

FAIRBANKS

# Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today

Two men indicted in case of New Year's Eve violence, threats in Huslia. » INTERIOR, A4

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Partly cloudy, warmer temps sticking for the near future.

High today ..... 25  
Low tonight ..... 4

WEATHER » A7

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>

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SKI IN OR BIKE IN

Former Fairbanksans run rustic cabins in Washington.

OUTDOORS  
Page B1

...



HITTING THE ICE

Nanooks, Seawolves open Governor's Cup hockey series.

SPORTS  
Page D1

...

SOURDOUGH JACK:  
"I gotta proposition to make ... the hard part's rememberin' it."



## Army upgrades security at post

Slight delays might occur getting through Fort Wainwright entrance

By Sam Friedman  
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Fort Wainwright on Thursday began using a more stringent background check system that may cause delays at the U.S. Army post's entrance gates.

The security system is part of an Army-wide initiative previously introduced at

other installations. The Army will use the system to search for visitors' names on a criminal history database from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Soldiers, family members and others with military identification cards don't need to stop for the background

SECURITY » A3



Cars drive in and out of Fort Wainwright's main gate off Airport Way on Thursday. ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER

## Crowds flock to post-fire sale

By Jeff Richardson  
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The line stretched down the main aisle, snaked through a vast collection of Carhartts, then doubled back toward the thermal underwear display.

This was no ordinary morning at The Prospector.

The Cushman Street outdoor clothing outfitter opened to the public on Thursday for the first time since an early morning boiler fire filled the building with smoke on Dec. 21.

Customers have been waiting weeks for the much-anticipated fire sale, which brought a 40 percent discount to everything in the store, from \$800 Canada Goose parkas to a colorful jellybean display by the front door.

Bradley Schwaiger arrived with a plan. The Air Guardsman headed for the displays of Smart-Wool socks, filled a large shopping bag and stood in the meandering line.

Schwaiger is a frequent shopper at The Prospector and was tipped off to the sale Wednesday morning with a call from the store.

"I've been watching like a hawk," he said.

Prospector owner Joe Prax said he'd been getting questions for weeks about the store's future, both from people anticipating a sale and those who simply

SALE » A5



Shoppers line up to check out as they take advantage of the 40 percent off fire sale at the Prospector Outfitters as the store liquidates its smoke-damaged inventory Thursday morning. A fire broke out in a boiler room at the store last month. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

## Stats: Slightly fewer people in state

### Interior population dropped by about 1,800

By Casey Grove  
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**ANCHORAGE** — If there was such a sign on the way into the state, it would say, "Alaska: population 735,601."

That is according to recent estimates from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The state demographers create population estimates by looking at a time span from the start of July to the end of June each year and release the results the following January.

POPULATION » A3

## Park Service reopens comment on bear-baiting, other policies

By Sam Friedman  
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The National Park Service has delayed a plan to make permanent a ban on several predator hunting techniques the service prohibits in national preserves.

The Park Service announced Thursday it will hear more public comment through Feb. 15 before officially deciding

PARK SERVICE » A5

## Assembly members propose fines, burn bans

By Amanda Bohman  
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A new smoke pollution proposal includes fines for thick smoke that crosses property lines.

It bans the burning of solid fuels, such as wood, when the air in Fairbanks and North Pole is unhealthy because of particulate pollution.

It's the latest public policy proposal attempting to solve an air pollution problem in the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

"Our air quality is unacceptable,"

said Assemblyman John Davies, the main sponsor of the proposal. "It's unhealthy. It's causing deaths and disease and admissions to the hospital. People are beginning to leave town because of it."

Under the measure, old, dirty wood and coal stoves must be removed from houses before they can be sold.

Fairbanks is among dozens of communities on a list of places with too much particulate pollution, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Studies

show particulate pollution makes people sick.

Davies sponsored the new proposal, Ordinance No. 2015-01, along with Assemblywomen Kathryn Dodge and Janice Golub.

The measure gets its first airing before the air pollution control commission at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers. It's scheduled for a public hearing and vote before the assembly on Jan. 29.

AIR QUALITY » A7

INSIDE

Classified » C1 | Comics » B4 | Dear Abby » A8 | Faith » B3 | Markets » D4 | Obituaries » A5 | Opinion » A6



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\*Prices do not include 8% bed tax.

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