



Senator Cathy Giessel

District N

Northeast Anchorage, Anchorage Hillside,
Indian, Bird, Girdwood and Portage

December 2, 2020

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

This month's Alaska Economic *Trends* magazine, from the Department of Labor, tells us what we all recognize - our restaurants are being hit hard with all the closures related to COVID.

I found the information about online sales taxes being implemented by some local communities very interesting.

As always, I'm interested in your thoughts on how to go forward as a state, paying for what we need.

Stay safe. Think positive. Test negative (for COVID)!

In today's newsletter you'll find:

- [Alaska Online Sales Tax Offers a 'Tiny Bright Spot' of Revenue For Some Local Communities](#)
- [Women's Suffrage in Western States and Territories Podcast Episode](#)
- [Alaska Economic Trends Magazine](#)
- [The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Ethical Principles for Allocating Initial Supplies of COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [Public Comment Sought on Kachemak Bay Parks Management](#)
- [Head Into The Woods To Cut Your Free Alaska-Grown Christmas Tree!](#)

Kind regards,
Cathy

[Click here to email me.](#)



Photo of large fluffy snowflakes taken by Meli Rohr.

Alaska Online Sales Tax Offers a 'Tiny Bright Spot' of Revenue for Some Local Communities

The entire state could benefit from this type of sales tax.

"Thirty-three Alaska communities are collecting remote sales tax and are projected to share between \$8 and \$10 million in new revenue this year.



Photo from KTUU

In November of 2019, [the Alaska Remote Sellers Sales Tax Commission](#) was created by the Alaska Municipal League. It was formed to help local governments across Alaska collect sales tax from purchases made from out of state.

There are currently 33 communities listed as having adopted the code, [another six](#) are in the process of adopting it."

[Click here to read the full article from KTUU.](#)

Women's Suffrage in Western States and Territories Podcast Episode

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) has a six-episode podcast series titled "Building Democracy: The Story of Legislatures." Episode 4 focuses on how women fought and won their right to vote, as well as how they shaped state legislatures and life on the frontier well before the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

Guests Include:

- Senator Affie Ellis, Wyoming
- Representative Meg Froelich, Colorado
- Rebekah Clark, historical research associate



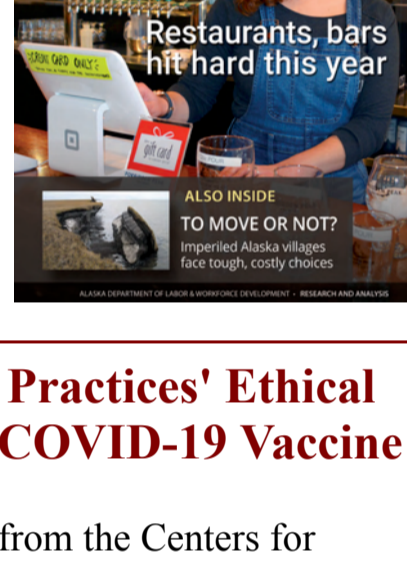
[Click here to access the podcast episode.](#)

Alaska Economic Trends Magazine, December 2020

Alaska Economic *Trends* is a monthly magazine that covers a broad range of economic issues.

The December issues focuses on the struggle restaurants and bars have faced during the pandemic, as well as villages that must make the costly choice of whether to relocate or stay and try to mitigate erosion, flooding, and permafrost damage.

[Click here to view the December 2020 magazine.](#)

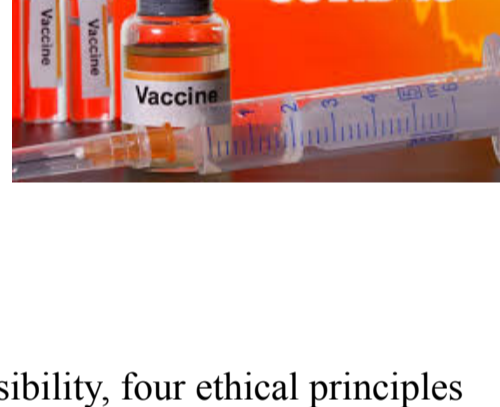


The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Ethical Principles for Allocating Initial Supplies of COVID-19 Vaccine

This is an interesting article about the COVID-19 vaccine from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Article Summary

What is already known about this topic?
During the period when the U.S. supply of COVID-19 vaccines is limited, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will make vaccine allocation recommendations.



