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SUNDAY FINAL

Alaska lost another 9,000 jobs in 3rd quarter

Oil sector hammered with a 26 percent drop, as state endures 4 quarters of decline.

Alex DeMarban
Alaska Dispatch News

Alaska lost 9,000 jobs in late summer 2016 from the number of people employed the year before, the biggest decline yet in the current recession as low oil prices continued to shred the economy.

The job losses, reported by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development on Friday, extended from July to September. Some decline is normal in that period, as tourists leave and salmon fishermen put up their nets, but other factors made the job

picture much worse.

Employment cuts across Alaska have mounted monthly since late 2015, leading to four straight quarters of job decline as Alaska remains mired in recession with the nation's worst unemployment rate.

The oil and gas sector was particularly hammered in the three-month period, according to the report. The industry employed 3,640 fewer jobs compared to third quarter 2015, a 26 percent drop.

While health care and tourism-related jobs were once again bright spots, the loss of higher-paying petroleum positions drained other sectors as oil companies thinned their ranks of contractors and workers spent less at restaurants and shops.

The state expects to see the oil and gas

Apprenticeships: New programs aim to train Alaska workers amid tough job market. **A6**

losses slowing soon, in part because producers and explorers have already made giant cuts.

The industry's record employment of 14,800 jobs in March 2015 sagged to 11,700 positions in December, a preliminary estimate.

The industry averaged 8,000 jobs in the late 1990s, said Caroline Schultz, Labor economist.

"They are very dramatic losses and it's happened very quickly," she said. "But in the last five years we had very dramatic gains in the oil and gas industry."

Statewide, employment during the quarter

See A13, **JOB LOSSES**

Alaska average monthly jobs

All industries

Month	2015	2016	Change	Percent change
January	322,455	318,647	-3,808	-1.2
February	326,731	322,698	-4,033	-1.2
March	329,104	324,381	-4,723	-1.4
April	334,307	329,950	-4,357	-1.3
May	346,765	340,585	-6,180	-1.8
June	353,091	345,849	-7,242	-2.1
July	354,227	346,163	-8,064	-2.3
August	355,538	347,133	-8,405	-2.4
September	353,279	343,350	-9,929	-2.8

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Walker won't say if he voted for Trump but wants his help

New King Cove road and development of ANWR could be nearer for Alaska.

Nathaniel Herz
Alaska Dispatch News

Donald Trump's campaign and transition have proven politically vexing for Alaska's congressional delegation, which has faced tough questions about support for Cabinet appointees and Trump's divisive executive actions in his first 10 days in office.

But Gov. Bill Walker, a former Republican who won election as an independent working with the Alaska Democratic Party, never gave or withdrew an endorsement of Trump or Hillary Clinton. He won't say which candidate got his vote and so far has been careful about criticizing any of Trump's executive actions, including the one on immigration.

Instead, Walker says after two years of clashes over natural resource policies with former President Barack Obama that he's looking forward to working closely with Trump's appointees.

"Who I voted for is not as relevant as my relationship with the new administration," Walker said in an interview. "I know we're going to have a different opportunity with this administration than we did the last."

With Trump working alongside a Republican Congress, Alaska politicians are suddenly much closer to winning long-sought concessions from the federal

See A12, **WALKER**



LISA DEMER / Alaska Dispatch News

Isabelle Dymant has worked as a nontraditional classroom teacher in the Lower Kuskokwim School District and is one of a handful selected to be paid while going to college full-time to earn her teaching degree.

Kuskokwim schools make push to create homegrown teachers

Bethel-centered district invests \$500K to educate local staff to battle turnover at its 27 schools

Lisa Demer
Alaska Dispatch News

BETHEL — When teacher Isabelle Dymant found herself in front of a classroom of kindergartners five years ago, she felt nearly as much at a loss as the scared, crying children just starting school.

She came with skills and knowledge. She's a mother of seven and a fluent Yup'ik speaker. But she had no college degree, no regular teaching certificate, no teaching experience.

"I had to learn everything on my own. I didn't know what to do," Dymant says. With help from her teacher aide and a fellow teacher, she quickly grew more confident and

more comfortable. Yet she wanted more.

Now both Dymant and her employer, the Lower Kuskokwim School District, have sights on higher goals: college.

The Bethel-based school district wants a certified teacher in every classroom and expects to spend \$500,000 to support those in college this budget year alone. It's the latest configuration of a long-standing effort across Alaska to create more homegrown teachers and address a worsening teacher shortage.

Dymant, who taught four years at Bethel's Yup'ik immersion school, is one of the first to plunge in. At 45, she

is a full-time college student.

The district not only covers her bills at its partner college, University of Alaska Fairbanks, it also pays her salary so she can concentrate on her studies. She was one of a handful of associate teachers selected for the new program.

"We're putting a big investment into our people," said Josh Gill, director of personnel and student services for the district.

Urban school districts like Anchorage's generally only hire certified teachers. But in the Lower Kuskokwim district, dozens of classroom

See A12, **RURAL TEACHERS**

Trump officials move to restore travel ban

Meanwhile, some people from listed countries try for U.S.

Mark Landler
The New York Times

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — The Trump administration moved Saturday night to appeal a U.S. District Court ruling that blocked the president's immigration order, setting the stage for a legal showdown over his authority to tighten the nation's borders in the name of protecting Americans from terrorism.

Cabinet: Trump's team tries to gain a sense of order amid missteps, **A8**

Travel ban: Judge's stay of Trump order triggers race to enter US, **A8**

The brief notice of appeal came after a chaotic day in which the government complied with the district court's ruling by allowing the entry of refugees and travelers from seven predominantly Muslim nations, even as President Donald Trump unleashed a fusillade of criticism at the ruling and the judge who had issued it.

At airports around the world, small numbers of travelers from the previously banned countries began venturing trips to the United States, knowing that the judge's ruling could be overturned at any time. The State Department reversed its cancellation of visas for people from the seven affected countries — Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen — and aid groups scrambled to take advantage of what they acknowledged might be a brief window for refugees to enter the United States.

See A10, **IMMIGRATION**

ALASKA LIFE JUNEAU CRIBS

From apartments to boats — take a look at how lobbyists, legislators and aides live in one of the nation's smallest capitals. **D1**



FOOD 'TIS THE SEASON FOR QUESO FUNDIDO

Nothing kicks off game day better than a big skillet bubbling with cheese and spiked with chilies. **D4**



SPORTS FOR ALASKANS, THE JOURNEY TO D-1 FOOTBALL FOLLOWS MANY PATHS, **B1**

NATION REPUBLICAN-LED CONGRESS HURRIES TO SLASH OIL AND GAS REGULATIONS, **A11**



