



July 29 – August 2, 2026
Valdez, Alaska

64th Annual Valdez Gold Rush Days

July 29 - August 2, 2026

You can reach us at:

ValdezGoldRushDays@gmail.com

www.ValdezGoldRushDays.org

Valdez Gold Rush Days

PO Box 1393

Valdez, AK 99686



Gold Rush Store Hours

Tue | 2PM - 6PM

Wed & Thr | 2PM - 8PM

Fri | 10AM - 10PM

Sat | 10AM - 8PM

Sun | 12PM- 5PM*

**closed during the Parade (12:30 - 1:30PM)*

2026 King & Queen

Ann & Kipp Norris

As the granddaughter of Matanuska Valley colonists and a Palmer High School graduate, Ann is Alaska Grown from the other side of Chugach Range. Her parents, Bob and Gayle Rowland, raised their family of four boys and one girl, teaching them gardening, hunting, and fishing and being grateful to God who provided these things. One of her first jobs was gardening at the Alaska State Fairgrounds. She graduated from Whitworth College in Spokane, where she majored in Biology and met Kipp.

Kipp, son of Frank and Treva Norris, grew up on a small farm in Springdale, Washington. His dad was a logger by day, and farmer during evenings and weekends. His mom volunteered relentlessly and worked as a paraprofessional at the elementary school. Kipp grew up doing chores, shooting squirrels, fishing, building fence, putting up hay, and mostly following his parents' instructions. In school, he played football, baseball, and basketball. He attended Whitworth College in Spokane, where he trained to become a teacher. Kipp taught school in Lone, Oregon for one year, then in Wilson Creek, Washington for four years. It was during those four years he met Ann and began to consider looking North to the Future.

Kipp and Ann first visited Valdez together in the summer of 1988 – and only for a couple of hours. They drove down from Fairbanks on a sunny August day to pick up Ann's brother, who zipped over from Cordova on a Boston Whaler so he could be married on the following Saturday. On that beautiful sunny August day, neither of them had any idea that in just three years, Valdez would become their much-loved and long-standing hometown.

Kipp and Ann moved to Valdez during the fall of 1991, just before school started, as Kipp's Social Studies teaching position at George H. Gilson Junior High School was the job that drew them here. By the next school year, Ann was hired to teach science at Gilson Junior High. So, chances are, if you grew up in Valdez during the 1990's to the 2020's you have had Mr. or Mrs. Norris as a teacher.

Both Kipp and Ann love to call Valdez home. They count themselves fortunate to have raised four children (Hannah, Trevor, Rylee, and Sam) here, with the knowledge that this place abounds with fantastic opportunities for children. Whether it be academic challenge, school sports and activities, outdoor adventure, participation in church, vocational training, or summer jobs, Valdez is a resource-rich environment.

For fun, the Norris's cherish all the following: church family and friends, walking about town, time in coffee shops, time on the Queen Ann (boat), supporting school activities, time in his woodshop and with the sawmill (Kipp), and time in her sewing room (Ann).

Both Kipp and Ann are proud to be citizens of Valdez. They consider it a high honor to represent Valdez as King and Queen of Gold Rush Days and humbly hope people here recognize we share a special place in which to live and support one another.





Arrest Warrant

CanCan Girls

Jail & Bail Arrests



What do whining, sniveling, being overworked and underpaid, suspicious behavior, or just being too much fun have in common?

They're all grounds for arrest!

Have a friend (or foe) hauled off in the Gold Rush Hoosegow by purchasing an arrest warrant. Our CanCan Girls will track them down Wednesday through Friday afternoon, escort them to the Hoosegow, and hold them until bail is paid!

All in the name of good fun and a great cause!

Arrest warrants may be scheduled and paid using our online form or filled out at the Gold Rush Days Store until 1:30 PM Friday. Stop by for details or put someone behind bars!



Garter Sales

See a CanCan Girl? You're in luck!

Our CanCan Girls will be selling their signature homemade garters throughout Gold Rush Days. Every purchase helps support the event and the Gold Rush Days Scholarship Program.

While garters start at \$20, generous supporters have been known to pay as much as \$500 for a well-placed design.

Find your favorite, wear it with pride, and help keep this long-standing tradition going for the next generation.



Wednesday & Friday
10:00-11:00am
1230AM & 93.3FM
KVAK Radio App

Gold Rush Gabby Radio Show

We're spilling tea and dishing out details during the two-time Gold Rush Gabby Radio Show on KVAK Radio on Wednesday & Friday at 10AM.

