



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today

Tiny Fey returns to 'Saturday Night Live' to once again play Sarah Palin. » INSIDE, A2

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Partly cloudy, becoming mostly cloudy later in the day, with highs in the 20s.

High today 25

Low tonight 9

WEATHER » A9

Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be low. Weather permitting, 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.gialaska.edu/AuroraForecast>

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SPOTLIGHT

New director of FAA brings art into community, classroom.

INTERIOR Page A4

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TOP SWIM

North Pole's Martha Hood breaks state 50-meter freestyle record.

SPORTS Page B1

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ZIKA DANGERS

Countries warning women to delay pregnancy because of side effects of virus on children.

HEALTH Page B4

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SOURDOUGH JACK: "I felt the rattlin' in my cabin. Nuthin' fell, but it was a-tremblin'!"



Love triangle ends in murder

Fairbanks man charged with killing former roommate; both men seeing same woman

By Amanda Bohman
ABOHMAN@NEWSMINER.COM

Authorities say Donald McLean and LaRoy White were roommates for several months in 2011, and they both had an on-again, off-again relationship with the same woman, Sonja Rubke.

Now McLean, 44, is dead and White, 35, is accused of murder after McLean's body was found last week at Rubke's apartment on Rickert Street.

White told Fairbanks police he drove to the apartment Tuesday after discovering text messages between McLean and Rubke, and he beat McLean after McLean attacked him.

An autopsy report indicates McLean had been bludgeoned and strangled, according to a felony complaint filed in state court on Sunday.

White faces one count of a charge of first-degree murder. He is being held on no bail. If convicted, he faces up to 99 years in prison. Court records indicate he has two children with Rubke.

Rubke contacted authorities about five hours after discovering a bloody scene at her apartment Tuesday.

She told police that the previ-



White

ous evening, she had been at her apartment with McLean until about 10 p.m. when she departed for White's place on 28th Avenue.

Rubke said she and White went to sleep until the next morning when White found the text messages on her cellphone. A loud argument ensued. White left and Rubke reportedly went back to sleep.

In a separate interview, White told authorities he brought their children to daycare at about 7:30 a.m. and then went to Rubke's apartment on Rickert Street.

He knocked on the door, McLean answered and invited White to come in.

White told authorities he

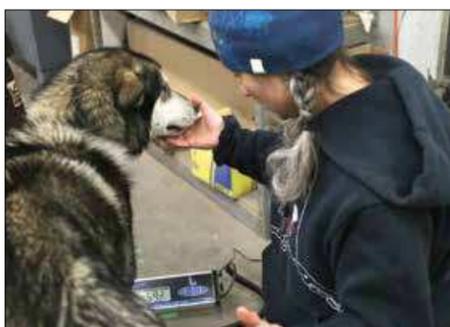
believed McLean had a gun on a nearby table. The men talked about Rubke, and then McLean got up and went into the bathroom.

White told police he thinks McLean was carrying a gun when he went into the bathroom. White got up to leave. As he reached the front door, he told authorities McLean jumped on him from behind, putting an arm around his neck.

White fell back onto the bed of the studio apartment, and he told police he felt around on the bed and found an 18-to-24-inch pipe, which he used to strike McLean on the head.

MURDER » A5

YUKON QUEST VET CHECK



Top: Squid Acres handler Eli Hedgecock hugs Phoenix, a dog running for race veteran Cody Strathe, during vet checks for Yukon Quest mushers at Summit Logistics on Sunday. Left: Head veterinarian Dr. Nina Hansen performs a vet check on Whisper, a dog running for race rookie Seth Barnes. Right: Lisa Baraff helps weigh race rookie Andrew Pace's dog, Ferlin. The Yukon Quest is a 1,000-mile sled dog race from Fairbanks to Whitehorse, Yukon. The 2016 race begins on Feb. 6.

ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER

Magnitude-7.1 quake jolts Southcentral Alaska

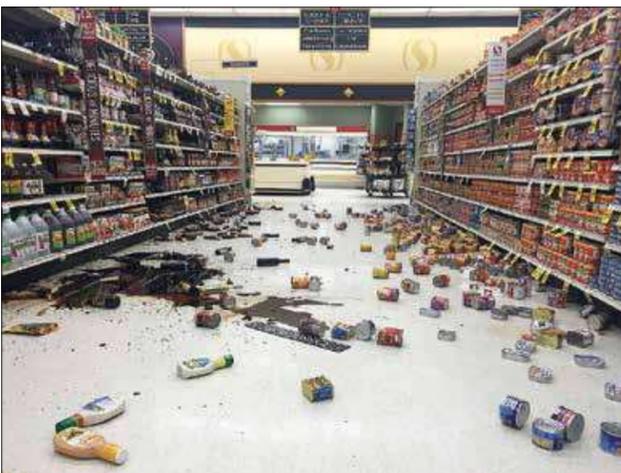
By Mark Thiessen
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANCHORAGE — A magnitude-7.1 quake knocked items off shelves and walls in Alaska early Sunday morning, jolting the nerves of residents in this earthquake-prone region. There were no reports of injuries, but four homes were lost to explosions or fire following the quake.

Alaska's state seismologist, Michael West, called it the strongest earthquake in the state's Southcentral region in decades. Alaska often has larger or more powerful earthquakes, such as a 7.9 last year in the remote Aleutian Islands.

"However, last night's earthquake is significant because it was close enough to Alaska's population centers," West said, adding that aftershocks could continue for weeks.

The earthquake was widely felt by Anchorage residents. But the Anchorage and Valdez police departments said they hadn't received any reports of injury or significant damage.



Items fallen from the shelves litter the aisles inside a Safeway grocery store following a magnitude-7.1 earthquake on the Kenai Peninsula on Sunday. VINCENT NUSUNGINYA VIA THE AP

The earthquake struck at about 1:30 a.m. Alaska time and was centered 53 miles west of Anchor Point in the Kenai Peninsula, which is about 160 miles southwest of Anchorage, according to

the U.S. Geological Survey. Vincent Nusunginya, 34, of Kenai said he was at his girlfriend's house when the quake hit.

QUAKE » A3

THIS WEEK IN JUNEAU

Legislature to tackle budget, Medicaid

By Becky Bohrer
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JUNEAU — The first week of the new legislative session ended with Gov. Bill Walker and legislative leaders agreeing on a need to work together to confront the state's multi-billion-dollar budget deficit. Now, the work begins.

After receiving overviews of Walker's plan to help fill the deficit through use of Alaska Permanent Fund earnings, taxes and budget cuts, legislators plan to begin digging into pieces of the plan in greater detail.

House and Senate committees have scheduled hearings this week on a proposed increase in the state motor fuels tax, one of several tax proposals from Walker. And a Senate panel plans to start hearing Walker's plan to feed the permanent fund with oil tax revenue and a portion of resource royalties and use earnings generated from the fund to help finance state government on an annual basis. Subcommittees tasked with reviewing agency budgets also are meeting.

House Finance Committee co-chair Mark Neuman, R-Big Lake, said he's asked his subcommittee leaders to look at whether programs could be kept or eliminated. "You can't fund them halfway and expect them to be efficient," the Big Lake Republican told reporters.

Neuman's co-chair, Republican Steve Thompson, of Fairbanks, said Walker's plan has a lot of moving parts. "Most of them none of us like — taxes, permanent fund spending," he said. "But it's our job to figure out which one of those are going to be able to help us into the long-term future."

Legislators have asked the public to weigh in as they vet proposals and do their work. The budget is expected to be front and center all session.

The Senate Finance Committee plans to begin hearings Wednesday on bills aimed at



Neuman



Thompson

JUNEAU » A3

