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June 2024 Volume 52, Number 6



# THE ALASKA MINER

Journal of the Alaska Miners Association

## Summer 2024!



Juneau Gold Rush Days is June 22-23. See inside for all events AMA is covering this summer!



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# A Message from the Executive Director

## Dear AMA Members and Friends,

We're in our 85th summer as your Alaska Miners Association! It's surreal to think that our association is older than our state, but just as meaningful today as it was in 1939.

We greet each dawn and salute each sunset working to protect, defend and advocate for the Alaska mining industry, while educating and connecting our Alaska miners and mining families.

We really are a family business. From Nome to Ketchikan, there are hundreds of second and even third generation Alaska miners doing what we do best — explore, plan, develop and produce what America and Alaska need to power our economy and protect our freedom.

We've got plans for 85th Anniversary celebrations include another epic convention in the fall — more on that in the coming months. For now, we are back in the field and even with 22 hours of daylight, it's going to be hard to squeeze in work and play and fill the freezers!

Elsewhere in this Journal you'll see a list of the many events we'll be participating in on behalf of AMA. There is no way to overstate the importance of meeting in person with regular Alaskans at all these fun events with a smile on our face and a story to tell.

Nobody comes to a state fair just to learn more about mining, not even me (it's for the food, obviously.). But when we've got tens of thousands of regular hardworking Alaska families together, it's a perfect time to greet them, show them our samples and products, and gently remind them of the huge economic benefits that mining delivers in Alaska, while paying millions back to the state for that right.

These Alaska families appreciate that mining contributes not just jobs but lessens the taxes and fees they have to pay for everything else.

It's important they understand key facts



about Alaska mining we can proudly share.

In our most recent 2022 analysis, Alaska's \$4.5 billion mining industry provided:

- 11,400 total direct and indirect jobs attributed to Alaska mining industry.
- Charitable contributions to more than 280 Alaska nonprofits.
- \$4.5 million in contributions.
- \$800,000 to civic, business, and industry organizations in Alaska through sponsorship and membership fees.
- Over \$2.7 million contributed to the University of Alaska and vocational schools to support education in Alaska.
- 73 percent of workers at the six large mines are Alaska residents.
- Mining employees live in about 90 communities throughout Alaska.

And the potential to grow those employment numbers with exploration and new mines being considered is incredible:

- The Graphite Creek project, north of Nome, is expected to create 370 production jobs.
- Livengood, just north of Fairbanks, will also create about 330 mining jobs.
- Donlin Gold in Southwest Alaska is expected to require about 1,000 workers during its operations.
- Pebble in Southwest Alaska would require an operations labor force of about 850.
- The Upper Kobuk projects in the Ambler

Mining District in Northwest Alaska, are expected to employ about 450 people during its operations.

■ And Manh Choh starts its full production this summer! This will add hundreds of mining jobs to our industry and continue the important economic engine of the Fort Knox mill in Fairbanks.

AMA, along with Alaska Metal Mines, is working with McKinley Group to finalize our report on the 2023 economic date. Watch for the Economics Benefits of Mining in Alaska, coming soon in your summer Alaska Miner Magazine, as well as online at [www.alaskaminers.org/economic-benefits](http://www.alaskaminers.org/economic-benefits).

Please join us this summer at any (or all) of these great events:

**June 22-23:** Gold Rush Days in Juneau

**July 25-28:** Southeast Alaska State Fair in Haines

**Aug. 17:** Mining Day at Alaska State Fair

**Sept. 24-26:** MinExpo International in Las Vegas, Nev.

A number of branch meetings will take place this summer as well — please watch our website under events/branch meetings to stay informed of meetings in your branch.

Also please, please, I beg you, to share your stories with us, at work and play! As you are working and playing this summer in the field, please snap some photos and share them, along with the details, with us at AMA. We especially love to show Alaska miners working hard and enjoying wild adventures outside — send us your memories throughout this summer!

And in the words of our great Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens: "Get Out and Play!"

