ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

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THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Lisi Misa
being first duly sworn on oath deposes and says that she is a representative of the Anchorage Daily News, a daily newspaper. That said newspaper has been approved by the Third Judicial Court, Anchorage, Alaska, and it now and has been published in the English language continually as a daily newspaper in Anchorage, Alaska, and it is now and during all said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of said newspaper. That the annexed is a copy of an advertisement as it was published in regular issues (and not in supplemental form) of said newspaper on

June 11, 18, 25/2025

and that such newspaper was regularly distributed to its subscribers during all of said period. That the full amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is not in excess of the rate charged private individuals.

Signed Lisi Misa

Subscribed and sworn to before

me this 18th day of July, 2025.

Kristina R. Wladkowski

Notary Public in and for
The State of Alaska.
Third Division
Anchorage, Alaska
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES
1/23/2029

KRISTINA R. WLADKOWSKI
ELECTRONIC NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF ALASKA
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JAN. 23, 2029

AMCO Received 7.29.25

SOUTHEAST ALASKA

Alaska Capitol to host military exercise, including National Guard, FBI and other agencies

James Brooks
Alaska Beacon

Cruise ship passengers in Alaska's capital city, visitors to the Alaska State Capitol and residents could be greeted by officials in hazmat suits next week as the city hosts a large-scale military exercise.

"Operation ORCA" will test the readiness of first responders and members of the Alaska National Guard for a terrorist attack that involves chemical, biological, nuclear or explosive weapons, said Lt. Col. Brett Haker, commander of the 103rd Civil Support Team, which is putting on the exercise.

Haker said ORCA is held every other year in Alaska, but this is the first time for Alaska's capital city and for the State Capitol itself, where they will stage a scenario involving an attack by fictitious Russia-based terrorists.

Streets on three sides of the Capitol building will be closed to traffic for three days, June 9, 10 and 12, according to the Juneau Police Department. The Capitol itself will remain open to the public during the exercise.

Haker said some parts of the scenario will involve a houseboat at or near Juneau's cruise ship docks, which welcome more than 1 million visitors per year.

"They will see us in our hazmat suits. We will have signs up, and ultimately, they'll see us entering and exiting. We'll have our vehicles — they are all like a blue Air Force color. They look civilian, but they all have lights on, and they look like, like an emergency vehicle," he said.

The exercise will involve about 100 people, he said, including members of the FBI, U.S. Border Patrol, the U.S. Coast Guard, local police and fire departments, and local governments including the Tlingit and Haida Central Council.

Some members of the National Guard from other states will also participate, and large military cargo planes will be involved.

Haker credited his operations officer, Capt. Kyle Rehberg, for organizing much of the exercise but said it will also be a test of organization for everyone involved.

"Ultimately, the main purpose is to improve interoperability, so that we are all speaking the same language when we work with all these additional first responders … and we have these complex problem sets that we have to work through collectively," he said.

Originally published by the Alaska Beacon, an independent, nonpartisan news organization that covers Alaska state government.

FROM PAGE A1

METLAKATLA

Department that it would need to make "substantial reforms" before the state would "continue to prosecute cases referred by their agency," wrote Angie Kemp, the director of the department's criminal division, in a statement emailed to the Daily News on Friday.

The state Office of Special Prosecutions will assume responsibility for prosecuting active cases from Metlakatla and will assist the community "working toward successful reform," Kemp wrote.

Metlakatla Mayor Albert Smith told the Ketchikan Daily News that he was "shocked" by the findings about the department, and had "initiated an immediate change in leadership."

Smith did not respond to a request by the ADN for comment.

On Friday, prosecutors filed a motion asking the court to reconsider whether the "drastic, litigation ending sanction of dismissal is warranted" and offering a point-by-point defense of contentious evidence issues. The order asks the court to hold off on the dismissal until the motion has been considered.

The charge stemmed from the 2021 death of Tyler Henderson, a Metlakatla man who was profiled in the documentary "Alaska Nets," about a championship high school basketball team in the Southeast Alaska community.

At the time, prosecutors said that Isaac Henderson had shot his brother in the head during an argument at their home in Metlakatla on Dec. 5, 2021, with several other people in the house at the time. A grand jury indicted Isaac Henderson on murder charges.

The case dragged on without resolution for more than three years and was reassigned five times to different defense attorneys but was headed for a 2025 trial, the judge's order said.

