



# Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA

**Inside Today** Ice Dogs sweep semifinal series with Jets in Janesville, Wisconsin. » SPORTS B1



Gov. Mike Dunleavy chats with members of the audience before taking the podium to discuss his proposed state budget during a public event Friday afternoon at the Church at North Pole. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER PHOTOS

## Dunleavy preaches budget austerity at North Pole church

By Erin McGroarty  
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**NORTH POLE** — Gov. Mike Dunleavy visited a North Pole church Friday afternoon to present his budget to a sparse audience of about 100.

A group of five or six protesters gathered outside the Church at North Pole at about 2 p.m. to speak out against Dunleavy's proposed major reductions as residents of North Pole and Fairbanks filed into the church.

The governor was warmly welcomed by Pastor Aaron Richert before beginning the same budget slideshow presented at previous budget events.

The event was scheduled as part of his extended budget "roadshow." Last month he spoke to a group of about 200 audience members at a ticketed event at the Westmark that brought nearly 500 protesters.

This time, the event was not ticketed and was open to the public. He received support from some and pushback from others while some hadn't quite decided.

Reed Morisky, a local fishing guide, attended the presentation



Gov. Mike Dunleavy discusses his proposed budget Friday at the Church at North Pole. Dunleavy also presented a slideshow.

because he wanted to learn more about the governor's plan.

"I'm still evaluating where they're at and just looking forward to hearing more on where we're at and where we need to go as far as state spending," Morisky said. "I support most of the cuts, understanding that the Legislature will work through the initial proposal; just kind of

waiting to hear."

Mike Prax, a North Pole resident and former member of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly, supported Dunleavy's cuts and would like to see much of the current state spending shift to local communities and private enterprise.

DUNLEAVY » A5

## Fairbanks schools plan 'listening sessions'

### Gaborik wants to make atmosphere more inclusive after April 4 incidents

By Amanda Bohman  
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Fairbanks North Star Borough School District Superintendent Karen Gaborik told the Borough Assembly that she plans to hold meetings with students and families in the wake of incidents at two schools earlier this month.

The goal is to foster inclusivity at the area's 35 public schools.

Gaborik characterized the meetings as listening sessions and told the assembly Thursday that she is hoping to discuss ideas for how to make schools more welcoming and respectful places.

"We have room for improvement, and we have to have dialogue about these things," she said.



Gaborik

The listening sessions are a response to April 4 incidents at Tanana Middle School and North Pole High School that resulted in student discipline. Gaborik said the incidents have been a lightning rod for several issues.

She didn't name the issues but the incidents have sparked discussions at public meetings and on social media around the issues of gender and race.

The North Pole incident was sparked by boys who didn't like a transgender student in their bathroom. A boy was kicked in the groin while attempting to enter the girls bathroom with a group of boys to take a selfie in retaliation of a transgender student who took a selfie in the boys bathroom.

No one was injured in the incident at Tanana Middle School in which a threat was posted on social media and police were called. The incident caused black students to feel targeted and sparked discussions about what students should do if they hear someone making racist comments at school.

Gaborik said it is important that all students feel welcome at school, and she stated the school district's core value of "respect for the diversity and dignity of all" at the assembly finance committee meeting.

SCHOOLS » A3

## Senate panel bumps UA funding by \$5M over House budget

By Erin McGroarty  
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The University of Alaska Senate Finance Subcommittee passed its proposed university budget Tuesday afternoon, suggesting a cut in unrestricted general funds of \$5 million from current funding levels. The proposal was \$5 million more than the university appropriation passed by the House last week.

The House passed its version of the operating budget April 11, approving funding for the university at \$317 million; \$10 million less than current funding levels. The Senate University of Alaska Finance Subcommittee has suggested a \$322 million appropriation to the university in unrestricted general funds.

University President Jim Johnsen was unavailable for comment, but UA spokeswoman

an Roberta Graham said the university is pleased with the effort to maintain funding.

"We are encouraged by the outcome of recent legislative decisions regarding state funding for the university and are appreciative of all the hard work that's gone into studying the university's budget," Graham wrote in an email to the News-Miner. "The vote this week is a strong statement of support for UA.

Legislators clearly understand the value and importance of the University of Alaska to the state's economic future."

Senate Finance Committee co-chair Natasha von Imhof, R-Anchorage, told reporters April 12 that she anticipated the Senate Finance Subcommittee process to be wrapped up Friday.

The subcommittee proposal included a suggestion

to divide the university structure into two appropriations. The first would include the University of Alaska Fairbanks main campus, the University of Alaska Anchorage main campus and statewide functions. The second would include all the community campuses and the University of Alaska Southeast Juneau campus.

UA » A5

### GOOD MORNING



#### The weather.

Intervals of clouds and sun.

High today .....45  
Low tonight .....28

Sunrise: 5:58 a.m.  
Sunset: 9:42 p.m.

WEATHER » A5

SOURDOUGH JACK:  
"I haven't worked in a while, but inspectin' mirrors is a job I can really see myself doing."



## Interior shows sizable increase in employment

Staff report  
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Interior Alaska saw the largest regional increase in employment in March of this year compared with March 2018, the state Department of Labor and Workforce Development reported Friday.

The Interior gained 700 jobs, according to the department's data. The combined Anchorage/Mat-Su region saw an increase of 400 jobs in the comparison of March

JOBS » A5



Marijuana plants grow in the vegetative room at Alaska Cannabis Cultivators in 2017. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER FILE PHOTO

## Corporate US embraces 420

By Alex Veiga  
AP BUSINESS WRITER

**LOS ANGELES** — Marijuana users have for decades celebrated their love of the drug April 20, but the once counter-culture celebration that was all about getting stoned now is so mainstream Corporate America is starting to embrace it. No, Hallmark doesn't yet have

a card to mark "420." But many other businesses inside and outside the multibillion-dollar cannabis industry are using April 20, or 4/20, to roll out marketing and social media messaging aimed at connecting with consumers driving the booming market.

Today, Lyft is offering a \$4.20

420 » A5

