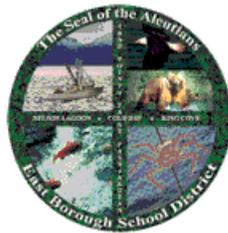
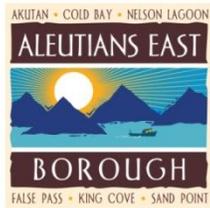


Special Edition

In the Loop



EASTERN ALEUTIAN TRIBES
Working Together to Promote Healthy Communities

Bringing the Aleutians East Borough, the AEB School District and Eastern Aleutian Tribes together by sharing common goals.

Congress Passes Bill to Delay EPA Fishing Boat Pollution Rules

Last night, (July 29, 2010), the U.S. House and Senate passed a bill (S. 3372) to extend the current moratorium on the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit requirements for all commercial and charter fishing vessels, regardless of size, and for other commercial



The bill, containing the latest moratorium extension, is on its way to the President's desk for his signature.

vessels (e.g. tugs, barges and water taxis) under 79 feet. The bill is currently on its way to President Obama's desk, awaiting his signature.

The legislation was sponsored by U.S. Senators Lisa Murkowski (R - Alaska) and Barbara Boxer (D - California), plus 15 co-sponsors in the Senate and a large number of supporters in the House. It provides a three-year extension of the moratorium on permits for discharges under the



Without the latest extension, all fishing boats would be required to get costly permits, which would most likely devastate many small fishing fleets in Alaska.

Clean Water Act. The previous two-year moratorium was scheduled to expire Saturday, July 31, 2010. The latest moratorium will expire on Dec. 18, 2013.

The extension would continue the exceptions for discharges (gray water, bilge water, ballast water and deck runoff) incidental to the normal operation of vessels until an extensive analysis of the requirements is completed by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Coast Guard. Having the extension in place is critical for commercial fishermen. Without it, all fishing boats would be required to

get permits. The cost to apply for a permit would be prohibitive and would most likely devastate many small fishing fleets in Alaska.

“In Alaska, the 9,700 vessels that make up the commercial and charter fishing fleets would be adversely affected if the moratorium expired,” said Sen. Lisa Murkowski in a press release earlier this month. “It will take the EPA a significant amount of time to analyze the study and determine if these discharges need to be regulated.”



The latest moratorium extension, approved by Congress, is scheduled to expire on Dec. 13, 2013.

Full Steam Ahead for Akutan Geothermal Project

By Ray Mann, Akutan Geothermal Program Manager; RMA Consulting Group



The geothermal exploratory drilling got underway in Akutan after a traditional Russian Orthodox blessing and a song by Zenia Borenin. Photo by Ray Mann.

event.

“I can’t believe it’s really happening,” Borenin said. “We’re finally going to do this!”

The current exploration project has been in the planning stage for the past two years. The State of Alaska Renewable Energy Fund and the City of Akutan are funding the drilling of two exploratory wells to a depth of 1500 feet each. Test results from the drilling will be known later this year and will help determine where to drill large production wells to

With the offering of a traditional Russian Orthodox blessing, a song by Zenia Borenin and a nod from Mayor Joe Bereskin, the Akutan geothermal exploratory drilling program got under way in the Hot Springs Bay Valley of Akutan on July 16, 2010. The startup of drilling operations, called “spudding”, signals the beginning of a search for the hot water and steam needed to power what could become the state’s first major geothermal energy system.

“Our community has been working for decades to get to this day,” said Akutan Mayor Joe Bereskin. “The potential to use renewable energy to replace our dependence on diesel fuel is an exciting opportunity for our residents, the fishing community and business owners.”

With the sounds of the drilling rig in the background, Zenia Borenin, representing the Village of Akutan, was truly moved by the



Test results from the drilling will be known later this year. Photo by Ray Mann.

support power generation. The City plans to use that information to complete a business plan and funding strategy for the next phase of the project, which will include further environmental assessment, permitting, road design and preliminary system design.



If all goes well, Akutan could see on-line power production as early as 2012. For now, drilling will continue 24 hours a day until both wells are completed, probably in early September. “Our fingers are crossed for the next two months,” says Mayor Bereskin, “but after decades of planning, a few more weeks won’t hurt.”

“The potential to use renewable energy to replace our dependence on diesel fuel is an exciting opportunity for our residents, the fishing community and business owners,” said Akutan Mayor Joe Bereskin. Standing next to him is Zenia Borenin, representing the Village of Akutan.

Proposition One Goes Before Votes on Aug. 24th



Proposition 1 has been featured in many TV ads recently.

If you’ve been watching TV lately, you’ve probably seen the ads about Proposition 1, also known as the “Anti-Corruption Act” by supporters or the “Gag Law” by those who oppose it.

If you haven’t seen the commercials, here’s a little background: Proposition 1 would make it a misdemeanor for elected officials or government employees to lobby or contribute to the campaigns of other government officials. The law would affect state, municipal and school district officials. The initiative would also forbid government contractors from hiring a legislator or legislative staff employee until at least two years after the legislator or

staffer last held office. The primary sponsors of the measure are Scott A. Kohlaas, Tonya A. Shuravloff and Robert Clift.