**Deantha Skibinski,  
Executive Director**

The Alaska Miner is the official journal of the Alaska Miners Association, published eight times a year exclusively to our members. It is published in partnership with the Alaska Miners Association by Fireweed Strategies LLC, 4849 Potter Crest Circle, Anchorage, AK 99516.

We actively seek contributions from our members and the mining industry. Please email story ideas and photos to Lee Leschper.

### Advertising Rates and New Tips

For advertising information, or to submit news, story ideas and photos, call or email Lee Leschper at 907-957-6025 or [Lee.Leschper@FireweedStrategies.com](mailto:Lee.Leschper@FireweedStrategies.com)

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Mike Satre and JP Tangen, Federal Oversight

Blake Bogart and Dave Larimer, State Oversight





# JUNEAU GOLD RUSH — days —

## 2024 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

June 22-23 • 8AM - 6PM

### SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Vendor Tent 8AM - 5PM  
Raffle Sales 8AM - 5PM  
Bouncy House 11AM - 5PM  
Kid's Carnival 1PM - 3PM  
Gold Panning 1PM - 3PM

### SATURDAY

REGISTRATION OPENS ..... 8AM

OPENING CEREMONY ..... 9AM

MINING EVENTS ..... 9:30AM

Jackleg Drilling  
Women's Spike Driving  
Men's Spike Driving  
Women's Hand Mucking  
Men's Hand Mucking  
12B Overshot Mucking  
Team Drilling

KID'S & TEEN'S EVENTS ..... 1PM

Kid's Hand Mucking  
Teen Spike Driving  
Teen Hand Mucking

BEER GARDEN ..... 1PM

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LIVE MUSIC ..... 4PM

Featuring One Eye Open

CLOSING TIME ..... 6PM

See you tomorrow!

### SUNDAY

REGISTRATION OPENS ..... 8AM

LOGGING EVENTS ..... 8:30AM

Women's & Men's Axe Throwing  
Women's & Men's Team Hand Bucking  
Coed Team Hand Bucking  
Women's & Men's Stock Power Saw Bucking  
Women's & Men's Speed Climbing  
Men's Vertical Chopping  
Women's Choker Setter Race  
Team Choker Setter & Hook Tender Relay  
Women's & Men's Obstacle Pole Buck  
Women's Horizontal Chopping  
Women's & Men's Log Rolling  
Miners vs. Loggers Tug-of-War

KID'S & TEEN'S EVENTS ..... 1PM

Kid's Choker Setter Race  
Teen Choker Setter Race

BEER GARDEN ..... 1PM

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LIVE MUSIC ..... 3PM

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AWARD CEREMONY

See you in 2025!

— For more information visit [juneaugoldrushdays.com](https://juneaugoldrushdays.com) —

*Schedule may be subject to change*

## Juneau Gold Rush Days!

Juneau Gold Rush Days is a two-day celebration that pays homage to two important industries that helped shape Alaska — mining and logging. Make plans to join the event at Savikko Park on Douglas, Alaska, to celebrate the past, present and future of Alaska's resources!

Juneau Gold Rush Days includes delicious food, local vendors, gold panning, live music, a beer garden and activities for the whole family. Learn more about the mining and logging industries by watching or participating in competitions featuring mining-specific events such as jackleg drilling, spike driving, and hand mucking, and logging events, like axe throwing, speed climbing, hand bucking, and log rolling. There are skills competitions for kids, teens and adults!

Juneau Gold Rush Days, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, and the free annual event is only possible through the generous support of our community. We are grateful to our many sponsors, board members, and volunteers that help make the event happen each year. If you or your business are interested in getting involved, please email us at [juneaugoldrushdays@gmail.com](mailto:juneaugoldrushdays@gmail.com).

We hope to see you June 22-23 at Savikko Park on Douglas, Alaska, for the 32nd annual Juneau Gold Rush Days!

