



# Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

**Inside Today** GCI services brought offline by damage to fiber cable in Anchorage. » A4

## UA tuition could rise 15 percent from budget cuts

By Matt Buxton  
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**JUNEAU** — Tuition at the University of Alaska could rise between 10 and 15 percent in response to pending cuts considered by the Legislature.

University of Alaska President Jim Johnsen presented budget contingency plans to the Board of Regents at its Thursday meeting in Anchorage as the system

waits on the Legislature to settle on a funding level.

The presentation is so far the best look at what a third consecutive year of cuts made by the Legislature could do to the UA system, but Johnsen stressed that it's just a first draft.

"Hopefully with the budget coming in from the state we will come to you in June with a set of decisions," he said. "There are no decisions here today. It's more a presentation of our thinking."

The draft response to the cuts includes an across-the-board hike in tuition, hundreds of job cuts, a scaling back of academic offerings, dozens of cuts to administrative programs and even the elimination of some unspecified athletics programs.



Johnsen

here that make total sense and we ought to have frankly done a long time ago, and there are other things that are forced upon us by the severity of the reductions we're looking at," he said.

The increase to tuition would be expected to occur midway through the next academic year in order to allow student input on the change and raise between \$6 million and \$9 million. The increases would go beyond a 5 percent increase

**Online »** View Johnsen's full report and potential course cuts. » [newsminer.com](#)

already approved for the upcoming academic year.

Currently the UA-wide cut from the Legislature will be somewhere between \$25 million and \$50 million depending on how end-of-session negotiations play out, and Johnsen's presenta-

tion estimates the effective cut system wide would be between \$52 million and \$77 million when rising costs are factored in.

The presentation included breakdowns of the potential impacts to each campus, with the University of Alaska Fairbanks taking an effective cut somewhere between \$26 million and \$38 million.

Under the worst case

**UNIVERSITY » A3**

### GOOD MORNING



#### The weather.

Snow likely; becoming mixed with rain in the afternoon. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch.

High today .....38  
Low tonight .....25

#### WEATHER » A7

#### Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be moderate. Weather permitting, moderate displays will be visible overhead from Barrow.

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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### CONCEAL CARRY

Senate approves a bill that could allow guns on UA campuses.

**INTERIOR**  
Page A7

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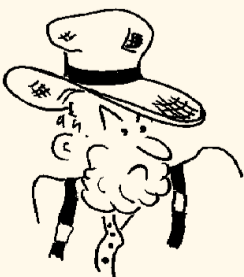
### FLAWLESS VICTORY

Fairbanks curlers finish perfect in pool play at Mixed Nationals.

**SPORTS**  
Page D1

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**SOURDOUGH JACK:**  
"Times sure are a-changin' up on that hill."



### ON THE ROCKS



The concrete slab is poured at the site of the new UAF Heat and Power Plant off of Alumni Drive on Thursday morning. Three concrete companies hauled in 1,764 cubic yards of material in 25 truckloads, with 45 workers on the ground leveling the five-foot-thick slab. The new heat and power plant has an estimated cost of \$245 million and a completion date of 2018. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER PHOTOS



The concrete slab is poured at the site of the new UAF Heat and Power Plant off of Alumni Drive on Thursday morning.

## Draft budget cuts education, government, taxes

By Amanda Bohman  
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The first draft of the new borough spending plan came out Thursday with the mayor recommending a \$1.2-million cut to education, a slight mill rate decrease and cuts to government administration, including equipment, training and travel.

"It's frugal. It's thinner than sustainable, but I think it's appropriate," Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Karl Kassel said. "We haven't cut any programs. Our service level should be pretty static."

Now it's the Borough Assembly's turn to mold the spending plan during a series of Saturday meetings this month. The plan is subject to final approval in early May.

Under the \$160-million budget proposal, the municipality would collect about \$600,000 less in property taxes borough-wide, but going up are fees, particularly government building and room rentals and services at the Department of Community Planning.

The area-wide mill rate, under the proposal, would be reduced from 11.599 mills to 11.578 mills.

The cost for a child to swim at a borough pool or skate at the Big Dipper Ice Arena is going up to \$4.75, but the mayor is proposing to offer a new "facility super pass" whereby a child could swim or skate all year for \$320.

Adults could purchase a super pass for \$660. The pass is also good for drop-in hockey and access to the weight room and aquacise classes at the Mary Siah Recreation Center.

The administration is predicting that proceeds from the 5-percent alcohol tax decrease by \$40,000. The tobacco tax is expected to go up by \$25,000.

The budget doesn't account for the 5-percent marijuana tax, which has yet to be approved by the voters and goes on the ballot in October.

"It's a non-issue at this point as far as the budget is concerned," Kassel said.

**BUDGET » A7**

## Arctic Man postponed due to weather

By Robin Wood  
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**SUMMIT LAKE** — Poor visibility postponed the Arctic Man races Thursday afternoon after almost half of the 54 teams finished. The race is scheduled to resume 11 a.m. today, weather permitting.

All of the women snowboarders finished, and one female skier was waiting for a second run after a snow-machiner interfered with her first race.

All of the male skiers that competed will have to race again on today.

The unofficial women's snowboard results show Audrey Hebert and snowmachiner Kelsey Boe as the winners with a time of 4:15:68.

Boe said she "couldn't see the course hardly at all," while Hebert said "trying to tuck the wind kept pushing me."

The day started with partly cloudy skies, but



Skier Natalie Van Nostrand leaves the start of the 2016 Arctic Man Classic in the Hoodoo Mountains near Summit Lake on Thursday. The race was postponed after the women's ski and snowboard events.

ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER

conditions gradually deteriorated. High winds buffeted the course all morning, and whiteout conditions prompted the postponement.

"It's ugly as hell up

there and getting uglier," race director Howard Thies said.

Petr Kakes was one of the last racers to compete. "Pretty tough visibility. That's the right call for Howard to

make," he said.

John Thies, Howard Thies' son, estimated visibility on the course to be a few hundred feet. "It's white on

**ARCTIC MAN » A5**

