

NEA-Alaska announces endorsements

The National Education Association-Alaska has announced that the NEA-Alaska Political Action Committee recently voted to endorse Democrats Steve Cowper for governor, Glenn Olds for U.S. Senate and Pegge Begich for the U.S. House of Representatives.

State Senate endorsements from the group include Lloyd Jones, Senate District A; Jim Duncan, Senate District C; Mike Szymanski, Senate District E-B; Pat Rodey, Senate District G-B; Vic Fischer, Senate District H-B; Bettye Fahrenkamp, Senate District K-B; Frank Ferguson, Senate District L; and John Binkley, Senate District M.

Endorsements for State House seats include Robin Taylor, House District 1; Peter Goll, House District 2; Ben Grussendorf, House District 3; Bruce Botelho, House District 4-A; Mike Navarre, House District 5-A; "Swack" Swackhammer, House District 5-B; Bette Cato, House District 6; Dana Brockway, House District 7; Red Boucher, House District 10-A; Dave Donley, House District 11-A.

Also endorsed for State House were Max Gruenberg, House District 11-B; Kay Brown, House District 12-A; Johnny Ellis, House District 12-B; Pat Pourchot, House District 13-A; Donna Estelle, House District 13-B; Dan Rapasky, House District 14-B; Sam Cotten, House District 15-A; and Randy Phillips, House District 15-B.

Other State House endorsements included Katie Hurley, House District 16-A; Ron Larson, House District 16-B; Ron Larson, House District 18;

Dick Schultz, House District 17; Mike Miller, House District 18; Mike Davis, House District 19; Mark Boyer, House District 20-B; Niilo Koponen, House District 21; Henry Springer, House District 23; and Cliff Davidson, House District 27.

Binkley endorsed

State Rep. John Binkley has received the endorsement of the 224-member Qaluya Herring Association for his election to the state Senate.

Binkley is seeking the Senate seat left vacant by the retirement of Sen. John Sackett of Ruby.

Association President David Bill said Binkley's effort to open and support the fishery for use by the local residents was the reason for the endorsement.

"We are endorsing John because he's worked hard to open up the fishery and protect our subsistence lifestyle," Bill said.

The herring fishery opened in 1985 and resulted in the harvest of about 1,500 tons of fish. The estimated boost to the local economy was about \$540,000.

The Qaluya Herring Association, which is composed of representative from five village in the Nelson Island area, voted to endorse Binkley at a membership meeting in Nightmute recently.

Begich blasts Young

Democratic contender for Alaska's lone seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, Pegge Begich, blasted Rep. Don Young's absenteeism in recent remarks.

"Alaska needs full-time representation in Congress. Alaskans deserve to have their voices heard on drug laws, sanctions against South Africa and Soviet detention of American reporters," she said.

Begich charged that Republican Young stretched a scheduled three-week vacation planned by Congress into a 30-day vacation.

She said that the week after the House reconvened Sept. 8, Young missed 19 roll-call votes, all floor sessions and all committee meetings.

Young gets contribution

Alaskans for Don Young recently announced the endorsement of Young's re-election bid to the U.S. House by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Political Action Committee.

In addition to the endorsement, the VFW-PAC presented the congressman with a \$1,000 contribution.

"The purpose of the VFW-PAC is to support congressional candidates who demonstrate support for both veterans' programs and strong national security," said Arthur J. Fellwock, chairman of the VFW-PAC Board of Directors. "Congressman Young's record clearly demonstrates that he is deserving of the VFW-PAC endorsement."

Fishermen support Olds

Dr. Glenn Olds, Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate, has received the endorsement of the Cordova District Fishermen United.

The organization's president, Bob Blake, said the group needs good representation in federal government

because fishing is the economy of Cordova and an important resource of Alaska.

"CDFU feels that with Dr. Olds' background, leadership ability and concerns that Alaskans will be heard in Washington, D.C.," Blake said.

The group is a nonprofit association of commercial fishermen organized in the 1930s to protect, promote and encourage the commercial fishing industry.

Cowper outlines policy

Ensuring jobs for Alaskans, giving more authority to local governments and developing a safe and effective transportation system in Alaska which assists economic development, are among the goals of a state transportation policy outlined recently by Democratic gubernatorial candidate Steve Cowper.

Cowper said despite different types of transportation throughout Alaska, each mode should be adequately funded. He also called for a new system of determining which new road construction projects are necessary.

"New projects should be necessary and justifiable, not political porkbarrels for politicians," Cowper said. "Maintenance should be efficient and intelligent so that several agencies or governments are not trying to do the same jobs."

Cowper said that with a sensible transportation program in place, Alaskans can enjoy and benefit from the \$400 million spent annually on transportation improvements and maintenance in Alaska.