



Bill Maher in town

15 reasons to go see him

LATITUDE 65

New Look

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DETERMINED DOZEN: Short-numbered Monroe football squad gets ready for season opener. **Sports, Page D1**



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Fairbanks Head Start programs take a hit

Sequestration leads to cuts in services

By WESTON MORROW
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When Head Start programs start this fall, 139 children in Alaska — 30 of those in Fairbanks — will lose access to the early education assistance.

The statewide drop is part of a larger loss of positions for 57,000 Head Start students nationwide because of the across-the-board federal budget cuts known as the sequester.

Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide early childhood education and assistance for low-income families. For families to qualify, their total income must be below the poverty line — about \$24,000 for a family of three in Alaska.

Last year, Head Start programs served just fewer than 4,200 children in Alaska.

Head Start was one of the hardest hit programs by the sequester, and Fairbanks was one of the hardest hit areas in the state.

Programs in the Fairbanks North Star Borough are split between two organizations: Thrivalaska and Fairbanks Native Association. Each of them, like every other Head Start program in the state, took a 5.27 percent budget cut.

For FNA and many other Head Start programs, those cuts are just now taking effect as the school year begins. FNA took one of the biggest hits to enrollment in the state.

Last year, FNA served 303 children in

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What's to come

Fairbanks Drama Association announces season lineup full of comedy.
Latitude 65



Sourdough Jack sez:

"I thought about giving myself a new look, but there's only so many different hairstyles for an old sourdough."

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Photos by Eric Engman/News-Miner

Attendees gather outside during the ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house for the University of Alaska Fairbanks Margaret Murie Building on Thursday afternoon.

State-of-the-art facility

Life sciences building at UAF dedicated

By TIM MOWRY
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It was so hot and sunny for the dedication of the University of Alaska Fairbanks' shiny, new life sciences building on Thursday afternoon that Chancellor Brian Rogers was worried someone in the crowd might succumb to sunstroke.

Not that it would have been a problem.

"If you are subject to sunstroke, just remember that we need more test subjects in this building," Rogers said, drawing a laugh from the large crowd gathered for the dedication ceremony outside the Margaret Murie Building.

The \$107 million building was completed in April and has been hosting classes all summer, but the official dedication ceremony was held Thursday.

UAF faculty members, both past and present, as well as a handful of local politicians were treated to a VIP tour of the state-of-the-art, energy-efficient, 100,000-square-foot building on the West Ridge of campus before the dedication ceremony. They toured research labs and classrooms that the school's almost 600 graduate and undergraduate



Students and researchers in the biomedical lab introduce themselves to a VIP tour group during the ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house.

biology students will use to study everything from human brains to wildlife poop as they strive to cure diseases, study climate change and understand ecosystems.

"It's a beautiful building," Sen. Pete Kelly, R-Fairbanks, one of the politicians on hand for Thursday's ceremony, said following the tour.

Kelly was one of the legislators who helped secure the funding needed to build the new life sciences building and he said it was money that was well spent. Investing in a world-class research facility will pay dividends down the road, he said.

"I think what most people don't understand about research is you're talking

about diversifying your economy," Kelly said. "This is one of the ways you bring in Outside money to the economy in large amounts.

"How much research is going to go on up here and how much money is it going to bring in?" he said.

While the glass-fronted building is appealing from both educational and architectural viewpoints, another impressive aspect is that it was finished a year earlier than scheduled and almost \$2 million under budget, said senior project manager Cameron Wohlford with UAF's Department of Design and Construction.

"We're still tallying that up, but we're at least \$1.85 million

under budget," he said. "That doesn't happen very often."

The building is the first new academic facility built at UAF since 1994, Provost Susan Henrichs said. She noted that biology is now one of the largest majors at UAF, and it was important to provide students with a modern learning environment.

"The revolution in the field of biology is accommodated by all the features in this building," she said.

The building is named for UAF alumna and famed naturalist Margaret "Mardy" Murie, who was the first woman graduate of the Alaska Agricultural College and

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Nulato man charged with attempted murder

By SAM FRIEDMAN
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A Nulato man has been charged with attempted murder for allegedly trying to drown a man in a mud puddle.

Neil J. Madros, 40, is accused of trying to kill Kenneth Kriska, a man he had been drinking with early Tuesday night in Nulato.

Alaska State Troopers were

called to the Yukon River community after receiving a call from the medical clinic that Kriska had been attacked and had a cut on his head. He had a 1.5- to 2-inch cut on the top of his head that had to be closed with 13 staples, according to the criminal complaint against Madros.

Kriska told troopers he was drinking with Madros and two

others Tuesday. When the other two people got up to get water, Madros began threatening his (Kriska's) family, Kriska said. Kriska said he tried to walk away, but Madros pushed him down in a puddle and told him he was going to drown him. Kriska said he got muddy water in his mouth, saw stars and thought he was going to faint. Madros hit him with something

in the side of the head, although he wasn't sure what it was, he said.

Troopers described the mud puddle as about 3 inches deep.

Several witnesses in Nulato told troopers that Madros was seen driving a red truck recklessly around the community Tuesday night.

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