

Meeting the new neighbors Our Town Plus, C1



Panners work their way to top

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Settlement reached in boiler dispute

Motion could end court battle over air quality near Woodriver

By WESTON MORROW wmmorrow@newsminer.com

A joint motion filed this week could spell the end of the court battle between the state and the owners of two wood boilers near Woodriver Elementary School.

Through the settlement, defendants Andrew and Gloria Straughn would agree to replace the controversial wood boilers with a System 2000 oil fired boiler, according to court documents.

The Straughns also would have to pay \$12,000 as a civil assessment.

The boiler replacement will be eligible for a \$10,000 reimbursement from the Fairbanks North

Star Borough through its exchange program, a borough representative told the court.

Court records indicate the state had wanted to seek at least \$20,000 from the Straughns but their attorney said they would not be capable of paying such a figure.

The case dates back to January, when the state department of conservation filed a civil suit against the Straughns for refusing to shut down or remove their two wood boilers on properties adjacent to Woodriver Elementary.

Not long after the case was filed, the court issued an order at the state's request forcing the

Straughns to cease use of the boilers throughout the case.

The litigation came after parents and staff at Woodriver took issue with the smoke caused by the boilers. In March 2011, a school counselor wrote an email to elected officials complaining about the smoke making its way into the school building.

"This has been occurring on a regular basis since September 2008 when the OWB furnaces were installed across the street," wrote counselor Dawn Brashear in 2011.

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Quest will see boost to purse next year

Race to have a minimum payout of \$115,000

Staff Report

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The purse for the 2014 Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race will be a bit larger than the total awarded this year.

The race's two boards of directors — one in Alaska and one in Canada — have committed to a minimum purse of \$115,000, the organization announced Thursday.

The projected purse is up from the \$100,000 awarded in this year's race but is well short of the \$150,000 purse from the 2012 race. The low purse for the 2013 race was attributed to difficulty in fundraising and attracting sponsors during a down economy.

Sign-ups for the 2014 Quest begin Aug. 3.

"We are happy to commit to an increased minimum purse for the 2014 race," stated Kerynn Fisher, president of the race's Alaska board. "The purse, as well as operational costs of running the race, are raised through sponsorship and fundraising."

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ROADWORK ADVISORY



Sam Harrel/News-Miner

Flagger Dustin Olmstead talks with a driver as they wait for the pilot car at the Nordale Road Little Chena River bridge Friday. Crews are resurfacing Nordale and the bridge, leaving only one lane of traffic guided by the pilot car. The bridge will be closed from 11 p.m. Aug. 3 through 6 a.m. Aug. 5. The closure is in addition to existing restrictions that keep Nordale Road to a single lane near the bridge. For more information about the construction job, call HC Contractors Inc. at 488-5983 or the Alaska Department of Transportation at 451-5492.

Chena Rec Area access restrictions loosen some

Staff Report

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The state has lifted some of the access restrictions in the Chena River State Recreation Area put in place during the Stuart Creek 2 wildfire.

Restrictions remain in place for areas near the fire, including the Granite Tors, Mist Creek and South Fork trails. The closure of those areas will remain through the weekend and "until fire-related public safety concerns are no longer an issue," according to a news release Friday from the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

The recreation area is open from 27 Mile to 39 Mile Chena Hot Springs Road.

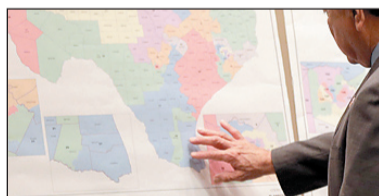
Much of the popular recreation has been closed since July 7, when the fire was posing a major threat to the communities of Two Rivers and Pleasant Valley.

More information about the Chena River State Recreation Area is available at 451-2695.

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It's not over

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Southern states brace for new fight on voting laws. Page A5



Sourdough Jack sez:

"What's the owl's favorite TV show?"

'Doctor Hoo.'

Korean War leaves dual legacies for U.S.

By ROBERT BURNS AP National Security Writer

INSIDE

Sixty years later, Korean Peninsula remains divided. Page B3

WASHINGTON — Sixty years after it finished fighting in Korea, the U.S. is still struggling with two legacies that are reminders of the costs — political, military and human — that war can impose on the generations that follow.

The first is the leading role that America still is committed to playing in defending South Korea should the 1950-53 Korean War reignite.

Washington has tried for years to wean its ally, South Korea, off its dependence on the U.S. military by setting a target date for switching

from American to Korean control of the forces that would defend the country in the event North Korea again attacked the South. That target date has slipped from 2012 to 2015 and, just this past week, American officials said the Koreans are informally expressing interest in pushing it back still further.

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