



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA

Inside Today Guide to Winter: Tips, tricks and good advice for surviving extreme weather.

UA draft budget for 2019 raises tuition

University president: State needs 'culture of education'

By Erin Granger
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University of Alaska President Jim Johnsen presented a draft budget to the Board of Regents on Tuesday afternoon that included a wage freeze for faculty and staff as well as a planned 5 percent tuition increase.

The Regents met Tuesday in Fairbanks for a preliminary planning meeting to discuss a budget draft for fiscal year 2019.

The first of four budget scenarios Johnsen presented showed that if the university received \$317 million in state funding — the same as this year — and did not increase tuition or fees for students, the budget would be in the red by nearly \$33 million.

The second scenario showed that if the university received



Johnsen

\$325 million in state funding and included a 5 percent tuition increase at this academic year's enrollment rate, the university still would be short nearly \$9 million.

The third scenario put the university at \$341 million in state funding and included a 5 percent tuition increase, resulting in a \$7.4 million budget surplus, to be reinvested in the university, Johnsen said.

The final budget scenario included a 12 percent tuition increase and state funding at \$341 million to provide the university with a \$17.4 million surplus.

Johnsen's proposed draft settled with the third option, requesting \$341 million from the state, the same amount the regents requested but did not receive for fiscal year 2018, and including a 5 percent tuition increase. According to the budget's fine text stating there were "no planned compensation increases for staff in FY19."

As Johnsen discussed the proposal with the regents, he noted that planning was the only way to accommodate the university's goals while still dealing with the state's financial crisis.

"We all know the numbers,"

Johnsen said. "We know the facts and though we have islands of educational excellence in Alaska, we really do not have a culture of education here. That needs to change."

Johnsen emphasized that higher education is key to a statewide increase in quality of life, increased income and a stabilizing economy, but noted that it is becoming increasingly difficult to achieve this goal with continually diminished state support.

During the past five years, the university has been

UA » A5

Assembly to mull Shefchik IGU term

By Kevin Baird
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Bob Shefchik will join the Interior Gas Utility Board for a 3-month term if the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly approves his appointment Thursday.



Shefchik

But the appointment by borough Mayor Karl Kassel did not sit well with Patrice Lee, who was elected to the seat Oct. 3 and will start her term in January.



Lee

Shefchik said in a text message to the News-Miner on Tuesday that he applied for the appointment because of his intimate knowledge of the Interior Energy Project. He previously has worked as the Interior Energy Project team leader

IGU » A7

FULL STEAM AHEAD



Steam bellows from a vent pipe Tuesday afternoon along Barnette Street near the Sixth Avenue intersection. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

IDITAROD

Another sport, another doping scandal

By Rachel D'oro and Mark Thiessen
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANCHORAGE — Cycling. Baseball. Track. Horse racing. Now dogsledding has become the latest professional sport to be engulfed in a doping scandal, this one involving the huskies that dash across the frozen landscape in Alaska's grueling, 1,000-mile Iditarod.

The governing board of the world's most famous sled dog race disclosed Monday that four dogs belonging to four-time Iditarod champion Dallas Seavey tested positive for a banned substance, the opioid painkiller tramadol, after his second-place finish last March.

It was the first time since the race instituted drug testing in 1994 that a test came back positive.

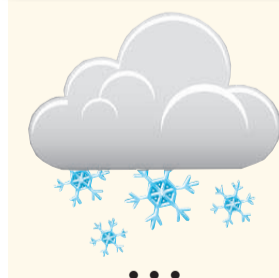
Seavey strongly denied giving banned substances to his dogs, suggesting instead that he may have been the victim of sabotage by another musher or an animal rights activist. He accused the Iditarod of lax security at dog food drop-off points and other spots.

IDITAROD » A5



Four-time and defending champion Dallas Seavey mushes during the ceremonial start of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race on March 4 in Anchorage. AP FILE PHOTO/MICHAEL DINNEEN

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Cloudy. A slight chance of snow morning, then isolated snow showers afternoon. Tonight: Cloudy with isolated snow showers.

High today33

Low tonight27

Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be high. Weather permitting, highly active auroral displays will be visible overhead from Utqiagvik to Bethel.

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.gialaska.edu/AuroraForecast>

SOURDOUGH JACK:
"Maybe the steam will keep the ice away."



Police investigate shots fired at Kodiak Jack's

By Dorothy Chomicz
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A large group of military members were involved in three incidents early Sunday morning that culminated in a vicious assault and shots fired in the Kodiak Jack's parking lot, Fairbanks police said.

Officer Doug Welborn said police were called to the bar five times between 12:24 a.m. and 3:27 a.m. Four of the five calls involved trespass issues or small disturbances, but the second call, which came in at 1:49 a.m., reported shots fired.

Witnesses told police a fight started in the bar and then moved outside to the park-

ing lot, where a man was seen lying on the ground and getting kicked in the head and face. The first officer to arrive on scene heard gunshots from the parking lot north of Kodiak Jack's and found the victim on the ground and "a large amount of people running around and screaming," according to Welborn.

Some witnesses told police a gunman had been shooting at people, but other witnesses said he was firing shots in the air and that they thought he did it to break up the fight. The assault victim was not shot, Welborn said. No other information about

POLICE » A7

INSIDE Classified » B6-8 | Comics » B5 | Dear Abby » A8 | Food » B4 | Markets » B3 | Obituaries » A3 | Opinion » A6



NOTICE TO REAL PROPERTY TAXPAYERS

- Borough lobby will be open until 12 midnight on November 1st for public access to the tax payment dropbox.
- Payments must be postmarked prior to midnight on November 1st to avoid delinquency.
- Prior year delinquent taxes must be paid by cashiers check, money order, or cash.

If you have questions call the FNSB Treasury & Budget Division at 459-1441

Second-half 2017 Real Property Taxes are due Wednesday, November 1, 2017

- To make payments on-line visit www.fnsb.us (note: a convenience fee is charged for this service)

TAX BILL

DUE 11/01/17