



FAST-FOOD WORKERS CALL FOR WAGE HIKES

NATION » A7



BIG BROWN JUG: LIQUOR STORE'S SELECTION VAST

INTERIOR » A8



ALASKA WOMEN COME UP SHORT IN GNAC OPENER

SPORTS » D1

Daily News-Miner
THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

**30th Annual
Gingerbread House Contest
THIS Saturday, Dec. 7
Carlson Center
9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Stop by to vote for your favorites!

21416206 12-7-13



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today Parnell proposes taking \$3B from state's savings to help pare down pension shortfall. » A3

GOOD MORNING

The weather.
Freezing rain is likely again today, so be safe.
High today29
Low tonight20

WEATHER » A9

Report details findings in child's death

Medical examiner says toddler suffered burns not frostbite

By Sam Friedman
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A state medical examiner concluded an 18-month-old North Pole child had thermal burns to his body, not frostbite as claimed by his mother, who is accused of killing him.

plaint against Amberlynn Aubrey Swanson, of North Pole, deals mainly with the reported contradictions between an account given by Swanson and an Alaska State Trooper investigation.

A medical examiner concluded that "what had appeared to be

The 1 1/2-page criminal com-

DEATH » A9



Amberlynn Swanson breaks down while being arraigned on first-degree murder charges Thursday afternoon at the Rabinowitz Courthouse via video from the Fairbanks Correctional Facility for allegedly killing her 18-month-old son. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

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>

Fire damages North Pole home



A fire consumes a North Pole area home Thursday. PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTH STAR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

No people injured, but cat dies in blaze

By Sam Friedman
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A cat died in a house fire in the North Pole area Wednesday afternoon. The cat was found in a room of

a two story house at 2135 Waxwing Court, said North Star Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief Jeff Tucker.

No people were home at 1:19 p.m. when the fire department received a call about the fire. Firefighters entered the burning home and were able to rescue a dog before the roof collapsed, Tucker said. He described the damage as an "extensive" loss. The house was insured.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. From the initial review, it appears the fire may have started on the exterior of the house around the wood stove chimney, Tucker said.

Fort Wainwright and Steese fire department provided mutual aid to the fire call.

Contact staff writer Sam Friedman at 459-7545. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMerime.

Ketchikan borough planning school funds suit

By Matt Buxton
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Ketchikan officials made the case to the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly Thursday night that the state is unconstitutionally forcing municipalities to pay for local schools.

It's a requirement they said cost Fairbanks borough taxpayers more than \$26 million this year.

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough is preparing a major lawsuit against the state over the issue, saying that the state's requirement for municipalities to pitch in to fund schools amounts to an unconstitutional tax and a shirking of the constitutional mandate for the state to pay for schools.

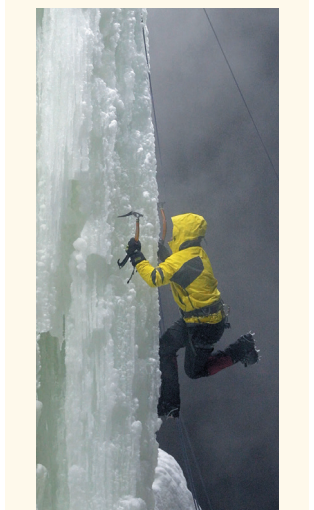
The state current provides a large chunk of school funding for every district, but requires that districts located in municipalities like the Fairbanks North Star Borough or the Ketchikan Borough provide some funding. For both Fairbanks and Ketchikan, that amounts to millions in local property taxes.

"The state does not adequately fund municipal school districts," Ketchikan Borough manager Dan Bockhorst said. He said the state funds the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District at "\$124.6 million. The basic need is \$151.5 million, there is a \$26.8 million gap. That's the difference between basic need and the funding for basic need. The state doesn't provide this. It compels the Fairbanks North Star Borough taxpayers and the Fairbanks North Star Borough to fund that component of basic need."

Bockhorst and Ketchikan Borough attorney Scott Brandt-Erichson explained the broad legal grounds of the lawsuit that they plan to file early next year.

MANDELA » A10

LAWSUIT » A9



CLIMB ON
UAF's ice climbing tower opens for the season.

OUTDOORS
Page B1

A HOLIDAY TRADITION
"The Nutcracker" returns this weekend.

LATITUDE 65

SOURDOUGH JACK:
"Looks like I'm stayin' home today. Too much ice for my taste."



Nations across globe mourn Mandela

Former president of South Africa Nelson Mandela is seen at his home in Qunu, South Africa, during a visit from former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton in 2012. South Africa's president on Thursday announced Mandela's death at 95. ASSOCIATED PRESS



By Craig Timberg and DeNeen L. Brown
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — South Africans sang, world leaders openly grieved and cyberspace erupted with Nelson Mandela tributes in a collage of languages Thursday as word spread that a man likened to a living saint had died.

The passing of Mandela, 95 and long ill, was at once thoroughly foretold and unexpectedly jarring, as people recalled his graceful leadership through what appeared

