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Bristol Bay News/Events Roundup

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October 18, 2007

Upcoming Events!

Mine Toxins: Effects on People and Fish

10/18/2007 | 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Islands and Oceans Center in Homer.

Two Large mines are being considered for the Cook Inlet Region. The Pebble gold and copper prospect and the Chuitna coal mine will both impact Cook Inlet air and water sheds. While it remains to be seen if these mines will be developed, and the extent of the impact if they are, the air and water emissions from other gold, copper, and coal mines have had serious effects on human health as well as fish. Our guest speakers, Carol Ann Woody, Ph.D and Pamela Miller M.S., will describe some of the risks mine toxins pose. Is Alaska 's permitting process rigorous enough to protect us from those risks? You decide, but first get informed.

Contact: Joel Cooper

Email: jcooper@cosmichamlet.net

Phone: 907-2993268

Anchorage Chamber "Make it Monday" event: "Permitting Pebble Mine" with Commissioner Tom Irwin and Edmund Fogels, Alaska Department of Natural Resources

10/22/2007 | 11:30 AM

The "Make it Monday" forum cost: \$17 for members, \$23 for non-members. Program begins at noon and doors open and networking begins at 11:30 a.m. RSVP by 9 a.m. the Monday of the event. Reservations are highly recommended to ensure food availability.

RSVP online at www.anchoragechamber.org (Events Calendar) or call (907) 677-7104 or e-mail memadmin@anchoragechamber.org.

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Judge approves initiative on mining impact

*The Associated Press
Anchorage Daily News
October 18, 2007*

JUNEAU -- A Superior Court judge has ruled that a clean-water ballot initiative can move forward for voter consideration. The Renewable Resources Coalition wants to begin collecting petition signatures for voters to decide on restricting large scale mining and associated pollutant discharge.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
<http://www.adn.com/money/industries/mining/story/9388955p-9302099c.html>

Court clears way for anti-Pebble initiative

by Jason Moore
KTUU
October 16, 2007

ANCHORAGE, Alaska -- A ballot initiative that could derail plans for the proposed Pebble Mine won court approval to appear on the 2008 ballot.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
<http://www.ktuu.com/global/story.asp?s=7224201>

Cash clouds perspectives on Pebble

COMPASS: Points of view from the community

by Jedediah R. Smith
Anchorage Daily News
October 14, 2007

Jay Ramras was recently criticized for requesting an investigation into payments made to elected city, tribal and borough officials on behalf of Northern Dynasty, the Canadian junior mining company that hopes to develop the Pebble prospect near Lake Iliamna. Critics felt Ramras' allegations were unfounded

They are not.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
<http://www.adn.com/opinion/compass/story/9379586p-9292928c.html>

Permitting process must be fixed to be reliable

by Gabrielle LeDoux
Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman
October 17, 2007

I am the State Representative for House District 36, which includes Kodiak as well as the Lake Iliamna region, the area of the proposed Pebble Mine project. I have just returned from hearings related to the Pebble Mine held in my district as well as the surrounding area. I stayed around after the hearings for about a week because I wanted to opportunity to talk with people personally about the project rather than just hearing from those willing to speak at a public forum.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
<http://frontiersman.com/articles/2007/10/17/opinion/letters/doc47119ffac1ec2157380295.txt>

Elected officials have a duty to speak up

by Jay Ramras
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
October 14, 2007

Isn't one of the primary obligations of an elected official to provide a voice for those who feel they don't have one?

I believe so, whether it is speaking on behalf of our community's mentally ill who will be displaced by decisions made by the Division of Behavioral Health, or Hamilton Acres residents who don't want to see a traffic explosion through their quiet residential streets, or workers' compensation reclassification codes for a small cleaning business that employs many single parents who can work while their kids are in school - but can't stay in business if they are rated as a general contractor by the Division of Insurance - or larger issues such as participating in the debate of whether the state's economy will be pulled under by too much tax being heaped on the oil and gas industry, or by mandatory hearing loss testing for newborns, or more rigorous purchase restrictions for methamphetamine ingredients.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
<http://newsminer.com/2007/10/14/9355>

Representation: We need something more than mouthpieces

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
October 14, 2007

The public regards "politicians" in a negative sense because so many have become so good at politicizing our lives. That is, rather than represent, politicians use tone and opportunity to turn what's important to us into bumper-sticker slogans and shouting-match campaigns.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
<http://newsminer.com/2007/10/14/9360#more-9360>

Pebble group partners with Anglo American

by Tim Bradner
Alaska Journal of Commerce
October 14, 2007

Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd. and Anglo American have formed a new jointly owned company, Pebble Mines Corp. to develop the large Pebble project.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
http://www.alaskajournal.com/stories/101407/nat_20071014016.shtml

Hearings muddy waters for Bristol Bay bill

By Bob Tkacz
Alaska Journal of Commerce
October 14, 2007

Three days of legislative field hearings in September included comments from more than 120 people and revealed dozens of ideas and concerns. Still there's no clear indication of the fate of Rep. Bryce Edgmon's bill to limit the use of water from Bristol Bay streams.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
http://www.alaskajournal.com/stories/101407/fis_20071014025.shtml

Pebble mine prospect keeps getting richer

DRILLING: Two years of searching fails to locate outer edge of deposit.

