



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today

This week's On the Street question: 'What are you thankful for?' » INTERIOR, A6

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of light freezing rain and snow in the morning. High today 31 Low tonight 18

WEATHER » A11

Aurora forecast.

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

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STAYING SAFE

Avalanche center collects information on Alaska Range conditions.

OUTDOORS Page B1

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BIG WIN

UAF women's hoops pummel Sonoma State at North Star Invitational.

SPORTS Page D1

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SOURDOUGH JACK:

"The snow slowed down just in time for shopping!"



Rideshare program falters

By Amanda Bohman
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Carpooling in the Fairbanks North Star Borough is proving to be a hard sell.

No one has signed up for a ridesharing program since the borough hired Enterprise Holdings to start one in September 2014.

Borough transportation manager Adam Barth said the municipality and the car rental company have agreed to suspend payments from a federal grant until the first rideshare gets going.

"It was a mutual agreement that we should stop payment. Enterprise said, 'Yeah, we are not being successful.'"

Borough transportation manager Adam Barth

"It was a mutual agreement that we should stop payment," Barth said. "Enterprise said, 'Yeah, we are not being successful.'"

A rideshare is when people who live in the same area, and are daily commuters with similar schedules, share expenses for a community vehicle.

Barth said the borough is continuing to push for

carpooling in an effort to reduce vehicle emissions. He is pinning his hopes on a website, www.zimride.com by Enterprise, that matches people looking for a ride with people offering a ride.

"I think this website is my last hope," Barth said. "Having an avenue to connect people, I think, is what was missing. The

Zimride program should make that happen. Now it is a matter of marketing that program and making sure people know about it."

The \$300,000 in unspent carpooling grant money could be redirected to something else, according to Barth. The application process is onerous, he said, but transportation officials will reevaluate

what to do with the money if carpooling fails to take off by the middle of next year.

The borough has a deadline in mid-2017 to use the grant money though the municipality could file an extension, Barth said.

"If we can't get it going," he said, "I think we are just going to say 'Hey, we gave it our best shot.'"

Enterprise has collected about \$50,000 in federal funds for its efforts, which include meeting with local employers to try and drum up interest in carpooling.

RIDESHARE » A3

Bobby's Downtown embraces giving spirit

By Weston Morrow
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Since 2002, Bobby Nikolaides and his sister, Rena Nikolaides, have welcomed hundreds of guests to their place for Thanksgiving dinner.

Bobby cooks more than a dozen turkeys and whips up massive trays of mashed potatoes for his visitors, getting up at 1 a.m. to begin the turkey cooking process.

Many people might not have the time or the seating for such an extravagant meal, but Bobby's place is a little bit bigger than the average person's home. That's because his place happens to be Fairbanks restaurant Bobby's Downtown.

Each year, Nikolaides partners with organizations in town to offer a warm, welcoming space and a professionally cooked meal to dozens of people who wouldn't otherwise have a place to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

In the past, the brother and sister have invited guests from the Rescue Mission and the Fairbanks Correctional Center.

This year, though, they partnered with Stone Soup Cafe, a Fairbanks nonprofit group that provides free meals to people throughout the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

"Giving back to the community, especially to those less fortunate, it is the spirit of the holiday," he said Thursday, while putting the final touches on his feast. "It is about giving thanks."

The Nikolaides doesn't look to draw attention to the service they and the restaurant's provide to the community. In his mind, it's just something he does because he has the means to help.

"I believe everybody should do



Rena Nikolaides brings a turkey to Lee Payne to carve at Bobby's Downtown on Thursday. Her brother, Bobby Nikolaides, was in the kitchen at 1 a.m. to begin cooking the 16 turkeys. The Nikolaides and other volunteers like Payne work with Stone Soup Cafe to make a thanksgiving meal for people in Fairbanks at Bobby's Downtown. ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER PHOTOS

that," he said, "everybody with a restaurant."

Having a professional kitchen helps.

The restaurant's industrial oven can fit eight 20-pound turkeys at once. Even then, though, Bobby has to get to the restaurant at precisely 1:15 a.m. to start the birds. Because, even with an industrial oven, it takes two five-and-a-half hour cooking segments to make 16 turkeys.

THANKSGIVING » A3



Rena Nikolaides makes cranberry sauce and a filling for a Greek pastry.

Snow begins to taper off

By Weston Morrow
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Many Interior Alaska residents snowed in at their homes were given something to be thankful for Thursday as the heavy snowfall of the past few days began to taper off in the afternoon.

Heavy snowfall had ceased by mid-afternoon Thursday, giving the Interior the briefest reprieve.

"The whole system looks like it's trying to push off, but if we get some cool air, we could see some more snow, but we should see conditions improving throughout the night," said Harry Lind, a forecaster for the National Weather Service in Fairbanks.

Lind said the weather service measured about an 1.5 inches of snow at Fairbanks International Airport before the

SNOW » A3

Search continues for UAF's temporary dean of students

By Casey Grove
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Six months after its dean of students left, the University of Alaska Fairbanks is recruiting for a temporary contractor to fill the position while the job's duties are currently performed by another administrator playing dual roles.

Among other things, the dean of students deals with student conduct and discipline, responsibilities at the center of recent revelations that the university failed in the past to properly

handle some sexual misconduct cases. Former Dean of Students Don Foley retired in May, and Associate Vice Chancellor Kris Racina has served as acting dean of students since then. Meanwhile, the university is looking for an interim dean of students who will sign a contract to fill the position for three to six months.

"It's not a permanent thing," UAF spokeswoman Marmian Grimes said Wednesday.

DEAN » A3



ALASKA NANOOKS
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Fan Appreciation Day - Buy 1 Get 1 Half Off General Admission Tickets
Nov. 28 Alaska Nanooks vs Michigan Tech at 7:07PM

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