According to the order, it wasn't until a pre-trial hearing in May that it became clear the prosecution had not turned over evidence to defense attorneys that could have bolstered Henderson's claim of self-defense and his contention that the gun may have been actually fired by another man in the house, who'd been grappling with him to get it out of his hands.

Prosecutors are required to hand over potentially exculpatory evidence to defense attorneys in criminal cases, a process known as discovery.

Testimony at a hearing also showed that the initial police investigation had been incomplete, with the first responding officer admitting that he'd faked evidence logging forms and had failed to take witness statements at the scene.

Janes — who had worked for the Metlakatla Police Department for 31 years and had been chief for eight years — admitted that the department's practice was to routinely fake evidence logging forms, raising the judge's concerns about evidence handling and chain of custody, according to the order.

The investigation of Henderson's death was "very sloppy" and "probably the worst I've ever done," Janes testified, according to the filing.

Doty, the judge, called the police department's lack of standard evidence handling procedure "extraordinary."

The judge described a second hearing in May as "shocking." He concluded that the police chief had repeatedly lied about evidence and procedures, including about a piece of a ceiling tile.

Janes admitted to lying in grand jury testimony that a ceiling tile from the trailer had been collected and taken to the crime lab for examination.

"The Chief stated that his sworn grand jury testimony was false and that police did not actually collect the tile," the judge wrote. Because of the generally chaotic and fault evidence logging, the court, he said, "cannot determine what happened to the ceiling tile."

"The Metlakatla Police Department has designed discovery policies that guaranteed evidence would be lost, destroyed, or overlooked," Doty wrote. "The (police) did all those things here, and compounded its errors by repeatedly misrepresenting facts about discovery. And the prosecutor's office, which inexplicably continued to accept the Department's representations and relay those representations to the Court, failed to correct those errors."

"It is important to know that what happened in this case is extremely rare," wrote Kemp, of the Department of Law. "The dismissal of a case for these reasons, any case, is extraordinary. It's made more tragic given the nature of the case."

In a statement to the court, Naomi Leask, a longtime local cultural educator in Metlakatla and the mother of both Isaac and Tyler Henderson, wrote that the case had devastated her family.

The recent revelations about the weakness of the police investigation had been hard to process, she wrote.

"The sheer amount of information that I have only received within the last few months has been incredibly hard to process because I have felt everything from grief, anger, to relief," Leask wrote.

While mourning one son, she'd also been enduring the murder charge against another son, she wrote. Isaac Henderson had lost his membership in the Metlakatla Indian Community, and the family had decided to leave their home.

"I've made the incredibly tough decision to relocate my family once this all settles," she wrote. "I'm not even 100% sure where to go because I don't even know where home is anymore."

FROM PAGE A1

ABREGO GARCIA

immigration enforcement. Now it returns to the U.S. court system, where Abrego Garcia appeared Friday after being returned from El Salvador. He faces new charges related to a large human smuggling operation and is in federal custody in Tennessee.

Speaking to NBC's Kristen Welken in a phone interview Saturday President Donald Trump said it was not his decision to bring Abrego Garcia back. "The Department of Justice decided to do it that way, and that's fine," he said. "There are two ways you could have done it, and they decided to do it that way." Trump said it should "be a very easy case."

In announcing Abrego Garcia's return Attorney General Pam Bondi called him "a smuggler of humans and children and women" in announcing the unsealing of a grand jury indictment. His lawyers say a jury won't believe the "preposterous" allegations.

Sen. Chris Van Hollen, who visited Abrego Garcia in El Salvador, said his return to the U.S. was long overdue.

"As I have repeatedly said, this is not about the man, it's about his constitutional rights — and the rights of all," the Maryland Democrat said in a statement. "The Administration will now have to make its case in the court of law, as it should have all along."

Gang threats in El Salvador

Abrego Garcia grew up in El Salvador's capital city, San Salvador, according to court documents filed in U.S. immigration court in 2019. His father was a former police officer. His mother, Cecilia, sold pupusas, flat tortilla pouches that hold steaming blends of cheese, beans or pork.

The entire family, including his two sisters and brother, ran the business from home, court records state.

"Everyone in the town knew to get their pupusas from 'Pupuseria Cecilia,'" his lawyers wrote.

A local gang, Barrio 18, began extorting the family for "rent money" and threatened to kill his brother Cesar — or force him into their gang — if they weren't paid, court documents state. The family complied but eventually sent Cesar to the U.S.

Barrio 18 similarly targeted Abrego Garcia, court records state. When he was 12, the gang threatened to take him away until his father paid them.

