



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today

Former UAF administrator Rick Caulfield chosen to be chancellor of UAS. » A4

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Another fine, partly cloudy day with highs in the 60s.

High today 61
Low tonight 40

Sunrise: 4:56 a.m.
Sunset: 10:41 p.m.

WEATHER » A9



WALK AND RUN 5K

Nixon-Helms wins Water Run second year in a row.

SPORTS
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STAND-UP

Comedian Jamie Kennedy coming to Blue Loon this weekend.

LATITUDE 65



SOURDOUGH JACK:

"The missus always tells me I'm walking a thin line."



Schools tackling phone threats issue

FBI working with local law enforcement to investigate the source of the phone calls

By Weston Morrow
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Fairbanks North Star Borough schools will no longer accept anonymous calls as part of an attempt to foil a series of threatening calls received by local schools.

During the past month and a half, several schools in the borough have received anonymous calls making vague threats to students. The Fairbanks Police Department,

Fort Wainwright police and Alaska State Troopers have responded to calls at Ryan Middle School, Tanana Middle School, Arctic Light Elementary School, Ryan Middle School, Weller Elementary School and others in the past month.

A pattern emerges

Since March 25, more than half a dozen schools in the borough

have been placed on lockdown because of anonymous phone calls that appear to fit a pattern. As local and state law enforcement began looking into the series of calls, they discovered the pattern existed well beyond the borders of the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

A similar incident occurred in Southcentral Alaska earlier this week, when Glennallen Elementary School went into lockdown. The pattern didn't stop there. Strikingly similar reports have cropped up all over the west coast, as far away as Washington state and Arizona.

In most cases, a call is placed to school using a blocked, or anonymous, phone number. The voice on the other end of the line seems to be either computer-altered or a robotic recording of some kind that makes a threat against the school. The threats vary, but the

THREATS » A3

WALKING A THIN LINE



University of Alaska Fairbanks students Kai Davids Schell, left, and Zach Goeden walk toward each other on a slackline while Adam Kurzbard, left, and Breanna McGuire watch outside the UAF Reichardt Building on Wednesday.

ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER

Budget testimony set for assembly meeting

By Amanda Bohman
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Public education funding and pool fees are expected to loom large at today's Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly meeting.

The panel will hear voice testimony about the \$155 million municipal spending plan for the coming year.

"We are going to probably tweak the swimming pool fees," Assemblyman Van Lawrence said. "And it's education. It's trying to figure out how much more we can add for education."

The meeting at the Mona Lisa Drexler Borough Assembly Chambers starts at 6 p.m. People can sign up to testify on the budget starting at noon.

A vote on the spending plan is possible, but is not expected if public testimony runs into the night, assembly members said. In that case, the panel would take up the budget again on May 14.

Residents already have been filling the email inboxes of assembly members, mainly asking the panel to provide extra money for public education and to maintain the regular hours at the municipal pools.

Borough Mayor Luke Hopkins introduced his budget proposal a month ago. The plan makes cuts across multiple municipal departments and keeps property taxes the same.

Borough departments absorbed \$1.5 million in cost increases while reducing spending by almost \$500,000, according to Hopkins' proposal.

BUDGET » A3

Text message leads to drug-related arrests

By Dorothy Chomicz
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A Fairbanks man who allegedly texted a member of the Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit and offered to sell him heroin was arrested and charged with felony second-degree drugs misconduct Tuesday afternoon.

Drug unit investigators arranged a buy with Logan Alan Martz, 31, of Fairbanks, at his home in North Pole. Upon arriving, the two officers saw Martz sitting in front of the home with several other men. One of the men, Nicholas John Axhelm, 25, of North Pole, ran into the house from the

garage doorway, according to charging documents.

Investigators searched Martz and found a contact lens case containing three round pieces of a brown substance. The substance was field tested and found to be 0.5 grams of heroin.

Alaska State Trooper spokeswoman Megan Peters said she could not comment on why Martz had the cellphone number of a drug enforcement investigator.

"We don't want to say anything that could potentially jeopardize a right to a fair trial," Peters said.

Investigators looked through a porch window and saw a butane bottle and

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RAILROAD DAYS

OPEN HOUSE

JOIN US FOR FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES:
FREE train rides, balloons, kids tattoos, live music, giveaways, prize drawings, food, fun and more.
Parking and admission is FREE.

Saturday, May 9 | 10 AM - 2 PM
Fairbanks Depot, 1745 Johansen Expy

For more information visit:
AlaskaRailroad.com/corporate
► Community ► Public Events

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