



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today Borough Assembly hosting town hall tonight for air quality suggestions. » INTERIOR, A6

Barrow ADA killed

Suspect arrested after North Slope Borough's Brian Sullivan died from gunshot

By Dorothy Chomicz
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An assistant district attorney in Barrow was killed Monday night and a suspect is in custody, according to the office of the North Slope Borough mayor.

Brian Sullivan, 48, was shot at a residence at 5318 Laura Madison St. It is unclear at this time who lived in the home or if anyone else was present at the time of the shooting.

Sullivan was divorced and his ex-wife lives in the Anchorage area, according to Alaska Deputy Attorney General Richard Svobodny.

Sullivan was one of two Barrow assistant district attorneys and had been on the job since spring 2012, according to Svobodny. It was Sullivan's exposure to other cultures while serving in the military overseas that made him seek the job in Barrow, Svobodny said.

"He was interested in moving to Bar-

row particularly because he was interested in the culture of the community. He became involved right away with community activities," Svobodny said. "Last evening, he was at a sporting event at the high school there."

Barrow's other assistant district attorney, Fred Edwards, is in Anchorage visiting family, Svobodny said. Jay Fayette, an assistant attorney general from the state's Office of Special Prosecutions flew to Barrow at 7 a.m. today to oversee the office until Edwards returns.

Svobodny declined to say if Sullivan has any professional or personal ties to the suspect in custody.

The case has been turned over to the Alaska State Troopers and troopers were flown to Barrow on Tuesday to begin the investigation, troopers spokeswoman Megan Peters said.

Sullivan was born in University Place, Washington, and served in the Washington State House of Representatives

from 1996 to 2001, according to his professional website. He was a paratrooper, military police officer and Judge Advocate General lawyer in the U.S. Army.

Washington State Sen. Steve Conway, who was a colleague of Sullivan's, recalled him as a "self starter" who "came up through the ranks" of the Washington State Democratic Party after he decided to run against the incumbent.

"He made an excellent impression at the door. He outworked the other guy and did a tremendous job on the campaign," Conway said.

Conway said he was shocked and saddened when he received news of Sullivan's death.

"He's someone I considered a friend. In my wildest dreams I never thought that something like this would have happened to him. It's hard to imagine," Conway said.

DEATH » A5

North Pole raising taxes on alcohol, tobacco sales

By Amanda Bohman
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The city of North Pole is raising taxes on alcohol and tobacco starting Jan. 1.

Ambulance fees also are going up next year as the city of 2,200 people deals with an anticipated revenue shortfall for 2015.

Flint Hills Resources dialed back its operations from a refinery to a distribution facility last year. As a result, the city is anticipating an estimated \$180,000 drop in property tax revenue, according to North Pole Mayor Bryce Ward.

The City Council approved the 2015 budget last week.

TAXES » A5

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Expect a cloudy day.
High today -1
Low tonight -8

WEATHER » A11

Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be low. Weather permitting, low displays will be visible overhead from Barrow to Fairbanks.

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>

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BAKERS UNITE

Getting creative with gingerbread.

FOOD
Page B6

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SOURDOUGH JACK:

"I can't bake nothin', but I sure can eat it."



WRAP IT UP



Larissa Hubbard trims the base of a Christmas tree while packaging it up for a customer at Alaska Feed Company on College Road on Tuesday afternoon. "It's been a steady flow," Hubbard said of customers coming in to purchase trees. The store ordered more than 200 fir trees from Washington to sell for the holiday. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

Military team rescues men from river

By Casey Grove
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ANCHORAGE — Military rescuers in a helicopter based at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson flew 330 miles to rescue two men Sunday after one broke through ice on the Chatanika River in the Minto Flats about 30 miles northwest of Fairbanks.

On Saturday, Robert Courtney, 64, and Tracy Denbo, 50, were driving snowmachines on the Chatanika River when Courtney and his snowmachine went through the ice, dunking his feet in water and trapping the machine, according to Alaska State Troopers. Then Denbo's snowmachine stopped running and the men had to break into a nearby cabin, where they called for help before their cellphone died, troopers spokeswoman Megan Peters said.

"It was reported to us that

(Courtney) was wet and the current weather conditions were very cold and the wind was blowing approximately 20 to 25 mph," Peters said in an email. "He reported he could not feel his feet."

Temperatures in the area were in the teens, according to the National Weather Service.

Troopers have one of their two AStar helicopters, Helo-2, based in Fairbanks, but the agency is not flying it on nighttime rescues, Peters said. Troopers requested help from the Rescue Coordination Center at JBER, and the Alaska Air National Guard accepted the mission about 4 a.m. Sunday, the Guard said.

An HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter from the 210th Rescue Squadron carried a team from the 212th Rescue Squadron, Sgt. Edward Eagerton said. On such a long mission — about 660 miles roundtrip — an HC-130 Hercules would

usually fly along, too, to refuel the helicopter, but the "Here" was unavailable for some reason, Eagerton said.

Eagerton said Tuesday it was unclear why the HC-130 was not involved or why rescuers stationed at Eielson Air Force Base, much nearer to the stranded men, were not sent to rescue them. Maintenance or mandatory crew rest could have been a factor, he said.

The troopers' Helo-2, which was used in the wake of a fatal avalanche Saturday in the eastern Alaska Range, would have diverted during daylight hours Sunday to help Courtney and Denbo if the Guard had been unable to assist, Peters said.

"A rescue where victims are alive takes precedence over a body recovery mission," Peters said.

The Pave Hawk refueled at Eielson before flying past

RESCUE » A3

Former police officer accused of identity theft

By Dorothy Chomicz
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A former North Pole police officer was indicted last Thursday on two counts of first-degree criminal impersonation, one count of second-degree theft and one count of fraudulent use of an access device. All of the charges are felonies.

Ryan D. Webb, 33, of North Pole, allegedly used another man's personal information to obtain a Capitol One credit card, according to court documents. Webb was hired by the North Pole Police Department in February 2009 and was terminated in February 2011, according to Officer Chad Rathbun. The identity theft occurred in January 2013, well after Webb had been fired, Rathbun said.

THEFT » A3

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