Find out all you need to know about upcoming events straight from the coordinators!
You never know who might show up live in studio– so listen in!

Golden Opportunities Luncheon

Kick off the Annual Valdez Gold Rush Days with the Golden Opportunities Luncheon, the Royal Reunion, and the Golden Rock Awards!

Wednesday | 12:00–1:00pm
Prince William Sound College | 303 Lowe St
FREE* - All Ages



Celebrate the legacy of Gold Rush royalty, honor the community's dedicated gardeners, enjoy performances by the Cancan Girls and Little Kickers, and soak in the spirit of summer in Valdez. Each year residents work hard to beautify their homes, gardens, and businesses in hopes of earning a prestigious Golden Rock Award.

**Donations to the Jesse & Maxine Whitney Museum are appreciated*



Golden Rock Awards

The Golden Rock program is dedicated to promoting and acknowledging the beautification of Valdez through the fine art of gardening. Categories are open to Residential & Businesses. Entries will be judged in: plant health, garden/plant maintenance, creativity, originality, and overall impression.

Nominees will be judged in one of these categories:

- Beds & Borders
- Container or Patio
- Kid-Grown
- Overall Residential Landscaping
- Business Beautification
- Garden-to-Table Business
- Harbor Blooms
- The Karen Stewart Award for Beginning Gardener.

The Golden Rock Awards is lovingly dedicated to the memory of our founding gardener, Karen Stewart.

The Award Ceremony will be held at the Golden Opportunities Luncheon Kickoff Event

Hoosegow Ride/Tour of Old Town Homes

Wednesday | 1:00 pm—2:00 pm
Beginning at the Golden Opportunities Luncheon
FREE— All Ages



Hop on board the Hoosegow with the Valdez Museum and take a tour of Historic Buildings around town! These buildings were relocated to New Town from Old Town after the Great Alaska Earthquake in 1964!

Space on the Hoosegow is limited. The tour will begin immediately following the Golden Opportunities Luncheon. The Hoosegow will depart for the tour from PWSC and end at the Old Town Valdez Museum.

Ice Cream Social

Wednesday | 4:00pm-6:00pm
Valdez Senior Center | 1109 Meals Ave
FREE— All Ages



Cool down with a timeless tradition at the
Ice Cream Social!

Join our cherished elders at the Valdez Senior Center (behind the hospital) for a sweet treat, music, & dancing from the CanCan Girls & Little Kickers. Come early! Ice Cream goes fast!



Wine Glass Painting

Wednesday | 6:00 pm—8:00 pm
Growler Bay Brewery
All Ages
\$35 - Registration Required; scan the code



Start your Wet-Yer-Whistle Walk a little early!

Paint your own commemorative wine glass at Growler Bay Brewery, then bring it along for the Wet-Yer-Whistle walk on Friday! Register for both events and receive a special discount at checkout. Only 20 seats available, so reserve yours today.

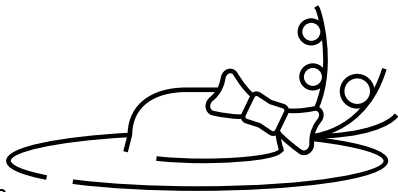
SCAN
ME!



Gold Rush Hat Making

Wednesday | 6:00pm-8:00pm
First Baptist Church | 360 Klutina St
All Ages

\$20-40 | *Includes all materials; depends on hat type*



Polish off your Gold Rush look with the perfect hat! Whether you're dreaming of a traditional Marie Blood masterpiece or a fascinator adorned with feathers and flowers, we'll have everything you need to create a one-of-a-kind Gold Rush hat.

It's the perfect finishing touch for any costume... or simply a fun keepsake to wear all weekend long!

Prices vary by hat style and embellishments.

Guided Old Town Walking Tours



Thursday | 12:00 pm—1:30 pm (Guided)
Meet at the Valdez Museum on Egan at 11:45 AM
FREE— All Ages (easy 1.5 mile walk; ground level)

Take a walk through history with a guided Old Town Walking Tour on Thursday from 12:00pm—1:30pm. The group will meet at the Valdez Museum on Egan, and travel together to Old Town. Once on site, the tour will begin at the corner of Alaska Ave and the Richardson Hwy and is presented by the Valdez Museum & Historical Archive.

