



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today

More medals for Interior athletes at Arctic Winter Games in Greenland. » B1

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Partly sunny with light winds and highs in the upper 20s.

High today29

Low tonight9

WEATHER » A9

Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be moderate. Weather permitting, moderate 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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RAINBOW VEGGIES

The more colorful the food, the healthier the meal.

INTERIOR Page A3

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NEWBERY MEDAL

Award-winning author visits Fairbanks schools.

INTERIOR Page A4

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AMBIENT FOLK

Singer Brenda Xu performing unique music style at UAF pub tonight.

LATITUDE Inside

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SOURDOUGH JACK:

“Even my old shake ain’t in that bad o’ shape!”



Tarmac joyride leads to charges

By Dorothy Chomicz
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A man who allegedly stole a Fairbanks International Airport vehicle and drove it on active taxiways and runways Sunday night faces multiple charges.

Joshua Everett Roach, 35, of Fairbanks, is charged with felony first-degree vehicle theft and misdemeanor first-degree criminal trespass, third-degree reckless endangerment and giving false information to police.

According to a criminal complaint, air traffic control tower personnel contacted airport police at 8:40 p.m. to report seeing an unauthorized vehicle driving on Taxiway Bravo. The caller said the

driver was seen entering a building on the East Ramp at University Avenue.

Police found Roach inside the arctic entryway, and he admitted driving the Chevrolet Suburban found parked outside the building, according to the criminal complaint.

Roach could not provide identification and reportedly told police his name was “Fly by the Seat of My Pants.”

A records check showed the Suburban was an official airport vehicle assigned to an airport maintenance employee. The employee told police he left the Suburban parked near the security fence with the keys in it and had not authorized Roach to drive it.

Roach is not an airport employee and had no official business at the airport, according to the complaint.

Surveillance footage showed Roach driving in the airport operations area at 7:22 p.m. Further footage showed Roach driving on “multiple controlled surfaces and landing surfaces,” including two taxiways and a runway, according to the complaint.

The Suburban can be seen “turning off Runway 2L at a high rate of speed onto Taxiway Bravo” at 7:46 p.m., just five minutes after Horizon flight 812 was cleared to taxi on and take off from the same surfaces, according to the complaint.

Roach can also be seen driv-

ing north on Taxiway Alpha at 8:32 p.m., one minute before another Horizon flight was approved to use that taxiway to travel to Runway 2L.

Roach did not activate the Suburban’s overhead flashing lights at any time while driving on the taxiways and runway, according to the complaint.

Roach told police he worked at Alaska Aerofuel for a man named Rocky, but a company representative told police no one by that name worked there. He also said his name was Levi Brown but finally identified himself after being fingerprinted at Fairbanks Correctional Center.

AIRPORT » A3

Borough may devote millions to upkeep backlog

By Amanda Bohman
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Borough Mayor Karl Kassel estimates the municipality’s building maintenance backlog to have between \$50 million and \$100 million worth of projects, including a new roof at the borough administrative center and renovations at the bus barn.

Assemblyman Lance Roberts has introduced an ordinance to devote \$9 million toward that work. The assembly is scheduled to vote today on the measure, Ordinance 2015-20-2E, which would move the money — a sizable chunk of the treasury — from the general fund to the facilities maintenance reserve fund.

“This isn’t going to solve the problem,” Kassel said. “It certainly moves us in the right direction.”

The \$9 million is nearly all of the \$9.4 million received from a successful lawsuit over the tax value of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

Direct appropriations would be needed to fund particular projects, but the move into the reserve fund would lock up the money for maintenance projects unless the assembly decided to move funds back to the general fund.

Roberts said the settlement money has been deposited into the borough treasury. The money comes at a time when the state is reducing appropriations for capital projects.

“We’ve always depended on the state for a lot of our capital projects,” Roberts wrote in an email, “and without those dollars coming in, we need to take care



Above: Fairbanks North Star Borough Transportation Director Glenn Miller points out how they have tried to stem liquid leaking from the ceiling in the Transportation Maintenance Building on Wednesday. The tube drains to a bucket, but liquid continues to leak from other areas of the ceiling. Below left: Liquid leaking from the ceiling is seen in a bin. Below right: The effects of water leaking over pipes are seen.

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of our most urgent facility needs.”

The borough is responsible for about 100 buildings, including schools. One building in need of

extensive upgrades is the transportation facility on Peger Road.

Transportation director Glenn Miller said the building is at maximum

capacity and needs extensive upgrades, including to the electrical system.

“It’s highly inefficient,” Miller said. “We’re wasting all of this heat. It’s terrible.”

Kassel supports Roberts’ measure, though he said \$9 million might be too much with ongoing state funding

BACKLOG » A3

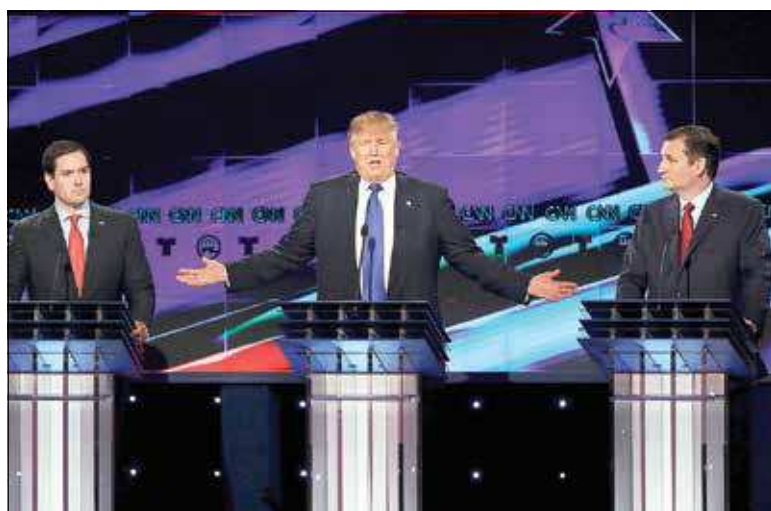
All those debates: Reality TV for the political masses

By Nancy Benac
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Thirty-six-plus hours of televised debates in the 2016 presidential campaign have brought us Marco Rubio’s robotic moment, Donald Trump’s jaw-dropping sexual innuendo, Bernie Sanders’ dismissal of Hillary Clinton’s “damn emails” and Clinton’s denunciation of Sanders for an “artful smear.”

Oh, and we’ve heard about issues, too.

Is it all too much? Trump, a reality TV star before he was a debate provocateur, says he’s bored. Sanders successfully lobbied for more debates. John Kasich calls the debates the “dumbest things going.”



“How many times can they ask you the same question over and over again?” Trump complained during

a rally in Madison, Mississippi, this week. “Uh, it is so boring!”

In fact, this year’s debate sched-

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, center, speaks as fellow candidates Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., left, and Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, right, listen during a primary debate on Feb. 25 at The University of Houston in Houston. AP FILE PHOTO/DAVID J. PHILLIP

ule — at least 13 for Republicans and 10 for Democrats — is considerably shorter than in years past. Republicans debated 20 times during the 2012 GOP primary season; Democrats faced off 26 times during the 2008 primary campaign.

DEBATES » A9

