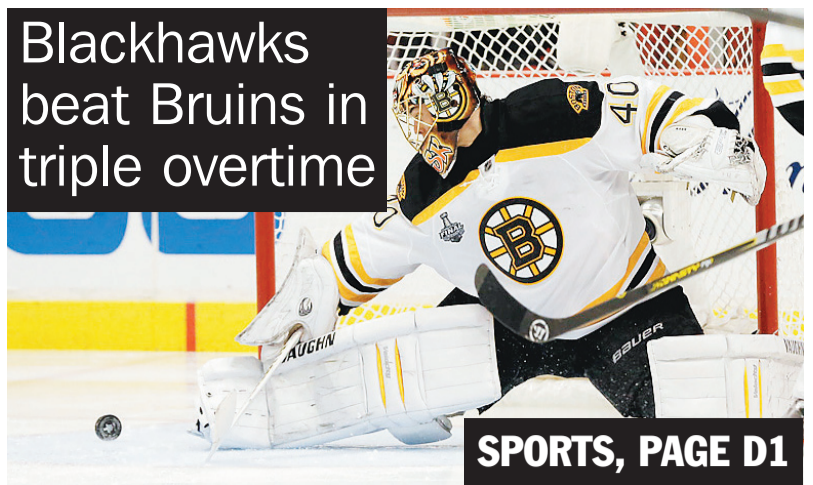




Conquering Mount McKinley

and a fear of heights **OUTDOORS, PAGE C1**



Blackhawks beat Bruins in triple overtime

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Daily News-Miner

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Fort Greely commander loses job

Decision was in response to his handling of sex misconduct inquiry

By **SAM FRIEDMAN**
sfriedman@newsminer.com

Fort Greely's missile defense commander has lost his command because of an investigation into his treatment of sexual misconduct reports at the Delta Junction area base.

Lt. Col. Joseph Miley's command of the Fort Greely-based 49th Missile Defense Battalion was suspended Tuesday, said spokesman Marco Morales at the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense headquarters in Huntsville, Ala. Miley's second-in-command is now the unit commander, he said.

A Bloomberg News article last month said Miley was under investigation for not doing enough to crack down on extra-marital affairs on post. He reportedly told soldiers in a Jan. 4 meeting that adultery is not punishable under military law. The Bloomberg article cited an unsigned email to Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commanding general of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command.

Morales, the Army spokesman in Huntsville, told the Daily News-Miner on Wednesday that Miley lost his command because of preliminary findings of a sexual misconduct investigation that started in January.

"It was determined by (Formica, the commanding general) that some of the findings in the investigation pointed to the fact that he lost confidence in Col. Miley's ability to be the commander," he said. Morales said he could not go into the specifics of what is meant by sexual misconduct because the findings are being reviewed.

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Are 90-degree days on the way?



Eric Engman/News-Miner

The Peger Road boat launch behind Pioneer Park was buzzing with activity as people flocked to the Chena River on Wednesday afternoon. The Fairbanks weather forecast is calling for increasing temperatures possibly reaching 90 degrees next week.

Forecast shows warming pattern

By **SAM ALLEN**
News-Miner Intern

Fairbanks could see 90-degree temperatures next week for the first time in three years, and the heat will increase the wildfire danger.

A high pressure system is building above northern Alaska, making way for intense sunlight and fewer clouds.

"All of our models over the last few days are showing continuity for warmer weather," said Don Aycock, weather forecaster for the National Weather Service in Fairbanks.

Aycock said accurately predicting weather six days out is a stretch, but

Fairbanksans should expect temperatures even higher than those seen in late May.

A cool low pressure system coming off the Arctic Ocean into western Canada late this weekend and early next week still could lower the chance of reaching the 90-degree mark, at least until Tuesday.

"I've been here 15 years, and I only remember one summer where it got above 90 degrees at the airport, but it's looking pretty good that it's gonna happen," Aycock said.

He said thunderstorms may cool the eastern interior Alaska Range and Delta Junction area, but none is forecasted for Fairbanks.

The hot weather will increase the likelihood of wildfires.

"Because of the late spring, fires have been relatively easy to contain this season. The fires will increase when the drying in the forest floor gets deeper and we see a rise in winds," said Sharon Alden,

"I've been here 15 years, and I only remember one summer where it got above 90 degrees at the airport, but it's looking pretty good that it's gonna happen."

— **Don Aycock,**
National Weather Service forecaster

Alden said there is little possibility of lightning, so any fires that occur during the next week probably will be caused by humans.

Maggie Rogers, spokeswoman for the Alaska Division of Forestry, also said thunderstorms would be unlikely next week. The primary danger will be from human-caused fires.

Rogers urged people to obtain permits for any burning they might want to do. Those with permits should check their status online, she said. Burn permits can be suspended under hot and windy weather conditions.

"The fire season came in pretty quick," she said. "Some areas, especially down in Kenai and Copper River area have dry grasses that haven't greened up yet."

She attributed this to the late winter and rapid warm-up. Warmer weather is expected throughout most of Alaska in the coming week.

predictive services meteorologist with the Alaska Fire Service, based at Fort Wainwright.

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Once more



Midwest pounded by more severe weather. **Page A5**



Sourdough Jack sez:

"Last time it hit 90 degrees, I sounded like the Wicked Witch gettin' hit with water."

North Pole man pleads guilty after trooper dragged by car

By **SAM FRIEDMAN**
sfriedman@newsminer.com

A North Pole man entered a plea agreement Wednesday that will give him a 6 1/2-year jail sentence for dragging an Alaska State Trooper who was trying to reach into his vehicle window.

Erin S. Johnson, 50, pleaded guilty Wednesday afternoon to felony counts of third-degree assault and failure to stop at the direction of a peace officer for an incident that took place in September 2011 at the Moose Creek Apartments near Eielson Air Force Base.

Johnson was out of jail on \$75,000 bail and in the custody of a third-party custodian, his mother, at Wednesday's hearing. At the hearing, Johnson didn't make any

statements except to say he was pleading guilty and to answer yes or no questions about the trial rights he was giving up.

After the hearing, Johnson told the Daily News-Miner the Alaska State Troopers left out an important detail in their description of the confrontation. They were shooting at him as he drove away and took out his back window, he said.

He said he felt pressured to enter the plea agreement, because if he did not plead guilty he could lose the \$75,000 bail money. As part of the plea agreement, prosecutors will withdraw a motion to confiscate the bail.

Troopers' account of the September

Please see **PLEA, Page A6**

Gallery hit by vandals

By **SAM FRIEDMAN**
sfriedman@newsminer.com

North Pole's Grange Gallery won't have its June show because of damage to the gallery from vandalism last week.

Sometime during the evening of June 4, vandals broke into the art gallery where they smashed glass and overturned tables, gallery president John

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