

INSIDE

BARD OF DENALI

Author Kim Heacox revisits park that shaped his destiny

SPORTS > C-1

HILL CLIMB

2 runners set records in Government Peak race

Final Edition

Alaska Dispatch News

\$2.00

ALASKA'S INDEPENDENTLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

Sunday, June 7, 2015

www.adn.com

Revenue chief: Combine solutions

State must rethink taxes, rein in spending, he tells crowd in Fairbanks.

By **DERMOT COLE** and **NATHANIEL HERZ**
Alaska Dispatch News

FAIRBANKS — Restrain public spending. Enact individual taxes. Look again at oil and gas taxes. And make wise use of the state's existing fi-

DORM LIFE: Participants call UAF home. **A-8**

financial assets.

State Revenue Commissioner Randy Hoffbeck said all or some of those steps are needed to resolve the Alaska financial challenges brought on by the twin problems of declining oil production and prices. He said that while the Legislature remains in a "little bit of an impasse" on the final

budget details for the next fiscal year, the spending plans under review in Anchorage would cut about \$800 million from the budget.

The actions by Gov. Bill Walker and the Legislature over the past six months to study state spending have advanced to the point where it's time to talk about revenue, he said.

"But we do have to act. And if we fail to act, we take the challenge and we turn it into

a crisis," he told more than 200 people attending the "Building a Sustainable Future" discussion at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. In an overview of revenue options for the state, he said there are no easy answers to balancing a \$3 billion budget gap and maintaining services that people want.

He said holding down spending will be essential to getting Alaskans to accept the idea of tax increases, adding that Walker has made that

commitment.

Hoffbeck said one of his favorite quotes is from a 1910 speech by Teddy Roosevelt in which Roosevelt talked about the man in the arena whose "place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

He said those words are a mantra for this time in Alaska and that it is no time to be timid: "The discussions are going to be incredibly difficult

but the discussions need to be had. And the decisions are going to be even more difficult but the decisions need to be made."

The second day of the weekend gathering was all about difficult discussions and decisions about the Alaska budget.

"We're going to have taxes that impact individual Alaskans. We're going to have to look at changes to oil and gas

See Page A-8, **CONFERENCE**

Developers reluctant amid heavy demand in Anchorage

Clear need for urban housing not enough to trigger building boom.

By **JEANNETTE LEE FALSEY**
Alaska Dispatch News

A cluster of overgrown vacant lots on an unremarkable section of C Street near downtown Anchorage seems ripe for residential development. Surrounded by modest townhouses and an apartment complex, the properties sit directly across the street from two schools and aren't far from the trail system.

Weidner Apartment Homes, Alaska's largest private residential landlord, bought the lots nearly five years ago but, despite high demand for rental housing in the city, has yet to break ground. Called City View II, the proposed development illustrates the difficulties of expanding Anchorage's tight housing supply.

The company's vision for what would be the biggest and tallest building on the block is not shared by local residents, who complain that thickening traffic, crowded street parking, obstructed views, intercepted sunlight and poor aesthetics will mar their quiet neighborhood. The South Addition Community Council has passed at least two resolutions opposing the project.

Aside from the neighbors' concerns, Weidner asserts that certain municipal land use regulations could make City View II and other higher-density projects financially unfeasible in a place where building costs tend to exceed those in much of the United States by a significant margin.

Projects such as City View II pose a dilemma for city leaders worried about a growing population and a shrinking stock of land that can be easily developed.

On one hand, they want to encourage the spread of taller, urban-style units rather than the sprawl of single-family and modestly sized multifamily complexes typically found here.

See Page A-9, **HOUSING**



NATION & WORLD NEWS

Ancient fishing method is waning

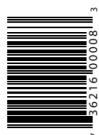
In Spain, the 3,000-year-old tradition of trap-fishing has started to disappear in favor of farming for tuna as consumer demands continue to trump sustainability. **Page A-5**

States perplexed by White House silence on health law contingencies

With the fate of President Barack Obama's top legislative accomplishment hanging in the balance, state officials are increasingly concerned by the administration's refusal to discuss contingency plans for insurance markets should the Supreme Court strike down 2010 health care law subsidies for 6.4 million low- and middle-income people. **Page A-6**

INDEX

Classifieds..... D1
Crossword..... C5
Obituaries..... B4,5
Opinion..... D8,9
Sports..... C1
Weather..... B10



Elodea grows on DeLong Lake's north end on Friday. The state plans to apply an herbicide to Sand Lake, Little Campbell Lake and DeLong to kill the invasive weed.



Herbicide plan hailed, hated by lakesiders



Photos by **MARC LESTER** / Alaska Dispatch News

Learn To Row Day on Saturday gave people a close-up view of the elodea infestation on Sand Lake. Alaska Rowing Association founder Marietta Hall said the common aquarium plant constantly gets tangled in equipment. For more rowing photos, visit adn.com/multimedia.

Waterweed chokes life out of city lakes and it's spreading

By **ZAZ HOLLANDER**
Alaska Dispatch News

Sand Lake, a West Anchorage haven for floatplanes and waterfront living, is so choked with a submerged plant called elodea that by midsummer, green ropy tendrils snare boats.

"It actually slows us down," said Marietta Hall, founder of the Alaska Rowing Association, which is based at the lake. "It gets tangled on our skegs and it gets

wrapped around our oars. I'm sure plane owners can feel it on their pontoons too."

Given the heavy floatplane traffic there, the state wants to quash the outbreak of the invasive waterweed in Sand Lake and two others before it spreads to other Anchorage or Matanuska-Susitna Borough waters. It's believed a floatplane already carried sprigs from Sand Lake to Alexander Lake, the remote Susitna Valley destination

where elodea turned up last year. Elodea is a leafy plant that is often seen undulating inside aquarium tanks. But the weed can infest lakes and slow-moving streams with dense mats that foul floatplane rudders and hinder boat traffic, choke out native plants, drive down property values and suck up oxygen that salmon and other aquatic life need to survive.

That's why the Alaska Department of Natural Resources wants

to apply a herbicide called fluridone to kill elodea in Sand Lake, as well as Little Campbell and DeLong lakes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is providing \$110,000 for the project.

While some on the lake say it's about time somebody poisons the plants, others say the herbicide plans are premature or even risky.

See Page A-9, **ELODEA**

Jockey Victor Espinoza celebrates after guiding American Pharoah to win the 147th running of the Belmont Stakes at Belmont Park on Saturday. American Pharoah became the first horse since Affirmed in 1978 to win the Triple Crown.



BILL KOSTROUN / Associated Press

Gate finally swings wide on road to immortality

American Pharoah seizes and holds Belmont lead to win Triple Crown.

By **JOE DRAPE**
The New York Times

ELMONT, N.Y. — As American Pharoah came out of the far turn and squared his shoulders to let his rider, Victor Espinoza, stare down the long withering stretch of Belmont Park, a sense of inevitability surged through this mammoth old grandstand as a capacity crowd strained on tiptoe

IN SPORTS: Columnist Sally Jenkins says American Pharoah made it look easy. **Page B-1**

and let out a roar from deep in their souls. It was going to end, finally — this 37-year search for a great racehorse.

No, a battered old sport was looking for an immortal thoroughbred, one worthy to stand alongside Sir Barton and Assault, War Admiral and Whirlaway, Count Fleet and Citation, a horse able to earn the title

See Page A-8, **BELMONT**