



PAUL WALKER, OF 'FAST & FURIOUS' FRANCHISE, DIES

NATION » A5



ALASKA WOMEN LOSE IN HOOPS TOURNEY FINAL

SPORTS » C1



WHITE PALMS OWNER MAKES SPACE FOR ART

BUSINESS » D1

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THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today

Man charged after Safeway employees say he swung a 'hatchet' at them. » INTERIOR, A4

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Expect another cold day with temps well below zero.

High today ..... -19  
Low tonight ..... -24

WEATHER » A7

Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be low. Weather permitting, low 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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ALL CLEAN?

Chinese government claims victory in ridding Internet of rumors, negativity and unruliness.

WORLD Page A6

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WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

Associate professor of physics at UAF talks about comet's allure for scientists.

SUNDAYS Page E1

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SOURDOUGH JACK: "My heart goes out to the survivors and the families of all those aboard."



## Mother led searchers to crash site

By Dan Joling  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**ANCHORAGE** — A mother on board a plane that crashed in remote southwest Alaska made a frantic phone call for help resuscitating her 5-month-old baby, then left the fatally injured boy to lead searchers hampered by cold and fog to the crash site.

Melanie Coffee, 25, of Mountain Village, walked nearly a mile toward lights in the village of St. Marys to meet rescuers Friday night.

"I believe she's the real hero in this," said St. Marys Village Police Officer

Fred Lamont Jr., one of the dozens from his community and surrounding villages who responded to the crash that killed four and injured six.

The Hageland Aviation Cessna 208 turboprop left Bethel at 5:40 p.m. on a scheduled flight for Mountain Village and eventually St. Marys.

St. Marys, like scores of other Alaska villages, is off the state road system. People routinely use small aircraft to reach regional hubs where they can catch another plane to complete trips to Anchorage or other cities.

CRASH » A8



This image provided by Alaska State Troopers shows the wreckage of a plane that crashed Friday near St. Marys. Authorities said the pilot and three passengers died in this crash of the single-engine turboprop Cessna 208. ASSOCIATED PRESS/ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

## Carving Christmas in Ice



Carvers work on their creations in the single block competition on the opening day of North Pole's Christmas In Ice park Saturday afternoon. The one-person single-block competition wraps up today, with the two-person multi-block event starting next weekend. Park hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

### Event ushers in the season in North Pole

By Jeff Richardson  
JRICHARDSON@NEWSMINER.COM

Christmas in Ice is not a competition for the meek.

As the temperature approached minus 20 degrees on Saturday

afternoon at the annual North Pole ice-carving contest, Kevin W. Laughlin was covered in a fine powder of frost, with long icicles hanging from his mustache. The Goldstream carver gave a short and optimistic summary of the conditions and he slowly formed a sculpture of a fairy catching a snowflake.

ICE » A8



Brian Daby, of Fairbanks, takes a turn on an ice slide on the opening day of Christmas In Ice. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

## Eberhart among 25 mayors attending conference at Harvard

Staff Report  
NEWSROOM@NEWSMINER.COM

New Fairbanks city Mayor John Eberhart is among 25 recently elected mayors who will be attending a three-day leadership conference this week at Harvard University.

Eberhart was a sitting council member when he was elected mayor in the Oct. 1 election.

The seminar on Transition and Leadership for Newly Elected Mayors, co-sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, will run from Wednesday until Friday at Harvard University's Institute of Politics at

the John F. Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, Mass.

Institute Director Trey Grayson says the seminar is an opportunity for new city leaders to engage with and learn from academics, policy experts and political practitioners on the urgent issues and complex challenges of governing today.

The newly elected mayors will participate in a variety of sessions that include transitioning from the campaign to office, finance and administration, jobs and the economy, public safety, education and technology.



MAYORS » A8 Eberhart



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