



Daily News-Miner

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Sen. Dan Sullivan says Alaska's military importance is growing. » INSIDE, A2

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Hope you enjoyed the sun yesterday — expect rain and thunderstorms today.

High today58
Low tonight49

Sunrise: 5:46 a.m.
Sunset: 10:00 p.m.

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North Pole man faces 10 charges in alleged burglary, theft.

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SOURDOUGH JACK: "I oughta run fer somethin'. Then again, I'd rather just sit."



Filing period is over for local elections

Five of 13 races remain uncontested

By Amanda Bohman
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By the time the window closed at the borough clerk's office on Monday, the last day to file for local office, two more people had filed but five of 13 local races remained uncontested.

Borough Assemblyman Lance Roberts and Fairbanks Councilman Perry Walley are running

for re-election on Oct. 6 unchallenged.

So are two members of the Board of Education, Lisa Gentry and Heidi Haas.

Another Fairbanks City Council seat had only one person, Joy Huntington, file.

In North Pole, two City Council seats had no one file, the clerk there said Monday.

Conversely, the race for Fairbanks North Star Bor-

ough Mayor drew four candidates and both seats on the public gas utility's board of directors are contested with one race drawing two challengers.

Here is the list of people to file for local office in the 2015 municipal election.

All of the candidates are unofficial until their qualifications are checked by the respective municipal clerks, which will happen in the coming days.

Borough mayor

A fourth candidate joined the Borough Mayor's race on Monday.

Cory Jackman, who listed no occupation on his financial disclosure statement, filed for the borough's top job.

Also seeking the office are parks-and-recreation-director-turned-assemblyman Karl Kassel, North Pole legislator Tammie Wilson and Robert Shields, who also listed no occupation on his filing

paperwork.

Borough Mayor Luke Hopkins is prevented from running for a third term because of term limits.

Borough Assembly

While no one filed to challenge Roberts for Assembly Seat G, incumbents Van Lawrence and Kathryn Dodge both drew challengers.

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CHENA DIVE



Tad Pepperling, left, and Sang Won Lee signal they are OK to Mitch Osborne, with Test the Waters and the Fish and Wildlife Service, not pictured, after a practice dive in the Chena River near 38 Mile Chena Hot Springs Road on Sunday. Pepperling and Lee were planning to retrieve GoPro cameras left in the river at salmon spawning beds, or redds, to be used in a film about the importance of the Chena River to salmon for the Fish and Wildlife Service. ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER

Rand Paul will visit Fairbanks next week

By Jeff Richardson
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Republican presidential candidate Sen. Rand Paul is planning an Aug. 25 event in Fairbanks, according to a post on his Facebook page.

The post stated that the Kentucky senator will hold a 2:30 p.m. "town hall" style meeting at the Westmark Fairbanks Hotel "to discuss policy and how to take our country back in 2016!" His Alaska campaign page is inviting the public to attend the appearance at the hotel's East Gold Room.

A Westmark manager confirmed plans for the event, although details of the visit hadn't been finalized on Monday.

Paul is one of at least 17 major candidates jockeying for position in the crowded GOP field and will be the first to visit Alaska this year as the Republican nomination process unfolds. His Alaska events, which will also include a stop in Anchorage, are scheduled a few days before President Obama visits the state to discuss Arctic issues and climate change policy.

Fairbanks has been a receptive location for Paul campaigns in the past. His father, Rep. Ron Paul, greeted an enthusiastic audience in the same spot when he ran for president in 2012. The Texas congressman's campaign said more than 1,000 people attended the Fairbanks rally, which overflowed the Westmark conference room. Ron Paul went on to claim 24 percent of the vote in the Alaska caucus, good for third place in the state.

Contact staff writer Jeff Richardson at 459-7518. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMBusiness.

Chase, standoff block Richardson traffic

Staff Report
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A high-speed chase and subsequent standoff closed the Richardson Highway to local traffic Monday morning until Alaska State Troopers were able to arrest the suspect.

Troopers reportedly attempted to stop the driver of a 1993 Ford Explorer at 8:38 a.m. as it traveled more than 20 mph above the speed limit southbound between Fairbanks and North Pole near the Badger Road interchange. The driver then attempted to elude troopers by turning onto the Old Richardson Highway, according to a troopers dispatch.

The driver, Jonathan A. Pitts,

22, of Fairbanks, reportedly turned southbound on the Richardson Highway in the northbound lane after about three miles before briefly getting stuck in a ditch. When he freed the Explorer, he drove up an embankment, causing the vehicle to roll onto its driver's side.

Pitts initially refused to exit the vehicle for troopers, reportedly keeping the windows rolled up and saying he had knives inside. A standoff followed, halting traffic intermittently on the highway for about 90 minutes.

Troopers and North Pole Police set up a perimeter around the vehicle after Pitts allegedly refused to exit but were unable to talk him into surrendering. After troop-

ers used a bean bag shot to break the back window, Pitts reportedly crawled out the driver's side window and was arrested without incident, ending the standoff.

No one was injured in the incident and damage was limited to the vehicle Pitts was driving, according to troopers.

Pitts was taken to Fairbanks Correctional Center on counts of first-degree failure to stop at the direction of a police officer and reckless driving.

Pitts doesn't have a criminal record in Alaska, according to online court records. His record includes only a single conviction for a speeding violation in June 2014.

Contact the newsroom at 459-7572.

Marijuana zoning measure to get first hearing tonight

By Amanda Bohman
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Fairbanks borough residents have their first chance tonight to offer voice testimony on a measure dealing with what kinds of marijuana businesses can open in which locations.

Cannabis commerce is on track to begin in Alaska about the middle of next year.

Ordinance 2015-41 lays out zoning rules for marijuana businesses in the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

The measure is the only

item of business on the agenda for the borough Planning Commission, which meets in the Mona Lisa Drexler Borough Assembly Chambers at 7 p.m.

"I hope we have a good turnout and that we hear from people who have genuine concerns about this proposed ordinance," said Jerry McBeath, chairman of the commission. "I think that the approach that has been taken so far is judicious and cautious. They have taken a conservative approach."

Borough Mayor Luke Hopkins has shared details

about the ordinance as it was being formed throughout the year.

The 14-page document allows for four types of commercial activity—cultivation, sales, testing and manufacturing—in agricultural, commercial, industrial and general use zones. Marijuana businesses would not be allowed on land zoned for residential use.

Some zones allow marijuana businesses outright. Others require an application process and a public hearing.

The Planning Commis-

sion will make recommendations on the ordinance to the Borough Assembly, which has the final vote.

People wanting to comment at Planning Commission meeting will have three minutes to speak.

Hopkins convened a special task force and held town hall meetings in the months after voters approved Ballot Measure 2 to gather opinions as he crafted the zoning measure. Staff at the Department of Community Planning also researched what other communities are doing about legalized rec-

reational marijuana.

In a memo to the Planning Commission, Planning Department Director Christine Nelson said her staff discussed "lessons learned" with municipal officials in Colorado.

"The comparison with Colorado was especially useful because their constitutional amendment is nearly identical to the language in Alaska's Ballot Measure 2, and they have already been implementing their regulations for nearly two years," Nelson said.

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