



FAIRBANKS Daily News-Miner

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Inside Today Gold-medal Olympic hockey team celebrated upon return to U.S. **Sports B1**

Snowstorm prompts 2nd day of school closures

By Jack Barnwell

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District has canceled school and extracurricular activities Tuesday due to heavy snowfall and difficult road conditions.

This marks the second closure this week and the third overall this school year.

In a notice to families and staff, the district said it made the decision in advance because the heaviest snowfall was expected Monday night. It added that the call was made Monday night "to give families as much time as possible to plan."

"Road conditions across the borough are difficult. Student and staff safety is always our top priority when making weather-related decisions, and canceling school is never a decision we take lightly," the notice stated.



JACK BARNWELL/NEWS-MINER

A worker clears snow on a plow-equipped ATV at the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center on Monday.

CLOSURE » A3

How's your snow load?

By Jack Barnwell

The snow load for Fairbanks is sitting about average based on a five-year period, according to Fairbanks Building Official Cristop Falke.

"We've had light snow so far this year, not the extra heavy, wet snow compared to the last five years," Falke said Monday. An ongoing snow-

storm is expected to drop between 12 and 18 inches of new snow on the Fairbanks area, prompting several people to ask whether they should clear their roofs.

The city's building standards require roofs built before 1994 to hold at least 40 pounds per square foot.

SNOW LOAD » A3

Even a snowstorm can't stop the sold-out Soup Off fundraiser for Bread Line

It's not easy being a judge at the annual Soup Off fundraiser for Bread Line.

Ask "Judge Wrangler" Brenda Riley. She had one hour to lead judges around the room at the 8 Star Event Center. They visited 21 different booths, where they tasted 21 different soups, spending just a few minutes at each stop. Then they compared notes and hammered out a list of winners.



Kris Capps

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The event, now in its 13th year, always sells out. It's a testament to the generosity of local eateries, chefs and the community, who support Bread Line, an organization that attacks hunger through four programs, free to the public.

At the end of the evening, the anxiously awaited Soup Off results were announced. The Golden Ladle Award went to a one-man operation, The Yukon Cajun: Cajun Fusion Magic, run by Chandler Baughtman. He operates a pop-up eatery, and this was his second year entering the Soup Off. Most of last summer, he opened his pop-up hut at the Goldstream Farmer's Market, but said he plans to venture into Fairbanks this coming season.

The People's Choice Award went to Fountainhead and Chef McCayla McLughlin's seafood chowder. Close behind, by just one point, was runner-up The Waroeng/Ryan Culinary Club with its Indonesian cuisine Chicken Rice Noodle Soup.



COURTESY BRENDA RILEY

Judges had one hour to taste and judge 21 soups at the 2026 Soup Off.

It turned into a tight race, with 300 community members casting votes.

For the third year in a row, Borealis Basecamp's Latitude 65 won the award for Best Use of Local Ingredients. They presented Oven Roasted Chicken and Barley Soup. Here are the ingredi-

dients they used and where they came from: chicken from Yellow Wood Farms in Fairbanks; barley from Alaska Flour Company in Delta Junction; onions from Alisa Craig at Goosefoot Farm in Fairbanks; carrots from Goosefoot Farm in Fairbanks; celery from Golden

Heart Gardens in Fairbanks; milk from Alaska Range Dairy in Delta Junction; mushrooms from Boreal Woods Mushroom Farm in Fairbanks; and water for stock from the Fox Water Hole in Fox.

SOUPS » A6

UA Regents to uphold anti-DEI procedures despite federal court ruling

By Corinne Smith

ALASKA BEACON

The University of Alaska Board of Regents says the university will continue the policy to ban references to "DEI," or "diversity, equity and inclusion," enacted last year, despite a federal court ruling that struck down the policy and the U.S. Department of Education agreeing to drop an appeal.

Jonathon Taylor, a spokesperson for the university, said even though the policy was struck down, "the direction of enforcement and potential risk has not gone away."

Last year, the Trump administration issued a "Dear Colleague" letter to all pre-K through 12 schools, colleges and universities who receive federal funding outlining its opposition to diversity initiatives it called discriminatory, and threatened to withhold federal funds from schools if they had diversity or equity programs.

As a result, the board moved quickly to comply, approving a policy on Feb. 21, 2025 to scrub references to DEI and affirmative action from all university programs and operations, job titles and office names. At the time, Ralph Seekins, chair of the Board of Regents, defended the policy, saying the action to remove DEI language as committing to "equal opportunity" for everyone.

Several education and civil rights groups filed lawsuits and a federal court blocked the directive in April.

REGENTS » A6

Gas pipeline, PFD, library books: Lawmakers field a gamut of questions during town hall

By Jack Barnwell

Three Interior state lawmakers fielded questions from about 50 residents during a town hall at the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center on Saturday night.

Sen. Scott Kawasaki, D-Fairbanks, and Reps. Will Stapp, R-Fairbanks, and Maxine Dibert, D-Fairbanks, provided a brief update on the 2026 legislative session in Juneau, including certain bills and the overall

budget scenario.

Dibert and Stapp sit on the House Finance Committee, which is charged with shaping the FY 2026-2027 operating budget and

TOWN HALL » A5



Rep. Will Stapp (R-Fairbanks), left, Sen. Scott Kawasaki (D-Fairbanks) and Rep. Maxine Dibert (D-Fairbanks) field questions during a town hall at the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center on Saturday.

JACK BARNWELL/
NEWS-MINER

GOOD MORNING



The weather

Up to an inch of snow is likely today.

High today 21

Low tonight -16

Sunrise: 8:18 a.m.

Sunset: 5:51 p.m.

WEATHER » A3

Aurora forecast

Low aurora activity forecasted. If skies are clear, low-level displays may be visible overhead from Utqiagvik to Fairbanks, and may be visible low on the northern horizon from as far south as Anchorage and Juneau.



SOURDOUGH JACK:

"Three hundred people voting on chowder at a soup contest? That's more civic engagement than some borough elections."