



INTERPRETING DINOSAURS: ART, SCIENCE

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KIDS GET Schooled in HIP-HOP DANCE

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BESH CUP SKIING BEGINS AT BIRCH HILL

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Inside Today Seawolves beat Nanooks in overtime at second Governor's Cup game. » SPORTS, C1

Preparing for the marijuana boom

Entrepreneurs, policymakers looking ahead

By Amanda Bohman
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Alaska's marijuana laws begin to get a lot more permissive in about five weeks: Recreational marijuana use will be legal for

people older than 21 on Feb. 24. Voters statewide made that choice in November when they approved a broad state initiative that also allows for the legalized but regulated sale of marijuana, marijuana products and marijuana accessories beginning next year, following the required adoption of regulations later this year. But the new law allows local governments to ban or limit marijuana businesses such as retailers and smoking clubs. That has led to discussions in Fairbanks,

Find all our marijuana coverage in one place online. » newsminer.com/marijuana

North Pole and elsewhere in the state about where people ought to be allowed to buy, sell, grow, process and consume marijuana. Entrepreneurs, meanwhile, are busy thinking about ways to capitalize on the new industry.

Getting ready to cash in

Charlie Lester, a 48-year-old heavy equipment operator and general foreman on the North Slope, said opening a marijuana club and eventually a retail store are part of his retirement plan. The Delta Junction resident said he has a name picked out, a Facebook page up and is having a logo designed so he can have T-shirts and sweatshirts made.

Lester said he has lined up locations inside and outside of Delta Junction city limits to open a private club where people will be able to smoke pot. He said he would prefer to establish his club within the city but he's waiting to see if the City Council will allow it. His goal is to open by May.

His plan for a retail store will have to wait until state lawmakers decide how to regulate marijuana sales.

MARIJUANA » A3

GOOD MORNING

The weather.
Cloudy skies expected today, with a chance of snow.
High today 13
Low tonight 0
WEATHER » A7

Aurora forecast.
Auroral activity will be moderate.
This information is provided by aurora forecasters at the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. For more information about the aurora, visit <http://www.gi.alaska.edu/AuroraForecast>

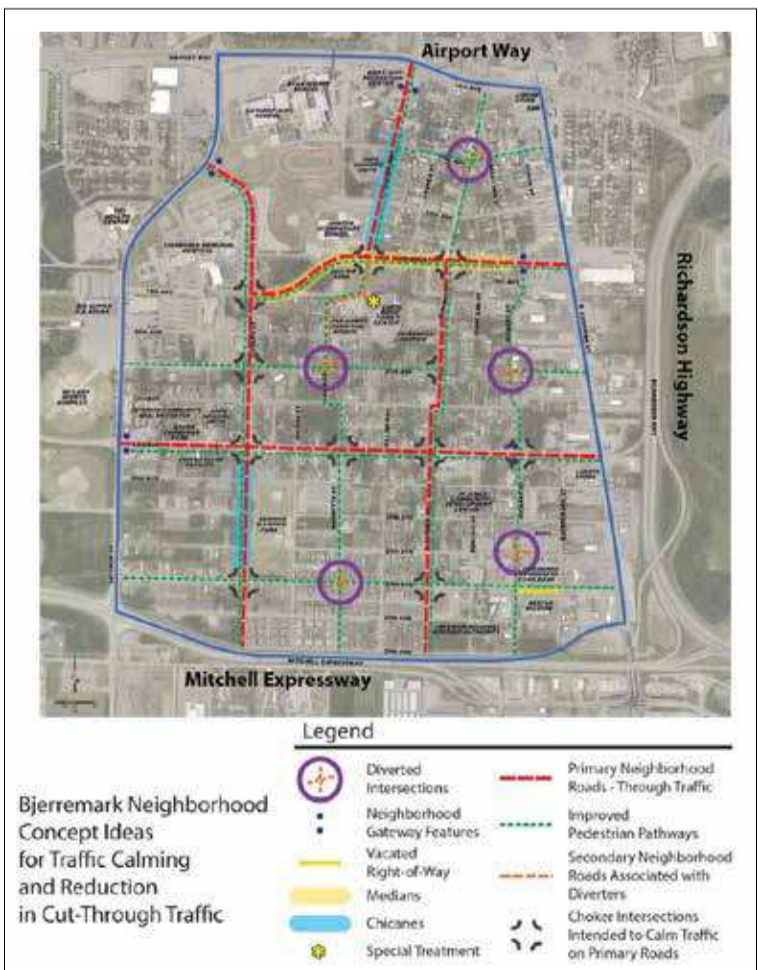
Crime-reducing plan drafted



A vehicle prepares to pass through the intersection at 17th Avenue and Gilliam Way on Friday. A Framework Plan has been drafted by the Bjerremark Neighborhood Improvement Plan Steering Committee with concept ideas for traffic calming and reduction in cut-through traffic in the area. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

By Dorothy Chomicz
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Portions of the south side of Fairbanks may get a new look with the implementation of the Bjerremark Neighborhood Improvement Plan. The neighborhood — which is bordered by South Cushman Street, Lathrop Street, Airport Way and the Mitchell Expressway — is plagued with crimes such as theft, assault and hit and run. The improvement plan aims to cut down on these crimes by use of several different traffic calming and reduction measures. DOWL HKM, the engineering firm hired by the city to create oversee the project, has created a draft framework plan showing the proposed street changes. According to project manager Gary Jenkins, the grid-like network of streets in that area promotes pass-through traffic. Long, wide-open straightaways encourage high speeds no matter what the posted speed limit is. The city can help rectify this problem by making improvements in the right-of-way, which is the portion of the road the city owns.



NEIGHBORHOOD » A5

GRAPHIC COURTESY BJERREMARK NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Small steps for fire and medical services

Borough Assembly looking at options for restructuring emergency services

By Robin Wood
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Maps and diagrams of fire-service areas and emergency medical service boundaries look like overlapping puzzle pieces.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly has been exploring options to restructure fire and emergency medical service operations, largely because of liability concerns.

The assembly held a Jan. 7 work session with fire-service area commissioners. Commissioners are appointed by the mayor and tasked with recommending budgets and interfacing between the mayor and public.

Commissioners said attempting to restructure fire and EMS services, or improperly address problems, could quickly become a tangled mess with unintended consequences, a conclusion acknowledged by some assembly members.

A slow approach, rather than sweeping structure changes, emerged as the likely outcome.

Assemblyman Lance Roberts said liability is "what drives the issue right now." Liability takes many shapes: boundary discrepancies between fire and medical service areas, authority to perform tasks and general liability.

One example presented during the meeting was vehicle extraction outside a fire service area.

SERVICES » A3

DANCE DANCE
Ballroom Dance Club of Fairbanks great for any level of experience.
OUR TOWN Page B1

GUN CLASS
Champion shooter hosting clinic.
INTERIOR Page A4

SOURDOUGH JACK:
"Hey, whipper-snappers, I could teach that class."