



# Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

**Inside Today** UA president, UAF interim chancellor speak to Chamber of Commerce. » A4

## Kassel's campaign funds top mayoral race

By Matt Buxton  
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Assemblyman Karl Kassel has raised more than three times the combined total of his opponents in the race for Fairbanks North Star Borough mayor, according to the latest campaign disclosure reports filed with the state.

Kassel has raised nearly \$48,000 according to a disclosure report filed with the Alaska Public Offices Commission and cover fundraising from Feb. 2 through Sept. 4. State Rep. Tammie Wilson of North Pole raised nearly \$13,500, during the same time.

Wilson also had \$4,500 on hand starting out, money left from previous campaigns.

Robert Shields, also running for the seat, reported income of \$410 for the same period. The

fourth candidate, Cory Jackman, had not filed a disclosure report as of press time.

Comparing the two frontrunners of the race, Kassel's nearly 320 individual contributions averaged about \$150 apiece, while Wilson's 60 individual contributions averaged about \$220 apiece.

Although Wilson is behind in the fundraising, she's also been at it for a far shorter time than Kassel. Since filing her letter of intent in July, she had 51 days to accumulate the \$13,500.

Kassel, by comparison, filed his letter of intent last December and has had more than 200 days to fund raise.

The fundraising numbers alone don't paint the entire picture of the race. Plenty of groups also plan on participating in the election, including labor groups,

one titled simply "Not Tammie," and the Interior Taxpayers' Association.

Wilson, making a second attempt at becoming borough mayor, has a national political group on her side. But because of how fundraising and campaign laws work, none of the group's expenditures, so far, have required to be reported.

Americans for Prosperity, a conservative group backed by billionaire brothers Charles G. Koch and David H. Koch, began running ads against Kassel in early August.

The two own the Flint Hills Resources Alaska Terminals in North Pole. Americans for Prosperity has been increasingly active on the state level with in-state offices and organizers.

The biggest beneficiary of the ads, however, appears to be

Kassel campaign's fundraising. Kassel's fundraising picked up dramatically at about the time the ads launched, according to the campaign finance reports.

The effect of the Americans for Prosperity ads on the campaign was echoed by Kassel's campaign manager David Dunsmore, who said it's helped rally volunteers and contributions, including from people who've never given to a campaign before.

Shortly after the ads began running, Kassel's campaign saw a large one-day haul of funding, about \$8,500 in contributions that all arrived on Aug. 21 and averaged about \$180 per contribution at a fundraiser hosted by local businessman Andy Warwick.

FUNDS » A3

## Candidates take part in first forum

By Amanda Bohman  
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The first opportunity for voters to compare and contrast municipal candidates in person took place on Tuesday.

The Interior Taxpayers' Association, a government watchdog group, brought together nine candidates for Fairbanks North Star Borough mayor and

FORUM » A4

**GOOD MORNING**

**The weather.**  
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers, storms and highs in the lower 60s.

High today .....63  
Low tonight .....43

**WEATHER » A9**

**Aurora forecast.**  
Auroral activity will be moderate.

This information is provided by aurora forecasters at the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. For more information about the aurora, visit [www.gi.alaska.edu/AuroraForecast](http://www.gi.alaska.edu/AuroraForecast)

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Police and other emergency responders secure the scene at an incident near the intersection of Wilbur Street and Davis Road on Tuesday morning. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

## Troopers shoot man in standoff

By Weston Morrow  
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Alaska State Troopers shot a man in South Fairbanks early Tuesday in a standoff after the man was seen driving a car that had been reported stolen earlier in the day.

The man, whose name has not yet been released, was transported to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital with potentially life-threatening injuries.

The shooting occurred shortly after 10 a.m. near the intersection of Davis Road and Wilbur Street.

The incident began during a traffic stop, when a trooper patrolling the area noticed the stolen car. The man driving the vehicle was in possession of a firearm, according to trooper spokeswoman Megan Peters.

Troopers and Fairbanks Police Department officers responded to the scene. Attempts to negotiate with the man failed, according to troopers. They then reportedly used fired bean-bag rounds at the man without success.

Some time later, multiple troopers fired their service weapons

at the man, who was then transported to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital with potentially life-threatening injuries. Troopers have not released the man's name.

No information has been provided about what caused troopers to fire their weapons.

Peters said troopers would not release identifying information about the man until his next of kin have been notified. The man was still alive as of late afternoon Tuesday, according to Peters.

Troopers did not explicitly say whether the man's injuries were

a result of the officers' shots. The case was originally handled by troopers since the traffic stop began outside of the Fairbanks Police Department's jurisdiction.

The investigation was transferred to the Alaska Bureau of Investigation in Anchorage on Tuesday afternoon. Peters said the bureau will typically take over responsibility for cases with trooper-involved shootings.

Staff writer Jeff Richardson contributed to this report. Contact staff writer Weston Morrow at 459-7520. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMschools.

## Obama resurrects Alaska agency

By Lisa Rein  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Two years ago this month, the Denali Commission and its 12 employees exploded into national headlines when its own watchdog declared that it should be put out of business. The inspector general told Congress that the tiny federal agency had lost its way and its budget and recommended that it be deep-sixed.

For the economic development commission based in downtown Anchorage, it has been a taxing two years.

The agency was subjected to a federal investigation and congressional inquiries about its mission. Its annual appropriation from Congress, which peaked nine years ago at \$150 million, shrank to \$14 million. The inspector general, who wrote to Congress without telling his co-workers, quit abruptly after no small amount of bad blood had been spilled between them.

Last week, the Denali Commission was back in the headlines. On his two-day trip to Alaska, President Obama tapped the agency to oversee his ambitious plan to save the largest state from the drastic effects of climate change.

"We're now on offense and we're ready to play," Joel Neimeyer, the commission's federal co-chairman and effective executive director, said in an inter-

CLIMATE » A3

**TOP OF THE FIELD**

West Valley runners sweep Region VI Preview meet.

**SPORTS**  
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**SOURDOUGH JACK:**  
"Wowzas, \$48,000? I oughta start a Sourdough Jack PAC!"

## Man missing after raft overturns on the Chena

Staff Report  
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A man remains missing after he was last seen slipping under the surface of the Chena River on Tuesday afternoon near the Peger Street bridge.

Volunteers and rescue crews from several agencies spent several hours searching the river between Peger Road and University Avenue. They were looking for a man in his 40s wearing a dark-colored hoodie, jeans and no life jacket, said Assistant Fire Chief Ernie Misewicz with the Fairbanks Fire Department.

The man was one of four people in a raft who overturned about 4 p.m., Misewicz said. The other three people swam to shore.

"Other than being cold and wet, they're fine," he said.

Boat crews from the city and University fire department were on scene Tuesday evening, sweeping the river using long poles.

More information about the man wasn't immediately available, said Misewicz, who was called away from the river rescue call to respond to a small home fire during the river rescue call.

This man is the second to go

missing after falling into the Chena River this summer.

On Aug. 2, 30-year-old Tyler B. Cover jumped from the William Ransom Wood Centennial Bridge in downtown Fairbanks and disappeared while swimming to the north shore. The official search for Cover ended Aug. 28.

Contact the newsroom at 459-7572.

**Search and rescue personnel scour the Chena River just downstream of the Peger Road overpass in search of a missing boater Tuesday evening.**  
ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER



**Chena's Alaskan Grill**

Last day is Saturday, September 12!  
Hurry...Make your reservations now! Dinner served from 5:30 p.m.  
River's Edge Resort • 4200 Boat Street  
474-3644 • Reopening May of 2016