

FAIRBANKS

Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today

EVENTS SET UP TO ASSIST PEOPLE SIGNING UP FOR HEALTH INSURANCE ONLINE. » A4

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Another relatively warm day with clear, blue skies.

High today 25

Low tonight 7

WEATHER » A9

Aurora forecast.

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

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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'LIGHT THE TORCH'

Sixth-graders offer voices for Arctic Winter Games theme song.



WORLD OF WONDER

Part two of a four-part series on Black History Month.

YOUTH
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CURLERS

Six curlers from Fairbanks in Seattle for junior national championships

SPORTS
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SOURDOUGH JACK:

"I prefer more light-weight reading ... like the comics page."



APOC treating candidates differently, says attorney for Mayor Eberhart

By Sam Friedman
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The Alaska Public Offices Commission has treated Fairbanks city mayor John Eberhart differently than his October election opponent Vivian Stiver, argues an attorney for the mayor.

Stiver and Eberhart were both the target of official complaints this fall related to corporate campaign contributions of time and services, which like corporate monetary contributions are not allowed under state campaign finance law.

Stiver was recently fined \$650 for accepting checks collected by on-the-

clock employees of the Ranch Motel, a corporation managed by Stiver supporter Donna Gilbert. For Eberhart, a commission staff attorney has recommended \$4,000 in fines and reimbursement for his campaign's use of phones and a photo copier at the office of Eberhart's previous employer, the Tanana Chiefs Conference. The recommended fine also covers the Eberhart's campaign's acceptance of \$500 in catering from corporate supporter Café de Paris Catering Company.

In a response, Eberhart's attorney Jason Gazewood wrote last week that the commission investigated Eberhart more intensively than Stiver. Spe-

cifically, he said APOC staff accepted unsworn written answers while investigating Stiver, but used interviews and subpoenas for the Eberhart investigation.

The Stiver investigation, he said, confined investigation to the "express complaints stated in a clear and concise complaint substantiated with evidence." For Eberhart he said the commission is "conducting a wide-ranging investigation based upon a vague and unsubstantiated complaint that failed to make any specific substantiated allegations."

Gazewood also said the commission interpreted campaign finance law bad-

ly. Eberhart's campaign shouldn't be penalized for his use of Tanana Chiefs Conference equipment because the use was "incidental," he said.

Tanana Chiefs Conference does usually charge employees for incidental use of equipment, did not know Eberhart was using the equipment and did not intend to influence the election, Gazewood said.

The Alaska Public Offices Commission next meets in February and likely will take up the Eberhart complaint at that meeting.

Contact staff writer Sam Friedman at 459-7545. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMcime.

ASCENSION



A raven flies across the horizon as the crescent moon rises over Mount Hess and Mount Deborah as seen from the University of Alaska Fairbanks West Ridge on Monday morning. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

Lewis: Parnell's school funds not enough

By Weston Morrow
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The governor's proposed increase to education funding will not be enough to stem the tide of looming cuts, according to Fairbanks North Star Borough Superintendent Pete Lewis.

Lewis told members of the school board legislative committee Monday that the Base Student Allocation increase proposed by Gov. Sean Parnell in his State of the State address Wednesday would only cover a small portion of the pending teacher layoffs.

The BSA, multiplied using the state's foundation formula, funds school districts on a per-student basis. It has remained flat at \$5,680 since fiscal year 2011, four years ago.

SCHOOLS » A9

Traffic stop nets alleged car thief, burglar

Suspect pursued last month by helicopter

By Sam Friedman
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A traffic stop last week netted an arrest that an aerial search last month in the Goldstream Valley failed to produce.

An Alaska State Trooper news release this week identified the alleged vehicle and firearm thief who launched a manhunt earlier this month as Fairbanks resident Brandon Barron, 36.

Troopers said Barron was the driver of a 1997 Chevrolet Suburban that went into a ditch on Gus' Grind Road Jan. 8 after a local resident reported catching him stealing fuel. Barron then fled on foot, breaking into a Windfall Way home where he allegedly stole money, two firearms and a 2007 Arctic Cat snowmachine. Barron escaped the area despite a half-dozen troopers and a helicopter that searched the area for him.

ARREST » A9

Lawmakers dive into introduction to natural gas

By Matt Buxton
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JUNEAU — This week's legislative schedule is packed with meetings on the state's complex natural gas pipeline deal, but Monday started with a simple reading lesson.

Three committees of lawmakers heard presentations from the state's administration on "how to read the document in front of you," a step-by-step overview of the state's agreement to partner with North Slope oil producers to pursue a large-diameter

natural gas pipeline.

"The intent of the presentation before you, is to give the public, the members of the committee, members of the Legislature that might be watching, and staff an orientation on how to read the document in front of you," Michael Pawlowski, deputy commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, told the House Resources Committee.

That document was the 35-page Heads of Agreement that was signed by the state's administration and the Alaska Gasline Development Corp.,

as well as North Slope producers Exxon Mobil, ConocoPhillips and BP, and pipeline company TransCanada.

The deal, if approved by the Alaska Legislature via a 49-page bill, would commit the state to invest in the pre-engineering, shouldering roughly a quarter of up to \$400 million in costs, up to about \$90 million.

If passed, the project would come back to the Legislature after 18 to 24 months of work for a decision to advance with the next step and begin

LEGISLATURE » A9