The family moved but the gang threatened to rape and kill Abrego Garcia's sisters, court records state. The family closed the business, moved again, and eventually sent Abrego Garcia to the U.S.

The family never went to the authorities because of rampant police corruption, according to court filings. The gang continued to harass the family in Guatemala, which borders El Salvador.

Life in the U.S.

Abrego Garcia fled to the U.S. illegally around 2011, the year he turned 16, according to documents in his immigration case. He joined Cesar, now a U.S. citizen, in Maryland and found construction work.

About five years later, Abrego Garcia met Jennifer Vasquez Sura, a U.S. citizen, the records say. In 2018, after she learned she was pregnant, he moved in with her and her two children. They lived in Prince George's County, just outside Washington.

In March 2019, Abrego Garcia went to a Home Depot seeking work as a laborer when he and three other men were detained by local police, court records say. They were suspected of being in MS-13 based on tattoos and clothing.

MANUEL BALCE CENETA / Associated Press

Rep. Glenn Ivey, D-Md., center, joins a rally Friday outside the U.S. Courthouse in Greenbelt, Md., where a federal judge heard arguments in the deportation case of Kilmar Abrego Garcia.

A criminal informant told police that Abrego Garcia was in MS-13, court records state but Prince George's County Police did not charge the men. The department said this year it had no further interactions with Abrego Garcia or "any new intelligence" on him. Abrego Garcia has denied being in MS-13.

Although they did not charge him, local police turned Abrego Garcia over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement. He told a U.S. immigration judge that he would seek asylum and asked to be released because Vasquez Sura was pregnant, according to his immigration case.

The Department of Homeland Security alleged Abrego Garcia was a gang member based on the county police's information, according to the case. The immigration judge kept Abrego Garcia in jail as his case continued, the records show.

Abrego Garcia later married Vasquez Sura in a Maryland detention center, according to court filings. She gave birth while he was still in jail.

In October 2019, an immigration judge denied Abrego Garcia's asylum request but granted him protection from being deported back to El Salvador because of a "well-founded fear" of gang persecution, according state. The family complied but eventually sent Cesar to the U.S.

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ANCHORAGE

People Mover now free for 18-and-under riders

People board a bus at the Downtown Transit Center in Anchorage on Oct. 17, 2017.

BILL ROTH / ADN archive October 2017

Lizzy Hahn
Anchorage Daily News

The Anchorage Assembly approved an ordinance this week making bus fares permanently free for youth 18 years and under on People Mover public transit.

Youth will no longer have to show their Anchorage School District IDs to receive a free fare. Free fares for youth are currently in effect over the summer. Permanent free fares will become effective starting July 10.

Before the Assembly's vote on Tuesday, children 5 years old and under could ride People Mover for free, but youth ages 5 to 18 paid $1 per single ride. Adults currently pay $2 for a single ride.

The school district previously had a contract with People Mover to offer middle and high school students free transportation on People Mover.

The ordinance "ensures equal access for all persons 18 and under, including homeschool and private school students," it reads.

According to an Assembly release, ASD paid People Mover $28,000 annually, and its students were required to show their student ID to get on the bus for free. Now ASD will reclaim those funds for its 2025-26 budget, according to the release.

A 2024 report from People Mover said it served 3,044,346 total passengers last year.

FOOD & DRINK

20 spots for late-night Anchorage eats

Lizzy Hahn
Anchorage Daily News

As the summer days grow longer, there's even more time to stay outside for hikes, bike rides, runs and more. The question is always: "Where do we fuel up after an outdoor adventure?"

Here is a list of Anchorage eateries that are open late into the night … not that anyone can tell it's nighttime. Some offer delivery and takeout, however not all do, so keep that in mind.

Photos by MARC LESTER / ADN

Les Hayes holds the beef dumplings June 4 at the Pel'meni stand on 6th Avenue in downtown Anchorage.

The chicken Philly from Flight Deck Pizzaria at 832 West International Airport Road.

Peanut Farm

Kitchen hours: Last call 11:30 p.m. Sunday - Thursday. Last call 1:30 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Start hours vary.
5227 Old Seward Highway

Known as Alaska's biggest sports bar and restaurant, Peanut Farm serves homemade breakfasts, lunches and dinners. Popular dishes include the stuffed potato skins, flame broiled burgers, chicken wings and sandwiches. Delivery is available through Grubhub, DoorDash and Seamless.

Bernie's Bungalow Lounge

Kitchen hours: open 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, open 11 a.m.-midnight Friday, open 3 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, open from 3-10 p.m. Sunday; 626 D St.

Offering a variety of foods and a wide range of beers on tap, Bernie's Bungalow Lounge is a great place to enjoy the outdoors with their patio and occasional entertainment. From burgers to halibut to curry, Bernie's Bungalow brings savory meals to all. Takeout is available, delivery is not.

Salsa Oaxaqueña

Open from noon-midnight Wednesday-Monday; Closed Tuesday; 3505 Spenard Road

Looking for authentic Mexican cuisine? Salsa Oaxaqueña prides themselves in offering customers the finest in Mexican culinary delights and offering the traditional flavors of Oaxaca. Crafted with love and fresh ingredients, Salsa Oaxaqueña sells tacos with handmade tortillas, enchiladas de mole Oaxaqueña, burritos and much more. Delivery is available through their website.

Whisky & Ramen

Open from 5 p.m.-midnight Friday and Saturday, open from 5-10:30 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 436 W. Fourth Ave.

Warm noodles and broth are always a hit after a day outside in Alaska. Enjoy a variety of ramen options, appetizers, meats and seafood from this bustling upscale restaurant. Popular dishes include the whisky pork buns, the Dark Horse and Business Lounge ramen. They seat an equal number of walk-ins as those with reservations. There is no takeout or delivery.

Fiori D'Italia

Open from 4 p.m.-midnight Wednesday-Sunday; 2502 McRae Road

Looking for some of the best Italian food in Anchorage? Fiori D'Italia has specialty pastas, halibut frutti di mare and a wide variety of appetizers. Takeout is available, but delivery is not.

Mei's Kitchen

Open from 4 p.m.-midnight Monday-Saturday; 3609 Arctic Blvd.

Mei's Kitchen has you covered when it comes to authentic Chinese cuisine. With a large variety of noodle soups, rice entree meals, noodle entree meals and appetizers, Mei's offers well-prepared American Chinese classics. Delivery is available through Grubhub, DoorDash and Uber Eats; curbside pickup is also available.

Anchorage Pel'meni

Open daily from 11:30 a.m.-midnight; 434 K St.

The Anchorage Pel'meni restaurant is still up and cooking — literally — even though a pickup crashed into their shop on April 20. Although their original building is boarded up, the business is still operating every day under a tent right next to their restaurant location. These meat or potato dumplings, topped with butter, curry, hot sauce and cilantro — all toppings optional — are the perfect hot dish. Paired with rye bread, Pel'meni is a late-night favorite. Takeout is available, delivery is not.

Pho and Indian Restaurant

Open from noon-midnight Tuesday-Sunday; 9191 Old Seward Highway

This spot, offering a unique blend of authentic Indian curries and Vietnamese pho, is great for those interested in both cuisines. With more than 12 pho bowls and an even wider selection of rice entries, the Pho and Indian Restaurant has a lot to offer. These hot dishes will hit the spot after being outside in the cold. Takeout is available, delivery is not.

Home Town Restaurant

Open from 5 p.m.-midnight Monday, Wednesday-Saturday, open from 1-10 p.m. Sunday; 3020 Minnesota Drive

Bringing authentic Korean cuisine to Minnesota Drive, Home Town Restaurant offers bulgogi dishes, dumplings, tofu soup, kalbi and more. Takeout is available, delivery is also available through DoorDash and Caviar.

Moose's Tooth Pub & Pizzeria

Open from 10:30 a.m.-midnight Monday-Friday, open from 11 a.m.-midnight Saturday and Sunday; 3300 Old Seward Highway

An Anchorage classic, Moose's Tooth is well-known and beloved for its hand-tossed and stone-baked pizzas. Enjoy vegetarian and meat pizzas along with various appetizers or salads. A great location to take your family or any large groups, Moose's Tooth portions allow for easy sharing. Takeout is available, delivery is not.

El Jefe Taco Joint

Open from 11 a.m.-midnight Monday - Saturday, open from 2 p.m.-midnight Sundays; 101 E International Airport Road

The El Jefe Taco joint has all of your favorite Mexican dishes from tacos, rice bowls, nachos, burritos and more. Popular dishes include their three-piece street tacos, torpedoes, burrito and nacho bowl. Takeout is available, delivery is available through Grubhub, DoorDash and Seamless.

Serrano's Mexican Grill

Open from 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Wednesday-Friday, open from 11 a.m.-midnight Saturday-Tuesday; 201 E Northern Lights Blvd. and 525 W. Fourth Ave.

