

FAIRBANKS

# Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

**Inside Today**

Trio of local leaders wants to raise awareness of air pollution among borough residents. » A4

**GOOD MORNING**

**The weather.**

Today will be mostly sunny.

High today ..... 18  
Low tonight ..... -10

**WEATHER » A9**
**Aurora forecast.**

Auroral activity will be high. Weather permitting, highly active displays will be visible overhead from Barrow to Bethel, Dillingham and Ketchikan.

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>

**LEANER LEGISLATION**

Committee looks at Coghill's abortion bill, cut amendment to expand family planning services.

**INTERIOR  
Page A2**

**A FINAL FAREWELL**

Services are Friday for former territorial Gov. Stepovich.

**INTERIOR  
Page A4**

**PARTY FARE**

Mardi Gras dishes for your celebration.

**FOOD  
Page B5**

SOURDOUGH JACK: "Mmmm, Creole cuisine is one of my favorites."



## 2 injured in apartment shooting

By **Tim Mowry**  
TMOWRY@NEWSMINER.COM

Two men were seriously injured in what appears to have been a shootout early Tuesday morning at Wedgewood Resort.

Two armed suspects entered an apartment with five people inside about 2 a.m., Fairbanks police said. One of the five people inside the apartment was armed, and there was an exchange of gunfire, according to a

news release issued by the city mayor's office.

The shooting occurred in Building M of the apartment complex off College Road and was reported to police at 2:10 a.m.

One of the men who entered the room was shot, as was the man in the apartment with a gun. Both were transported to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital where they were reported in critical but stable condition Tuesday afternoon. Police did not say where or

how many times the men, ages 30 and 21, were shot.

Investigators still were processing evidence at the scene at 12:30 p.m., more than 10 hours after the shooting, Lt. Dan Welborn said. No other details about the shooting were available.

Fountainhead Development President Tim Cerny, whose company owns Wedgewood, said the shooting was out of character for the complex. He said Wedgewood has 24-hour staff and video surveillance to monitor the

area.

"It's an isolated incident — we make every effort to make sure these things don't happen on our properties," Cerny said.

The two subjects who entered the apartment fled the scene but were found by police in the area, the news release stated. Cerny said neither man was a resident at the complex.

Contact staff writer **Tim Mowry** at 459-7587. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNOutdoors.

## Eielson makes short list for F-35



Attendees react to paper F-35 airplanes being thrown toward a tabletop runway during a 50/50 raffle game at the featured presentation "Alaska F-35s: Strategic Reach on American Soil" of the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce general membership luncheon Tuesday afternoon at the Carlson Center. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

### 2 Alaska bases among 5 favorites for the squadrons

By **Sam Friedman**  
SFRIEDMAN@NEWSMINER.COM

Eielson Air Force Base is on the short list for housing the new F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, as is Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage.

The Air Force announced Tuesday it plans to put two squadrons of F-35s, 48 planes in all, at one base. Both Alaska air bases are on a short list of five favorites among what had been eight possible bases in the Asia-Pacific region, according to Alaska's congressional delegation. The Air Force will announce a shorter list of two or three options in April or May following site visits that start next week.

While it's confirmed that Eielson and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson are among the top five choices, the other three options are confidential because they are bases that are not on U.S. soil, said Matthew Felling, a spokesman for U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski. That means



Borough Mayor Luke Hopkins dons an F-35 cap while speaking during the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce luncheon Tuesday afternoon at the Carlson Center.

ERIC ENGMAN/  
NEWS-MINER

domestic bases Andersen Air Force Base in Guam and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii did not make the cut.

The new Pacific base for the F-35 will be the second active-duty placement for the new aircraft. The U.S. military plans to buy more than 2,000 of the planes.

In Interior Alaska, the placement of the F-35s has been the subject of vigorous lobbying since it was announced that the next squadrons of the nation's newest fighter plane

will be among the Pacific air bases.

Local leaders say the placement of a new aircraft brings the promise of a more secure future for Eielson, which has twice been the subject of potential closure or downsizing in the past decade. An F-35 placement at Eielson would expand the size of the active-duty force even if the current training squadron of F-16 aircraft moved away to make room.

F-35s » A9

### Local leaders pushing hard for F-35s

By **Sam Friedman**  
SFRIEDMAN@NEWSMINER.COM

Landing a squadron of F-35s at Eielson Air Force Base would be major boost for the Fairbanks economy, and local leaders say they are pushing hard to make the case for the base.

In the past, Fairbanks business and government leaders have organized to stop cut-backs at Eielson, including the recent but now-abandoned effort to move to Anchorage Eielson's last remaining active planes, the 18th Aggressor F-16 squadron.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough government is now campaigning to bring the F-35s and hopes to get 10,000 people to register their support for bringing F-35s to Eielson on the borough

ECONOMY » A10

## Man sentenced to 2 1/2 years for Lathrop Street hit-and-run

By **Sam Friedman**  
SFRIEDMAN@NEWSMINER.COM

A Fairbanks court finalized a plea agreement Tuesday that gave a man a 2 1/2 year jail term for driving away from the scene of a Lathrop Street crash that injured a 7-year-old girl.

As part of the agreement Rashid Glasco, 19, plead-

ed guilty to two felonies. He pleaded guilty to leaving the scene of September motor vehicle accident without assisting the injured and to drugs misconduct for possessing a small quantity of cocaine when he was arrested a week later. A charge of driving without a driver's license was dismissed.

At Tuesday's court hear-

ing, Glasco's attorney read a statement in which Glasco acknowledged panicking and driving away after hitting 7-year-old Sierra Carson. Carson was transported to Anchorage because of her injuries but made a full recovery except for permanent scarring to her face, her

SENTENCE » A10

## Canadian company to bring rides back to fair

By **Weston Morrow**  
WMORROW@NEWSMINER.COM

There will be rides at the fair this year after all. The Tanana Valley State Fair announced Tuesday it had signed a contract with a new carnival ride company for 2014 despite hesitation from the board's president to mention the deal

Monday.

Board president Dave Hoefel confirmed Monday that the fair had parted ways with its former carnival ride provider, Golden Wheel, in the past two weeks but said the fair had not yet finalized a contract with any new providers.

FAIR » A3