



# Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

**Inside Today**

Fairbanks City Council votes to end mayoral leave time, increase pay. » INTERIOR, A4

**GOOD MORNING**



**The weather.**

Mostly cloudy with highs in the teens and lows dropping near zero.

High today ..... 16  
Low tonight ..... 4

**WEATHER » A9**

**Aurora forecast.**

Auroral activity will be active. Weather permitting, displays will be visible overhead from Barrow to Juneau.

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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**DRINKING WATER**

UAF to switch from well water on campus.

**INTERIOR  
Page A4**

...

**PUTTING ON A SHOW**

Nanooks men blow out Lincoln Christian Lions 103-55 in exhibition game.

**SPORTS  
Page B1**

...



**MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL**

Bears come out on top in matchup against Chargers.

**SPORTS  
Page B1**

...

**SOURDOUGH JACK:**

**"Hoowee! That was a big load o' snow. I finally finished shovelin' 10 minutes ago!"**



## Local schools stand out in state tests

### But overall performance lagging in Alaska

By Weston Morrow  
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About two-thirds of Alaska students are not yet fully meeting the state's new K-12 education standards, though Fairbanks is performing slightly better than the state average, according to information released today by the state.

About 35 percent of students statewide in grades 3 through 10

scored high enough to be deemed proficient in English and language arts, and about 31 percent of those same students were deemed proficient in mathematics.

Students in Fairbanks scored several points higher than the state average. About 39 percent of Fairbanks students were deemed proficient in English language arts and about 35 percent were deemed proficient in math.

The data released today add more detail to the preliminary cut scores set by the state in August. The state was still collating scores in August but announced at the time that about one-third of students scored high enough to be considered proficient.

The new tests, the Alaska Measures of Progress, were given to the roughly 72,000 students in grades 3 through 10 in Alaska. The tests rank

student performance in four levels — level 4 being the highest and level 1 being the lowest. Students scoring in levels 3 and 4 are considered at or above proficient, while students scoring in levels 1 and 2 are considered only partially proficient, according to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

The Measures of Progress replaced the former test, the Standards Based Assessments, and were administered for the first time in spring 2015.

**TESTS » A5**

## Roads slick as more snow coats Fairbanks

By Dorothy Chomicz  
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Fairbanks Police are cautioning drivers to avoid a stretch of Phillips Field Road that has been the scene of multiple accidents in the last few weeks.

The long S-curve between the coal chute and the Anchorage Basic Industries tank is bordered on one side by the Chena River and on the other by an Alaska Railroad yard. By late Monday afternoon police responded to five accidents there, at one point closing the road for 40 minutes so the area could be cleared of debris.

The first accident occurred at 9:45 a.m. when a truck went off the road and into a snowbank. The second and third accidents happened almost simultaneously about two hours later.

Karuna Linkhart said she was driving her car west-bound when she started sliding into oncoming traffic. She overcorrected and was sucked into the snow and down a small embankment to the right, slamming sideways into a telephone pole.

The accident must have distracted the drivers of an SUV and a pickup truck, who collided head-on about 30 feet away from where her car came to rest, according to Linkhart.

A fourth accident, a fender-bender, occurred between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., and the fifth, a single-vehicle rollover, occurred at about 4:20 p.m.

A News-Miner employee who passed by the rollover said the vehicle, a blue SUV, came to rest on its roof on top of some railroad tracks. An Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities truck was spreading gravel along the length of the curve after the accident, the employee said.

**SNOW » A3**



Ken Storie with Borealis Towing responds to a single-vehicle rollover Monday on Phillips Field Road. No one was injured when the car overturned. The road was the site of at least five accidents after more than two inches of snow fell in Fairbanks. ROBIN WOOD/NEWS-MINER

## Cold weather forecast to follow snow

By Sam Friedman  
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More snow and then falling temperatures are forecast this week as seasonal weather finally arrives in Alaska's Interior.

Fairbanks temperatures have been a few degrees warmer than normal for almost all of the last month. But starting Thursday and continuing through the weekend, the National Weather Service predicts lows below 0 degrees and highs in the low single digits.

"We have a very strong storm over the Seward

Isabella Stewart, 10, helps her dad Jason shovel the driveway on Monday afternoon. Isabella said she likes the snow, but Jason is "already over it."

ROBIN WOOD/NEWS-MINER

Peninsula, and that storm is going to be moving east over the Interior Tuesday night and Wednesday and then cold air pulling behind that storm will be pooling over the Interior from Wednesday through the weekend," weather service meteorologist Jim Brader said.

**WEATHER » A3**



## Hartman hearings end today

By Matt Buxton  
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More than a month of hearings in the lawsuit attempting to prove the innocence of four men who were convicted of killing a Fairbanks teen in 1997 will come to a close today.

Superior Court Judge Paul Lyle is scheduled to begin hearing closing arguments at 8:30 a.m. in Courtroom 503 on the fifth floor of the Rabinowitz Courthouse. Each side will have three hours to present its case.

George Frese, Kevin Pease, Marvin Roberts and Eugene Vent —

**FAIRBANKS FOUR**

Follow today's closing arguments live on Twitter with reporters Sam Friedman (@FDNMoutdoors) and Matt Buxton (@FDNMpolitics).

Find all coverage of the John Hartman murder case online at [newsminer.com/fairbanks\\_four](http://newsminer.com/fairbanks_four).

men who've come to be known by many as the Fairbanks Four — are seeking to reverse their convictions, get a declaration of "actual innocence" and be released from prison.

The four were convicted of fatally assaulting 15-year-old John Hartman on a downtown Fairbanks street on the

night of Oct. 10, 1997. Roberts was paroled earlier this year and has been attending the hearings in person while the other three have listened from Fairbanks Correctional Center, where they have been temporarily housed during the hearing.

**HEARINGS » A5**

## Assembly vacancy attracts 17 applicants

By Amanda Bohman  
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The list of people hoping to win Assembly Seat I includes an architect, an auctioneer, an accountant, three former assemblymen, two college students, a lawyer, a teacher, a loan officer and a sales associate at Home Depot.

Seventeen people applied for the seat, vacated by Borough Mayor Karl Kassel last month. The Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly will fill the position by a majority vote on Nov. 24.

Nine people applied on Monday, the deadline. They are:

- David Zrna, a project manager in the public works department at Fort Wainwright, U.S. Army veteran and part-time sales associate at Home Depot.
- Roberts Shields, University of Alaska Fairbanks student, sustainability activist and candidate for Borough Mayor in the 2015 municipal election.
- Brandon Elkins, a military policeman in the Alaska Army National Guard and student at UAF.

**ASSEMBLY » A3**