*Visit [juneaugoldrushdays.com](http://juneaugoldrushdays.com) for more information.*

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## AMA Members Participate in Sustainable Energy Conference



AMA Executive Director Deantha Skibinski moderated a panel on “Sustainable Sourcing: the Role of Alaska in the Critical Minerals Supply Chain” with a presentation by DGGs Director and State Geologist Melanie Werdon and a roundtable discuss with Werdon, Mike Satre with Hecla, Cal Craig with Ambler Metals, and Mike Schaffner with Graphite One.

In May, the Governor’s Alaska Sustainable Energy Conference provided a strong focus on the critical role that mining, and minerals will play in any move to more sustainable energy sources.

This is the third year of this event, intended to join visionaries, researchers, policymakers, and investors from across the world as the energy transition unfolds and emerging technologies advance.

The vision is that Alaska is both a current energy producer, and the best place on earth to explore the future of energy. Alaska has more sustainable energy potential than nearly any place on earth.

Alaska is home to established commercial scale wind, solar and hydro; it’s serving as a proving

ground for tidal and micronuclear power; and the state is advancing an LNG project that will displace coal, reduce global emissions by at least 77 million tons, and has the potential to unlock blue and green hydrogen fuel.

With its challenging climate and hundreds of remote communities unconnected to traditional infrastructure, Alaska is also a world leader in microgrid deployment where renewable energy sources are being integrated even north of the Arctic Circle. The state has the ability to capture and sequester gigatons of carbon and has every one of the 50 critical minerals identified as key to the energy transition.



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# AMA Members Participate in Sustainable Energy Conference



AMA President Lorali Simon, with Usibelli Coal Mine, was on The Realities and Potential for Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage panel in May at the Alaska Sustainable Energy Conference. The third annual event, hosted by Gov. Mike Dunleavy, brings together experts, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, investors and researchers from across the energy spectrum in Alaska.



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Gov. Mike Dunleavy and Alberta's premier Danielle Smith discuss the challenges and opportunities for new sustainable energy in both Alaska and Canada during the governor's recent conference.

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**By Shane Lasley, North of 60 Mining News**

Graphite One Inc. President and CEO Anthony Huston was among a select group of industry leaders in attendance when President Joe Biden rolled out his plan to levy heavy tariffs on a wide range of goods from China, including natural graphite.

“I was honored to represent everyone at Graphite One in the meeting with President Biden,” said Huston. “We appreciate his support for the renewable energy transition and G1 is excited to continue pushing forward to create a secure 100 percent U.S.-based supply chain for natural and synthetic graphite.”

As the single largest ingredient in the lithium-ion batteries powering electric vehicles and storing renewable energy, graphite is essential to the clean energy transition. Analysts forecast that the demand for graphite will top 5 million metric tons per year by 2030. This is more than three times the 1.6 million metric tons mined globally during 2023, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

As the primary anode ingredient, graphite makes up around 28 percent of all the materials in lithium-ion batteries for EVs and clean energy storage.

There are currently no graphite mines in the U.S., and

domestic graphite processing is still in its earliest stages. This makes America’s clean energy supply chains heavily reliant on China, which accounted for 77 percent of all mined graphite and 90 percent of graphite anode materials produced globally in 2023.

To help make graphite mined and processed in the U.S. competitive with China, President Biden announced plans to increase the tariffs on natural graphite imported from China from 0 to 25 percent in 2026.

The import levies on graphite are one component of a larger package of tariffs aimed at shielding American businesses from China’s unfair trade practices.

As the White House rolls out its heavy tariffs on China, which also include 25 percent tariffs on lithium-ion batteries, which will be phased in over the coming two years, and 100 percent tariffs on EVs beginning this year, Graphite One is advancing its plans to establish an all-American graphite supply chain.

This supply chain would begin with a mine at Graphite Creek, a western Alaska project that hosts the largest known graphite deposit in the U.S. and one of the largest in the world, as well as a processing and recycling plant in Ohio that would produce the advanced graphite material

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# Graphite One's Strategy Supported By Department of Defense

needed for lithium-ion batteries and other products.

Graphite One's strategy is being supported by the Department of Defense, which awarded the company a \$37.5 million grant last year to complete a feasibility study for its envisioned supply chain plans by the end of this year.

