From:	Alaska Senate Majority
To:	Undisclosed recipients
Subject:	News Roundup 2-8-17
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NEWS ROUNDUP

ALASKASENATE.ORG/NR

ALASKA PUBLIC MEDIA

Motor fuel tax would triple under bill, but remain below national average
Lawmakers are considering tripling the state's motor fuels tax over the next two years.

Watch Chief Just Craig Stowers' State of the Judiciary address at 11 a.m. Wednesday
Alaska Chief Justice Craig Stowers delivers the annual State of the Judiciary Address at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8.

Fairbanks considers becoming a sanctuary city
The Fairbanks City Council heard testimony last night from members of the public concerned about executive actions by president Trump blocking Syrian refugees…

Following winter stroms, Governor Walker declares disaster in Savoonga and Gambell
Governor Bill Walker has issued a disaster declaration for the winter storms that struck Savoonga and Gambell at the end of 2016.

Alaska senators ultimately split as DeVos becomes Education secretary
DeVos is the only one President Trump's cabinet nominees so far to face serious trouble on the Senate floor.

Alaska Dispatch News

Wasilla lawmaker aims to halt legislative rule-breaking by changing the rule
Freshman Alaska Rep. David Eastman, R-Wasilla, wants to fix a longstanding discrepancy between one of the Legislature's rules and the failure of lawmakers to follow it.

Gov. Walker issues disaster declaration for series of Bering Sea storms in December
Gov. Bill Walker has issued a disaster declaration for a series of Bering Sea storms over the New Year holiday that caused widespread damage on St. Lawrence Island.

As promised, Alaska Sen. Murkowski votes against DeVos for education secretary
Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski's decision to break party lines and vote against confirming education secretary nominee Betsy Devos on Tuesday meant Republicans…

Faced with increasing health-care costs, Anchorage School District is contracting for a clinic

The Anchorage School District plans to hire a Seattle-based health care company to run a new medical clinic for district employees and their dependents to cut exploding costs…

Number of nonresidents working in Alaska oil and gas industry up slightly
The percentage of out-of-state residents working in Alaska's oil and gas industry inched up for the sixth straight year in 2015…

Police investigate break-in at Alaska Rep. Don Young's Anchorage office
Police are investigating a break-in at U.S. Rep. Don Young's office in Anchorage earlier this week. Officers responded to an office building off B Street in Midtown at 7:13 a.m…

Postponing state tax decisions invites more legislative gridlock
If Alaska is to keep the wheels from falling off, the state has to get expenses and revenue in alignment.

If we worked like our lawmakers, we couldn't hold a job
Be quiet. Quieter. No, I mean really, really quiet.

Electoral College has outlived its usefulness
"The true test of a good government is its aptitude and tendency to produce a good administration." — Alexander Hamilton A young Alexander Hamilton…

Stand up for refugees, immigrants
President Trump's Jan. 27 executive orders exploded like a bomb across the world, wreaking havoc, causing injury and placing thousands of people in danger.

Readers write: Letters to the editor, February 8, 2017
Delegation lets Trump undo safety we've had since 9/11 Whew, only 10 days into the new administration.

FAIRBANKS
Daily News-Miner

Conflict of interest proposals go before Alaska lawmakers
Alaska lawmakers are considering a pair of measures that would tighten conflict of interest rules within the Legislature.

Both Alaska senators received campaign funds from DeVos family
Alaska's two Republican U.S. senators each have received campaign contributions from several members of the family of new Education Secretary Betsy DeVos…

City Council advances plan to limit use of Fairbanks permanent fund
The Fairbanks City Council advanced an ordinance that gradually would decrease the city's annual draw from its permanent fund…

Mayor opposes making Fairbanks a sanctuary city
Mayor Jim Matherly will not support a resolution calling for Fairbanks to become a sanctuary city, according to a statement released Tuesday by his office.

School district drops test requirement for graduation
High school students are no longer required to take college entrance exams or job skills tests to get a diploma in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District.

JuneauEmpire.com

Amendments temporarily slow death benefits bill
A measure to grant benefits to the families of firefighters and police killed in the line of duty continued its slow advance through the Legislature…

State government may shrink, but marijuana office seeks to grow along with industry
As the state of Alaska considers stiff budget cuts and firing employees to close a multibillion-dollar budget deficit, there's one part of government that's seeking more staff.

Ferries can keep flushing, if Senate Bill 3 passes
A bill renewing a wastewater exemption for the Alaska Marine Highway System is moving to a vote on the Senate floor.

Anchorage police investigate break-in at Young's office
Police in Alaska's largest city are investigating a reported break-in at U.S. Rep. Don Young's congressional office there.

UA Fairbanks faculty vote no confidence in system president
Faculty members at a second branch of the University of Alaska have approved a resolution of no-confidence in the president of the statewide system.

2KTUU.COM
ALASKA'S NEWS SOURCE

Alaskans discuss surviving climate change impacts
"Your words are important," began Michelle Davis to a room full of tribal representatives from across Alaska.

Northwest Arctic Borough spends $128,000 on Seattle retreat
The Kotzebue-based Northwest Arctic Borough spent nearly $128,000 to send Assembly members to a week-long retreat in...

Dozens of vehicles broken into in Jewel Lake
Dozens of vehicles were broken into at a Jewel Lake apartment complex resulting in thousands of dollars of damage.

UA Fairbanks faculty vote no confidence in system president
A faculty group at a second University of Alaska branch has approved a resolution of no-confidence in the president of the statewide system.

Anchorage police are investigating break-in at Don Young's office
Police in Alaska's largest city are investigating a reported break-in at U.S. Rep. Don Young's congressional office there.

ASD Superintendent doesn't expect growing class sizes under proposed plan
Anchorage School District Superintendent Deena Bishop said many of the positions she's proposing to eliminate next school...

Walker issues disaster declaration for St. Lawrence Island storms
Help is on the way for the residents of Savoonga and Gambell after a series of strong winter storms hit St. Lawrence Island, causing extensive damage…

Municipality of Anchorage looking for election workers
Looking for a way to give back to your community while earning a little extra cash? The Municipality of Anchorage is looking for poll workers ahead of the April election.

Alaska ranks worst in the nation for wastewater systems, report card shows
Alaska got a report card on its infrastructure for the first time Tuesday.

Fish on! Department of Fish and Game teaches kids about ethical angling.
"Give a man a fish and you'll feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you'll feed him for a lifetime."

Army to allow completion of Dakota Access oil pipeline
The Latest on the Dakota Access pipeline being built to carry oil from North Dakota to Illinois (all times local): 3:20 p.m.

Anchorage police investigate break-in at Young's congressional office
Police in Alaska's largest city are investigating a reported break-in at U.S. Rep. Don Young's congressional office there.

OTHER NEWS

Energy & Oil Prices
Crude Oil (WTI) $52.35
Brent Crude (ICE) $55.36
Natural Gas (NYMEX) $3.12
Japan LNG (JLNGIP) $7.10

Compiled by the Senate Majority Press Office
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