

Inside Today

North Pole City Council adopts ordinance limiting roundabout fundraising • A2

School board candidates answer community, student questions



Candidates for the Fairbanks North Star Borough School Board participate in the West Valley High School forum on Wednesday. From left to right Chemetria “Sam” Spencer, Audra Hull, Naomi Hewitt and Melissa Burnett.

By Anna Lionas

As election season winds up, candidates are getting out into the community to make a case for why their bubble should be the one voters fill on Oct. 7.

Four candidates vying for two seats on the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education participated in back-to-back forums on Tuesday and Wednesday, the first for the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce, the second for the stu-

dents of West Valley High School.

Candidates for seat C are Audra Hull and Chemetria “Sam” Spencer. For seat D, incumbent Melissa Burnett is up against Naomi Hewitt.

Funding

Both forums presented candidates with questions regarding last year’s budget cuts and what areas they would prioritize funding if more money were available.

All the candidates mentioned classroom sizes as a priority.

“My priorities would be our classrooms, our teachers and our students. I could not put one more child in the classroom,” Burnett said.

Spencer agreed, adding that the budget process should be more transparent for teachers and staff, with information presented in a way that shows how it impacts them.


Hull said she would use more money to return teachers to schools where positions were cut num-

bers were reduced, which would both help with pupil to teacher ratio and better support to staff.

“I would invest that back into our teachers to reduce those class sizes. I would start with retention and recruitment of quality teachers to our borough,” Hewitt said. “And work with existing teachers and staff at our schools to see what their recommendations are for creating better classroom sizes.”

FORUM » A6

GOOD MORNING



The weather

Pleasant with periods of sun

High today60
Low tonight39

Sunrise: 7:22 a.m.
Sunset: 8:05 p.m.

WEATHER » A3

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Aurora forecast


Quiet aurora activity forecasted. If skies are clear, quiet displays may be visible directly overhead from Utqiagvik to Fort Yukon, and may be visible low on the horizon from Fairbanks to as far south as Unalakleet, Talkeetna and Tok.

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>

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SOURDOUGH JACK:

“I’m taking bets — will the Equinox race or the snow come first?”



LIGHTS OVER COLLEGE



The northern lights shine brightly over College, Alaska, late Tuesday. Even with light pollution from street lights and homes along College Road, the powerful display of Tuesday’s aurora shone through.



This May 7 meeting billed as a community health care needs assessment turned into a contentious exchange of information between Denali Borough community members and Interior Community Health Center employees.

Healy clinic announces it’s closing by November

By Kris Capps

Interior Community Health Center will close the satellite medical clinic it operates in Healy as of Nov. 1.

ICHC made the announcement in a paid display advertisement in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner on Wednesday. The ad printed ICHC’s press release about the closure. The Fairbanks-based health center ran the satellite clinic in Healy for 23 years at the Tri-Valley Community Center.

It wasn’t always a happy collaboration.

During a two-hour contentious community meeting in Healy in May, there seemed to be only one point everyone in the room could agree on — that the medical clinic in Healy needs a full-time medical provider.

The meeting, held in the Aurora Room of the Aurora Denali Lodge in Healy, was limited to only

CLINIC » A3

CANDIDATE PROFILES: CITY COUNCIL SEAT C

Newcomer Hannah Ekalook eyes spot in city politics

Staff report

Born and raised in Fairbanks, Hannah Ekalook, 26, is a mom to three girls (including twins), wife to a union member and a small business owner. Her family has called Fairbanks home since 1973, and she grew up surrounded by community, she says, whether it was mentoring peers, competing at the We the People competition, playing sports or volunteering with groups like Habitat for Humanity and the Fairbanks Community Food Bank.

Ekalook is challenging incumbent Sue Sprinkle for Seat C on the Fairbanks City



Hannah Ekalook

Council.

“Fairbanks is a unique and

EKALOOK » A5

Incumbent Sue Sprinkle focuses on Fairbanks’ future

Staff report

Born in Ohio and educated in Philadelphia, Sue Sprinkle, 63, began her career as a graphic designer on the East Coast before discovering Alaska on a family trip. The pull of adventure brought her north, where she built a cabin, trained sled dogs, launched a business, and lived in the Bush before settling in Fairbanks, her home of 25 years. She is seeking re-election to Seat C on the Fairbanks City Council.

“As a small business owner and community volunteer, I’ve seen the power of what Fairbanks can accomplish



Susan Sprinkle

together,” Sprinkle says in election material published by the

SPRINKLE » A5



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' OF TANANA VALLEY

KUAC TV 9 • FM 89.9

FAIRBANKS Daily News-Miner a company of The Helen Snedden Foundation, a nonprofit corporation


The League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley, the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, and KUAC FM 89.9 present a

Local Candidate Forum

CANDIDATES FOR: Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly FNSB Board of Education City of Fairbanks Mayor & City Council

FRI, SEPT 19, 2025 • 6:30 pm Fairbanks City Council Chambers 800 Cushman St.

Coverage in the Sunday, Sept. 21 edition of the Daily News-Miner

Live-streamed KUAC FM 89.9

Questions will be posed by LWV of Tanana Valley, KUAC and the FDNM