The Northern Lights Serrano's Mexican Grill location is more focused on tacos compared to its sister shops. With a large selection of tacos, burritos and sides, Serrano's on Fourth Avenue is also an option. Takeout is available, delivery is not.

Long Branch Saloon

Kitchen hours: open daily until midnight, unless it's slow, then closed at 11 p.m. Open from 11 a.m.-2:30 a.m. Monday - Friday, open from 9 a.m.-midnight Saturday and Sunday; 1737 E. Dimond Blvd.

Looking for classic American dishes like a cheeseburger or a blackened halibut sandwich? The Long Branch Saloon has you covered. With a wide variety of burgers, sandwiches and side dishes, there are a lot of dinner possibilities. Takeout is available, delivery is available through DeliverClub.

Guido's Pizza

Open daily from 11 a.m.-2 a.m.; 549 W International Airport Road

Guido's Pizza says it prides itself on being "Anchorage's best pizza experience." They offer a complete selection of Italian favorites, like pizza, hot sandwiches, spaghetti and much more. Takeout is available, delivery is available through Grubhub, DoorDash and Uber Eats.

Flight Deck Pizzeria

Open daily from 11 a.m.-3 a.m.; 832 W. International Airport Road

Decked with specialty pizzas, Greek-style pizzas, calzones, subs and much more, Flight Deck Pizzeria is known as a hidden gem of pizza places in Anchorage. Takeout is available, delivery is available through Grubhub, Uber Eats and DoorDash.

Chilkoot Charlie's

Open from 11 a.m.-2:30 a.m. Sunday-Thursday, open from 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Friday and Saturday; 2435 Spenard Road

Experience a vast range of pub-style foods under the string lights that illuminate this historic bar. Home to Alaska and Soviet memorabilia, Koots is also a hot spot for late night entertainment from comedians and bands. Check out their website to learn more about their entertainment options.

F Street Station

Kitchen hours: open daily until 1 a.m. Open daily from 10 a.m. -2:30 a.m.; 325 F St.

American classic dishes with an Alaska twist is the signature style of the F Street Station restaurant. Known for their beer-battered Alaska halibut and sourdough crab sandwich, F Street Station brings Alaska seafood into various dishes. Known as the oldest bar in downtown Anchorage, F Street Station is still in its original location, even 81 years since its establishment. Takeout is available, delivery is not.

Wild Scoops

Noon-10 p.m.; 530 E. Benson Blvd., 429 E St. and 717 W. Third Ave.

In Midtown or downtown looking for a sweet treat? Wild Scoops has you covered. Made with Alaska ingredients, with products from local growers, gardens and vendors, Wild Scoops offers a wide variety of flavors. Flavors include Sitka swirl, made with Alaska sea salt; white raven; wild blueberry, made with Alaska blueberries, and many more.

Motley Moo Creamery

Noon-10 p.m.; 11900 Industry Way, Unit M-8

Locally grown, locally sourced and locally made, Motley Moo Creamery is a great stop for ice cream in the south side of Anchorage. Flavors can include purple haze, made with wild blueberries; dark cherry chunk; rocky road; and butter pecan.

Food trucks

Times, locations vary

Restaurants are not the only hot spot for dining in Anchorage. Food trucks are also a solid option, although their locations and hours change frequently. To stay up-to-date and follow your favorite food trucks around town, visit the Anchorage Food Truck Finders Facebook page.

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PRESIDENT, CEO & PUBLISHER
Ryan Binkley . . . . . ryan@adn.com
EDITOR
Vicky Ho . . . . . vho@adn.com
INTERIM OPINION EDITOR (RETIRED EDITOR)
David Hulen 907-257-4596
. . . . . dhulen@adn.com
VICE PRESIDENT, REVENUE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Kea Cuaresma 907-257-4458
. . . . . kcuaresma@adn.com
VICE PRESIDENT, SALES & EVENTS
Brandi Nelson 907-257-4221
. . . . . bnelson@adn.com
DIRECTOR, CIRCULATION & PRODUCTION
Mark Wasser 907-257-4387
. . . . . mwasser@adn.com
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
Joshua Petersen . . . . . CFO@adn.com
CUSTOMER SERVICE
Circulation 907-257-4400
Paid obituaries 907-257-4286
. . . . . obituary@adn.com
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Letters to Editor . . . . . letters@adn.com
Editorial/Opinion 907-257-4308
. . . . . commentary@adn.com
Photo department 907-257-4331
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Sports/Outdoors 907-257-4335
. . . . . sports@adn.com

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CORRECTIONS

Anchorage Daily News promptly acknowledges and corrects factual errors. If you see one, please call our editors at 257-4301.

Denali Fire Green LLC is applying under 3 AAC 306.300 for a new Retail Marijuana Store license, license #41037, doing business as The High Country, located at 520 W. 6th Avenue, Suite A, Anchorage, AK, 99501, UNITED STATES.

Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and application information will be posted on AMCO's website at https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco. Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501 and Attorney Jana Weltzin, Esq at jana@dwcounsel.com or to 901 Photo Avenue, Second Floor, Anchorage, AK 99503.

SupHerb, LLC is applying under 3 AAC 306.400(a)(1) for a new Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility license, license #40995, doing business as SupHerb, located at 2002 N. POST ROAD RD, Anchorage, AK, 99501, UNITED STATES.

Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written

notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and a copy of the application will be posted on AMCO's website at https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco. Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 9950

Robert Alexander dba Tri-Grill located at "no premises" is applying for transfer of a Beverage Dispensary AS 04.09.200 liquor license to BK LLC dba G Building located at 440 W. 3rd Ave Anchorage, AK 99501. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol. licensing@alaska.gov.

Midnight Moon Company, Inc dba Rustic Goat located at 2800 Turnagain Street, Anchorage, Muni. of, 99517 is applying for transfer of a Restaurant Eating Place License (REPL) AS 04.09.210 alcoholic beverage license to The Goat Llc. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov.

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BUSINESS / ECONOMY

Alaska's GDP has stagnated, with growth ranking near the US bottom, analysis shows

Yereth Rosen
Alaska Beacon

Alaska's gross domestic product grew more slowly over the past decade than that of all other states except for one, according to a Department of Labor and Workforce Development analysis.

The state's GDP — the value of all goods and services — rose by only 0.4% annually on average from 2015 to 2025 when adjusted for inflation, according to the analysis in this month's Alaska Economic Trends, the magazine published by the department's research and analysis section. Only North Dakota has slower growth during the period, averaging 0.2% a year.

In comparison, the national annual growth rate for the period, adjusted for inflation, was 2.1% over the period, and the median growth rate — with half the states above and half below — was 1.7%.

Without adjustments for inflation, the state's growth might appear robust: an annual average of 8.2% from 2020 to 2024. But that nominal rate is misleading because the period was marked by high inflation, the analysis points out.

It focuses instead on "real" GDP, which factors in inflation. In real terms, Alaska's total GDP peaked more than a decade ago, when oil prices were highest. There were only three years between 2015 and 2024 when Alaska showed real GDP growth — 2017, 2021 and 2022 — which also were the only years when Alaska's growth outpaced the national average, the analysis found.

The statistics demonstrate the state's economic vulnerability, said Sam Tappen, the state economist who did the analysis and wrote the Trends article.

"The fact that we've had such long-term stagnation, I think, is troubling," he said.

The statistics reflect Alaska's dependence on oil and the price of that commodity, which depends on world markets and global events beyond the state's control.

The volatility of oil prices has an outsized impact on Alaska's economy, he said. "Oil just tends to push around the total," he said.

Beyond the period of high oil prices, there were two different years of steep drops: 2015, when a plunge in oil prices caused a 9% drop in GDP, and 2020, when Alaska's real GDP fell 7.1% amid the global COVID-19 pandemic disruptions.

Not coincidentally, other states at or near the bottom — North Dakota, Wyoming and Louisiana — are also highly dependent on oil and gas.

The good news in the statistics is that outside of the oil-dominated mining sector, the state's real gross domestic product has been increasing. "All the other industries are typically growing pretty steadily," Tappen said.

But even that good news is tempered by the reality that nonoil sectors of the economy depend to a large degree on oil.

That includes the strong transportation and warehousing sector, which accounts for a little over 14% of Alaska's total gross domestic product and is among the sectors with the highest real growth. More than half of the sector's output is directly tied to the oil industry, Tappen pointed out.

Other sectors with notable growth, averaging around 3% annually, were leisure and hospitality, construction, private health and education. The oil-dominated mining sector declined at an average annual rate of 2.6%, and the natural resources sector, which includes seafood harvesting, declined at an annual average of 3.9%, Tappen's research found.

Gross domestic product is just one measure of an economy, Tappen's article points out. There are other measures, including employment and income.

MARC LESTER / ADN archive November 2024

Shipping containers are moved at the Don Young Port of Alaska on Nov. 22, 2024.

Originally published by the Alaska Beacon, an independent, nonpartisan news organization that covers Alaska state government.