Can't make it Thursday? Enjoy a self-guided tour at your own pace. with the Virtual Old Town Walking Tour: a mobile-friendly experience which brings Old Town's story and the 1964 Earthquake to life. Launch the tour using this link: <http://tinyurl.com/OldTownTour>

CVT Family Field Day

Thursday | 5:30 pm—7:30 pm
Valdez High School Track
FREE— All Ages



Join Copper Valley Telecom for fun activities, including

Egg & Spoon Races (Solo)

3-Legged Races (Teams of 2)

Potato Sack Races (Solo)

Wheelbarrow Races (Teams of 2)

Leap Frog Races (Teams of 2)

Cup Stack Relay (Teams of up to 4)

Ballon Waddle (Solo)

Dizzy Dash (Solo)

Heel-Toe Walk (Solo)

Crab Walk Race (Solo)

The Far North Follies

Presents...



The End of the Road

Experience this original comedy written and performed by local talent, celebrating the humor, history, and unforgettable characters of Valdez.

When two stranded travelers find themselves snowed in during one of Valdez's legendary winter storms, they seek shelter in a remote cabin occupied by two locals. As supplies begin to dwindle, the unlikely foursome passes the time with colorful stories of Valdez history, local legends, and unforgettable characters. Along the way, enjoy music, laughter, surprise appearances, and of course, a visit from the Valdez CanCan Girls!

Join the Far North Follies for this uniquely Valdez variety show, where history and comedy come together for an entertaining performance.

Both Gold Rush Days performances are presented as actor benefit shows. There is no admission charge; instead, audience members are invited to make a donation, with all contributions going directly to the cast.

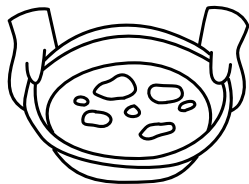
Thursday 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Sunday 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join us at Magpie's Corner on Galena

Kids' Gold Panning (Parks & Rec)

Thursday 5:00-7:30pm
Recreation Center| 414 Hanagita St.
Ages 5-17 - \$5



Strike it rich at Kids' Gold Panning!

This fun, hands-on activity gives kids the chance to learn how to pan for gold like a pro. Each participant will receive a bag of gold-rich pay dirt and be taught how to uncover hidden treasures. Whatever they find—gold or otherwise—they'll take home in their very own vial!

Important:

- Supplies are limited—pre-register online or in person to reserve your spot.
- Children 8 and under must be accompanied by an adult.
- Register at www.valdezak.gov/Register, visit valdeygolddrushedays.org for direct event link or scan the code above.

Gold Rush Days Trivia Night

Thursday 7:00-9:00pm
The Stampmill | 328 Egan Dr.

FREE - All Ages (but bring money for food & drinks)



Join a special edition of Trivia Night at The Stampmill! Test your general trivia knowledge alongside fun Gold Rush-era questions and a few quirky facts about Valdez Gold Rush Days.

The event is free to play, just bring your wallet for food & drinks from the restaurant (Beer & Wine available for ages 21+)

Kids' Dive for Gold (Parks & Rec)

Friday 2:00-4:00pm
VHS Small & Large Pools | 319 Robe River Dr..
FREE - Ages 5-17



Back is the popular Kids' Dive for Gold event at the VHS pool. This free event, hosted by Valdez Parks & Rec, has little ones (ages 8 & under) dive for gold trinkets at the bottom of the kiddie pool and kids ages 9 & up dive for their treasures in the large pool. Children 8 & younger must have proper adult supervision.

Pre-registration is highly encouraged: www.valdezak.gov/Register or scan the correct code by age.



Ages 3-5



Ages 6-8



Ages 9-12

Open Air Market with Live Music*

Friday | 5:00pm - 10:00pm

Saturday | 10:00am - 8:00pm

Sunday | 10:00am - 5:00pm

300 Egan Dr. & Galena Street

Stroll through the heart of Gold Rush Days at the
Open Air Market!

Browse dozens of vendors featuring hand crafted goods, artwork, jewelry, clothing, specialty foods, kids' activities, and much more. Stay awhile, enjoy live music, grab a bite to eat, and discover something new around every corner.



Beer & Wine Garden

Friday | 7:00pm – 10:00pm

180 Galena (next door to Locos Gringos)



Relax with a cold drink in the Beer & Wine Garden!
Enjoy beer, wine, and *exclusive** access to Friday night's live music in a 21+ atmosphere just steps from the Open Air Market.

Cash only. Must be 21 or older with valid ID.

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, July 29

KVAK's Gold Rush Gabby Radio Show		10:00 AM	KVAK 93.3 FM & 1230AM Streaming at KVAKRADIO.COM
Golden Opportunities Luncheon (Golden Rock Awards)		12:00 - 1:00 PM	Prince William Sound College (PWSC)
Hoosgow Ride & Tour of Old Town Homes		1:00 - 2:00 PM	Beginning at PWSC Ending at the Old Town Valdez Museum
Gold Rush Store	\$	2:00 - 8:00 PM	Tatitlek/Galena
Jail & Bail Warrants & Arrests by CanCan Girls	\$	2:00 - 4:30 PM	Around Town
Ice Cream Social		4:00 - 6:00 PM	Senior Center
Wine Glass Paint Night	\$	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Growler Bay Brewery
Hat Making	\$	6:00 - 8:00 PM	First Baptist Church

Thursday July 30

Old Town Guided Walking Tours		12:00 - 1:30 PM	Meet at the Valdez Museum on Egan at 11:45 AM
The End Of The Road Follies Show (actor benefit, donations welcome)		12:00 - 1:00 PM	Maggie's Corner on Galena
Jail & Bail Warrants & Arrests by CanCan Girls	\$	1:00 - 6:00 PM	Around Town
Gold Rush Store	\$	2:00 - 8:00 PM	Tatitlek/Galena
Kids Gold Panning		5:00 - 7:30 PM	Rec Center
CVT Family Field Day		5:30 - 7:30 PM	Valdez High School Track
Trivia Night		7:00 - 9:00 PM	The Stampmill

Friday July 31

KVAK's Gold Rush Gabby Radio Show		10:00 AM	KVAK 93.3 FM & 1230AM Streaming at KVAKRADIO.COM
Gold Rush Store	\$	10:00 - 10:00 PM	Tatitlek/Galena
Museum Lawn Games (Drop-In)		10:00 - 5:00 PM	Valdez Museum on Egan
Jail & Bail Warrants & Arrests by CanCan Girls	\$	11:00 - 2:00 PM & 3:00 - 5:00 PM	Around Town
Wet-Yer-Whistle Walk (Pick-up)	\$	12:00 - 1:00 PM	Next to the Gold Rush Store
Build-A-Boat & SUP Board/Kayak Jousting		1:00 - 3:00 PM	Ruth Pond
Kids Dive for Gold		2:00 - 4:00 PM	Valdez Swimming Pool

Schedule of Events

(Continued)

Friday July 31 (Continued)

Pie Eating, Salmon Toss, & Tug-of-War!		3:30 - 5:00 PM	Valdez Museum on Egan
Wet-Yer-Whistle Walk (pre-registration required)	\$	5:00 - 7:30 PM	Around Town
Open Air Market	\$	5:00 - 10:00 PM	Tatitlek/Galena
Elks Steak Night	\$	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Elks Lodge
Beer & Wine Garden with Live music	\$	7:00 - 10:00 PM	180 Galena St

Saturday, August 1

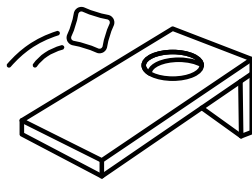
Open Air Market	\$	10:00 AM - 8:00 PM	Tatitlek/Galena
Gold Rush Store	\$	10:00 AM - 8:00 PM	Tatitlek/Galena
Splash-N-Dash Triathlon (pre registration available, morning registration onsite)		10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Valdez Swimming Pool
Dutch Oven Demo, Pastime Adventures, & More		11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	USFS Crooked Creek Information Site
Mad Hatter Tea Party		12:00 - 2:00 PM	Eagles Lodge
Jail & Bail Warrants & Arrests by CanCan Girls	\$	1:00 - 5:00 PM	Around Town
Pet-A-Palooza		2:00 - 3:00 PM	180 Galena St
Kids Scavenger Hunt		2:30 - 3:30 PM	Gold Rush Days Store
International Food Fair	\$	5:00 - 7:00 PM	Elks Lodge
Gold Rush DND Game		5:00 - 7:00 PM	180 Galena St
Carhartt, Blue Tarp, & Duct Tape Ball		6:00 - 9:00 PM	Valdez Brewing

