



# Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA

**Inside Today** Goldpanners beat Pirates to open seven-game series after extended layoff. » B1

## Blockbuster lowers curtain on Alaska stores

Video provider says locations in Fairbanks, Anchorage will close Monday; inventory sale starts Tuesday

By Erin Granger  
EGRANGER@NEWSMINER.COM

The last two remaining Blockbuster stores in Alaska announced their impending closures Thursday afternoon, leaving only one store remaining in the United States. The two stores are in Fairbanks on College Road and in Anchorage

on Debarr Road. The lone remaining store is in Bend, Oregon. Kevin Daymude, general manager of the Anchorage store, pointed to the economy as a reason for the closures. "It's just not what it used to be," Daymude said. The Anchorage store has been open since 1990

CLOSURES » A5



The last Blockbuster stores in Alaska — one in Fairbanks, seen here Thursday on College Road, and one in Anchorage — are closing in August, the chain's management announced Thursday on Facebook. ERIN GRANGER/NEWS-MINER

## HATS OFF TO RAHI GRADUATES



Above: Graduates toss their caps during the 36th Rural Alaska Honors Institute graduation ceremony Thursday afternoon in the University of Alaska Fairbanks Schaible Auditorium. Forty Alaska Native and rural high school students from 29 rural communities across the state completed the six-week program to make up this year's graduating class. RAHI was established in 1983 as a way to address the low number of rural and Alaska Native students who were completing college degrees.

Right: Graduates walk across the campus on their way to the ceremony. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER PHOTOS



## Road safety projects for 2019 get backing

By Amanda Bohman  
ABOHMAN@NEWSMINER.COM

A center turning lane will be extended throughout Badger Road next summer, and two traffic circles plus sidewalks are going in on about a mile of Gillam Way in South Fairbanks. The two road projects received local approval this week.

Both federally-funded projects will enhance traffic safety in the borough, according to transportation planner Donald C. Galligan.

Improvements on Badger Road are likely to attract more commercial activity to the area — the fastest growing area of the Fairbanks North Star Borough, a July 10 memorandum from Galligan to the Planning Commission stated.

"It would be unlikely that a major retailer would be attracted by a relatively small improvement like this, but strip malls and service stations with convenience stores could be expected once the improvement was complete," Galligan wrote.

The commission endorsed both road projects on Tuesday night after the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities requested local approval. The votes were unanimous, Galligan said.

ROADS » A5

## FAI gets grant to lure direct flights to LAX, Phoenix

By Sam Friedman  
SFRIEDMAN@NEWSMINER.COM

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced Thursday that Fairbanks International Airport has won a \$750,000 grant to encourage airlines to

offer nonstop flights between Fairbanks and Los Angeles and/or Fairbanks and Phoenix.

Fairbanks was one of 16 communities across the U.S. picked for grants in the Small Community Air Service Development Program and the only one in

Alaska. Fairbanks International Airport previously used this grant program in 2006 to encourage Denver-based airline Frontier Airlines to offer direct flights. That airline flew between Fairbanks and

FAI » A8

## Thomas Temple to replace retiring judge Jane Kauvar

By Dorothy Chomicz  
DCHOMICZ@NEWSMINER.COM

Gov. Bill Walker has appointed Fairbanks attorney Thomas Temple to fill the opening created by the retirement of Fairbanks Superior Court Judge Jane Kauvar.

Kauvar will retire July 20 after 37 years in the judiciary. Temple will take the bench Aug. 13.

Temple was raised in Culpeper, Virginia, and joined the Marine Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps in high school. Temple was the captain of his JROTC rifle team and enlisted in the Marines after graduating at 17. Temple was deployed three times during his four years as a machine gunner and rifleman, and saw



Temple

TEMPLE » A5

## GOOD MORNING



### The weather.

Mostly cloudy today.  
Cloudy tonight.  
High today ..... 75  
Low tonight ..... 50

Sunrise: 3:45 a.m.  
Sunset: 12:06 a.m.

WEATHER » A9



SOURDOUGH JACK:  
"Looks like even Russell Crowe's jockstrap can't support Blockbuster."

## ON THE HOT SEAT



Peter Strzok, FBI deputy assistant director, testifies Thursday before the House Committees on the Judiciary and Oversight and Government Reform during a hearing on the Russia probe. Read the story on Page A5. AP PHOTO/EVAN VUCCI

INSIDE Classified » B7-10 | Comics » B6 | Dear Abby » B5 | Faith » A9 | Markets » A9 | Opinion » A4



## GREEN LIFE SUPPLY CO.

FARM FAMILY + SECRET ORDER

### THE FINEST ALASKAN CANNABIS EXPERIENCE

511 30th Ave Fairbanks AK 99701  
(907)374-GROW(4769)

KNOWLEDGEABLE FRIENDLY STAFF  
TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS  
MUST BE 21+ TO ENTER WITH VALID ID

Marjuana has intoxicating effects and may be habit forming and addictive. Marjuana impairs concentration, coordination, and judgment. Do not operate a vehicle or machinery under its influence. There are health risks associated with consumption of marjuana. For use only by adults twenty-one and older; keep out of the reach of children. Marjuana should not be used by women who are pregnant or breastfeeding.