

Publisher's Notes

WEIO: 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

The World Eskimo-Indian Olympics will be on stage again, July 31, August 1, 2, and 3, in Fairbanks. WEIO is a time-honored institution as well as a celebration of Alaska Native cultures, sports, and people. It is an event that no one should miss seeing and participating in.

The Tundra Times will be attending WEIO, as we have for the past twenty-three years, giving support and coverage to an event that is well deserving of everyone's support.

THE IMPEACHMENT PROCESS: A LESSON IN GOVERNMENT

Alaskans, during the coming week, will have a unique opportunity to learn about our government, how it works and does not work, what its weaknesses and strengths are, and most importantly, why our democratic form of government is considered to be better than most other forms of government.

No one in Alaska, present and future, can be unaffected by the impeachment process that is about to take place in our hallowed legislative halls down in Juneau. It is an unfortunate circumstance in Alaska's history that no one could have foreseen, but we can all learn a valuable lesson from it.

The Constitution of the State of Alaska, Article II, Section 20 states: "All civil officers of the State are subject to impeachment by the legislature. Impeachment shall originate in the senate and must be approved by a two-thirds vote of its members. The motion for impeachment shall list fully the basis for the proceeding. Trial on impeachment shall be conducted by the house of representatives. A supreme court justice designated by the court shall preside at the trial. Concurrence of two-thirds of the members of the house is required for a judgement of impeachment. The judgement may not extend beyond removal from office, but shall not prevent proceedings in the courts on the same or related charges.

The proceedings next week will be a solemn occasion for all of us. Alaska's model constitution, our executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government, and indeed all Alaskans will be in the limelight. How we treat this matter will be just as important as the matter itself.

The decorum of the news media covering the proceedings will be spotlighted. How the news media covers the matter will be important to all of us too. Freedom of the press is so much a part of our governmental process, but most of us do not spend much time thinking about why this is so. This too will be part of the lesson we can learn from.

It is doubtful that the Senate has the votes to send forth an impeachment resolution. If this is the case, the entire proceedings will not take very long. In any case, whether the Special Session lasts two days or two months, Alaskans can learn from this unique event.

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