Sunday August 2

Pioneers of Alaska Car Show		10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	CVT North Parking Lot
Open Air Market	\$	10:00 - 5:00 PM	Tatitlek/Galena
Gold Rush Store	\$	10:00 - 5:00 PM	Tatitlek/Galena
The End Of The Road Follies Show (actor benefit, donations welcome)		11:00 - 12:00 PM	Magpie's Corner on Galena
Gold Rush Days Parade		1:00 PM	Egan Drive
Alyeska & Edison Chouest Community BBQ		1:30 PM	Kelsey Dock Uplands
Grit Vs Glory Softball Scrimmage		3:30 PM	Hanagita T-Ball Field

Valdez Museum Lawn Games

Friday | 10:00am-5:00pm
Valdez Museum | 217 Egan Dr
FREE- All Ages | DROP-IN EVENT (all day)



Drop in throughout the day for family-friendly lawn games at the Valdez Museum! Enjoy giant bubbles, scavenger hunts, Gold Poke Toss, and more! Fun for all ages!

Build-A-Boat & Sup Board/Kayak Jousting



Friday 1:00-3:00pm
Ruth Pond.
FREE - All Ages

Watch creativity, determination, and buoyancy collide!



Cheer on teams as they race homemade cardboard boats across Ruth Pond, then stick around for the crowd-favorite SUP Board and Kayak Jousting. It's one of Gold Rush Days' most entertaining traditions...

And someone is almost guaranteed to end up in the water!

Pie Eating, Salmon Toss, & Tug-Of-War

Friday | 3:30pm-5:00pm
Valdez Museum | 217 Egan Dr
FREE- All Ages | DROP-IN EVENT (all day)



Join us during the Museum Lawn Games for Gold Rush favorites, including pie-eating contests, tug-of-war, and everyone's favorite... the Salmon Toss!

It's Valdez' answer to the classic egg toss... only fishier!!



Elks Steak Night

Friday | 6:00-8:00pm
Elks Lodge | 339 Fairbanks Dr
\$45/plate | All Ages

Stop by the Elks Lodge for Steak Night. Plates include Steak, potatoes, side salad, corn-on-the-cob, and a roll, and are sure to fill even the biggest appetite. Arrive early for this popular event!

Wet-Yer-Whistle Walk

Friday 5:00-7:30pm
Around Town
\$35 - \$45/ person
21+ only | registration required



Join the 2026 Wet-Yer-Whistle Walk on July 31 from 5-7:30PM. Stroll through central Valdez in your best Gold Rush finery as you stop at local watering holes & businesses for a special liquid treat. All participants will receive 5 drink tickets, which can be used for alcoholic & non-alcoholic beverages at participating bars, breweries, restaurants, and businesses. Based on the drink stop, you may receive a wine, beer, seltzer, cocktail, mocktail, espresso or ice cream float with your drink ticket. You are not limited to one drink at each stop, you can use multiple tickets at any location, but we encourage you to go to try out as many stops as your tickets allow!

TICKET OPTIONS:

- \$45 - Drink Tickets with 2026 Limited Edition Glass
only 175 sold!
- \$40 - Drink Tickets with Previous Year Glass
- \$35 - Drink Tickets Only

GLASS / TICKET PICK-UP: Gold Rush Days Store (across from Valdez Post Office) anytime on Friday, July 31 from 10AM - 5PM
NO ID IS NECESSARY FOR PICK-UP. You may also pick up or purchase glasses and tickets for other participants during pick-up times.

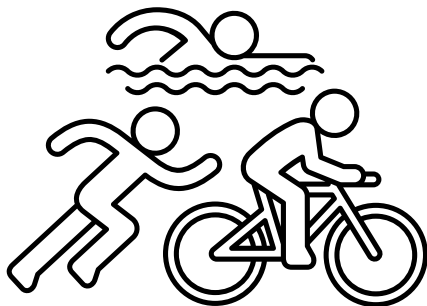
Tickets purchased include alcoholic or non-alcoholic drinks, which based by location. You can choose all liquor, a mix of alcohol and NA, or enjoy the event completely sober!

Must be 21 years or older to participate

PLEASE HAVE YOUR ID WITH YOU DURING THE ENTIRE EVENT
You will be carded at each drink location providing alcohol.

Splash-N-Dash Triathlon

Saturday | 10:00am-1:00pm
Valdez Swimming Pool
Ages 15+
pre-registration encouraged;
registration on site beginning
at 8:30am



Ready to swim, bike, and run your way through a fun and fast-paced challenge? Splash n Dash is a sprint triathlon designed for ages 15 and up, perfect for athletes of all levels looking to push themselves and have a blast!

