



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA

Inside Today Police warn about telephone scam that impersonates an officer. » INTERIOR, A4

Rep. Wool sponsors ride-sharing bill

Interior legislator wants to bring Uber, Lyft to Alaska

By Matt Buxton
MBUXTON@NEWSMINER.COM

Inspired by his experience running an event venue and bar outside town, Fairbanks state Rep. Adam Wool is backing a plan that could bring ride-sharing services like Uber

and Lyft to Alaska.

Wool's House Bill 132 would permit transportation network companies, as the bill calls them, to operate throughout Alaska regardless of whether communities want to let the companies in.

The bill is a companion piece of legislation to a bill authored by Anchorage Republican Sen. Mia Costello in the Senate, which passed last week on a 14-5 vote and is now in the House.

"I remember when Uber



Wool

came to Anchorage I was really excited and I was optimistic they would come to Fairbanks," Wool said, recalling the company's Alaska stint before it left after waiting for the green light from the city. "That was before I was in the Legislature. I use it on trips Outside and I love it."

The ride-sharing companies operate by allowing users to hail rides through a phone app, including rating drivers and paying through the app. Drivers, who are screened by the companies, are independent contractors who personally own or rent their vehicles.

Wool said he thought it would be a good fit for the Fair-

banks area, saying cabs rides are expensive and can come with long waits.

"It changes how you go out and it'd help Fairbanks," he said. "It'd help facilitate travel, and keep people from drinking and driving."

Local concerns

The most controversial element of the bill would explicitly prevent local governments from regulating or outright banning ride-sharing companies. Wool said it's necessary to prevent an inconsistent patchwork of where Lyft and Uber rides are available.

But it's on that ground that municipalities have generally opposed the legislation as written. The Alaska Municipal League, which represents the state's municipalities, wrote a letter opposing the legislation.

City of Fairbanks Mayor Jim Matherly also sent a letter to the Legislature opposing the measure because of the limit. He said he supports companies like Uber and Lyft operating in the city, but not without the option for local regulation.

"My specific objection is the explicit provision pre-empting local authority to regulate

RIDE-SHARE » A7

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of snow and highs in the upper 20s to lower 30s.

High today29
Low tonight 5

WEATHER » A9

Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be high. Weather permitting, highly active displays will be visible overhead from Utqiagvik 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.gialaska.edu/AuroraForecast>

SUPERTOUR SKIATHLON FINALS



Men's skiers climb Stadium Hill after the classic mass start during the Doyon Utilities USSA SuperTour Skiathlon Finals on Monday evening at Birch Hill Recreation Area. Left: APU's Becca Rorabaugh competes skis in the second half of the women's race Far left: Women's winner Jessica Diggins, right, congratulates Kikkan Randall, left, on her second-place finish. For more coverage, see Sports on Page B1. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

OPIOIDS

Number of toddlers dying because of accidental opioid consumption growing.

HEALTH
Page B4

SOURDOUGH JACK:
"I've always been partial to a personal driver."



Trump signs bill overturning Obama BLM resource management update

By Rod Boyce
RBOYCE@NEWSMINER.COM

President Donald Trump signed legislation Monday overturning the Obama administration's update to the Bureau of Land Management's long-standing process for resource management planning.

The revised BLM process, known as "Planning 2.0," was approved by the agency's director in December.

The House voted 234-186 on Feb. 7 to overturn the rule; the Senate made its disapproval vote of 51-48 on March 7. Republican Rep. Liz Cheney, of Wyoming, carried the bill in the House; GOP Sen. Lisa Murkowski, of



President Donald Trump gives his pen to Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., third from left, after signing one of various bills Monday in the White House in Washington. From left are Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska; Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn.; Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo.; Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska; and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, right, and his wife, Lolita, second from right. AP PHOTO/ANDREW HARNIK

BLM » A7

Crews install fiber optic cable from Prudhoe Bay to Fairbanks

By Kevin Baird
KBAIRD@NEWSMINER.COM

Quintillion Holdings recently finished installing 250 miles of fiber optic cable connecting Prudhoe Bay to Fairbanks, company spokesman Tim Woolston said.

The fiber optic cable will bring broadband internet to the Arctic for the first time when the switch is flipped in mid-April, Woolston said. The exact moment has not been determined.

FIBER OPTICS » A3

INSIDE Classified » B8-B10 | Comics » B5 | Dear Abby » B6 | Health » B4 | Markets » B7 | Obituaries » A5 | Opinion » A6





OPENING IN APRIL

FMH'S NEW SURGERY FACILITY

KEEPING YOU CLOSER TO HOME

We've been working for the past two years to bring you exceptional surgical care and advanced medical technology with the doctors and nurses who know you. We are ready to share our 90,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility with you, right here at home.

Thank you for your support as we work together to build a better future for Fairbanks.




Foundationhealth.org