What others say...

Agency offers services

To the editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform your readers about the Legislative Affairs Agency's Division of Public Services.

This division is funded by and for the Legislature, to enable legislators to keep in touch with their constituents, and for the public to be able to participate in the lawmaking process. The Legislative Teleconference and Legislative Information Offices are located statewide.

There are 17 Legislative Information Offices located in the state's major population areas and over 43 teleconference sites throughout the state. Copies of all current legislation, reports, committee hearings schedules, legislator's office location and telephone numbers are all available upon request.

We urge all of your readers to come to the Anchorage office at 1024 West Sixth Ave. or phone 278-3668. We will be glad to show them the office services and operations.

Micki M. Henson
Anchorage

Avalanche ordinance

To the editor:

The avalanche ordinance is NOT DEAD! As long as ANY hazard zones are on ANY map distributed ANYWHERE to ANYONE, that ordinance is still ALIVE and the Municipality of Anchorage is ILLEGALLY disadvantaging affected property owners affected by those hazard zones!

To put it another way, the municipality without an assembly-passed avalanche hazard ordinance is having its cake and eating it con mucho gusto — outside the law!

The property in those bogus zones will be correspondingly devalued; the municipality-wide tax base lowered; unaffected property owners will pay higher taxes. By secretively publishing a pseudo-official map without the authority of an ordinance, the Municipality of Anchorage is subjecting itself to the risk of civil and criminal damages should any seller of affected real estate sue for redress.

This subverisve attempt by the Knowles Administration Planning Department to show something for its $25,000 is POOR PLANNING, since TAXPAYERS will foot the costs of legally upheld court claims.

The same arbitrariness rules the Finance Division as well. If property is unfairly assessed, the municipal manager ought to investigate instead of pout. The Knowles Administration only increases its Soviet-style affect with this arrogance.

Too bad the assembly is also showing itself to be chumps instead of representatives of the public's best interests against the mayor's socialist whims and dreams that rule the day! I for one would gladly welcome the SECESSION of Eagle River-Chugiak from this pint-sized Gulag known as the Municipality of Anchorage!

Donald S. Mulder
Chugiak

'Freeload' of the press

To the editor:

The people must stand behind freedom of the press, however, freeload of the press is a different story. Newspaper compliance with APOC regulations is just a cost of doing business and nowhere near as restricting on the free press as paying for operations and supplies.

Certainly selective editorial endorsements could well be used to promote more opposition adverstisement. That seems not necessarily in the public interest as such endorsements could go to those considered least able to afford advertising rather than necessarily the ones editors really think to be the best candidates.

A paper's classification for purposes of APOC compliance should be tempered by editorial direction which speaks for itself. Newspaper editors who feel compelled to editorially endorse candidates, it seems, could appease Senator Faiks and the people by offering the other candidates for the same office, free, the same and equal space in a timely manner. Failure to timely offer same space to other candidates with adequate response time could then leave that press with obligation to file with APOC the value of the editorial endorsement.

Our Alaskan senior editor seems to have set a good example for aspiring editorial boards to consider in wise maintenance of freedom of the press.

Leonard E. Moffitt
Palmer

Alaska's Oldest Statewide Newspaper