Participants can compete solo or form a team of up to 3 people—each person can take on one leg of the race, or switch it up however you like!

REGISTER NOW



Dutch Oven Demo, Pastime Adventures, & More



Saturday | 11:00am-3:00pm
USFC Crooked Creek Information Site
FREE— All Ages | DROP-IN EVENT

Join the US Forest Service at Crooked Creek Information site (mile 0.5 on the Richardson Highway) for a step back in time! Rangers will conduct Dutch Oven Demonstrations as you experience yesteryear in the Chugach National Forest.

Mad Hatter Tea Party

Saturday 12:00-2:00pm
Eagles Lodge
FREE - All Ages



Enjoy an assortment of Teas and Treats with your friends and family! All ages are welcome to attend! Dress in your best tea party or Gold Rush attire.

Pet-A-Palooza

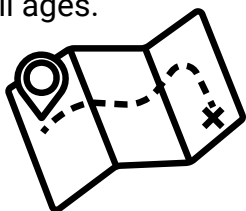
Saturday | 2:00pm-3:00pm
180 Galena
FREE - All Ages



Bring your favorite furry (or scaled) friend and join the fun at Pet-A-Palooza!

Hosted by the Friends of the Valdez Animal Shelter, this free community pet show welcomes friendly pets of all kinds for an afternoon of smiles, prizes, and friendly competition.

Whether you're showing off your beloved companion or cheering on the contestants, it's a tail-wagging good time for animal lovers of all ages.



Kids Scavenger Hunt

Saturday | 2:30pm-3:30pm
Gold Rush Days Store
FREE- All Ages

Hey kids! Get ready to hunt for gold & other cool treasures!! Bring your friends, because kids will divide into teams of 3.

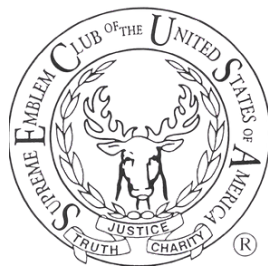
Each team needs a cell phone to capture a picture of 1 or more team members with each of the "scavenged" items.

Be at the Gold Rush Days Store by 2:30PM to participate in this fun activity.

Emblem Club's International

Food Fair

Saturday 5:00-7:00pm
Elks Lodge
Fundraiser
\$5 per serving - All Ages
This event is both dine-in or take-out



The annual International Food Fair is your opportunity to taste locally made food from many of the different ethnicities here in Valdez. Expect to taste dishes from Alaska, Italy, Thailand, Mexico, Hawaii, China, and more.

Make sure to save room for dessert!

Be sure to stop in for a few minutes to take a look at and bid in the Emblem Club's Annual Silent Auction!!



Valdez Gold Rush Days D&D Game

Saturday | 5:00pm-7:00pm
180 Galena St
All Ages

A quest for gold gone awry! The Dwarves of the Vale of Darz have dug too greedily and too deep, awakening ancient evils beneath the ground. It now falls to a ragtag group of brave heroes to descend into the mines to slay monsters and save the Vale! This Dungeons and Dragons session is suitable for 3-8 players ages 12+. Character sheets and dice will be provided; expect the quest to last approximately 2 hours.

Carhartt®, Blue Tarp, & Duct Tape Ball

Saturday | 6:00pm-9:00pm
Valdez Brewing
All Ages
*Brewery open for
normal business*

Get ready for one of the most creative
and entertaining events of Gold Rush Days!

Join us at Valdez Brewing for the Carhartt®, Blue Tarp, & Duct Tape Ball, where fashion meets ingenuity in true Alaska style. Participants will design and create their own formal ball attire using blue tarps and duct tape before the event, then debut their creations on the runway during an evening of fun, live music, and friendly competition.

Event Highlights:

- Live music throughout the evening
- Blue Tarp & Duct Tape Fashion Runway Show
- Prizes for Best Blue Tarp & Duct Tape Fashion
- Creative, over-the-top, and innovative designs encouraged
- Food, drinks, and Gold Rush Days festivities



Pioneers of Alaska Car Show

Sunday 10:30-12:30pm
CVT North Parking Lot.
FREE - All Ages



Classics, customs, specialty vehicles, and beloved beaters welcome. No entry fees or registration required! Just bring your vehicle, and park it! After the show, participants are welcome to line up down Hazelet to join the parade!