Is it OK to hide money from my spouse?

MICHELLE SINGLETARY
PERSONAL FINANCE

I frequently talk about my grandmother, Big Mama. She was my go-to for financial wisdom.

When I'm faced with a money issue, I think about what she might say. Over the years, I've tried to be like my grandmother and become the person with the answers for a lot of readers.

Each week, I answer readers' personal finance questions in the Color of Money newsletter. Here's a few I tackled recently, including questions about when to take Social Security, a spouse who hides money, and how to help an adult child build a good credit history.

Q. What is the ideal age for a couple to start Social Security?

A. My husband and I have been debating this issue for several years. He thought he would start collecting a few years ago, when he turned 62. I suggested that we both wait until 70, when we'd get the maximum benefit.

He argued: "Why wait all those years when we could use the money to travel or do whatever we want during our healthier years?"

My husband created a spreadsheet showing that delaying until 70 would net us more money yearly. Our break-even point — where we would catch up to all the cash we missed by starting at 62 with lower monthly payments — was about 79.

"Tomorrow isn't promised," he said. "There's no way to tell about our vitality at that age."

He retired and has changed his mind. He may now wait until his full retirement age of 67.

Why?

Turns out we don't need the money right now. I'm still working, and by paying off our mortgage early, we have eliminated our largest monthly expense. By improving our cash flow, we could afford to delay claiming our Social Security benefits.

If you claim early, at 62 instead of waiting until your full retirement age, 66 to 67 depending on your birth year, your monthly benefit may be reduced by as much as 30%. But for every year you delay benefits beyond full retirement age, your monthly payment will increase by 8%.

If you need the money now, claim it now. If not, consider your health and other income sources before deciding whether to delay.

There is no one-size-fits-all answer. The right time to take Social Security depends on your personal financial situation.

Q. Is it OK to hide money if my spouse is a spendthrift or doesn't agree with my savings plan?

A. For this question, it helps to have more background. Here's what the reader shared:

"I'm a saver, and I like to have designated accounts for designated purposes," he wrote. "One for if I lose my job. One for costs that exceed cash flow, such as new tires, burst pipes, or other house/car repairs. And a new car fund. My spouse thinks having money specifically in case we lose our jobs is dumb; she says it is unlikely and rolls her eyes when she talks about it. I'm not a total miser. We eat out a few times a month. We have nice things, and go on nice vacations — I even have an account just so we can spend freely on vacations! When I have extra, I put it in an individual account and keep my mouth shut."

When I read this, I flinched.

In a marriage, even if you are going to keep separate bank accounts, I think it's important to have complete transparency. You have to be honest.

If you find yourself in a similar situation, counseling can help you come up with strategies to deal with your different spending and saving styles. But hiding money doesn't solve your problem and could create new issues if your spouse discovers you've secretly been squirreling away money.

At its core, hiding money is lying.

To get on the same page, it's important to open the lines of communication. Have the difficult conversation, figure out whether there is room for a compromise. Instead of several savings pots, maybe just one or two?

I'm a multiple pot person, too, and believe that having an emergency fund with several months of living expenses is prudent. But maintaining hidden reserves won't address the fundamental issue that you don't agree about having money set aside in the case of a job loss or a large unexpected expense.

Most importantly, building wealth and security as a couple is not just about the numbers; it's about trust, transparency and a shared vision for your financial future together.

Q. How do I help my daughter build credit? She's going through a divorce and has no credit history.

A. Here's the frustrating thing about building a credit history. You have to have credit to get a good credit score.

But don't get discouraged on behalf of your daughter. Building good credit doesn't require as much time as you may think. Here are some strategies:

- Have her apply for a secured credit card backed by funds deposited in a savings account. The money in the account then becomes her credit limit. Shop around to avoid cards with high fees, and make sure the issuer is reporting to all three credit bureaus — Experian, Equifax and TransUnion. Bankrate.com regularly profiles the best secured card offers. If your adult child has a bank or credit union account, check out their offerings.
- Once she has a secured card, she should just make small-dollar purchases and pay off the monthly balance before the due date. After about a year, she can apply for a general-purpose credit card. This will test whether her credit history has improved enough to qualify for a non-secured card.
- You could make her an authorized user on your credit card. This allows the authorized user to benefit from the primary cardholder's positive credit history. However, it's important to note that such access does not make her responsible for paying any charges she incurs on the card. Therefore, exercise caution when utilizing this approach. In fact, you can add your adult child and not even give her a card.

