republican Minority members in the state House, joined by a few Democrats, got their way earlier this month and put a halt to a constitutional amendment on subsistence for the November ballot.

Had the House taken action, Alaska's voters would have been given a choice on whether to support amending the Alaska Constitution. The amendment would have been permissive, authorizing the Legislature to pass laws to protect subsistence.

Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens says he is saddened by the Legislature's failure. We are, too. We are convinced that federal management is not the best answer for Alaska's resources.

At this point, we turn our attention to the courts, where battles will be waged over the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, and to Congress. We remain convinced that in the end Alaska Natives will prevail and subsistence will be protected.

Sadly, however, the battle will likely be long and painful.

Jimmy Bedford's death

We mourn the passing of photojournalist Jimmy Bedford, 63, who died July 7 in Fairbanks. He had been suffering from cancer and died in his sleep at his home.

Bedford was a former chairman of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Journalism Department. He was born in Columbia, Mo. He earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in journalism at the University of Missouri after serving in the Navy during World War II.

He will be remembered by many Alaskans for his writing, his photographs and his work at UAF.

He will be remembered by the *Tundra Times* for his close friendship with our founder Howard Rock and for his service as treasurer of the board of directors of the newspaper in the first years of our history.

"Treasurer" of the paper's board in those early days meant that Bedford single-handedly at times used his own funds to help the operation continue.

Bedford's loyalty toward the newspaper continued up to his death. He attended our annual meeting in 1989, and planned to attend this year, but his illness prevented that. He also generously donated historic copies of the 1971 issue of the *Tundra Times* to the newspaper.

We will remember Jimmy Bedford fondly.