Stop by and learn more about how the Pioneers are helping preserve Alaska's history & community spirit!



SCAN HERE



Gold Rush Days Parade

Sunday | Line-up 12:30pm | Parade Starts 1:00pm
Down Egan Drive
FREE- All Ages

The official beginning of the end to the 2026 festivities is the good old fashioned Gold Rush Parade!

Join us on our traditional route down Egan Drive and watch our hometown pride shine! Parade to start at 1:00pm.

Parents, please help keep children safe by keeping them on the side of the road at all times.

*Registration in the Parade is FREE. **Deadline is 5PM Friday, July 31***
*Visit our website for details & online registration form**

Alyeska & Edison Chouest

FREE Community Picnic

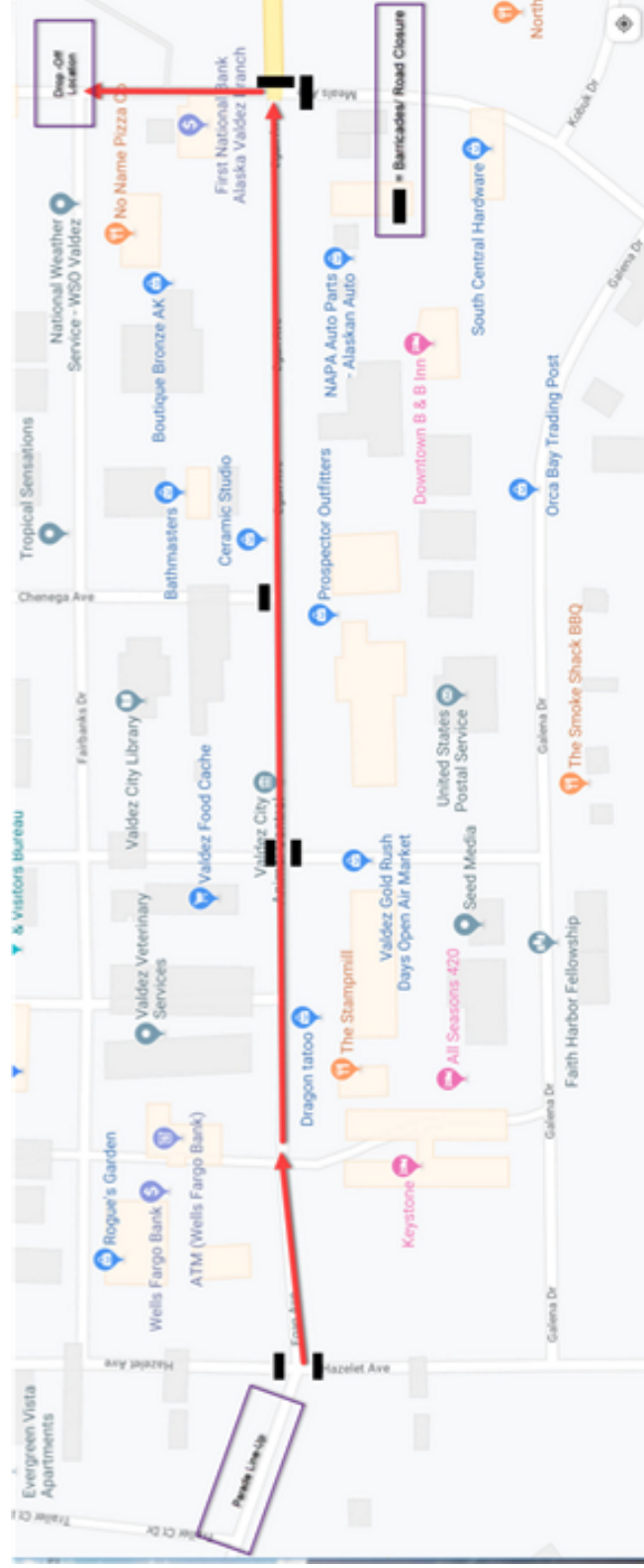
Sunday | 1:30-2:30
Kelsey Dock Plaza
FREE- All Ages



Residents and visitors are invited to the Kelsey Dock for hamburgers, hot dogs, and GUMBO, sponsored by Alyeska Pipeline and Edison Chouest Offshore!

Finish off your FREE meal, with cool, delicious ice cream sandwiches, served by Denali Universal Services!! We will also be announcing the Gold Rush Day Parade Winners at this event.

