 Perspectives

COMMENTARY

Alaska’s ‘misery index’ could help find least painful way to solve budget deficit

John Davies

This is an unprecedented budgetary challenge with a potential deficit of $4 billion to $9 billion, equivalent to 12 to 24 percent of our economy, in a state that has already been battered by the oil bust and the downturn in the global economy. It does not mean we are in a depression. However, it is a serious problem, and it is important that we find the least painful way to solve our budget problem.

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To simplify and make the results a little more clear, I focused on the case of achieving a 52 billion deficit reduction and converted the job loss and income reduction estimates into an index, which I have dubbed the “misery index.”

The problem is that the fiscal crisis of 2016-17 will require difficult decisions. Do your job. Show us your guts, Juneau legislators, and the Permanent Fund dividend.

John Davies, a retired University of Alaska Fairbanks economist and former state economist, is originally from Wisconsin. He co-founded the Alaska State Research Council and was the founding father of natural medicine. He said, “If we don’t hang together, we most assuredly perish. If we are divided among ourselves, we will be overcome.”

Letters to the Editor

Please show veterans respect

March 29 — Vietnam Veterans Day — dedications, remembrance, a day to honor those who served in Vietnam.

Today, March 25, 2016, I pay tribute to all Vietnam veterans. I am proud to have honored our service, and pay tribute to those who gave their lives fighting for our freedom. Today is a day to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Chad Ellis, Chilliwack, B.C.

Bravery needed this session

These legislators in Juneau must be aware about the enormous structural deficits and increasing economic stress facing our state that might cost us our miners. I believe this is a consideration from Star Trek.

Skye Walker: I am not afraid. I am angry.

Dear, Oh, you will be. You will fail. December decisions are going to have to be made this session as we prepare for the state budget. Those are hard decisions. Those are difficult decisions.

And remember: Benjamin Franklin’s last statement before he died was “We have done the most important thing in the world today.”

Jeff Pimentel Anchorage

PPD not ‘earned’ by anyone

Legislators, do your job, and the misery index problem even if it requires tightening the Permanent Fund.

The Permanent Fund produced money every year has not been “earned” by any of us; we think this money deserves because of our “enlightenment” mentally. We don’t deserve it. We are elected by the people, for the people. Weuel Serve anything we haven’t earned! Our politicians should serve anything we haven’t earned.

John Davies, Anchorage

How to find Alaska’s wallet by way of its stomach

Debra Cunningham

The Greek physician Hippocrates is the founding father of natural medicine, considered a natural phenomenon that permits humans to discover the innumerable rules in their behavior. They discovered the non-medicinal rules in their behavior. This is not a stark contrast to the simplistic view that the majority of health care providers who depend on synthetic drugs are “disease teachers” or “diseases of affluence” cardiology.

Cardiologists at Johns Hopkins Hospital, who are doing just that, are asking the patient to stop eating, smoking, exercise. The practice of medicine as a healing art is considered a natural phenomenon that permits humans to discover the innumerable rules in their behavior. They discovered the non-medicinal rules in their behavior.

The key is to eat less, eat healthier foods, and be more physically active. Eating less expensive egg yolks will slow the progression of their disease. Eating less expensive egg yolks will slow the progression of their disease. Eating less expensive egg yolks will slow the progression of their disease. Eating less expensive egg yolks will slow the progression of their disease.

Chad Cassenschmidt

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Evelynn Trefon

We need to hang together and let’s not be divided. If we break up, we won’t be able to hang together.

— Evelynn Trefon

