



# Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today

BOROUGH INSTALLS NEW 911 SYSTEM THAT WILL ACCEPT TEXT MESSAGES. » A4

GOOD MORNING



### The weather.

Expect a lot of clouds with highs in the 70s. High today ..... 72 Low tonight ..... 47

Sunrise: 3:41 a.m. Sunset: 11:58 p.m.

WEATHER » A9

...



### ON THE PITCH

Lathrop girls and West Valley boys open state soccer today.

SPORTS Page B1

...

### SPELLING BEE

Delta Junction student made it to semifinals of Scripps National Spelling Bee before being eliminated.

INTERIOR Page A4

...



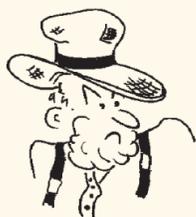
### GOODBYE TO AN ICON

Author and poet Maya Angelou dies at age 86.

NATION Page A0

...

SOURDOUGH JACK: "Cut off KUAC? It's the only station I get."



# KUAC: Cuts would be devastating

## Proposed UAF funding could mean end for the public broadcasting station

By Jeff Richardson JRICHARDSON@NEWSMINER.COM

The potential elimination of University of Alaska Fairbanks funding for KUAC public broadcasting would

**"Something's got to give. It's all interconnected."**

KUAC General Manager Keith Martin

be a devastating blow for radio and television operations, according to its general manager.

The UAF Planning and Budget Committee recommended last week that the university eliminate general fund support for KUAC, which is located on campus. The move, one of dozens of potential cost-cutting recommendations offered by the committee, is

designed to help offset a \$12 million to \$14 million budget gap at UAF.

About a third of KUAC's \$3.2 million budget is covered by UAF, with the remaining two-thirds divided about equally between federal funds and philanthropic donations. KUAC General Manager Keith Martin said needing to quickly replace about \$1.1 million in UAF funds would be "a huge

order" for the station.

"It would hurt," he said. "It would potentially be the end of KUAC."

Martin said the loss of UAF funding would trigger a chain-reaction of financial problems. Some of its federal funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting would be lost, since it requires a local match. UAF and federal funds also help pay for efforts to raise community donations, meaning those efforts could be hampered, Martin said.

KUAC » A7

## BUSY BEE



A bee collects pollen from chokecherry blossoms on a tree along Barnette Street on Wednesday afternoon. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

# Parnell signs \$12.8B budget

## Governor made no line-item vetoes

By Matt Buxton MBUXTON@NEWSMINER.COM

During his years in office, Gov. Sean Parnell often found things he didn't find agreeable in the budgets passed by the Legislature. Whether it was \$6 million

for upgrades to the Noel Wien Library in 2011 or \$1.2 million from pre-kindergarten Grants in 2012, he's found places to apply his line-item veto.

But this year, Parnell announced that he'll be leaving the budget intact, thanking the cooperation of a "functioning Legislature" for staying within his requested budget.

The budget bill, passed a year after Republicans swept control of both bodies in the Legislature,

totals \$12.8 billion this year. Parnell said lawmakers were "wise stewards" of public money, reducing unrestricted general fund spending from \$7 billion last year to \$5.9 billion this year.

"Spoiler alert: The Legislature met the spending limit and there will be no budget vetoes this year," he said in a presentation at the Anchorage Rotary on Wednesday.

BUDGET » A7

# Funding can prevent school layoffs, official says

By Weston Morrow WMORROW@NEWSMINER.COM

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District has enough funding to prevent teacher layoffs and any class size increases, according to administrators.

Chief Financial Officer Mike Fisher shared the administration's recommended budget with board members Wednesday in a joint work session with its citizen's budget review committee. The work session was the board's first meeting on the district's budget since its funding levels became known.

The district had budgeted in February to cut about 28 full-time teaching positions in addition to smaller teacher cuts due to an enrollment decline from last year.

The cuts from enrollment decline are still planned, administrators said, but the additional funding levels from local, state and federal contributions will be enough to prevent the 28 cuts if the board chooses to approve the administration's recommendations.

The board will vote on the budget Monday. Teachers weren't the only group to be spared cuts in the administration's new budget proposal. The new proposal brought back library assistant and receptionist positions that were on the chopping block.

Despite the funding increases, the administration's recommended budget still leaves out several positions it had planned to remove in its preliminary budget several months ago.

SCHOOLS » A7

# Circle man charged with causing crash

By Sam Friedman SFRIEDMAN@NEWSMINER.COM

A Circle man is accused of causing a crash that paralyzed his passenger Monday night.

About 11:20 p.m. Monday, Alaska State Troopers went to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital to interview two men injured in a rollover crash near Circle at the end of the Steese Highway, according to a criminal complaint filed in court Tuesday.

The driver, 26-year-old Nolan Iver Peterson, was charged with driving under the influence and first-degree assault, the most serious type of assault under Alaska law.

The passenger told troopers he had no sensation below his neck. He was later transported to Anchorage for treatment of an

upper-back injury that was causing his paralysis, troopers said.

The passenger told troopers that he had been drinking with Peterson in Central, closer to Fairbanks on the Steese Highway, earlier in the evening. He said he let Nolan drive because he thought Peterson was in better shape to be driving than he was. But as they drove toward Circle he said he told Peterson to slow down multiple times. He said Peterson lost control as he took a turn too fast.

Troopers interviewed Peterson from his emergency room bed. Peterson told troopers he was driving 35 mph on the highway when his tire blew out and he lost control. He said he started walking to Circle to get help for his passenger and got a ride from his aunt on the way there.

Asked if he'd been drinking

alcohol, Peterson made contradictory statements troopers said. He said he drank two or three beers and two shots while he was at the medical clinic in Circle. He later said he drank alcohol in the back of his uncle's truck, troopers said.

After he was released from the hospital troopers arrested Peterson. He registered a breath-alcohol content of 0.121. He is being held without bail at the Fairbanks Correctional Center.

Peterson had a revoked driver's license and was on probation at the time of a crash. In June he pleaded guilty to third-degree assault for beating up a man in Circle in January. He was sentenced to a one-year jail term for that offense.

Contact staff writer Sam Friedman at 459-7545. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMerime.