"As we near completion of the FS, we can now say that DoD's support has cut about two years off of our initial feasibility study timeline," said Huston.

Graphite One's plans to develop a mine at Graphite Creek got another boost with the recent announcement that domestic mining projects that would produce graphite, lithium, cobalt, nickel, and other minerals and metals critical to the energy transition are eligible for U.S. Department of Energy loan guarantees.

Under the Title 17 Clean Energy Financing Program, DOE's Loan Programs Office can finance clean energy projects in the U.S. While this includes clean energy infrastructure, it did not specify mining projects.

It has now been clarified that "projects that increase the domestically produced supply of critical minerals" needed for the clean energy transition are eligible for the \$72 billion of loan guarantees available under Title 17.



Photo Courtesy Graphite One

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## Congratulations to the Newest MAPTS Graduates!



The Mining and Petroleum Training Service (MAPTS) program celebrated a graduation in April at its Mine Training Center. The MAPTS program is an immersive experience in which students go through a mining boot camp. They have the option to master both surface and underground training, and safety is always the top priority, with instructors bringing decades of experience from all over the state. What makes these graduation ceremonies so special is that the students lead tours of the facility and showcase what they've learned.

Photos Courtesy Kinross Alaska





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## Coeur Alaska Kensington Mine Rescue Team Earns National Honors




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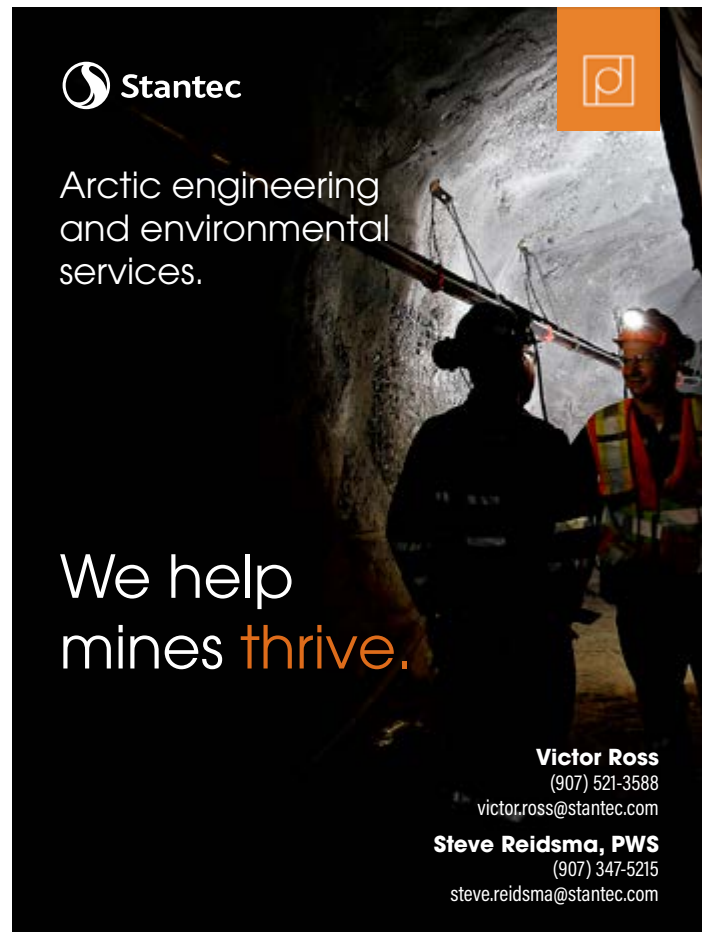
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The Coeur Alaska Kensington Mine Rescue Team recently placed first in Medical and third in Field in the Central Mine Rescue Competition in Kellogg, Idaho. Congratulations to the team for highlighting the skilled professionals in Alaska mining!



