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Inside Today Athletes compete at Interior Native Youth Olympics regional meet • **Page B1**

'A marathon of sub-zero endurance'

Fairbanksans survive record cold spell

By Kris Capps

Fairbanks just endured the coldest December through March since weather temperatures began being recorded in 1904.

"You did not imagine it," said Evan Kutta, science and operations officer with the National Weather Service office in Fairbanks. "It definitely was a very, very cold winter."

"With an average temperature of 13.6F [below zero], we've edged out the legendary winter of 1965-66 to take the No. 1 spot," he added. "This season wasn't just about one cold snap. It was a marathon of sub-zero endurance."

Fairbanks shivered through 150 consecutive days at or below freezing, marking the longest stretch the Interior

has seen since the early 1970s.

As for extreme cold, Fairbanks saw 31 days at or below 40 below zero, the fourth-highest count on record and the most since 1965. Additionally, 72 days reached at or below 20 below zero and 52 days fell to at or below 30 below zero, with 66 days not even getting above zero degrees F.

Now, don't mistake that record cold for representing the entire winter because October and November are not included in those statistics. October 2025 recorded temperatures that were actually the eighth warmest on record.

Everything changed in December.

"On December 1, the average temperature was 15

degrees above normal," Kutta said. "It stayed above through the 3rd. By the 4th, we went below normal and almost every single day for the rest of the month we were below normal. And many of those days were significantly below normal."

The trend continued through March.

"March was really record-breaking," he said.

What a change from the year before when December 2024 through March 2025, was the second warmest period on record.

"It's a powerful reminder of how variable northern Alaska's weather can be," Kutta said.

As of Tuesday, Fairbanks is

COLD » A3



TOM KURTH OF FAIRBANKS
A raven sits on a stop sign on the west side of Fairbanks in January during the relentless cold spell.

Two Rivers HomeSTEAD Charter presents second application

By Anna Lionas

On Monday the Two Rivers HomeSTEAD Charter School's second application was presented to the Fairbanks North Star Borough School Board. The Academic Policy Committee, or APC, that will oversee the charter said their plan is to open the school to serve students from kindergarten through eighth grade in fall of 2026.

This is the second time the APC has presented an application this year, the first was this fall, but they rescinded the application days before the board was set to vote on it to strengthen their proposal to ensure its approval.

In the intervening months the APC has worked closely with district personnel to update the charter, connect with local groups who intend to be involved with the school, negotiated a

CHARTER » A3

Borough mayor unveils budget at Chamber luncheon

By Jack Barnwell

Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Grier Hopkins provided a high-level overview of his proposed budget during a Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce meeting on Tuesday.

Hopkins said his budget will be about \$241.18 million for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, about \$4.48 million more than the current fiscal year. That includes a recommended \$64.3 million for local education contribution.

The proposed budget would include an areawide mill rate of 0.057 mills to 10.677 mills, or an increase of \$5.73 increase per assessed \$100,000 property value. The bulk of the borough's revenue comes from property taxes, which

BUDGET » A5

Trump signs order seeking to curb vote-by-mail in bid to control state election laws

By Jonathan Shorman
ALASKA BEACON

President Donald Trump signed a sweeping executive order on Tuesday that attempts to restrict mail-in voting, a White House priority certain to face significant legal challenges.

The order directs the U.S. Department of Homeland Security along with the Social Security Administration to compile a list of voting-age American citizens in each state and share it with state election officials. The order also requires the U.S. Postal Service to only send and receive ballots that include tracking barcodes.

Trump's order represents a major escalation in his effort to assert presidential control over elections, which under the U.S. Constitution are administered by the states. Trump last year attempted to unilaterally impose a proof of citizenship requirement

MAIL » A5

GOOD MORNING



The weather

Times of clouds and sun.

High today 31

Low tonight 3

Sunrise: 7:07 a.m.

Sunset: 8:43 p.m.

WEATHER » A3

MIDDLE SCHOOL ALASKA SCIENCE OLYMPIAD



ALL PHOTOS ANNA LIONAS/NEWS-MINER

Discovery Dinos of Discovery Peak Charter School react to their first place win at the Alaska Science Olympiad for middle schoolers held on UAF's campus Saturday.

Middle School Science Olympiad takes place in Fairbanks

By Anna Lionas

If it flies, hovers or scrambles, you would've found it on the Troth Yedha' campus over the weekend during the fourth annual Alaska Middle School Science Olympiad. After a full day of non-stop science competitions, Discovery Peak Charter was awarded first place and will be moving on to compete in nationals this year, taking place in Los Angeles, California.

Over 100 kids from around the state gathered at University of Alaska Fairbanks to go head to head with their peers solving challenges and showing off their scientific knowledge.

Alaska Science Olympiad

OLYMPIAD » A2



Ryatt Krzykowski and Kaius Kugler of Discovery Peak Charter School compete in the Boomilever competition at the Alaska Science Olympiad on UAF's campus last week.

U.S. House candidate takes a blue-collar approach

By Jack Barnwell

Alaska congressional candidate Bill Hill, running on an independent platform, wants to bring a blue-collar work ethic to Washington, D.C. in his bid for the state's sole U.S. House seat.

"We essentially need to reduce the cost of living or make life more affordable in Alaska," Hill said.

He said several things, from groceries and gas to healthcare and childcare, have become unsustainable.

"We need someone in Congress who is going to champion making

Alaska more affordable," Hill said. "We also need to protect Alaska from any government overreach and protect our way of life."

Hill faces four other candidates, including Republican Rep. Nick Begich III and Anchorage pastor Matt Schultz, who is running as a Democrat. Fairbanksan John Williams also filed to run as a Democrat. On Monday, Anchorage teacher Matthew "Bronco" Williams announced his intent to run as an independent.

Hill comes from a

HILL » A5



JACK BARNWELL/NEWS-MINER

Bill Hill, a commercial fisherman, small business owner and former Bristol Bay superintendent from Naknek, is running for Alaska's lone U.S. House seat as an independent.

SOURDOUGH JACK:
"It mighta been colder when I was a kid, but we couldn't keep records then cause all the ink was froze!"

