



# Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

## Inside Today

Diann Darnall wins two titles at Hardbat Championships at Patty Center. » B1

## GOOD MORNING



### The weather.

Mostly cloudy with light wind throughout the day with highs in the upper 40s.

High today ..... 45  
Low tonight ..... 27

### WEATHER » A9

### Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be moderate. Weather permitting, moderate displays will be visible overhead.

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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## STRONG STATE

Alaska leads U.S. in "muscle training" participation.

HEALTH  
Page B4

...

## COSTUME DESIGNER

UAF assistant professor creates pieces for Fairbanks productions.

INTERIOR  
Page A4

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## BONSPIEL WINNERS

Kelly Rae Snider rink, Jim Sias rink take home titles.

SPORTS  
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...

SOURDOUGH JACK: "I used to be a great curler. Of fries, that is."



# Overflow closes Dalton again

By Weston Morrow  
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After briefly reopening the Dalton Highway earlier this week, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has been forced to close the haul road once again.

Unprecedented levels of overflow from the Sagavanirktok River began pouring onto the highway last week, making a several-mile portion of the highway impassable north of Pump Station Two. Truckers attempting to drive to and from Prudhoe Bay were forced to wait for as long as three days until crews were

able to clear enough of the overflow for vehicles to get through Thursday evening.

After reopening the affected stretch, DOT was able to keep the highway somewhat passable through most of Friday but began running into serious delays again on Saturday as more water and ice began crossing the road, according to DOT Northern Region Spokeswoman Meadow Bailey.

"It's still a serious thing, and they're still trying to battle it," Bailey said. "It's not really passable right now."

As more water covered the roadway more trucks began to get stuck and the

highway began to back up again, she said, forcing the decision to close the 35-mile stretch of highway for at least 12 hours.

"There were serious delays, so even though it was open, it's been slow going," Bailey said. "They need to be able to pull the trucks off there and get some work done ... and then hopefully they can have vehicles going back through."

The department planned to shut down the highway between 378 Mile and 413 Mile from 8 p.m. Sunday until 8 a.m. today while crews worked through the



Overflow flooding is seen at approximately 400 Mile Dalton Highway. After briefly opening to traffic following initial overflow flooding, the highway has closed again. COURTESY ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

OVERFLOW » A3

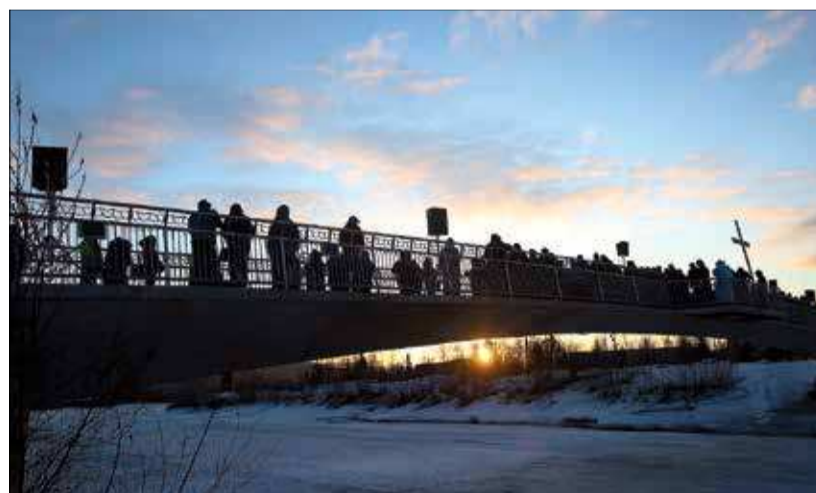
## Easter Sunrise Service



Pastor Joe Blackburn, of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, closes the Easter Sunrise Service over the Chena River on the William Ransom Wood Centennial Bridge on Sunday. ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER



Left: Father Fred Bayler, of Immaculate Conception Church, welcomes people to the Easter Sunrise Service over the Chena River on the William Ransom Wood Centennial Bridge on Sunday. Right: The Easter Sunrise Service takes place over the Chena River. ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER



### WEEK AHEAD IN JUNEAU

# Medicaid, capital budget among things to watch

By Becky Bohrer  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JUNEAU — As the Legislature enters the final two weeks of the scheduled 90-day session, one of the major unresolved issues is whether consensus can be reached on a Medicaid expansion and reform package.

The House Finance Committee has scheduled two-a-day meetings for Tuesday through Thursday, with the morning sessions to be focused on Gov. Bill Walker's Medicaid bill.

Walker has made expanded coverage under Medicaid a priority,

and his administration sees expansion as going hand-in-hand with efforts to contain and bring down costs within Medicaid.

The program accounts for about 60 percent of the state health department budget and is a driver of the state operating budget.

House Speaker Mike Chenault, R-Nikiski, told reporters the current system is broken, and there are concerns with adding more people to it.

"We think that there are things that need to be addressed before expansion happens," he said. "Does that mean that the governor doesn't get an expansion bill by

end of session? I can't say because it's the legislative process."

The committee's co-chair, Rep. Steve Thompson, R-Fairbanks, said the committee will try to get a better handle on the issues involved.

Meanwhile, the Senate Health and Social Services Committee also is working on Medicaid legislation. Committee chair Sen. Bert Stedman, R-Sitka, said he has become more comfortable with the idea of expansion as he has researched the issue.

But he said there isn't a one-session fix to reforms. That, he said, needs to be an ongoing conversa-

tion. Medicaid expansion is one thing to watch for this week. Here are two others:

## Budget

The Senate Finance Committee plans to take public testimony Monday on the state capital budget.

Walker and lawmakers attempted early on to tamp down expectations for the infrastructure budget given the massive deficits the state is projecting amid low oil prices.

WEEK AHEAD » A3