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# Coeur Alaska Kensington Mine Celebrates Earth Day With Cleanup



The Coeur Alaska Kensington Mine celebrated Earth Day with a site-wide spring-cleaning event. The mine's dedicated team came together to keep the mine site well-kept, preserving the beauty of the Southeast Alaska environment. The mine would like to say a big thank you to everyone who participated!



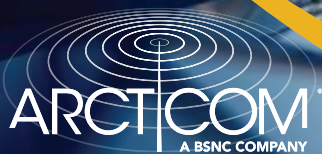




Photos Courtesy Coeur Alaska Kensington Mine

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A large drilling rig is shown at night, illuminated by its own lights. The rig is positioned on a dark, possibly snow-covered, surface. In the background, the aurora borealis (Northern Lights) is visible, displaying vibrant green and blue hues against a dark sky. The company logo, 'RUEN DRILLING Incorporated', is prominently displayed at the top of the image, with 'RUEN' in a large, bold, serif font, 'DRILLING' in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font, and 'Incorporated' in a smaller, italicized, sans-serif font. The logo is flanked by two large, white, curved lines that resemble stylized parentheses or wings.

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# Matson Helps Veterans Make Successful Transition to Civilian Life

Matson has partnered with the U.S. Army to ease the transition from military life to civilian life. In a March ceremony at the Don Young Port of Anchorage, Matson signed a Memorandum of Agreement to participate in the Partnership for Your Success (PaYS) program. PaYS is a strategic collaboration between the Army and a cross section of private industry, academia and public sector agencies. The program guarantees soldiers and ROTC cadets five job interviews and possible employment after their service is complete.

"We are all aware that there is a shortage of skilled workers both here in Alaska and along the West Coast and we know from experience that ex-military folks make great employees and team members," said Jennifer Tungul, Vice President of Alaska operations for Matson.

The Army says oldiers who participate in the program "gain leadership, valuable professional and technical skills , experience, and can feel confident in their career opportunities with their five chosen PaYS partners. "Partnering with the Army through the PaYS program is a 'win-win' opportunity for everyone involved."

Tungul said it was her employees who came up with the idea of becoming part of the the PaYS program. "We have

several veterans in our Anchorage operation who know the caliber of those who are part of our country's Armed Forces. Several of them toured the Alaska National Guard's facilities where they identified many similarities that would make for a seamless transition with minimal training.

"We are excited about this new partnership and look forward to a long — and mutually beneficial relations. One that feeds us well-trained, highly skilled employees in exchange for a good job with a great company," she said. "And when this program proves as successful as we know it will, we look forward to taking it to other Matson locations."

The PaYS program began in 2000 as an enlistment incentive for regular Army enlisted soldiers. In October 20002, it expanded to include Army Reserve solders and later Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) cadets, ROTC cadets who incur an active duty commitment, Officer Candidate School, Warrant Officer Flight Training and the Army National Guard.

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The AMA Annual Convention and Trade Show will be held Nov. 4-7, 2024, at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage.

Make your plans now! There are many ways you can make the most of the largest mining event in Alaska:

## **Book your Trade Show Booth!**

The Trade Show runs Tuesday – Thursday and is the best way to reach Alaska's mining industry to showcase your products and services. Keynote Luncheons and other networking events are held in the Trade Show to ensure maximum exposure. We are rapidly selling these booths and the show will fill up. Considering bringing your heavy equipment too!

## **Sponsor the Convention!**

We have many sponsorship opportunities to fit your needs and budget. Your sponsorship not only helps us underwrite this event, but it also supports AMA's mission year round.

If you are looking for unique sponsorship opportunities or have any questions, please contact Jennifer Luiten. Signup forms can be found on our website at: [www.alaskaminers.org](http://www.alaskaminers.org).

## **Submit a Talk Proposal/Suggestion**

If you have ideas or requests for a topic to be covered in the Technical Sessions and other presentations, please submit via email to [teller](mailto:teller).

[steve@outlook.com](mailto:steve@outlook.com) and [deantha@alaskaminers.org](mailto:deantha@alaskaminers.org)

There is so much in store for us this November — we are looking forward to seeing you!

