



**TOMORROW'S FORECAST:**

rain likely  
IGH — Lower 50s  
OW — Lower 40s

WHAT'S BEING SAID: "I wish ours would double or triple." — Gary Heisler, Page 3

Alaska North Slope crude oil:

12.39 per barrel

# JUNEAU EMPIRE

*'The Voice of Alaska's Capital City'*

MONDAY  
MAY 4, 1998

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Volume 87, No. 105

**COLUMN ONE**

**QUICK HITS**



**Heat gets Knicked**  
New York beat Miami on Sunday, 98-81, to take the five-game series and advance to the second round of the NBA playoffs. The Knicks became the first No. 7 seed to beat a No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs.  
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**Water rescue**  
Rep. Ethan Berkowitz and two companions spent a chilly and unplanned night on Portland Island after their skiff overturned Saturday evening.  
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**Kaczynski sentence**  
Theodore Kaczynski was given four consecutive life sentences today after the wife of a victim urged the judge to lock the defiant terrorist "closer to hell."  
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## FBI shows mine misdeeds

Investigative report says contaminants released into Gold Creek

By KRISTAN HUTCHISON

THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

Echo Bay Alaska did its dirty work in the Alaska-Juneau gold mine at night to avoid detection, according to a federal investigation.

The mining company let mud, oil, grease, old sewage, ammonia and urine empty through tunnels into Gold Creek before 1994, the FBI and Environmental Protection Agency investigators found. Evidence of the pollution came through federal documents recently released to the environmental group Alaskans for Juneau through a freedom of information request.

The contaminants were released from the mine just above the city's drinking water well-fields, with Echo Bay violating the Clean Water Act. Work that could contaminate Gold Creek was done at night so it couldn't be detected, while water quality samples were only taken during the day, mine workers repeatedly told investigators.

"It just boggles my mind to read these interviews," said Skip Gray, president of Alaskans for Juneau. "It really paints a picture of operations underground that were pretty out of control and plagued with technical breakdowns and power outages and poor management decisions."

Former Echo Bay spokesman David Stone denied that the company ever had a policy of doing work that might cause contamination at night.

"We were all very, very much aware that water coming out of that mine went into the city water. There were signs all over saying this is your city's water," Stone said Saturday. "Probably there would have been some pretty serious repercussions if that had ever been the case."

The interviews and excerpts of work logs from the mine detail hydraulic oil spills and leaks from dams meant to hold contaminated water. The documents also describe Echo Bay's practice of washing chemicals from the mine walls and moving heavy equipment at night so the mud it stirred up wouldn't be seen as it washed downstream.

Alaskans for Juneau asked the state attorney general to reopen a 1995 investigation into the cause of a fish kill in



## Health benefits could shrink

By SVEND HOLST

THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

Union officials are meeting today, and will meet with the state Tuesday, in an effort to figure out what to do about the health insurance plan for 7,000 state workers including 2,000 in Juneau.

One of the options being considered would keep premiums level while cutting eye care and doubling the annual deductible.

The current plan ends July and after that general government unit workers will either be paying more for their health insurance, losing some of their benefits, or both, according to Michael Lacey, spokesman for the Alaska State Employees Association.

"People just found out for sure that the proposed . . . (plan) has been rejected," Lacey said today. "People are calling, saying 'Where do we go from here?'"

Last week, on a 697-1,664 vote ASEA members rejected a plan that would have shifted the health insurance from NYLCA to the Alaska Laborers-Construction Industry Health and Security Trust Fund. The plan stemmed from an effort to find a cheap way to cover medical benefits