



# Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

**Inside Today** Fort Greely allocated \$50 million in U.S. Senate's spending plan. » INTERIOR, A4

## Walker submits stripped-down budget

### \$100 million of projects left out of proposal

By **Matt Buxton**  
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Gov. Bill Walker dropped more than \$100 million of projects from his capital budget, including the Susitna-Watana dam, the Ambler Mine road project, the Knik Arm Bridge Crossing and energy conservation projects.

Any project that wasn't legally mandated or eligible to receive

federal or other matching funding was ditched from the budget, slimming it down to \$106 million from the \$220 million of unrestricted state dollars former Gov. Sean Parnell had planned to spend.

The move is an attempt to stretch



Walker

the state's dollars amid impending budget woes caused by the slumping price of oil. As explained by the budget highlight document released Monday, the capital budget was cut "to a minimum level of unrestricted general funds necessary to leverage federal or other matching funds."

The release of the budget on Dec. 15, just two weeks after Walker entered office, is required by law.

Much of Monday's budget is based on what Parnell had left behind.

The Walker administration submitted, without endorsement, the operating budget Parnell had put together. That budget proposed to spend \$5.3 billion in state unrestricted funds, a 3.8 percent decrease from the current year.

In the capital budget, Parnell had allocated \$20 million for the Susitna-Watana dam, \$8 million for the Ambler road project, \$22 million for the Alaska Housing Finance Corp.'s home weatherization program, \$10 million for

the AHFC energy rebate program and \$45 million for the Knik Arm Bridge project. All were absent from the Walker budget.

The Northern Alaska Environmental Center applauded the absence of the Ambler road funding, but Walker spokeswoman Grace Jang said the budget on Monday isn't the final word.

"Don't read into what's there and not there. We're going to spend the next couple weeks looking at all of the capital projects," she said.

**BUDGET » A10**

### GOOD MORNING



#### The weather.

Mostly cloudy, with temperatures dropping near zero overnight.

High today ..... 13  
Low tonight ..... 0

**WEATHER » A9**

#### 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.gialaska.edu/AuroraForecast>

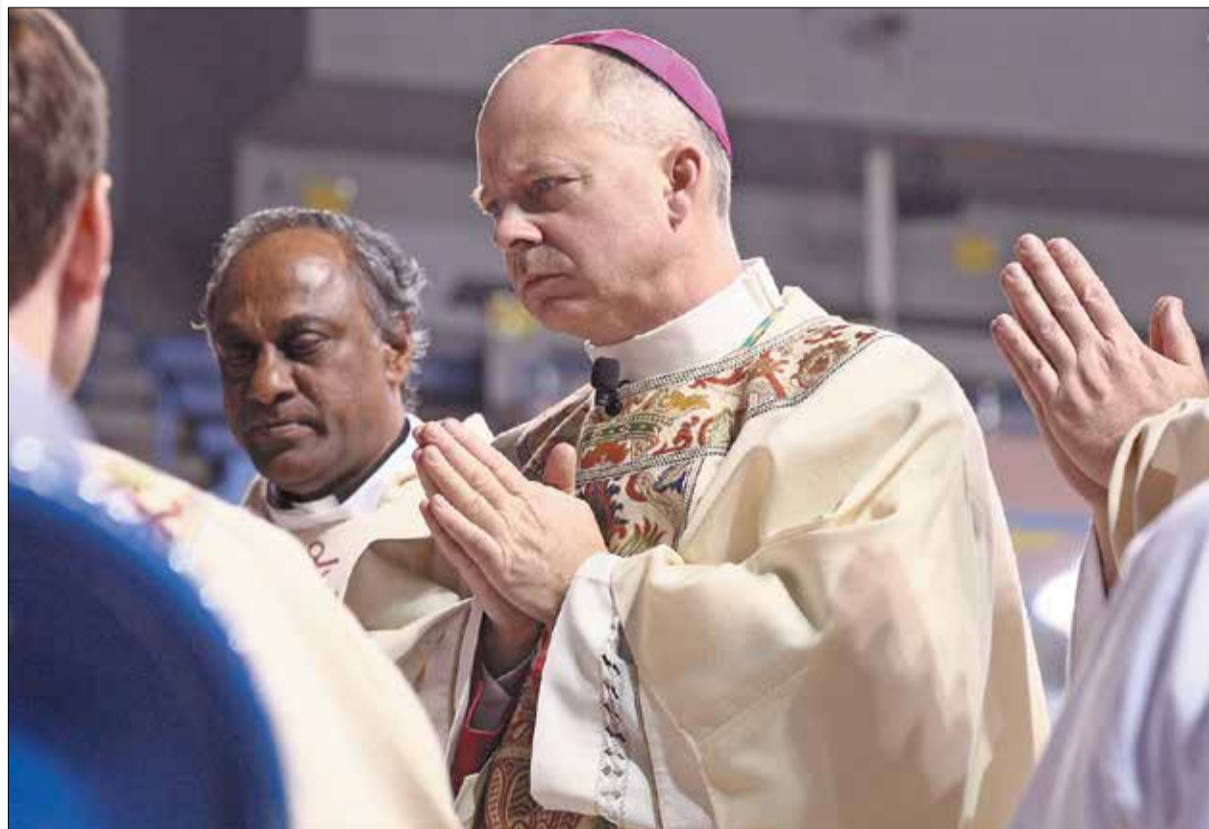


### DECK THE HALLS

Explore Christmas decorations in World of Wonder.