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Please support and thank these companies who have renewed their support and corporate membership in AMA. Their continued support makes possible all the work we do in and for the mining industry.

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## New and Renewing Members

Thank you to all the AMA corporate and individual members who joined or renewed their membership to the association in March and April. You make AMA possible!

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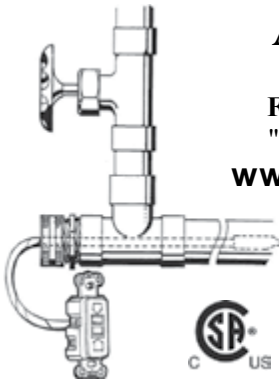
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Winter 2023  
Volume 51 Number 1

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- Alaska Mining Tops \$4.6 Billion
- 2022 AMA Award Winners
- Biden Closes Tongass (Again)
- EPA Preemptively Vetoes Pebble Project

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## Alaska Mining Calendar

- **June 20:** ARE Anchorage Coal Classic Golf Tournament
- **June 22-23:** Gold Rush Days, Juneau
- **July 25-28:** Southeast Alaska State Fair, Haines
- **July 11:** ARE Fairbanks Coal Classic Golf Tournament
- **Aug. 4:** AMA's 85th Anniversary
- **Aug. 17:** Mining Day at the Alaska State Fair, Palmer
- **Sept. 24-26:** MineEXPO International, Las Vegas, Nev.; [www.minexpo.com](http://www.minexpo.com)
- **Nov. 4-8:** Annual Convention and Trade Show, Anchorage
- **Dec. 2-6:** American Exploration & Mining Association Annual Meeting, Location TBD

## AMA Branch Meetings


- AMA's eight statewide branches hold meetings either weekly or monthly throughout the year, featuring roundtables of agency updates elected officials, and presentations. Branches frequently break for summer - please visit AMA's website to see the most up to date information on branch meetings.
- AMA Statewide Zooms are adjourned for the summer!



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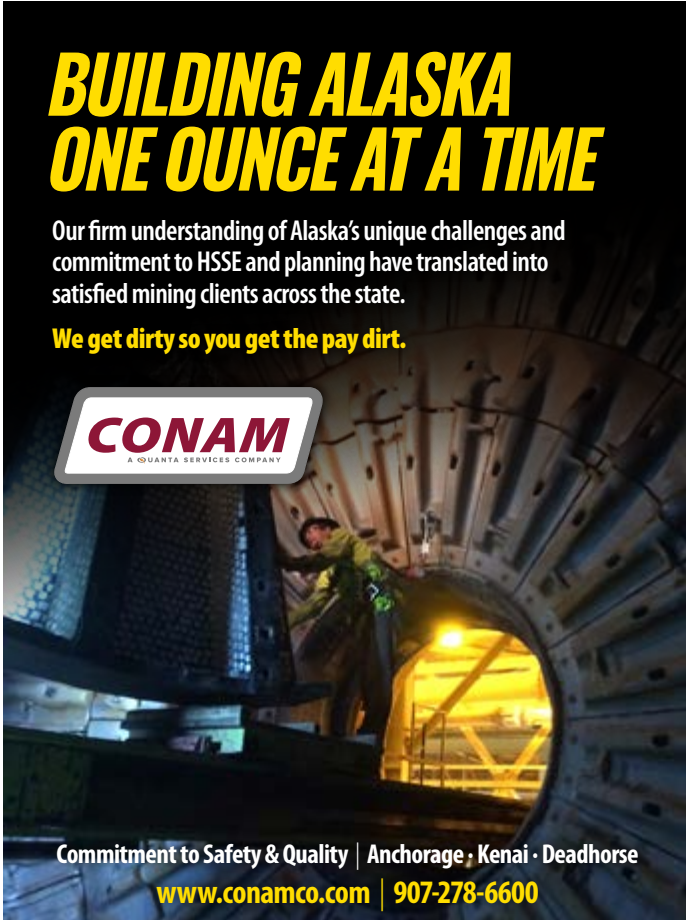
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