

# ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

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## OPENING CEREMONY KICKS OFF NATIVE YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES



Photos by **BILL ROTH** / ADN

**Above:** The opening ceremony for the Native Youth Olympics Senior Games is hosted by the Cook Inlet Tribal Council at the Alaska Airlines Center on Thursday. About 450 student-athletes from 53 teams from around the state are competing over three days.

**Right:** Students from the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School in Anchorage sing the national anthem in the Yup'ik language during the opening ceremony.

Free to spectators, the NYO Games celebrate Alaska Native traditions and aim to help develop athletes' leadership skills and self-esteem. For more on the NYO, as well as other things to do in Anchorage this weekend, see **Page A5**.



## LEGISLATURE

# Senate eyes \$100M-plus in cuts in draft budget

Spending plan does include a \$1,400 PFD, as well as a \$172M increase in school funding.

**Sean Maguire**  
Anchorage Daily News

**JUNEAU** — The Alaska Senate is eyeing over \$100 million in budget cuts, but a more than \$85 million shortfall remains in the Senate's draft spending plan.

The Senate Finance Committee on Thursday unveiled its new version of the budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1. The spending plan has a roughly \$1,400 Permanent Fund dividend, and plans to pay a \$172 million increase in school funding, closely matching what was appropriated last year for schools.

Legislators are grappling this year with a dire fiscal outlook due to diminished oil revenue. The Legislature is facing a \$680 million-plus deficit over two fiscal years based on status quo spending.

Lawmakers say they have few good options to balance the budget.

Leadership of the Democrat-dominated Senate majority has opposed drawing from savings to fill the projected deficit for the next fiscal year. Senators have instead introduced new revenue measures, including oil tax hikes, to balance the budget. But



## INSIDE

Legislature could vote soon on new education spending measure. **A4**

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## NATION

# Judge halts parts of Trump's overhaul of US elections

Ruling says Constitution gives power to regulate federal elections to states and Congress — not the president.

**Ali Swenson**  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — A judge on Thursday blocked the Trump administration from immediately enacting certain changes to how federal elections are run, including adding a proof-of-citizenship requirement to the federal voter registration form.

The decision is a setback for President Donald Trump, who has argued the requirement is needed to restore public confidence in elections. But the judge allowed other parts of Trump's sweeping executive

## IN THE COURTS

- Judge orders return of 2nd deported migrant. **A7**
- Judge blocks Trump push to cut funding to schools over DEI. **A9**

order on U.S. elections to go forward for now, including a directive to tighten mail ballot deadlines around the country.

Trump's March executive order overhauling how U.S. elections are run prompted swift lawsuits from the League of United Latin American Citizens, the League of Women Voters Education Fund, the Democratic National Committee and

See **ELECTIONS**, A20

## WORLD

# In rare rebuke of Putin, Trump urges Russia to 'STOP!' after Kyiv attack

President also criticizes Ukraine leader for refusing to surrender Russian-occupied Crimean land.

**Aamer Madhani and Samuel Petrequin**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — President Donald Trump on Thursday offered rare criticism of Vladimir Putin, urging the Russian leader to "STOP!" after a deadly barrage of attacks on Kyiv, Ukraine's capital.

"I am not happy with the Russian strikes on KYIV. Not necessary, and very bad timing. Vladimir, STOP! 5000 soldiers



Putin

a week are dying." Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform. "Lets get the Peace Deal DONE!"

Russia struck Kyiv with an hours-long barrage of missiles and drones. At least 12 people were killed and 90 were injured in the deadliest assault on the city since last July.

Trump's frustration is growing as a U.S.-led effort to get a peace agreement

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## INSIDE

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PROPOSED PLEA DEAL IN FATAL HIT-AND-RUN 'SLAP IN THE FACE' TO PARENTS OF VICTIM

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KNIK RIVER BRIDGE CLOSURE BEGINS

### ALASKA, A4

FIRST 30 MILES OF DENALI PARK ROAD OPENING FRIDAY TO PRIVATE VEHICLES

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RAPPER WIZ KHALIFA ADDED TO ALASKA STATE FAIR MUSIC LINEUP

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HOW TRUMP TURNED A DINNER INVITE INTO A CRYPTO BOON

### SPORTS, A10

TRADES SPICE UP THE FIRST ROUND OF THE NFL DRAFT; SHADEUR SANDERS ISN'T PICKED

## ALASKA

# International mining giant dropping out of partnership in Donlin Gold project

Transaction leaves project without a major partner with experience operating large producing mines.

**Yereth Rosen**  
Alaska Beacon

A major mining company is pulling out of Western Alaska's Donlin Gold project, selling most of its shares to a U.S. billionaire with a history of investing in gold.

## INSIDE

Trump eyes 6 national monuments in the West for mining and oil development. **A7**

Barrick Gold Corp., a Canadian company that operates in 18 countries, said Tuesday that it is selling its 50% share in Donlin Gold for about \$1 billion. Under the deal, Novagold Resources Inc., the smaller Canadian mining company that has been Barrick's Donlin partner, will add another 10% share of the project's ownership

to its current 50% share, while an investment company headed by billionaire John Paulson will wind up with a 40% share in the project. Paulson's company was already a major Novagold shareholder.

The deal is expected to close at about midyear, Barrick said.

In dual statements, the companies said the sale is mutually beneficial.

In its statement about the deal, Novagold praised Paulson's

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**INDEX & WEATHER** Mostly cloudy with a high of 51 and low of 38

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