

FAIRBANKS

# Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today

MILLIONS IN PROPERTY TAXES ON THE LINE WITH PIPELINE ASSESSMENT APPEAL » A3

GOOD MORNING



**The weather.**  
Mostly cloudy day.  
Highs expected to be in the upper 60s.  
High today .....68  
Low tonight .....43

Sunrise: 4:23 a.m.  
Sunset: 11:13 p.m.

WEATHER » A7

...

## GRAD DAY

Star of the North seniors graduate.

INTERIOR  
Page A4

...

## FISHING SEASON

Fairbanks hatchery filling up ponds along Steese Highway.

OUTDOORS  
Page B1

...

## AIM HIGH

Nanooks shooters part of Team USA in 51st world rifle championships.

SPORTS  
Page D1

...



## GET FLUFFY

Comedian Gabriel Iglesias makes Alaska debut this weekend.

LATITUDE 65

...

SOURDOUGH JACK:  
**“I told the missus ‘fluffy’ was a compliment. That didn’t go over so well.”**



# State rejects claims of ‘Fairbanks Four’

Brian O’Donoghue  
FOR THE NEWS-MINER

A state prosecutor charged with reviewing new evidence offered in John Hartman’s 1997 murder says the three juries that judged the so-called Fairbanks Four were right to convict. The claimed confession by California inmate William

**MORE ONLINE**  
Read the state’s court filing.  
» [www.newsminer.com](#)

Z. Holmes, the focal point of legal arguments for overturning convictions in the case, is deemed “hearsay” in the state’s first response to the Alaska Innocence Project’s Sept. 25 post-convic-

tion relief filing. The state applied similar terms in disparaging Scott Davison, another former Lathrop High student who says Jason Wallace, one of the men Holmes says took part, discussed the deed while skipping school that same week in 1997.

HARTMAN » A7



The claimed confession by California inmate William Z. Holmes, pictured in 1998, the focal point of legal arguments for overturning convictions in the case, is deemed “hearsay” in the state’s first response to the Alaska Innocence Project’s Sept. 25 post-conviction relief filing. NEWS-MINER FILE PHOTO

## EFFIE KOKRINE SCHOOL CELEBRATES GRADUATION



Surrounded by her peers, graduate Kiana Jones, 18, strikes a pose for social studies teacher James Krall before the Effie Kokrine Charter School commencement ceremonies Thursday evening. JR ANCHETA/FOR THE NEWS-MINER



Above: Graduates from Effie Kokrine Charter School gather outside for one final group photo before the commencement ceremony. Right: Hunter Kiser, 17, jokes around with his friends before commencement ceremonies. JR ANCHETA/FOR THE NEWS-MINER



## GRADUATE LISTS

See the lists of graduates from Effie Kokrine and Star of the North schools inside. » [Page A4](#)

# Three more put on leave

### School district continues probe

By Weston Morrow  
[WMORROW@NEWSMINER.COM](#)

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District placed three employees on administrative leave this week as a result of the school board’s investigation of district management.

The investigation began after a tutor at Hutchison High School was arrested and charged with sexual abuse of a minor on March 24 and has since expanded to include the district’s handling of multiple past complaints.

The action comes swiftly after the board’s decision to fire Superintendent Pete Lewis, pending an opportunity for

SCHOOLS » A7

## Delta Junction lodge burns

By Tim Mowry  
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The historic Clearwater Lodge in Delta Junction burned to the ground early Thursday morning.

Nobody was hurt in the fire, but the 55-year-old lodge, which included a bar and restaurant, was a total loss.

Firefighters received a report of the fire from a neighbor at about 3:30 a.m., said Tim Castleberry, fire chief for the Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department.

“There was basically nothing left of the structure when we got there,” said Castleberry, who was still on scene at 4 p.m. Thursday while State Fire Marshal Chris Grooms investigated the cause of the fire. “There were partial walls still standing, but it was burning down into the basement by the time we got there.”

FIRE » A7

## Airport wants more frequent fliers to go ‘express’

By Sam Friedman  
[SFRIEDMAN@NEWSMINER.COM](#)

About 400 Fairbanks frequent fliers have registered for a TSA express lane since it opened in February at Fairbanks International Airport, a number the agency wants to increase.

Since 2011, the federal agency has been building a network of TSA Pre-Check express security lines. Qualifying passengers, including those who pass an \$85 background check, get to board a plane after a pre-9/11 style screening that allows them to leave their shoes on their feet and their laptops in their bags. The background check is good for five years.

The express lane is also open to members of the military and children younger than 12 of qualified passengers.

Anchorage joined the TSA Pre-Check club in 2012 and Fairbanks started in February with a dedicated line at the airport and a contractor office near Fred Meyer West that takes fingerprints for the background check.

The Transportation Security Administration has a goal of eventually screening one quarter of passengers through expedited processes, said TSA regional spokeswoman Lorie Dankers, who was in Fairbanks

TSA » A7



**TSA regional spokeswoman Lorie Dankers demonstrates an electronic fingerprint machine used to register people in the TSA Pre-Check program Thursday at the MorphoTrust USA office on Airport Way. The registration costs \$85 and is good for five years. The office is open Wednesdays and Thursdays. Sam Friedman/News-Miner**

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