*by Mary Pemberton - The Associated Press
Anchorage Daily News
October 13, 2007*

Exploratory drilling this year at the huge Pebble mine prospect near the world's most productive wild sockeye salmon fishery supports earlier findings: It's extraordinarily rich with copper and gold.

To view article in its entirety, please click on

<http://www.adn.com/money/industries/mining/pebble/story/9376024p-9289321c.html>

LeDoux stakes out stands on Pebble Mine, national issues

*by Bryan Martin
Kodiak Daily Mirror
October 12, 2007*

Congressional candidate Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux is showing a side of her political wherewithal in her fight over the Pebble Mine proposal, a project that lies within her legislative district, while at the same time keeping an eye on national issues such as the war in Iraq and foreign policy.

To view article in its entirety, please click on

<http://www.kodiakdailymirror.com/?pid=19&id=5340>

Drilling supports Pebble Mine as world-class deposit

*by Associated Press
KTUU
October 12, 2007*

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) - Exploratory drilling at Pebble Mine near the world's most productive wild sockeye salmon fishery supports earlier findings.

Pebble East is extraordinarily rich with high-quality copper and gold.

To view article in its entirety, please click on

<http://www.ktuu.com/Global/story.asp?S=7207847>

My turn: How do Northern Dynasty's payments affect judgement?

*Jedediah R. Smith
Juneau Empire
October 12, 2007*

Rep. Jay Ramras, R-Fairbanks, was recently criticized for requesting an investigation into payments made to elected city, tribal and borough officials on behalf of Northern Dynasty, the Canadian junior mining company that hopes to develop the Pebble prospect near Lake Iliamna.

To view article in its entirety, please click on

http://juneauempire.com/stories/101207/opi_20071012001.shtml

Kodiak district rep. plans run for Young's Congress seat

*By AP and Bryan Martin
Kodiak Daily Mirror
October 11, 2007*

U.S. Rep. Don Young already faces significant opposition in the general election next year. Now he's facing opposition in the Republican primary.

To view article in its entirety, please click
<http://www.kodiakdailymirror.com/?pid=19&id=5332>

Speakers to take up mine toxins

*by Layton Ehmke
Homer Tribune
October 17, 2007*

Carol Ann Woody probably knows more about the fish in Bristol Bay than just about any salty fishermen out there, having examined them inside and out for 16 years as a scientist in the region.

And with what may be one of the largest mineral deposits in the world looming over their habitat, Woody is the scientist drillers might not mind spilling what she knows about the relationship between fish and mines.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
<http://www.homertribune.com/article.php?aid=2243>

Mine toxin effects discussed

*by Joseph Robertia
Peninsula Clarion
October 17, 2007*

With potential development of the Pebble gold and copper mine and the Chuitna coal mine looming, a great deal of information has been disseminated throughout the community. A presentation tonight figures to add to the debate over possible environmental effects of large-scale mining.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
http://www.peninsulaclarion.com/stories/101707/news_4273.shtml

A Conversation with Robert Glenn Ketchum

The original "green" photographer talks about how his art supports his conservation agenda, the part he plays in national environmental legislation, and his battle to keep a determined mining company from destroying one of America's unsung national treasures.

*by Russell Hart
PopPhoto.com*

October 2007

Few photographers have Robert Glenn Ketchum's national political clout. His influence comes from years of using his artfully crafted images to make the case for preserving America's remaining wild lands. The subjects of that advocacy, and of Ketchum's numerous books, have ranged from New York's Hudson Highlands to the Tongass, Southeast Alaska's temperate rain forest. In recent years, though, he has focused most of his attention on Southwest Alaska, in particular Bristol Bay, which beyond its 5.6 million acres of pristine nature is the world's largest remaining Salmon fishery.

To view article in its entirety, please click on

<http://www.poppphoto.com/americanphotofeatures/4667/a-conversation-with-robert-glenn-ketchum.html>

Couple to walk and paddle from Seattle to Aleutians

Trekking journey is just the beginning of the adventure

by Kevin Sellers

Juneau Empire

October 14, 2007

Erin McKittrick and Bretwood "Hig" Higman arrived in Juneau last week on day 124 of their 4,000-mile, human-powered trek.

To view article in its entirety, please click on

http://www.juneauempire.com/stories/101407/out_20071014001.shtml

Letters to the Editor

Want to help? Here's how!

- 1. Write a letter to the editor by email.*
- 2. Contact your legislator!*
- 3. Forward this newsletter to 3 friends!*
- 4. Sign up to be a member of RRC and refer your friends!*

Click [HERE](#) to go to the RRC website for newspaper and legislator contact information.

