



# Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA

**Inside Today** Falcons, Patriots take out Packers, Steelers to advance to Super Bowl LI. » SPORTS, B1

## UA releases new batch of program options

**Staff report**  
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The University of Alaska released 37 options for reconfiguring four academic and four administrative programs as part of its ongoing budget review process.

The Strategic Pathways process was launched last year as a response to ongoing budget cuts, and the options released Friday are part of the second of three planned phases.

This phase covers academic programs, including the Uni-

versity of Alaska's community campuses, fisheries programs, health and nursing programs. Administrative functions covered include human resources, university relations, student services and institutional research.

Each program was reviewed by teams of program administrators, faculty, staff and other stakeholders. Each team has produced a report on a variety of options that range from status quo to consolidation of multiple programs into one.

UA President Jim Johnsen said in a statement accompanying the release, the administration has been briefed on the options.

He said the process is improving and becoming more tuned to the needs of each affected group.

"This is a dynamic process and we're learning and improving as we go," he said. "One of the things we've learned over



Johnsen

the past few months is to pursue a more focused approach to reviewing options and soliciting input from the affected programs as well as from university governance and community leaders."

The Strategic Pathways process is a multi-part, multi-year effort for UA to reconfigure its administrative and academic programs to address years of cuts to state funding.

An outcome from the first phase of the reviews resulted in the consolidation of the University of Alaska's teacher edu-

cation programs at the three main campuses into a single program administered out of UA Southeast.

The program intends for courses to be available at the three campuses through a combination of on-campus faculty and distance education.

The report for the community campuses notes each campus has its own unique community campus system that offers rural campuses varying independence and structure.

OPTIONS » A5

### GOOD MORNING



#### The weather.

Mostly cloudy, then clearing up, with patchy freezing fog and highs around 11 below.

High today ..... -6  
Low tonight ..... -13

WEATHER » A7

#### Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be active Weather permitting, active auroral displays will be visible overhead from Utqiagvik to Fairbanks.

This information is provided by aurora forecasters at the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. For more information about the aurora, visit <http://www.gialaska.edu/AuroraForecast>

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### SPOTLIGHT

Teacher inducted into state Wrestling Hall of Fame for 40 years of volunteering.

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**SOURDOUGH JACK:**  
"I volunteer to check if the dogs have enough pets."



### VET CHECK? CHECK.



**Top:** Dr. Barb Cole, from Aurora Animal Clinic, examines Ryne Olson's dog, Katy, on Sunday at Summit Logistics in Fairbanks. **Left:** Vet student Chris Clement and Dr. Joanne McCrea, from Aurora Animal Clinic, examine Matt Hall's dog, Koyuk. **Right:** A team of veterinarians and vet students examine sled dogs. Yukon Quest vet checks were held in Fairbanks and Whitehorse, Yukon, for the 1,000-mile race, which begins Feb. 4. SAM FRIEDMAN/NEWS-MINER

## Consultant raises concerns about gas project

By Becky Bohrer  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**JUNEAU** — A legislative consultant has raised red flags about Alaska taking the lead on a major liquefied natural gas project, even as Gov. Bill Walker has said he is comfortable with it.

In a recent report to lawmakers, consultant Nikos Tsafos outlined challenges threatening the project's potential for success. They include a competitive market and a laundry list of tasks the state will need to achieve, such as finding buyers, insulating itself from cost overruns and buying gas at commercially reasonable prices from its former project partners, the North Slope's major energy companies.

The state has offered little evidence to show why this approach might succeed, he wrote. Any effort to commercialize North Slope gas will require "serendipity," an aligning of numerous elements, he said.

Legislators were scheduled to hear a project update Monday.

Rosetta Alcantra, a spokeswoman for the Alaska Gasline Development Corp., said Tsafos' company didn't contact the corporation in compiling the review.

GAS » A5

## Years after child's death, elementary closer to school zone lights

By Amanda Bohman  
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A school where a child was struck and killed by a vehicle five years ago is finally getting flashing "school zone" safety lights, but not until 2019 — maybe sooner if an effort to speed up the project succeeds.

The pedestrian safety project at University Park Elementary School is being bundled with three other pedestrian-related projects elsewhere in the Fairbanks North Star Borough to save money.

It also adds another painted crosswalk near the school.

The public comment period has started and

runs through Feb. 18.

Construction is slated to start in two years, but Fairbanks city engineer Jackson Fox said he is pushing to have things ready for construction in 2018.

The flashing school zone lights were recommended by a safety consultant and are long overdue, he said.

"These should have been done a long time ago," Fox said. "Almost every school has them. I will do what I can to accelerate this."

Efforts have been ongoing to improve pedestrian safety around U-Park elementary in the wake of the death of Jamison Miles Lee Thrun, a sixth-grader who was run down and

killed by an erratic driver in October 2011 while on his way to school.

Thrun's mother, Kelly, a teacher at Joy Elementary School, said she still hears about near misses around the school, and she remains concerned about the safety of students who walk to school.

SAFETY » A5

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