



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today Astronomers say they've discovered the most Earth-like planet yet, 500 light-years away. » A3

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Marc Rebeiro, of Fort Wainwright, practices his skateboarding form Thursday afternoon at the Fairbanks North Star Borough Skate Park. "I haven't skated in 2 1/2 years. I should have never stopped," Rebeiro said while trying to pull off tricks. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

Man gets 7 years for rash of burglaries

Broke into Fairbanks businesses in 2012

By Sam Friedman
SFRIEDMAN@NEWSMINER.COM

A Fairbanks man was sentenced to a seven-year prison term Thursday for a spree of commercial burglaries in fall 2012.

Carl E. Gage, 41, was accused of 12 after-hours break-ins that culminated in a December 2012 looting of most businesses in the Shopper's Forum mall. Under a plea agreement, he pleaded guilty Thursday to nine of the 56 counts of burglary, theft and criminal mischief he was charged with.



Gage

Assistant District Attorney Risa Leonard said Gage did an estimated \$35,000 in damage to the businesses and stole about \$78,000 in cash and merchandise. After his release, Gage will face 10 years of probation and could have to serve an additional 10 years of suspended time if he re-offends while on probation. He'll have to pay restitution, but the amount has not yet been determined.

"Based on the amount of restitution, the state felt it was necessary to put this defendant on a long-term probation plan in hopes to help him get a job and pay back the restitution," Leonard said at Thursday's court hearing.

Gage said he didn't have anything to say before the sentence was handed down. He's been in jail since January 2013.

BURGLARIES » A8

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Today will be mostly cloudy.
High today47
Low tonight22

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.

Rep. Tammie Wilson, R-North Pole, talks with fellow lawmakers during an at-ease during the refinery tax credit debate. The bill, which passed the House 35-5, subsidizes oil refineries in Alaska as they struggle to compete with Outside sources of oil products.
MATT BUXTON/
NEWS-MINER



House passes refineries bill

By Matt Buxton
MBUXTON@NEWSMINER.COM

JUNEAU — The House passed a bill containing up to \$200 million of tax credits that will be doled out over five years to prop up two ailing oil refineries, a refinery that didn't ask for them and a closed fertilizer plant.

House Bill 287 began as a non-controversial piece of legislation to approve a royalty oil contract for the Tesoro Corp.-owned oil refinery in Nikiski. It became a vehicle for Gov. Sean Parnell and Fairbanks-area lawmakers to make a late-in-the-session push to help troubled oil refineries.

"It encourages and incentivizes certain in-state oil refineries and hydrocarbon processing facilities and

INSIDE » With the legislative session rapidly coming to a close, capital budget offers little funding for Fairbanks projects. » A8

their continued operation in Alaska," said Rep. Steve Thompson, R-Fairbanks. "By creating a more favorable tax system we have the opportunity to maintain an industry that provides jobs for Alaskans, adds value to Alaska's oil and will help to keep our resources in Alaska and available to Alaskans."

The credit, which was scaled down from the initial proposal, amounts to 40 percent of up to \$25 million of investments a company makes in a refinery per year for the next five years.

What that means for the PetroStar

Inc.-owned refinery in North Pole is that if it invests \$25 million in a year, the state will give it a \$10 million tax credit. If PetroStar doesn't have a tax bill, the state will write it a check.

The same goes for PetroStar's plant in Valdez.

Both plants, PetroStar has told the Legislature, are struggling to compete with Outside sources of oil products. Alaska crude is currently trading at a premium over other sources as well as paying other fees associated with taking oil out of TAPS.

It's those costs, several Fairbanks-area lawmakers said contributed to the planned closing of Flint Hills' North Pole refinery. Rep. Doug Isaacson, R-North Pole, was a long-time advocate for helping the refineries cope with rising issues.

REFINERIES » A8



EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

Adak Island makes an interesting spot for a caribou hunt.

OUTDOORS
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SOURDOUGH JACK:
"I don't get out caribou hunting much anymore. I generally just hunt for the remote these days."



New procedure clones stem cells from adults

By Ariana Eunjung Cha
THE WASHINGTON POST

Scientists have grown stem cells from adults using cloning techniques for the first time — bringing them closer to developing patient-specific lines of cells that can be used to treat a whole host of ailments, from heart disease to blindness.

The research, described in Thursday's online edition of the journal Cell Stem Cell, is a controversial advance likely to reopen the debate over the ethics of

human cloning.

The scientists' technique was similar to the one used in the first clone of a mammal, Dolly the sheep, which was created in 1996.

They "reprogrammed" an egg cell by removing its DNA and replaced it with that of an adult donor. Scientists then zapped the cell with electricity, which made it divide and multiply. The resulting cells were identical in DNA to the donor.

The first success in humans was reported last year by scientists at the Oregon Health & Science

University and the Oregon National Primate Research Center. But they used donor cells from infants. In this study, the cells came from two men, a 35-year-old and a 75-year-old.

Paul Knoepfler, an associate professor at the University of California at Davis who studies stem cells, called the new research "exciting, important, and technically convincing."

"In theory you could use those stem cells to produce almost any kind of cell and give it back to a person as a therapy," he said.

In their paper, Young Gie Chung, from the Research Institute for Stem Cell Research for CHA Health Systems in Los Angeles; Robert Lanza, from Advanced Cell Technology in Marlborough, Mass.; and their co-authors emphasized the promise of the technology for new therapies. What they didn't mention — but was clear to those working with stem cells — was that their work was also an important discovery for human cloning.

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ICE DOGS HOCKEY Playoff Hockey - Midwest Division Finals!
FRIDAY SPONSORED BY FINISH LINE RESTAURANT
SATURDAY SPONSORED BY BLUE MOOSE RAFTING
Ice Dogs VS. Wenatchee Wild
Big Dipper Ice Arena
Friday, April 18.....7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 19.....7:30 p.m.
Mon, April 21 (if necessary)....7:00 p.m.
Tickets available at Sport King, Play It Again Sports, FT WW, Eielson, Downtown Museum, Gene's Chrysler & NP Polar Expresso
The best of the best... going nose to nose!
Tailgate party in Dipper parking lot at 5pm Saturday before game.