



# Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

**Inside Today** Veterans of Foreign Wars post hosting ceremony to celebrate Flag Day. » INTERIOR, A4

## Healy man charged in fatal hit and run

Confession, evidence led to manslaughter charges

By Sam Friedman  
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Alaska State Troopers say they have a confession and extensive physical evidence tying a Healy man to a fatal hit and run Thursday morning. Dustin Williams Dollarhide, 30, was charged with manslaughter

and driving under the influence Friday afternoon in the death of Gitte Stryhn, 56. Stryhn, a tour bus driver for the Kantishna Roadhouse in Denali National Park, was killed Thursday morning during her morning bike commute. Troopers said Dollarhide admitted hitting a cyclist with his 2010 Dodge pickup truck during a police

interview. He said he thought if "he just went home and went to bed, the incident would go away," trooper Sgt. Jess Carson said in a criminal complaint filed Friday. Dollarhide registered a breath-alcohol content of 0.180 at the Healy trooper post, according to the complaint. Troopers said Stryhn's binocular case was found under Dollarhide's truck Thursday morning. Part of a plastic Dodge license plate holder

was recovered from the crash scene which matched the license plate holder left behind on Dollarhide's truck. Dollarhide is being held without bail at Fairbanks Correctional Center. At his arraignment Friday, Magistrate Alicemary Rasely said he will remain in jail without bail unless he requests



Dollarhide

a bail hearing. Dollarhide appeared in the Fairbanks courtroom by video-conference from the jail. He wore a black T-shirt and didn't speak except to clarify that his mailing address is correct and to say he plans to hire an attorney. "Get your attorney hired," Rasely told him. "You're going to need one." Contact staff writer Sam Friedman at 459-7545. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMerime.

**GOOD MORNING**

**The weather.**  
Mostly cloudy today, with isolated thunderstorms expected.  
High today .....67  
Low tonight .....49

Sunrise: 3:02 a.m.  
Sunset: 12:41 a.m.

**WEATHER » A9**

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## AN AGING POPULATION



Residents participate in an exercise class at Fairbanks Pioneers' Home on June 2. The Pioneers' Home offers three levels of care for people 65 and older. It's the largest assisted living facility in Interior Alaska with 93 beds, though lengthy wait lists mean securing a spot can be difficult. ROBIN WOOD/NEWS-MINER

## Fairbanks faces void in senior citizen care

By Robin Wood  
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The percentage of senior citizens in Alaska is on the rise, a trend that could put more strain on the state's assisted-living facilities. A report released by the Alaska Commission on Aging states the number of Alaska seniors 60 or older increased 85 percent from the 2000 census to projected 2012 population levels. Seniors constitute almost 14 percent of Alaska's population, according to the report. Alaska also has the fastest-growing percentage of senior citizens in the nation. The increase in seniors is expected to be so dramatic the Commission on Aging already has termed it the "silver tsunami." Interior Alaska is no exception. The Alaska Department of Labor says the number of Interior



Alaska residents age 60 or older more than doubled from 2000 to 2012, from 7,169 to 15,228. That number is projected to reach 26,888 in 2042.

La Nae Bellamy colors a turtle during craft time at Eagles Wings, an assisted living facility in North Pole on June 4. Bellamy, 40, isn't able to live on her own because of multiple sclerosis, highlighting that assisted living doesn't benefit only elders. ROBIN WOOD/NEWS-MINER

routines such as bathing, eating, shopping, money management or appointment scheduling. Fairbanks has 11 assisted-living facilities and North Pole has two, according to Liz Bottasso, senior services director at Fairbanks Resource Agency, which maintains a list of all assisted-living facilities in the area. Occupancy ranges from one bed to 93 beds, with a combined bed total of 176. Only 18 beds were available as of June 1.

AGING » A5

**HOME BASE**  
Goldpanners face Seals at home opener.

**SPORTS**  
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**WORLD CUP**  
Netherlands routs defending World Cup champions Spain.

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**SOURDOUGH JACK:**  
"I tried to strike a deal with my teacher for no more tests ever. That didn't work out."

## State strikes deal for new standardized tests for Alaska students

By Weston Morrow  
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The state of Alaska will pay \$25 million during the next five years to a University of Kansas institute for the creation and implementation of new standardized tests for Alaska students. The Achievement and Assessment Institute at the University of Kansas announced the deal Wednesday. Part of the funding will go toward the creation of the test, though much of it will be spent administering the test to Alaska's approximately 77,000 third-through 10th-grade students. The assessments will be called the Alaska Measures of Progress. They will be designed to test students based on the Alaska English language arts and mathematics standards, which the State Board of Education adopted

in 2012. The board adopted those new standards after receiving a waiver to the federal No Child Left Behind law. The state selected the institute to create the tests in January when it left the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, a group of about two dozen states creating assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Marianne Perie, the project manager in charge of Alaska's test creation, said the institute is charging the state an average of about \$5 million per year through 2020. Though test creation is a portion of the cost, Perie said the majority of the money will go to administering the tests. "Very little of this actually goes to test construction," Perie said. Part of the reason the tests cost so much to administer, according to Perie, is because Alaska is not yet capable of

giving all students online tests. "Right now Alaska is not ready to go 100 percent online so the cost that will start out very high and we're hoping to be able to decrease over time is the paper and pencil cost," Perie said. "(Online) once we set it up it doesn't cost anything to score. The hand scoring costs something." Of the \$5 million estimated for each year, between \$1.5 million and \$2 million will go to hand scoring paper and pencil tests. The institute has already creating assessments for the state of Kansas. Perie said they have been using those assessments as a starting point since the two states have similar standards. Both states have standards that are based in part on the Common Core. The plan, according to Perie, is to take the Kansas tests and tweak them

to match the Alaska standards as well as Alaska's cultural differences. The institute has planned several workshops for the summer where it has invited educators from Alaska to vet portions of the test for sensitivity and relevance and to work on their own passages that may appear on the tests. The institute will administer the first summative — end of year — assessments at the end of the 2014-15 school year. It plans to begin offering progress measuring assessments in the fall and winter to interested school districts by the 2015-16 school year. More information on the assessments can be found at www.akassessments.org or www.education.alaska.gov. Contact staff writer Weston Morrow at 459-7520. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMSchools.