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Inside Today Miami, San Diego State punch tickets for men's Final Four • Sports B1

City to consider additional firefighters tonight

By Jack Barnwell

The Fairbanks City Council meets tonight (Monday) at 6:30 p.m. to consider a pair of ordinances up for public hearings, adopt two resolutions and advance three other ordinances for a public hearing.

One of the ordinances, No. 6227 seeks to amend the contract between the city and Fairbanks Firefighters Union and add up to four additional firefighter positions to help staff a third ambulance.

Councilmembers Sue Sprinkle and Crystal Tidwell sponsored the ordinance, citing the need to boost staffing and reduce waiting times for a fire department finding itself having to "stack" calls. "Stacking" causes the Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center to prioritize fire and emergency medical responses when it faces multi-

ple calls.

While the Fairbanks Fire Department remains near full strength for the first time in years, the union contract provision governs how fire apparatus are staffed depending on a minimum shift schedule. The department staffs shifts above the minimum requirement in order to operate a second ambulance; past proposals have been made to adjust the agreement or allow for cross-manning platforms.

Adding up to four additional firefighters would cost an estimated \$1.16 million over at least two years, according to a fiscal note attached to the ordinance. It would be paid for with revenue from the Supplemental Emergency Medical Transport (SEMT) fund, a state program that reimburses part of a department's Medicaid transportation

COUNCIL » A5



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Finding new ways to share Alaska Native stories

By Jack Barnwell

Preserving and sharing stories, cultural heritage and traditions has always been a strong focus for Alaska Native and Indigenous tribes and communities.

Anchorage artist and designer Maka Monture Páki, a Tlingit and Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) woman, has found a new form to achieve that goal by using augmented reality technology.

Monture said she was approached at October's Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) conference, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, about a new campaign utilizing Ray-Ban glasses incorporating the

STORIES » A3



Anchorage-based artist and designer Maka Monture Páki has adopted use of smart-glass technology to help share Alaska Native stories and culture.

COURTESY OF META

(Right) A scene Maka Monture Páki captured on smart glasses details and narrates beadwork craft. COURTESY META



North Pole woman stabs boyfriend in the face

By Haley Lehman

A 33-year-old North Pole woman faces felony assault charges for allegedly stabbing her boyfriend in the face Saturday morning.

Annette Jenny Kriska, 33, is being held on a charge of felony first-degree assault.

According to charging documents, Kriska got home from visiting her cousin and her boyfriend started arguing with her. Kriska told Alaska State Troopers that her boyfriend held her up against the refrigerator and strangled her so she couldn't breathe. She said she grabbed whatever item was nearby and threw it at her boyfriend.

When troopers arrived at the home, the boyfriend was covered in blood and had blood pouring out of a five-centimeter wound on his left cheek. The troopers found that his injury was consistent with a wound from a serrated knife.

Troopers found blood tracked on the hardwood floor throughout the house. They saw that most of the blood was in the kitchen area and found a 13-inch serrated blade behind the refrigerator in the kitchen.

The boyfriend was treated at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital for his injuries. He told troopers that he and Kriska got into an argument in the living room while she was doing beading projects and opening boxes with a box cutter. He said Kriska cut him with the box cutter.

Kriska registered a breath-alcohol content of 0.095.

Contact Haley Lehman at 907-459-7575 or by email at hlehman@newsminer.com

LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE

MARCH 27 – MARCH 31, 2023

The following teleconferences are scheduled to be held at the Fairbanks Legislative Information Office, 1292 Sadler Way, Suite 308. Hearings are subject to change. For the most current and complete listing of hearings, visit www.akleg.gov or call the LIO at 907-452-4448. www.AlaskaLegislature.tv has a live stream of all standing committee meetings online.

Monday

8 a.m. House Education Committee
HB 21: School/University Employee Health Insurance

SCHEDULE » A2

Three old men on the trip of a lifetime

By Hank Nuwer

Three self-described "old guys" who share a passion for snowmachines are nearing the end of a month-long quest to ride from Grand Rapids, Minnesota to visit the Golden Heart City between April 3 and 5. That puts the trio a few days behind their original scheduled April 1 marker when they hit the trail on March 6.

Paul Dick, 65; Rex Hibbert, 70; and Rob Hallstrom, 72 are friends and occasional distance snowmachine trekkers. The men have braved fierce winds, ice-clogged

trails, and blinding blizzards on their way through Canada's Northwest Territory.

At one point one of their snowmachine's caught fire, but they put it out and just kept going.

Along the way they've enjoyed the hospitality of newfound friends. The three aging adventurers dined on moose tongue, slept in a trapper cabin, and enjoyed the classic camaraderie of three pals on — off the road that would make for an exciting novel. Or in this case, a

SNOWMACHINE » A2



Paul Dick, Rob Hallstrom and Rex Hibbert — three self-described old men — have a fervent Facebook fanbase following their 4,000 mile trek from Grapd Rapids, Minnesota, to Fairbanks by snowmobile. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GOOD MORNING



The weather

Expect a snow, but later in the day.

High today 35

Low tonight 27

Sunrise: 7:27 a.m.

Sunset: 8:27 p.m.

WEATHER » A3

The aurora

Auroral activity will be high. Weather permitting, highly active auroral displays will be visible overhead from Utqiagvik to Bethel, Dillingham and Ketchikan, and visible low on the horizon from King Salmon.

This information is provided by aurora forecasters at the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. For more information about the aurora, visit https://www.gi.alaska.edu/AuroraForecast



SOURDOUGH JACK:

"Augmented reality? Sounds a little newfangled to me."

