



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today Fairbanks police search for person who burglarized the Co-Op Plaza. » INTERIOR, A4

Cuts could hit schools even harder

By Matt Buxton
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JUNEAU — The last-minute cuts the Senate Finance Committee made to the per-student funding formula will widen the Fairbanks school district's budget gap by \$6.1 million.

If the cuts stand, the district's superintendent said class sizes could grow.

The cuts were made late Thursday afternoon as one of the final moves the committee, chaired by Fairbanks Republican Sen. Pete Kelly, made to the state's operating budget. The cut amounts to

INSIDE » Senate passes state operating budget, and a legislator proposes personal state income tax. » A3

a reduction of \$47.5 million in per-student formula spending, which stands at \$1.198 billion in the current fiscal year.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District announced the impact of the cuts in a news release Friday morning. The district has submitted a \$274 million budget to the Borough Assembly that contained an \$11 million cut based on the cuts already put forward by the governor and the House.

The school board, when it

approved the district's budget, also opted to send a letter to the assembly asking for \$7 million to \$8 million in additional borough funds to help cover a portion of the \$11 million shortfall.

The proposed fiscal 2016 budget introduced by Borough Mayor Luke Hopkins this week includes \$50.8 million for the school district, an increase of about \$1 million during the current fiscal year.

FUNDING » A3

Denali and Delta school officials surprised by cuts

By Kris Capps
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Superintendents in both Denali and Delta Junction expressed astonishment at the recent state Senate committee vote to cut education funding.

"I and most other people were taken a little aback," said John Holst, interim superintendent at Denali

Borough School District. The district includes schools in Anderson, Healy, Cantwell and the PEAK Home School.

"We were just there on Monday for the school board fly-in and there was absolutely no discussion whatsoever about going into the foundation formula," he said.

SCHOOLS » A3

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Partly cloudy skies today, with highs in the mid-30s.

High today36

Low tonight 13

WEATHER » A9

Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be moderate. Weather permitting, 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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THE '80s

Quinn Evenson curls in International Bonspiel after world juniors experience.

SPORTS
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SOURDOUGH JACK:
"The '80s ... wasn't that just yesterday?"



A vehicle drives on overflow conditions on the Dalton Highway near Prudhoe Bay on Thursday. PHOTO COURTESY OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DOT reopens flooded portion of Dalton Hwy

By Jeff Richardson
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The far-northern portion of the Dalton Highway is open to traffic again but definitely not to business as usual.

Crews with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities have managed to open a waterlogged 15-mile one-lane stretch from 390 Mile to 405 Mile

near Prudhoe Bay, resuming some traffic flow on Thursday after flooding left the road impassible for three days.

The Dalton provides access to trucks bringing supplies to the oil fields, but the blockage essentially brought those deliveries to a halt this week.

The standing water is caused by overflow from the nearby Sagavanirktok River, which runs adja-

cent to the northern portion of the Dalton.

The flat, treeless environment essentially turns the area into a floodplain, said DOT spokeswoman Meadow Bailey, allowing water to easily spread.

Photos taken on Thursday by DOT employees showed a stretch of highway that resembled a shallow river, with rippling waves surrounding vehicles as they drove

down the road. Officials said water as much as 18 inches deep remained in some areas, and commercial vehicles were required to have tire chains to proceed.

Bailey said it's not uncommon to deal with some overflow from the river but the widespread flooding seen this week has been unprecedented.

DALTON » A5

State biologists warn of Alaska bears emerging from dens

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANCHORAGE — The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is warning Alaskans to take precautions against bears emerging from winter dens.

Anchorage wildlife biologist Dave Battle said he's heard unconfirmed reports of bears around Anchorage and Eagle River.

The Kodiak Daily Mirror newspaper reported a bear that raided garages or chicken coops in two neighborhoods was shot and killed last weekend.

Department officials said it's time to take down bird feeders that could attract bears and to secure trash, livestock feed and pet food.

The department said electric fences discourage bears from raiding poultry, goats and other small livestock.

Feeding bears and leaving out garbage, seed or food that attracts them is illegal.



A sow brown bear with three cubs walks along the Denali Park Road in May 2004.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is warning Alaskans to take precautions against bears emerging from winter dens. JOHN HAGEN/NEWS-MINER FILE PHOTO

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7:00 AM
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