What is added by this report?

In addition to scientific data and implementation feasibility, four ethical principles will assist ACIP in formulating recommendations for the initial allocation of COVID-19 vaccine:

1. Maximizing benefits and minimizing harms
2. Promoting justice
3. Mitigating health inequities
4. Promoting transparency

What are the implications for public health practice?

Ethical principles will aid ACIP in making vaccine allocation recommendations and state, tribal, local, and territorial public health authorities in developing vaccine implementation strategies based on ACIP's recommendations.

[Click here to read the full article from the CDC.](#)

Public Comment Sought on Kachemak Bay State Parks Management

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking public review and comment on a final revision of the Kachemak Bay State Park and Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park Management Plan.

This "intent-to-adopt" management plan covers Kachemak Bay State Park and Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park, as well as in the Eveline, Diamond Creek, and Overlook Park state recreation sites, an area totaling approximately 371,000 acres.



It results from Commissioner Feige's decision on December 7, 2018 to replace a previous management plan with one produced with more complete public information and involvement.

To review the plan, go to: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/plans/kbay/kbayplan.htm>
Comments will be accepted until Friday, January 22, 2021 and can be sent to:

Kachemak Bay State Park Planning
550 W. Seventh Ave, Ste. 1050
Anchorage, AK 99501
Fax: (907) 269-8915
Email: kbsp.comments@alaska.gov

Head Into The Woods To Cut Your Free Alaska-Grown Christmas Tree!

With the Christmas season fast approaching, now is the perfect time to trek into the woods to find your Alaska-grown tree to help celebrate the holidays.

A Christmas tree is the focal point for many home holiday decorations, and while local retailers sell imported trees, many Alaskans prefer to venture into the woods to seek out and harvest their own tree, for free. Helping make this possible is one of the Alaska Division of Forestry's own holiday traditions.



Image from Erin Kirkland/AKontheGO

Each household is limited to one tree, which can be no more than 15 feet high. There are no fees, and no permit is required. Maps and information on Christmas tree harvesting in Southcentral and Interior Alaska - as well as information about how to care for your fresh-cut tree - are available at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/pic/christmastree.htm>.

Given COVID-19's impact on so many aspects of life, cutting your own Christmas tree is a perfect COVID activity: it's outside, it's easy to socially distance, and it's likely that the facemask you wear against the cold will also help protect against the coronavirus.

Here are some guidelines for safe, legal cutting of Christmas trees on public lands:

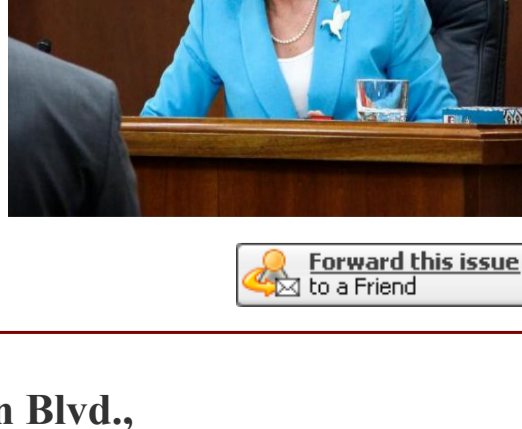
- Properly identify who owns the land where you intend to cut your tree. If you have any questions on land ownership, call the nearest Division of Forestry office.
- Cut trees as low and close to the ground as possible.
- Cutting trees in any state parks or experimental forests is prohibited.
- Christmas trees on state land are for personal use only, and may not be sold.
- The division does not maintain forest roads, so those traveling on them should have warm clothing and appropriate equipment in case they get stuck, including tire chains, shovel and tow strap.
- Do not litter, and be courteous to other tree cutters and area residents.

For a directory of area forest offices, including addresses and phone numbers, go to <http://forestry.alaska.gov>. Answers to additional questions are available at the Department of Natural Resource's Public Information Centers in Anchorage (907-269-8400) or Fairbanks (907-451-2705).

It's a pleasure to serve and represent the wonderful people of District N!

I look forward to hearing your ideas, suggestions and comments.

[To email me, click here.](#)



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