

Bills Roundup: Taxes For Schools Sought

JUNEAU (AP) — Rep. Kay Wallin on Friday raised a hope that few lawmakers would be left about this election year's taxes.

The Post Valley Democrat introduced legislation (HB40) to bring back the 55-cent-per-person payroll tax state dropped in 1981.

"This is a fair and equitable tax and it is a way for all Alaskans to participate in supporting education," Wallin said.

Legislators have been looking at a number of ways to raise state revenue from mining in state revenues, including Gov. Steve Cooper's proposal to distribute a share of Permanent Fund earnings to education.

But for the House and Senate have shown little interest in any tax measures.

JUNEAU (AP) — Legislators are considering a subsidy for the Sitka Trail Committee Inc., but even supporters say the bill will have tougher funding than usual in the Legislature because money is in short supply.

A bill (SB77) introduced by Sen. Jay Kaufman, D-Walker, would give the state a 50 percent share of the trail's operating costs.

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Peel Defense Again Loses Mistrial Plea

JUNEAU (AP) — Anger spilled over Friday at the murder trial of John Kenneth Peel as Peel's lawyer demanded a mistrial, accusing the prosecutor of prejudicing the jury.

Superior Court Judge Walter Carpeni, however, refused to grant the request for a mistrial.

Peel, 27, is accused of murdering eight people aboard the fishing boat *Investor* in Craig during the night of Sept. 5, 1987.

The courtroom outside Judge Friday as Henry was finishing the reading of Alaska State Trooper Sgt. James Stuppig, a murder and armed investigator who has been on the witness stand since testimony began Jan. 19.

Henry was addressing questions asked earlier by Weidner about mistakes troopers made in the investigation.

Henry said he would not respond to what was labeled an emotional outburst by Weidner.

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Party Leaders See Strength in Reform

ANCHORAGE (AP) — The leaders of Alaska's two major political parties gave their strongest support to a legislative proposal to reform the state's political system.

Jack Roderick, chairman of the state Democratic Party, and Jim Crawford, head of the state Republican Party, testified Thursday before the Alaska Public Opinion Commission.

The commission is considering a bill that would allow voters to elect individuals and recognized parties to the state legislature.

"State law now allows individuals, political parties and recognized parties to run for office," Roderick said.

"We support the bill because it would give voters a choice of candidates and an informed electorate."

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Seattle Lawyer Fights Japanese Rights Case

SEATTLE (AP) — A Seattle lawyer is fighting the right to take notes in Japanese courtrooms.

Larry Repta is appealing a Tokyo District Court ruling that allows spectators to take notes in the courtroom.

Repta says the ruling violates the Japanese constitution and an international covenant on civil and political rights signed by Japan in 1978.

Article 21 of Japan's constitution states that "freedom of assembly and association as well as speech, press and all other forms of expression are guaranteed."

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State Makes Progress Against Wolf Louie

ANCHORAGE (AP) — State game wardens have made progress in controlling a disease infection among moose in the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.

Wardens say the disease, which is called chronic wasting disease, is spreading among moose in the preserve.

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Environment Groups Back Mine's Opening

ANCHORAGE (AP) — An environmental coalition that persuaded federal judges last year to shut down a mine says it now supports the mine's reopening.

The coalition, represented by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, this week recommended to U.S. District Judge James Van Dyke that mine operations be resumed.

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WANTED: BLOOD DONORS

Who: People who are willing to give of themselves. Why: There is a need. What: What only you can give, life saving blood. Sign up to give.

Where & When: Sitka Community Hospital, Feb. 1-6 Monday-Friday 9am to 4pm National Bank of Alaska, Saturday, Feb. 6 Noon to 3pm

This round-up of volunteers is sponsored by the Sitka Shrine, Sitka Community Hospital Auxiliary, Sitka Community Hospital. Feel Wanted - Sign Up Today!