

SPRING FEVER

Electronic dance music event comes to the Carlson Center **See Latitude 65**



They meet again

Ice Dogs, Wenatchee continue playoff series **D1**

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Public weighs in on budget

Residents push for increased education, recycling funding

By **MATT BUXTON**
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Education funding and recycling were the hot issues at a shorter-than-usual Borough Assembly hearing on its proposed budget Thursday night.

The Borough Assembly heard from nearly 30 members of the public, who largely called for increases to education and recycling funding, during the two-hour hearing on its proposed \$159 million budget.

Hearings on the budget typically are lengthy events that go

late, but the Borough Assembly had been relatively reserved in its latest cuts compared to last year when it slashed funding for parks and recreation and the animal shelter.

Most members of the public who testified urged the assembly to increase its contribution to education. The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District is grappling with sizable budget gaps thanks to both the state and the borough offering funding at levels

lower than expected.

The state came up \$2.7 million short.

After increases from Borough Mayor Luke Hopkins and the assembly during its weekend budget session, the borough is about \$440,000 short of what the district requested.

As many as 80 teachers have received notices that they are at risk for layoff.

Please see **BUDGET**, Page A6

Second rabid wolf found

Trapper had caught animal

By **ROD BOYCE**
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A second wolf taken in the Chandalar Lake area north of Fairbanks has tested positive for rabies, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced Thursday.

The finding is the second time in less than two weeks that Fish and Game has reported a rabies finding in a wolf in the Interior. The first report of rabies in a wolf in the Interior came April 23 and marked the first time the disease has been detected in a wild animal population in the Interior.

The wolf that was the subject of Thursday's announcement was killed March 15 along the north fork of the Chandalar River, northwest of Chandalar Lake. The department news release said the wolf was caught in a trap and that the trapper described the animal as not responding normally and that it was dull and unaware.

The trapper fed the raw carcass to his dogs while they were camping on the trap line, the news release says. The dogs are at the trapper's home. They are believed to be current on their rabies vaccinations but will be given booster shots and quarantined under order of state veterinarian Robert Gerlach.

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Preparing for the big day

Although ice still thick, Ice Classic workers prep for Tanana breakup

By **MARY BETH SMETZER**
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NENANA — Experienced eyes running the Ice Classic are just now getting around to setting up the trip wire from the green and white Ice Classic watchtower to the red flag topped tripod still firmly rooted in the Tanana River ice.

On Thursday afternoon, some of the wiring was readied, said Dennis Argall, Ice Classic Committee president. The plan today is to check out the clock and do the wire hookup between the tower and the black and white painted, wooden tripod.

The Ice Classic started nearly a century ago in 1917, when railroad engineers set up a betting pool on the river's breakup. The first jackpot was \$800.

Argall said the clock and trip wire mechanism was developed in the 1920s and has been in use ever since.

Argall's guess is that it will be another week or two before the ice moves. Three measurements taken downriver from the tripod Thursday afternoon averaged out to 36.7 inches in depth.

Last year, the ice went out April 23, but on Thursday afternoon, there wasn't the faintest indication that it was going anywhere soon.

There are no telltale puddles, watery gray, soft spots or open water — all signs of weakening ice — spotted upriver or downriver from the tripod on the Tanana. Nor was there any evidence

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Chelsea Leahy-Brown, left, shows a Nenana Ice Classic ticket to Kimberly Ulery as the two Ice Classic workers double check entries to the original tickets Thursday in the Nenana Community Center.

Photos by Sam Harrel/News-Miner



Far left: The Nenana Ice Classic tripod stands solidly in the Tanana River ice. Left: Ice Classic worker Kevin Talyat compares original tickets to the database list checking for mistakes.

Man pleads to 2nd-degree murder in 2011 death

By **SAM FRIEDMAN**
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A Fairbanks man has pleaded guilty to a charge of second-degree murder for the fatal shooting of his friend, putting a sudden end to a jury trial that had just begun.

Jacques Lisbey, 20, accepted a 10-year prison sentence as part of a plea agreement reached Wednesday

day during the third day of his trial. Lisbey had been charged with first-degree murder in the shooting of Malik Moore on a powerline trail off University Avenue in July 2011. Prosecutors also agreed to dismiss unrelated robbery charges for three gas station holdups they had accused Lisbey of committing earlier in summer 2011.

Prosecutors Corinne Vorenkamp

and Andrew Baldock said in a statement Thursday that the plea agreement was accepted because they were concerned weaknesses in their case might make it difficult for them to get 12 jurors to convict Lisbey on the charge of first-degree murder.

"In this case, there was no confession by the defendant, the murder weapon was not recovered and there were no eyewitnesses," the

statement said. "Given those facts, at the outset the uncertainty of the outcome was greater than in most murder cases. Faded memories and/or changing statements from witnesses were also a concern, and that concern became a reality as the trial unfolded and some witnesses recanted their prior statements."

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Parnell in town to announce future plan

By **MATT BUXTON**
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Gov. Sean Parnell will announce his plans for his political future at a reception Friday in Fairbanks during the Alaska Federation of Republican Women's convention, according to the president of the organization.

U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski and Rep. Don Young, both



Parnell

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Sourdough Jack sez:

"Maybe my June 1 Ice Classic guess will pay off."

I Spy

Spy-themed burlesque show set for this weekend.
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PLAYOFF HOCKEY IS HERE!

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