



# Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA

**Inside Today** University of Alaska Board of Regents to hold meeting to discuss budget cuts. » A4

# US missiles blast Syria

By Julie Pace, Vivian Salama and Lolita C. Baldor  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**PALM BEACH, FLA.** — The United States blasted a Syrian air base with a barrage of cruise missiles Thursday night in fiery retaliation for this week's gruesome chemical weapons attack against civilians. President Donald Trump cast the U.S. assault as vital to deter future use of poison gas and called on other nations to join in seeking

“to end the slaughter and bloodshed in Syria.”

It was the first direct American assault on the Syrian government and Trump's most dramatic military order since becoming president just over two months ago. The strikes also risk thrusting the U.S. deeper into an intractable conflict that his predecessor spent years trying to avoid.

Announcing the assault from his Florida resort, Trump said there was no doubt Syrian President Bashar Assad was

responsible for the chemical attack, which he said employed banned gases and killed dozens.

“Assad choked out the lives of helpless men, women and children,” Trump declared.

The U.S. strikes — some 59 missiles launched from the USS Ross and USS Porter — hit the government-controlled Shayrat air base in central Syria, where U.S. officials say the Syrian military planes that dropped the chemicals had taken off. The U.S. missiles hit at

**The guided-missile destroyer USS Porter (DDG 78) launches a tomahawk land attack missile today in the Mediterranean Sea.**

MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 3RD CLASS FORD WILLIAMS/U.S. NAVY VIA AP



8:45 p.m. in Washington, 3:45 this morning in Syria. The missiles targeted the base's airstrips, hangars, control tower and ammunition areas,

officials said.

Trump ordered the strikes without approval from Congress or the backing of the United Nations. U.S. officials said

he had the right to use force to defend national interests and to protect civilians from atrocities.

SYRIA » A5

## GOOD MORNING



### The weather.

Cloudy. Scattered snow showers. Highs in the mid- to upper-30s. Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid-teens to lower 20s.

High today .....36  
Low tonight ..... 18

WEATHER » A5

### Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be low. Weather permitting, 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.gi.alaska.edu/AuroraForecast>

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## SURE SAVER

Ice Dogs Erik Gordon named NAHL goalie of the month

SPORTS Page D1

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SOURDOUGH JACK:

“Always nice to see a scary event, like a lockdown, turn out all right.”



## STABILITY



Astrid nudges and nuzzles her newborn reindeer calf at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Experiment Farm on Thursday morning. The female 13-pound calf, numbered 1701, was the first of the season, born at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday. An estimated 20 calves are expected to join UAF's Reindeer Research Program herd this spring. Schoolchildren are encouraged to submit names for the calves at the Reindeer Research Program website <http://reindeer.salm.uar.edu/index.php>. The program conducts research on nutrition, animal health, meat quality and range management in support of the reindeer industry.

ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

## New budget offered with slight tax increase

By Amanda Bohman  
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Borough Mayor Karl Kassel is proposing a slight property tax increase, a \$3 million decrease in public education funding and the elimination of bus service to Salcha in a budget proposal that otherwise maintains borough services.

“It's really not a pleasure to present you this budget,” Kassel told the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly on Thursday. “We're pretty close to being flat. I think that's about as good as it's going to get.”

The \$161 million budget plan reflects some trimming at borough departments.

In addition to eliminating the Black Line bus route, with service to Eielson Air Force Base, Salcha and Two Rivers — ridership is reportedly low — 13 vehicles are being removed from the government fleet and a reorganization at the Noel Wien Public Library reduces casual labor, according to Kassel.

The Green Line bus route will continue to serve Badger Road and North Pole.

“I think we did real good in trimming things,” the mayor said. “We didn't put any more money into training.”

The proposal raises the areawide mill rate from 11.418 mills to 12.021 mills.

If approved, the borough would collect almost \$6 million, or 6.24 percent, more from property owners this year compared with last year.

BUDGET » A3

## Gorsuch heads for confirmation as Senate tears up own rules

By Erica Werner  
AP CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENT

**WASHINGTON** — In a confrontation that could reshape the Supreme Court for generations, Republicans tore up the Senate's voting rules Thursday to allow Trump nominee Neil Gorsuch to ascend to the high court over furious Democratic objections.

Democrats denounced the GOP's use of what both sides dubbed the “nuclear

option” to put Gorsuch on the court, calling it an epic power grab that would further corrode politics in Congress, the courts and the nation. Many Republicans bemoaned reaching that point, too, but they blamed Democrats for pushing them to it.



Gorsuch

GORSUCH » A5

## Man seen with rifle triggers school lockdowns

By Amanda Bohman  
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Authorities questioned two people Thursday after a man was seen walking on the North Pole High School property carrying a rifle with a scope, according to North Pole police and the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District.

No arrests have been made, North Pole police Chief Steve Dutra said, but multiple schools in North Pole were put on lockdown as authorities searched

for a vehicle. Dutra said the suspect vehicle was found and that “neither one of the individuals had a gun.”

A witness told authorities that the man was walking on the inside of the fenced football field.

“We are still talking to people,” Dutra said. “We are trying to get to the bottom of it, trying to find out what is going on. So far, everybody is being cooperative.”

The lockdowns started at about 10:30 a.m. at the high school after the

LOCKDOWN » A3

