



# Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

## Inside Today

School board hears last round of budget testimony before today's vote. » A4

## GOOD MORNING



### The weather.

Mostly sunny with highs reaching 40. High today .....40 Low tonight ..... 14

### WEATHER » A9

### 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.gialaska.edu/AuroraForecast>



## GOING TO DIVISION 2

Eielson star running back Anthony Griffith signs with University of Mary program in North Dakota.

SPORTS Page B1

## LICENSES HEARING

Panel taking public testimony on fee increase for hunting and fishing licenses.

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## HEALTH & WELLNESS

Special section focuses on eye wellness and other current health issues.

INSIDE

SOURDOUGH JACK: "The older I get, the harder it is for my eyes to focus."



# 139 pot plants seized in raid

By Dorothy Chomicz DCHOMICZ@NEWSMINER.COM

Drug enforcement agents raided a Chena Hot Springs Road home for the second time in five years Monday morning, finding 139 marijuana plants.

According to Alaska State Troopers, the Fairbanks Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit received a report of a heavy odor of marijuana coming from a home near 12 Mile Chena Hot Springs Road. The team arrived at about 11:30 a.m. and knocked on the door, but no one answered.

The unit obtained a search war-

rant based on the marijuana smell and other items they observed around the home.

In addition to the marijuana plants, investigators also found about 12 ounces of processed marijuana with a total estimated usable weight of 6.3 pounds. The estimated total street value of the marijuana seized was \$64,000, according to troopers.

Growing equipment also was seized.

Shannon Ray Breuer, 36, of Fairbanks, was found in the home and arrested on three counts of fourth-degree drugs misconduct. Investigation revealed the home

had been converted into a commercial growing operation and that no one was living in it, according to troopers.

According to trooper spokeswoman Megan Peters, the grow operation busted Monday is considered commercial because the amount of plants and processed marijuana exceeds what one person could consume. It is not believed the marijuana was being grown for possible sale in a future legal storefront, but instead for illegal, more immediate sale.

On Feb. 24, it became legal for adult Alaskans to possess up to one ounce of marijuana and to

grow up to six marijuana plants in their households. Lawmakers have nine months from that date to draft rules regulating the establishment and operation of marijuana businesses. The first marijuana cultivation operations and retail stores are expected to be approved in early 2016.

Federal investigators raided the same home in 2010 and seized 255 marijuana plants, according to troopers. It is not clear who the home belonged to at that time or if anyone was charged in that incident.

Contact Dorothy Chomicz at 459-7582. Follow her on Twitter: @FDNMerime.

## Dock planned for Golden Heart Plaza



The Fairbanks City Council voted unanimously on Monday to approve a \$40,000 dock in Golden Heart Plaza, paid for equally by Festival Fairbanks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Here on Tuesday, a skier is seen through the gate that will lead to the dock as she prepares for an afternoon trip on the Chena River. Habitat restoration is an important part of the land-use agreement, and will include native vegetation, rock removal and a grated dock to allow for light penetration.

ROBIN WOOD/NEWS-MINER

## Area expected to create better fish habitat after rocks are replaced with vegetation

By Robin Wood RWOOD@NEWSMINER.COM

Golden Heart Plaza is getting a new dock.

The Fairbanks City Council voted 6-0 Monday night to approve a landowner agreement which will see Festival Fairbanks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service each pay \$20,000 for a new aluminum dock downtown.

The city of Fairbanks had to

approve the agreement because it owns the property.

Habitat rehabilitation and wildlife management are central to the agreement. The ordinance stated chinook and chum salmon will benefit from the habitat improvement.

Native vegetation will be restored after rocks are removed, which should increase insect populations while providing shade and food for fish, according to Festival

Fairbanks Executive Director Julie Jones. The dock will be 16 feet long by 5 feet wide. Both the dock and the walkway to access the dock will be made of grated aluminum, allowing for increased light penetration.

Jones said the plaza used to be home to a dock, but estimates it was last in place around 2006. She explained a buildup of silt formed a small beach in the old location, rendering the original dock unusable.

The new dock, which already is being manufactured in Sterling, will be accessible by a gated walkway from the plaza. Jones said because of the steep pitch of the ramp the dock will not handicap accessible.

"We're just very excited to see the city dock coming back into place and access to Golden Heart Plaza from the riverside," Jones said.

Contact staff writer Robin Wood at 459-7510.

**// We're just very excited to see the city dock coming back into place and access Golden Heart Plaza from the riverside.** Julie Jones, Festival Fairbanks executive director

## Assembly to clarify borders of new pollution control zone

By Amanda Bohman ABOHMAN@NEWSMINER.COM

The boundaries of the new Air Quality Control Zone will be under review Thursday by the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly.

The new zone is a regulatory area created by the assembly to refocus efforts to deal with recurring wintertime air pollution.

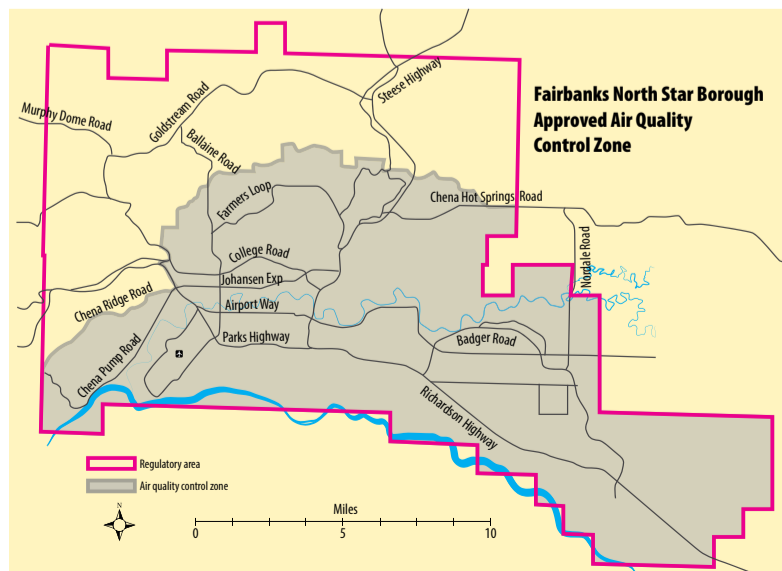
Assembly Presiding Officer Karl Kassel said his resolution offers a legal description for boundaries the assembly approved on Feb. 27.

"We just need to provide greater detail," Kassel said. "We couldn't identify every individual lot and legally describe that boundary

with precision."

The measure by Kassel focuses on the northern boundary of the new regulatory area. The boundary follows the crest of the ridge above Farmers Loop without bisecting property, Kassel said. "We didn't want to cut a piece of property in half," he said.

The Tanana River acts as the southern boundary. The eastern boundary stretches to cover the Richardson Highway, the Badger Road corridor and the city of North Pole. The eastern boundary reaches about 5 miles down Chena Hot Springs Road, stopping in different places on the north and south sides of the road.



AIR » A3

