



# Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

**Inside Today** The Hockey Hall of Fame tour will be stopping in Fairbanks this January. » SPORTS, PAGE B1

## GOOD MORNING



### The weather.

Fairbanks will get another helping of snow this Thanksgiving Day.

High today ..... -1

Low tonight ..... -13

**WEATHER » A11**

### Aurora forecast.

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

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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### SO FLAKY

National Weather Service predicts 4 to 6 inches of snow to fall during the holiday.

**INTERIOR  
Page A6**

...

### HOLIDAY HOOPS

The Nanooks women's basketball team to play in North Star Invitational today.

**SPORTS  
Page B1**

...

### SOURDOUGH JACK:

"I'm thankful for my wife, my dogs and my La-Z-Boy."



# Study: Denali wolf viewing down

## Fewer visitors report seeing them from park road

By **Tim Mowry**  
TMOWRY@NEWSMINER.COM

Fewer visitors are seeing wolves in Denali National Park and Preserve, and the National Park Service is looking for the reason.

Researchers for the National Park Service estimate that only about 8,000 — or 4 percent — of the approximately 200,000 visitors who traveled the park road in shuttle buses this past sum-

mer saw wolves. That compares to viewing percentages of 12 percent in 2012, 21 percent in 2011 and 44 percent in 2010.

There is only one road — the 92-mile Denali Park Road — that leads into the 6-million acre park, and tourists must ride buses to get beyond 15 Mile. It's after this marker where most wolf sightings occur.

The decline in wolf viewing opportunities coincides with a decline in the park's overall wolf population. The 2013 spring count of 55 wolves is the second-lowest documented since counts began in 1986, according to researchers. The only lower count was 53 wolves in spring 1987, park biologist Steve

**Online »** Read the letter from wolf protection advocates and see a map of the proposed buffer zone. »

[www.newsminer.com](http://www.newsminer.com)

Arthur said. The 2012 spring count was 66 wolves.

Biologists don't know why the park's overall wolf population has declined in recent years but said a decline in viewing opportunities is more tied to the fact that no wolf packs denned near Denali Park Road the past two years than to the decline in the overall population.

**WOLVES » A9**



Researchers for the National Park Service estimate that only about 8,000 — or 4 percent — of the approximately 200,000 visitors who traveled Denali Park Road in shuttle buses this past summer saw wolves. BOB HALLINEN/ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS FILE

## BIRD IS THE WORD



Zeb Woodman with the International Laborers Union Local 942 slides a row of boxes as volunteers hand out Thanksgiving food boxes and turkeys Wednesday at the First Presbyterian Church downtown. "We've got a whole group of folks here from the unions helping out," Woodman said, adding that the Fairbanks Central Labor Council and the Fairbanks Building and Construction Trades Council combined to purchase \$5,000 worth of turkeys to donate. "No one will be hungry. That's the bottom line," church elder and volunteer coordinator Jim Williams said of the annual giveaway, coordinated by First Presbyterian Church and Fairbanks Community Food Bank. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

**INSIDE:** A LIST OF FREE THANKSGIVING MEALS HOSTED AROUND THE COMMUNITY. » A2

# Fine for mayoral candidate reduced

By **Sam Friedman**  
SFRIEDMAN@NEWSMINER.COM

Former Fairbanks mayoral candidate Vivian Stiver and the corporation that owns the Ranch Motel were each fined \$650 in a final order handed down this week by the Alaska Public Offices Commission for a violation of campaign law from the October election.

The five commissioners concluded the violation didn't merit as big a fine as the commission's staff had recommended. The staff had recommended a fine of \$1,300 each for Stiver and the motel corporation.

The commission ruled Tuesday that Stiver and the motel violated campaign finance law this fall by devoting corporate resources — motel office space and staff time — to accept political contributions to Stiver's campaign this year.

**FINE » A11**

# North Pole Library gets \$500K grant

By **Weston Morrow**  
WMORROW@NEWSMINER.COM

The Fairbanks North Star Borough will receive a \$500,000 grant from the Rasmuson Foundation to complete the new North Pole Branch Library.

The library grant was one of several given by Rasmuson Tuesday to organizations operating in the Interior, totaling nearly \$1 million in guaranteed funding and an additional \$275,000 in required matching funds.

The borough began building a new North Pole library branch in

**GRANT » A11**



### INSIDE

Classifieds » B9 | Comics » B8 | Dear Abby » B5 | Obituaries » A9 | Opinion » A4 | Nation » A4 | Sports » B1 | Stocks » A8 | Weather » A11

# CHRISTMAS GOTTA HAVES

*Maria's Favorite*



Meet Maria. She is the Parts Dept manager at Compeau's. Maria's hottest selling Christmas Gift for 2013 is our new Wireless Heated Vests and Jackets. Available in several colors (\$149-\$179)

*Kyle's Favorite*



Meet Kyle in Sales. Kyle is a hardcore rider, and is once again going to be competing in the Iron Dog. Kyle's favorite gift for 2013 is the new Safari Face mask. (\$64.95)

*Chris' Favorite*



Meet Chris at the parts counter. Chris is the guy you come see when you need Ski-doo parts or accessories. Also in stock, the gift everyone is wishing for, Compeau Cash! (available in \$20's, \$50's, and \$100's)

Check out these hot sellers and all our other great Christmas gift ideas at

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