



Donny's Ulu News

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Representing the Diverse Population of District T

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The Roads to Rural Development

Gov. Murkowski has made transportation in conjunction with resource development a top priority for his administration.

Two transportation projects being discussed that would affect our district allow Gov. Murkowski to tie together his vision of improved rural transportation and resource development.

Two weeks ago, Gov. Murkowski proposed building a road off the Dalton Highway to Nuiqsut to the Pro-ANWR group Arctic Power. This road, he suggested, would stimulate oil and gas exploration and development to the West in NPRA.

Oil and gas companies face a transportation barrier

at the Colville River and are only able to cross when it is frozen during the winter.

Another rural project that Gov. Murkowski is supporting and much of the state is watching is a road out of Bethel to the Donlin Creek gold mine prospect. This project would connect some of the villages of the Lower-Kuskokwim River to Bethel, initiate an electric power grid for the region, and provide jobs for Y-K residents similar to NANA's Red Dog Mine project.

SJR 1 is a resolution, introduced by Senators Wilken, Theriault, and Seekins, that expresses support for these types of road developments in various regions of the state.



Northwest Arctic Borough Visits Senator Olson

Yesterday, I amended SJR 1 in finance committee to include support for the proposed realignment of the Glacier Creek Road to the Rock Creek Mine.

In addition to providing

access for mineral exploration, this realignment would provide a buffer zone around Moonlight Springs, Nome's source for drinking water.

New Administration Moving Chairs

One of Governor Murkowski's campaign themes was to spur Alaska's economy and resolve the state government's revenue shortfall in part through increased resource development activities. A key element of this plan was his

desire to streamline the state's permitting processes in order to reduce the cost and delay of obtaining state permits.

The streamlining began on February 12, when he issued Executive Orders 106 & 107. These orders trans-

ferred the office of coastal management and Fish and Game's habitat division over to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). While the functions and responsibilities of these agencies are fairly much preserved in the transfer or-

ders, critics fear that competing responsibilities in DNR will mute their effectiveness. The orders become effective on the 60th day of the legislature if we don't specifically vote to overturn them by then.

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Administration . . .*Continued from page 1*

Legislative defeat of the orders is unlikely, however, given the Republican majority organization in both the House and Senate and a general inclination to let the Governor administer as he sees fit.

Perhaps of more concern is speculation that the governor is going to propose legislation that will further streamline the state's coastal management structure and function. Such a proposal, I expect, will draw a lot of legislative attention and interaction with coastal community interests.

**Board of Education
Appointments**

Gov. Murkowski's administration continued the process of filling vacant positions in his administration by appointing seven new members to the Board of Education. Four of the seven appointments have direct connections with rural Alaska.

Rex A. Rock is the President and CEO of Tikigaq Corporation of **Point Hope** and the Vice Chairman of Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. Mr. Rock is the long time Point Hope boys basketball coach and served on the Point Hope Parents Advisory Council for 12 years, ten of which he served as the president.

Tim Scott is the Chief Administrator for the Family Partnership Charter School. During the 80's he was a teacher and boy's basketball coach for **Kotzebue** Middle and High Schools. Mr. Scott attended **Noorvik** schools and graduated from **Kotzebue** High.

Shirley J. Holloway of Juneau is the retiring Commissioner of Education and was a former teacher in the **Arctic Slope Region**.

Sylvia J. Reynolds is the current principle of K-Beach Elementary School in Soldotna and a former teacher in **Nome**.

Esther J. Cox, Patsy DeWitt, and Richard Mauer were also appointed to the Board of Education.

Legislative Internship Program

Hi! My name is **Stacey Stasenko**. I am from the community of Shishmaref. I am pursuing a bachelor's degree in Rural Development through the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Currently, I am an intern in Senator Olson's office under the Alaska Universities Legislative Internship Program. Through this program I will earn 12 upper division credits.

I am required to work 30 hours in the office of a legislator in addition to attending a 3-credit course every other Saturday.

Some requirements for the internship include one 3 credit political science course 100 level or above, at least junior standing, and have not held a paid position in the Alaska Legislature two years prior to applying.

Senator Olson, his staff, and constituents are a delight to work with and so is the coordinator of the program, Clive Thomas. I am really enjoying my experience in the Capitol building and Juneau.

If you are interested in learning more about the program please contact me at Senator Olson's office at 1-800-596-3707.

Applications can be picked up from the campus coordinators of the UAS, UAF, UAA, Sheldon Jackson University in Sitka, or Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage or online at www.uas.edu/uas/internprogram/.

You must be registered in one of these programs to apply.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Upcoming Events in the Capitol

- Tuesday, March 4, noon
House and Senate joint session for **confirmation of state department commissioners** and other governor appointees to state boards and commissions. Seems to be a war going on between the Board of Fish and the Board of Game on whose names the governor should consider for commissioner of DF&G. By law, he must select from a list submitted by the two boards. Cutting it close, both resources committees have scheduled confirmation hearings on Monday for the awaited selection, "pending referral" from the governor's office.
- Wednesday, March 5, 11am
Joint session for **State of the Court System** presentation by Chief Justice Fabe.
- Wednesday, March 5, 7 pm
Joint session for **Governor's State of the Budget address**. Rumor has it that upward to \$200 million in spending cuts to last year's funding levels of state programs and operations will be announced along with program consolidation and modification recommendations.