**YOUTH**  
Page B4

**SOURDOUGH JACK:**  
"A pickle? Is it a Christmas tree or a sandwich?"



The Most Rev. Chad W. Zielinski is questioned during his ordination and installation as the bishop of the Diocese of Fairbanks on Monday afternoon at the Carlson Center. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

## Fairbanks diocese gets new bishop

By **Sam Friedman**  
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Among many thanks and blessings Monday afternoon, the new bishop for the Catholic Diocese of Fairbanks thanked members of the military he credits with saving his life during a 2011 deployment to Afghanistan.

Unusual among church leaders, the Most Rev. Chad Zielinski, 50, was an active-duty chaplain stationed at Eielson Air Force Base when he learned last month that Pope Francis had named him the local spiritual leader for the 11,000 Catholic people of North

### ON THE WEB

See video and more photos from the new bishop's installation » [www.newsminer.com](http://www.newsminer.com)

America's northern-most diocese.

"Please pray for the safely military personnel, their speedy return home, but more than anything pray for an end to war, hatred and division," he said at his installation ceremony at the Carlson Center.

The three-hour ceremony took place before a log-cabin style alter set with a white cloth and a leather fringe decorated

**BISHOP » A10**



The Most Rev. Roger L. Schwietz, archbishop of Anchorage, performs the laying on of hands during the ordination and installation of the Most Rev. Chad W. Zielinski as the bishop of the Diocese of Fairbanks on Monday at the Carlson Center. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

## UA's Gamble to retire in 2015

By **Jeff Richardson**  
JRICHARDSON@NEWSMINER.COM

University of Alaska President Pat Gamble has announced plans to retire after five years in the position.

Gamble has set a retirement date of June 1, 2015, the date his contract will expire. He privately notified the UA Board of Regents of his plans last Friday.

Gamble was in meetings on Monday and was unavailable for an interview. Board chairwoman Jo Heckman said Gamble told regents he was ready to spend more time with his family.

"It was unexpected," Heckman said. "It was a surprise to all the regents."

Gamble, 69, was appointed UA president on June 1, 2010, following a national search. He previously served in the Air Force, retiring as a general, and as head of the Alaska Railroad.

"He's been working, as he stated, for going on 50 years," Heckman said. "How can you fault the guy?"

**GAMBLE » A10**

## Man pleads guilty to assaulting Tanana VPSO

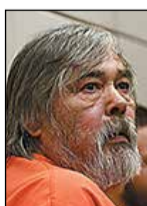
By **Jeff Richardson**  
JRICHARDSON@NEWSMINER.COM

A Tanana man pleaded guilty Monday to threatening a village public safety officer last April, taking responsibility for an incident that authorities say escalated into the shooting deaths of two Alaska State Troopers.

Arvin Morse Kangas, 59, pleaded guilty to a con-

solidated count of fourth-degree assault. He was charged with threatening VPSO Sgt. Mark Haglin and pointing to a firearm in a threatening manner while looking at him.

Kangas' actions on April



Kangas

30 resulted in a warrant for his arrest, leading to a response by trooper Sgt. Scott Johnson and trooper Gabe Rich the following day in Tanana. Arvin Kangas' son, Nathaniel Kangas, is charged with fatally shooting the two troopers while they were in the process of arresting his father.

Arvin Kangas was given a 30-day jail sentence following the guilty plea. He has

been in custody since May 1, but remains in custody on charges of evidence tampering and hindering prosecution, crimes that are alleged to have occurred after Johnson and Rich were killed.

Kangas, who appeared in court wearing a gold-colored jail jumpsuit and pink socks, frequently offered rambling responses to District Court Judge Patrick Hammers during his hearing on Mon-

day. He was asked several times whether he accepted the plea deal, and responded that he needed to get out of jail to care for his younger son.

Kangas is also prohibited from contacting Haglin or Haglin's wife under terms of his sentence.

Contact staff writer Jeff Richardson at 459-7518. Staff writer Dorothy Chomicz contributed to this article.

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Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Air Quality

## PM2.5 Air Quality Regulations and Plan Public Hearing

Wednesday, December 17  
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 5-7 p.m.  
**Wedgewood Resort Taiga Room**  
212 Wedgewood Drive, Fairbanks