My husband and I followed all these steps to help build our eldest daughter's credit. After using the secured card for three months, her credit score increased to the mid-700s. She eventually was able to get a general credit card and has maintained a score in the high 700s.

If you have a personal finance question for Washington Post columnist Michelle Singletary, please call 1-855-ASK-POST (1-855-275-7678). Her award-winning column, "The Color of Money," is syndicated by The Washington Post News Service and Syndicate and carried in dozens of newspapers.

GOP's tax bill would sell off USPS's brand-new EVs

Jacob Bogage
The Washington Post

A little-noticed provision of President Donald Trump and Republicans' massive tax and immigration legislation would force the government to undo billions of dollars in electric vehicle investments made by the U.S. Postal Service, unwinding much of the Biden administration's climate push at the mail agency while dealing it a sharp financial setback.

The Postal Service in 2022 embarked on plans to purchase 66,000 electric mail delivery vehicles, many of them bespoke "Next Generation Delivery Vehicles" from the defense contractor Oshkosh. The agency has also purchased hundreds of E-Transit delivery vans from Ford and spent more than half a billion dollars remodeling its outdated mail and package sorting facilities to accommodate electric and low-emissions vehicles.

The agency expects to spend $9.6 billion on the project in total; $3 billion of that comes from taxpayer dollars to cover the cost difference between gas-powered vehicles and more expensive EVs. The remaining funding comes from the Postal Service's independent accounts. The agency is largely self-sufficient, financed by the sale of postage products.

The Senate's version of Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill would see the General Services Administration take possession of the nearly 7,200 new postal EVs and associated infrastructure and put the assets up for auction. The proposal is unlikely to generate much revenue for the government; there is almost no private-sector interest in the mail trucks, and used EV charging equipment — built specifically for the Postal Service and already installed in postal facilities — generally cannot be resold.

"The funds realized by auctioning the vehicles and infrastructure would be negligible. Much of infrastructure is literally buried under parking lots, and there is no market for used charging equipment," Peter Pastre, the Postal Service's vice president for government relations and public policy, wrote to senators this month.

A summary of the legislation released by Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., who chairs the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, said the provision "aims to cut unnecessary costs and focus USPS on delivering mail and not achieving the environmental initiatives pushed by the Biden Administration."

The proposal comes as congressional Republicans search desperately for spending cuts to offset the nearly $4 trillion cost of their tax policies. The legislation would extend tax cuts from Trump's first term and end taxes on tips and overtime wages while spending hundreds of billions of dollars on immigration enforcement and national defense.

To offset the cost and reduce federal borrowing, the legislation would cut more than $1 trillion from social safety net programs and unwind most of President Joe Biden's 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, which included the largest-ever U.S. investment to combat the climate crisis.

The mail trucks were part of that program. Biden administration officials hoped that postal procurement would bolster the small-but-growing domestic EV market, both for commercial fleets and individual consumers.

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108 E. 8th, Llc is making application for a new Beverage Dispensary Tourism License (BDTL) AS 04.09.350 alcoholic beverage license doing business as 108 E 8th located at 108 E 8th Ave , Anchorage 99501. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, the Law Offices of Ernouf & Coffey at P.O. Box 212314, Anchorage, AK 99521, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov.

Midnight Moon Company, Inc dba Rustic Goat located at 2800 Turnagain Street, Anchorage, Muni. of, 99517 is applying for transfer of a Restaurant Eating Place License (REPL) AS 04.09.210 alcoholic beverage license to The Goat Llc. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov.

Denali Fire Green LLC is applying under 3 AAC 306.300 for a new Retail Marijuana Store license, license #41037, doing business as The High Country, located at 520 W. 6th Avenue, Suite A, Anchorage, AK, 99501, UNITED STATES.

Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and application information will be posted on AMCO's website at https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco. Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501 and Attorney Jana Weitzin, Esq at jana@djwcounsel.com or to 901 Photo Avenue, Second Floor, Anchorage, AK 99503.

Robert Alexander dba Tri-Grill located at "no premises" is applying for transfer of a Beverage Dispensary AS 04.09.200 liquor license to BK LLC dba G Building located at 440 W. 3rd Ave Anchorage, AK 99501. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov.

SupHerb, LLC is applying under 3 AAC 306.400(a)(1) for a new Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility license, license #40995, doing business as SupHerb, located at 2002 N. POST ROAD RD, Anchorage, AK, 99501, UNITED STATES.

Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written

notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and a copy of the application will be posted on AMCO's website at https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco. Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 9950

AMCO Received 7.29.25