

Feds sue Ariz. over immigration law • **A7**



How to make
the **best burger**
you'll ever eat
Food C1

all about pets

A weekly feature about pet products, services and a photo gallery of our town's cutest pets.

Last week's winner: **Curly**
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Wednesday, July 7, 2010

A great debate

Candidates try to woo voters with answers to a gas pipeline, economy, infrastructure

By **JEFF RICHARDSON**
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A local audience put the heat under Alaska's governor candidates during a rapid-fire lunch forum at the Carlson Center on Tuesday, grilling them on resource development, the economy and even their preferred candidate for U.S. Senate. The forum, sponsored by the Greater

Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce, attracted Republicans Gerald Heikes, Merica Hlatcu, Sam Little, Gov. Sean Parnell, Ralph Samuels and Bill Walker, along with Democratic state Sen. Hollis French. Democrat Ethan Berkowitz and Republican Brad Snowden did not attend. Candidates gave bite-sized responses

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Sam Harrel/News-Miner

Gubernatorial candidate Bill Walker answers a question during a lunch forum Tuesday at the Carlson Center sponsored by the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce. From left are state Sen. Hollis French, Gerald Heikes, Merica Hlatcu, Sam Little, Gov. Sean Parnell, Ralph Samuels and Walker.

Rape charge stems from 2007 case

By **CHRIS FREIBERG**
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A Fairbanks man with possible ties to a rash of gang-related violence in Fairbanks faces a new charge in connection with a 2007 rape case.

Last week, a grand jury indicted Carlos Davis, 20, on one count of first-degree sexual assault, an unclassified felony punishable by up to 99 years in prison.

Fairbanks police collected evidence from the victim in February 2007 after she said she was raped by an acquaintance at a party. The partygoers were uncooperative with investigators and the case seemed to have reached a dead end, Fairbanks police Detective Peyton Merideth said.

However, the DNA evidence was put in a national database in case a suspect was ever found. Davis' DNA was entered in the database last year after he was convicted of felony drugs misconduct and perjury, and it was soon determined that he was the suspect police were looking for, Merideth said.

Davis was arrested on the drug charge in August 2008, shortly before the College Road shooting during which a member of the Crips street gang reportedly fired shots at a car full of members or associates of the Bloods gang.

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Sourdough Jack sez:



"Postal rates are going up again? I'd have better luck sending a letter attached to the next Canada goose that flies by."

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FLOATSOME



Sam Harrel/News-Miner

Members of the Patterson family and their friend, Eliza Chadwick, make their way down the Chena River through downtown Tuesday afternoon. They were on a reconnaissance mission for a weekend trip they are helping to organize this weekend for the youth of the Fairbanks area Latter-day Saints churches. From top are Mia Patterson, 6, Chadwick, Grant Patterson, 8, Hyrum Patterson, 3, and their mom, Sonya Patterson.

Postal rates rising again

By **RANDOLPH E. SCHMID**
Associated Press Writer

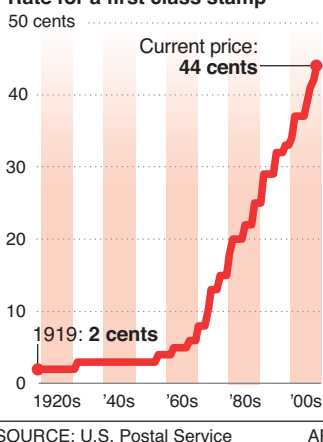
WASHINGTON — Buy those Forever stamps now. The cost of mailing a letter is going up again.

Fighting to survive a deepening financial crisis, the Postal Service said Tuesday it wants to increase the price of first-class stamps by 2 cents — to 46 cents — starting in January. Other postage costs would rise as well.

A few more cents

The post office proposed increasing the price of a first class stamp by 2 cents to 46 cents. The last rate hike took effect May 11, 2009.

Rate for a first class stamp



The agency's persisting problem: ever-declining mail volume as people and businesses shift to the Internet and the declining economy reduces advertising mail.

"The Postal Service faces a serious risk of financial insolvency," postal vice president Stephen M. Kearney said, an indication that without significant changes a time could come when the agency would be unable to pay its bills.

The post office lost \$3.8 billion last year, despite cutting 40,000 full-time positions and making other reductions, and Kearney said it is facing a \$7 billion loss for this year and the same for fiscal 2011, which begins in October.

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See details in the Sunday July 18 Classified Section