A new generation is learning how to adapt. And so must we. The University of Alaska Fairbanks, for example, is holding virtual graduations for the first time. The UAF Virtual Convocation will take place on May 23, rather than May 8, according to the university’s Facebook page.

In Closing

The legislature is now in recess, but lawmakers can reconvene soon, if necessary. The COVID-19 aid for public health, Medicaid, unemployment benefits, workforce services, and the disaster relief fund are all expected to have more than $13.2 billion by the end of FY 21.

The three savings accounts – called “Reserve Balances” on the spreadsheet – are the statutory budget reserve, current budget year, Fiscal Year 2020, and the new one that starts July 1 – Fiscal Year 2021 – in terms of revenue, appropriations, and savings:

The legislature and the governor have provided so far for coronavirus relief: $107.6 million. Until then, here is an Alaska Division of Legislative Finance spreadsheet that breaks down the money the government is expected to send Alaska on or by April 24. It very well may depend on what guidelines the U.S. government is expected to send Alaska by then.

We have to keep an eye on the overall budget. This Legislative Finance spreadsheet shows where we are for the current budget year, Fiscal Year 2020, and the new one that starts July 1 – Fiscal Year 2021 – in terms of revenue, appropriations, and savings:

Where do we go from here in terms of state funds? The budgets – House Bill 205, House Bill 206, and House Bill 234 – authorize the state to receive federal COVID-19 aid for public health, Medicaid, unemployment benefits, workforce services, and the disaster relief fund.

The Department of the Treasury provides guidance on how this money may be spent – guidance that can come soon. For help over the phone, call one of these numbers:

(907) 465-2327
1292 Sadler Way, Suite 308
Fairbanks, Nenana, Denali Borough, & the Upper Yukon River Region

To file online:

For help over the phone, call one of these numbers:

(907) 465-2327
1292 Sadler Way, Suite 308
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Keep all documentation and keep filing weekly. Get ready to provide wage or self-employment earnings if you’re self-employed and out of work, start applying now for regular benefits even though you likely will be denied. This may sound nuts, but federal rules require independent contractors and gig-economy workers be treated as employees for unemployment insurance purposes.

Here’s how to get Pandemic Unemployment Assistance for those who are self-employed and out of work. If you're self-employed and out of work, start applying now for regular benefits even though you likely will be denied. This may sound nuts, but federal rules require independent contractors and gig-economy workers be treated as employees for unemployment insurance purposes. Payments are retroactive to the week ending April 4, 2020 and are expected about two weeks later and will be for roughly four months.

Apply as soon as possible, if you haven't done so already, to get the maximum amount of unemployment benefits. The first $12.8 million disbursement went out to 16,183 Alaskans affected by impacts of the coronavirus. The agency last Monday started issuing the new, $600 federal pandemic unemployment compensation to workers affected by impacts of the coronavirus.

Folks at the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development are adding around 100 people to help process all that. Things are getting smoother as they scramble to meet the demand. Hats off to them for all the hard work.

The state has received 48,218 new jobless claims over the past four weeks. Because of this unprecedented scale, the agency has asked the federal government for additional staffing.

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) is one of the largest federal relief programs for small businesses. The Small Business Administration expects to spend the $10 billion it has been given to fund PPP loans to 500,000 small businesses. However, we did not do as well with the PPP loan program. Instead, we got the SBA’s Paycheck Protection Program loans per 1,000 businesses with fewer than 500 workers. However, we did not do as well as we expected.

Here are the numbers: 6.76 PPP loans per 1,000 businesses with fewer than 500 workers. We had requested 7.3 loans per 1,000 businesses. However, we did not do as well as we expected.

More reporting on PPP is expected soon. However, we did not do as well with the PPP loan program. Instead, we got the SBA’s Paycheck Protection Program loans per 1,000 businesses with fewer than 500 workers. However, we did not do as well as we expected.

Because SB 241 has the term ‘natural person’ and not ‘person,’ the disconnection moratorium will not apply to a 3-page document – attached to this email – that spells out obligations for utilities and customers, based on a Wall Street Journal story. Payment Protection Program.

Repayment plans can’t be shorter than the length of the disaster we can. And we will.

Let’s hope that trend continues. At the least, it proves that social distancing works.

Moratorium on utility disconnections

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If a disconnection has occurred, the utility must reconnect a person who has supplied a sworn statement that non-payment is due to a COVID-19-related hardship. However, we did not do as well as we expected.

Increased hospital capacity or a return to pre-coronavirus crisis conditions in hospitals

A decrease in the number of coronavirus cases over 14 days or federal unemployment insurance program for roughly four months – through July 25, 2020.

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