Bristol Bay's natural resources good as gold

Hilary Ransdell Lewin - Great Falls, Mont.

Juneau Empire

October 16, 2007

http://juneauempire.com/stories/101607/let_20071016008.shtml

I have just become aware of the proposed Pebble Mine in the Bristol Bay watershed in Alaska. I encourage the citizens of Alaska to resist the lure of the potential wealth the developers of this mine hope to create. The price is much too high.

The loss of clean water in that watershed and the resulting decimation of the fisheries and

other wildlife, not to mention the loss of traditional ways of life, will not make up for what you hope to gain.

In Montana, we have too many examples of gold mines leaving a permanent toxic legacy. The Zortman-Landusky mine is now a byword.

In our state we have finally outlawed cyanide heap leaching. We have too much experience with polluters promising they will keep their poisons out of the environment, only to find such promises empty. They say they will follow all applicable rules, while spending their efforts and money on lobbying the government to ensure such regulations are as lax as possible.

Do you really want the largest dam in the world holding a reservoir of deadly toxin?

We have such a reservoir in Butte. Birds alighting on the water filling the Berkeley Pit die of poisoning. The state is now in the midst of cleaning toxic mine residue that accumulated behind the Milltown Dam. The entire Clark Fork River has been re-routed and the cleanup will take years. And here in Great Falls, we are not even allowed to walk over the hill that used to be the site of a huge smelter.

Do the research online to learn the truth about these and other disasters the land and citizens of Montana have suffered because of what we once thought was good for our economy and our pocketbooks.

I beg you to preserve the salmon, preserve the water, preserve the traditional ways of life that depend on this pristine and matchless environment. It is a resource worth much more than gold.

Pebble Mine

Charlotte Tanner - Louisville, KY

Sit News

October 15, 2007

http://www.sitnews.us/1007Viewpoints/101507_charlotte_tanner.html

I wish to thank Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux, I hope she can get her Bills passed to undo the dirty work of our previous egregious Governor whose name I shall not mention.

I worked in Naknek, Alaska during the late 60's and early 70's, and find it nearly impossible to believe that the construction of this mine is being contemplated. Bristol Bay supplies us with all our Red Salmon. During the years I worked there, the summer season fishery supplied work, and food, for everybody living around Bristol Bay.

To think of constructing something that is as toxic as a mining operation on shakey ground, just leaves me dumbfounded. Everywhere in the world that mines operate, the land is poisoned, no matter what the Corporations promised beforehand. Then when the minerals are depleted they leave, leaving piles of toxic waste, oh perhaps they may get a fine or two, but that is nothing compared to a poisoned Bristol Bay.

It makes me sick to even think that this thing might happen. I eat canned Red Salmon regularly, are we going to let that disappear? The endangered Canned Red Salmon....

About: "Resident of Alaska since 1968, currently serving as an Americorps Volunteer in

Louisville, KY."

Around Alaska and Beyond

Scaled-back ComFish set for March

*by Scott Christiansen
Kodiak Daily Mirror
October 17, 2007*

The Kodiak Chamber of Commerce announced Tuesday that ComFish Alaska will be held March 20 to 22, 2008.

The announcement comes after months of meetings, both internal among chamber members and public, about how to save the troubled fisheries convention and some speculation about whether it would survive at all.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
<http://www.kodiakdailymirror.com/?pid=19&id=5360>

Future of Alaska seafood markets looks bright

*by Laine Welch
Homer Tribune
October 17, 2007*

A nosedive in the value of the U.S. dollar has Canadians streaming across the border to shop at American malls and supermarkets. The same shopping interest holds true for customers of Alaska seafood, who are finding good bargains at current exchange rates. When the dollar is down compared to other currencies, Alaska seafood is a better deal, explained fisheries economist Gunnar Knapp at the Univ. of Alaska/Anchorage.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
<http://www.homertribune.com/article.php?aid=2245>

Mining law needs reform

*The Olympian
October 11, 2007*

The 1872 law that set the ground rules for hard rock mining on federal lands needs a major makeover.

The original law was designed for pick and shovel miners, allowing them to stake a claim on the vast tracts of federal land on the great Western frontier.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
<http://www.theolympian.com/opinion/story/240582.html>

Blogs

The End of Bristol Bay's Salmon?

<http://repairkit.blogspot.com/2007/10/end-of-bristol-bays-salmon.html>

Appeals Court Overrules Alaska Lt. Governor Sean Parnell's Rejection of the Alaska Clean Water Initiative

<http://alaskapride.blogspot.com/2007/10/appeals-court-overrules-alaska-lt.html>

Notorious Mining Giant Has 20% Share in Pebble Mine

http://moldychum.typepad.com/moldy_chum/2007/10/notorious-minin.html

Richard Jameson
Renewable Resources Coalition, Inc.

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