Parade Route



GOLD RUSH DAYS SOFTBALL

SCRIMMAGE



Wrap up Gold Rush Days with a softball scrimmage game pitting the U.S. Coast Guard team against a team of Locals!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

GAME STARTS AT 3:30 PM
AT THE HANAGITA T-BALL FIELD

Past Gold Rush Days Royalty

2025 Royalty Celebration	1998 Walt & Gloria Day
2024 Larry Kelone & Gigi Obren	1997 Judy Londo & Princess Krista Cameron
2023 Steve & Sara Irwin Goodreau	1996 Benny & Joyce James
2022 Laurie & Joe Prax	1995 John & Jane Tongen
20/21 Diane & Bobby Gibbs	1994 Tom & Gloria McAlister
2019 Jeff & Laura Saxe	1993 Bert Cottle & Jean Phillips
2018 Hazel Hill	1992 Fred & Kathy DiNicola
2017 Henry & Shannon Mahoney-Irish	1991 Arch Fry & Dorothy Clifton
2016 Bob & Sue Smith	1990 Emil & Dorothy Wegner
2015 Jim & Charlotte Shephard	1989 Clyde & Hallie Draine Ruhl
2014 Larry & Lynne Michaud	1988 Harold Williams & Cathlia Seagrave
2013 Jim & Donna Gifford	1987 John & LaRue Rogers
2012 Jerry Plaster	1986 Harmon & Shorty Hall
2011 Larry & Meg Weaver	1985 George & Judy Maykowskyj
2010 Phil & Trudy Koszarek	1984 Robert & Ann Kelsey
2009 Russ & Molly Palmer	1983 O.L. & Dorothy Crisp
2008 Dave & Joanne Winney	1982 Mac & Sheila MacDonald
2007 John Cerutti & Marie Blood	1981 Ed & Frances Walker
2006 Mike & Sue Britt	1980 Harvey & Delores Stelling
2005 Darwin & Mary Barrie	1979 Fran & Robert Larson
2004 Dan & Trish Stowe	1978 Monte & Enola Olds
2003 Donnie & Sue Blackburn	1977 Sid & Edith Moore
2002 Lori Saylor & Larry Hodges	1976 Clint "Truck" Egan & Oma Belle Day
2001 Lyle & Pat Von Bargaen	
2000 Lynn & Janese Chrystal	
1999 Linda Fleming & Bill Unfer	

The Story of Gold Rush Days

The year was 1962. Jerry Plaster, La Rue Rogers, and Enola "Shiny" Olds were sitting in the lobby of a hotel in Old Town Valdez, waiting to meet some soldiers for coffee. The girls were bored to the bone. There was nothing going on and nothing coming up, so they met with the soldiers then started planning what they could do to stir up some excitement in Old Town. After several pots of coffee, the group finally came up with a theme, and so Gold Rush Days in Valdez, Alaska was born.

Today, Valdez Gold Rush Days has non-profit 501(c)3 status; money earned from the festival events and raffle supports youth activities and community entities in Valdez. Donations in the past have gone to the Valdez Dance Company Booster Club, Valdez Torpedo's Swim Club, Connecting Ties, Youth Basketball League, KCHU, Advocates for Victims of Violence, Valdez Museum, Hospital Auxiliary, Valdez Little League, Imagination Library, Valdez Consortium Library, Bags of Love, Valdez Food Bank, Valdez Youth Court, and Valdez High School scholarships.

Our Mission

Valdez Gold Rush Days is dedicated to honoring the memories of our past, celebrating our present, and investing in the future of Valdez.

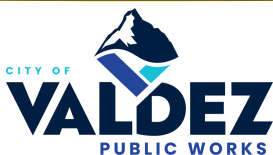
Special Thanks to our 2026 Gold Rush Days Board Members, Event Coordinators, & Volunteers!

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Celebrating our 2026 Gold Rush Partners

Your support preserves the tradition of Gold Rush Days. We encourage everyone to visit and support these local businesses throughout the year

Gold Strike Sponsors



Gold Nugget Sponsors



Gold Flake Sponsors



Gold Dust Sponsors



Valdez Gold Rush

DAYS 2026



Schedule of
Events



Wet Yer
Whistle Walk



Splash
& Dash
Triathlon



Kids
Gold
Panning



Wine Glass
Paint
Night



Ages 3-5



Ages 6-8



Ages 9-12

Kids Dive for Gold



Parade

Jail & Bail Arrest
Warrant



Business
Opportunities