Across the state, opponents of the measure include the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, the Alaska AARP, the labor union AFL-CIO, the Alaska Democratic party, the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference, the Resource Development Council, the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation, the Alaska Municipal League and many municipal governments, including the Kodiak Island Borough. These groups are part of the “No campaign,” calling itself, “Stop the Gag Law.” Many opponents worry that the initiative would cripple local government’s ability to represent their region’s citizens at the state level.



The Yes Campaign calls itself, “Clean Team Alaska.” According to recent media reports, the group has collected most of its budget from the political group, Alaskans for Open Government, which battled against a measure for public campaign finances in 2008.

According to “Clean Team Alaska”, the anti-corruption act would clean up a system that “has been corrupted from the bottom up.” The campaign wrote on their website that certain political agendas are pushed in a manner that is detrimental to



government implementation of laws. Jason Cline, a member of “Clean Team Alaska,” claimed, “Nothing’s happening to make cuts in government, and I think what’s happening is that we have these state budgets that are justified by these municipal spending requests: these pet projects by legislators.”

According to the measure’s opponents, members of “Stop the Gag Law,” the initiative would stunt citizens’ abilities to petition government through professional representation or services. Opponents believe the title of the “Anti-Corruption Act” is confusing and misleads voters. Furthermore, they say this confusion may have led many to sign the petition during the signature drive. In addition, they say free speech would be compromised.

“It’s such an egregious attack on people’s First Amendment rights,” said AFL-CIO political director Joelle Hall. “I don’t know how, if you’re an organization that is functioning in the community and doing good work, how you could support this.”

Aleutians East Borough Administrator Sharon Boyette agrees. She says the Borough would not be able to lobby for worthwhile projects or programs if this proposal becomes law.

According to reports, the measure's supporters have dropped their campaign efforts, stating that the Alaska Lieutenant Governor's changes to the ballot language give an unfair advantage to those who want to vote against the measure. Changes were made to the ballot language to comply with a judge's decision to keep the measure on the ballot. The initiative will remain on the ballot for voters to decide.

For more information, visit the links below:

[Link: Stop the Gag Law](#)

[Link: Clean Team Alaska](#)

August is National Immunization Awareness Month

Submitted by Eastern Aleutian Tribes

The health care providers at Eastern Aleutian Tribes remind us that August is recognized as National Immunization Awareness Month.

August is the perfect time to remind family, friends, co-workers, and those in the community to catch up on their vaccinations. Parents are enrolling their children in school, students are entering college, and healthcare workers are preparing for the upcoming flu season.

Why are immunizations important?

Immunization is one of the most significant public health achievements of the 20th century.

Vaccines have eradicated smallpox, eliminated wild poliovirus in the United States and significantly reduced the number of cases of measles, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis and other diseases. But despite these efforts, people in the U.S. still die from these and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

Vaccines offer safe and effective protection from infectious diseases. By staying up-to-date on the recommended vaccines, individuals can protect themselves, their



August is recognized as National Immunization Awareness Month. Photo courtesy: Eastern Aleutian Tribes.

families and friends and their communities from serious, life-threatening infections.

Who should be immunized?

Getting immunized is a lifelong, life-protecting community effort regardless of age, sex, race, ethnic background or country of origin. Recommended vaccinations begin soon after birth and continue throughout life. Being aware of the vaccines that are recommended for infants, children, adolescents, adults of all ages and seniors, and making sure that we receive these immunizations, is critical to protecting ourselves and our communities from disease.

When are immunizations given?

Because children are particularly vulnerable to infection, most vaccines are given during the first five to six years of life. Other immunizations are recommended during adolescent or adult years and, for certain vaccines, booster immunizations are recommended throughout life.

Bear cub from King Cove enjoys temporary digs at Alaska Zoo

A brown bear cub, rescued after a male bear attacked its mother and sibling in King Cove, is enjoying its temporary home at the Alaska Zoo in Anchorage. Last Saturday, July 24, 2010, King Cove residents rescued the cub at the City's landfill. They believe the cub's mother may have been injured and one its siblings was killed during the attack. A third cub ran away. King Cove residents shipped

the rescued cub to Cold Bay.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife (F&WS) staff members in Cold Bay cared for the bear for two days.

Cold Bay resident Gary Ferguson assisted F&WS staff members with getting the cub shipped to Anchorage via an ACE Air Cargo flight on Monday, July 26, 2010.



A brown bear cub, rescued after a boar attacked its family, is living temporarily at the Alaska Zoo.



Audrey Bohl takes a photo while Refuge Biology Technician Bruce Casler student Didem Ikis and Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Manager Nancy Hoffman prepare to place food inside the container for the cub. Photo by Monty Martin.

The cub is estimated to be about five months old and weighs 50 pounds. The Alaska Zoo will care for the cub until the state Department of Fish and Game can find it a new home at a facility in the Lower 48.

[Link: Anchorage Daily News story](#)

Got News?

If you have news you'd like to share, please email ltanis@aeboro.org or call AEB Communications Manager Laura Tanis at (907) 274-7579.



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