



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today Careers winding down for three Nanooks men's basketball players. » SPORTS, B1

'This is where you want to be'

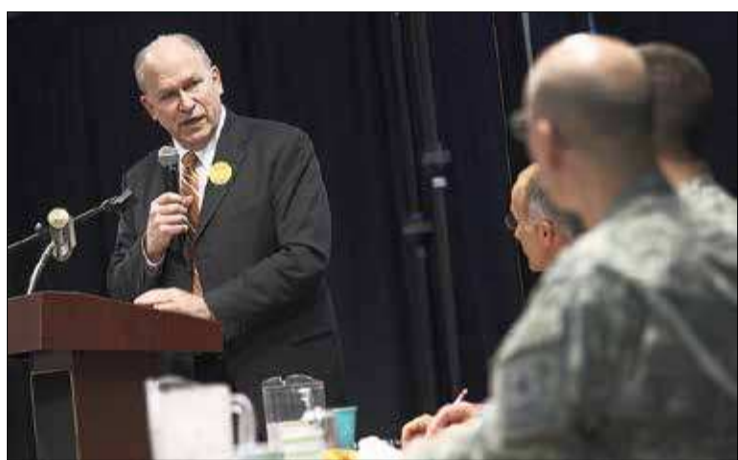


Hundreds of people fill the Pioneer Room during the U.S. Army force reduction community listening session on Tuesday evening at the Carlson Center. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

Army, state officials join Fairbanksans to discuss possible troop cuts

By Dorothy Chomicz
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Gov. Bill Walker addresses the panel during the U.S. Army force reduction community listening session. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER



Several hundred people gathered at the Carlson Center on Tuesday night to try to convince Army officials to spare Fort Wainwright from a budget-mandated troop reduction that could mean the loss of up to 5,800 troops.

Fairbanks and Anchorage are two of 30 communities nationwide that could see a reduction in troops under the Budget Control Act of 2011. The Act requires the Army to cut troop strength from 570,000 to 450,000 by 2017, and possibly down to 420,000 if sequestration-level funding continues. Army officials are conducting listening sessions in the possibly affected communities as part of a Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment they are preparing to guide them in the decision-making process.

Deputy Assistant Secretary John McLaurin III, Col. Thomas O'Donoghue and Lt. Col. Larry Kimbrell conducted the listening session at the Pioneer Room of the Carlson Center on Tuesday, and held a similar session in Anchorage on Monday night. Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson stands to lose up to 5,300 soldiers.

"Everything you say we will capture in one form or another," McLaurin said. "Please don't be shy, because you are important. You are important to Fort Wainwright, you are important to the Army, and you're important to the country."

ARMY » A4

"It's all from the heart. I have seen this community do some amazing things. If you want somebody on your side on an issue, this is where you want to be."

Gov. Bill Walker

Panel advises public radio, TV cuts

KUAC concerned about effects of proposed state budget trims

By Matt Buxton
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JUNEAU — A House budget panel has proposed cutting state support for public broadcasting by 60 percent in the next fiscal year.

The House Finance Subcommittee on the Department of Administration put forward \$1.7 million to cover public radio, television and the Public Broadcasting Commission, far below the \$4.2 million in the current fiscal year's budget.

Gov. Bill Walker also cut public broadcasting in the budget he submitted to the Legislature. His was a reduction of 18 percent, or \$770,000.

The cut was made without any objection on the subcommittee, which included two Democrats and no rural members.

BUDGET » A3

Troopers investigate icy road hit-and-run

By Sam Friedman
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A handlebar-mounted video camera helped Alaska State Troopers find a suspect accused of driving away after colliding with a bicycle and nearly hitting its rider Sunday morning.

Following Saturday night's freezing rain storm, Wes Wagner went to the bottom of Summit Drive to move a car his wife hadn't been able to get up the icy hill the night before. As Wagner stood over his bike, a truck began to slide down the hill.

"I heard this sound coming from behind me like someone going really fast out of control," he said Tuesday, describing Sunday's near miss. "I wanted to jump into the ditch but instead I fell backwards into the road. I slipped on the ice."

A video from the bicycle's camera and that Wagner later posted on his Facebook page shows the truck colliding with the bike.

COLLISION » A4

See the video taken of the collision. » www.newsminer.com

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Partly cloudy skies.
High today 22
Low tonight -6

WEATHER » A11

Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be low. Weather permitting, 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.gi.alaska.edu/AuroraForecast>.

SOURDOUGH JACK:

"Food and drink? Well, count me in!"



OKTOBER IN FEBRUARY

Restaurants hosting food, drink event.

FOOD, Page B6



Alcohol control board releases order defining 'public' pot use

By Casey Grove
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MORE INSIDE »

Marijuana law Q&A. » A7

ANCHORAGE — The state board overseeing, for now, the newly legalized recreational use of marijuana issued an emergency regulation defining the public places an Alaskan is prohibited from using pot.

For those 21 and older, personal use and possession of up to an ounce of marijuana became legal Tuesday, 90 days after certification of a voter initiative that passed by about 6.5 percent in the Nov. 4 general election. The state Alcoholic Beverage Control Board said in an emergency regulation filing that the initiative defined marijuana use, and said it was not allowed in public places, but it did not spell out what "in public" meant.

Public marijuana use carries a \$100 fine.

There had been concern about impact to the public and confusion for law enforcement, the ABC Board filing said.

As accepted by Lt. Gov. Byron Malott's office, the emergency regulation

says "in public means in a place to which the public or a substantial group of person has access and includes highways transportation facilities, schools, places of amusement or business, parks, playgrounds, prisons, and hallways, lobbies, and other portions of apartment houses and hotels not constituting rooms or apartments designed for actual residence."

Gov. Bill Walker on Monday introduced legislation to create a marijuana control board that would share administrative and enforcement resources with the ABC Board, both of which would be housed under the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development.

While personal use and growing up to six plants is now legal, the sale and taxation of marijuana has not yet been sorted out. Marijuana sales are not expected in Alaska for at least a year.

Staff writer Casey Grove is the News-Miner's Anchorage reporter. Contact him at 770-0722 or follow on Twitter: @kgregrove.

INSIDE Classified » B7 | Comics » B5 | Dear Abby » B4 | Food » B6 | Markets » A10 | Obituaries » A4 | Opinion » A8



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