



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today

40-below Christmas: Approaching cold front will make for a chilly holiday. » A4

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Mostly cloudy with snow flurries, light winds and highs from 5 to 10 below zero.

High today -4
Low tonight -15

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.gi.alaska.edu/AuroraForecast>

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PRICE OF WILDFIRES

Clash over the cost of fighting fires expected in Congress.

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QUILTED

The creation of two Fairbanks quilters going on tour.

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WIN ON THE MAT

Kailey Fowlkes wins 106-pound state wrestling title.

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SOURDOUGH JACK: "I like to think I got this Alaska dream thing down pat."



Raven Landing nearing goal

Retirement community only needs \$65,000 to complete final building

By **Matt Buxton**
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The race is on for Raven Landing to hit its fundraising goal for the final residential building at the senior living community.

The nonprofit Retirement Community of Fairbanks is close to the \$250,000 needed to complete construction and open the fourth and final residential building by its target opening date of March 1 and is looking for donors to help it across the finish line.

That's in big part thanks to a \$125,000 grant made by the Rasmuson Foundation. That grant breaks down into an outright \$85,000 grant and \$40,000 that will serve as a matching grant.

Karen Parr, the chair of Raven Landing board, said the community is still seeking donations to reach its goal and open the 35 more apartments to new residents.

"All but nine apartments are spoken for," she said. "And there are several other people thinking about it hard. I'm pretty sure that by sometime in the next month or so we'll be full."

In addition to becoming home to a new group of seniors, Parr said the final building will finally complete the original plan for the retirement community and bring it financial stability.

"Once the building is full and the people are paying their rent we'll be able to make the payments and be on budget," she said, adding

that lately it's been difficult with a vacant, half-completed building. "But we don't have any income right now and we're making monthly payments on these loans already."

She said the Raven Landing catering service and the Community Center have been extremely popular with the community for events and said that's helped ease the financial strain as they work on finishing the building.

Raven Landing recently held an art auction that netted it about \$17,000. That, with fundraising efforts during the summer, have raised about \$60,000. That leaves about \$65,000 left to raise for the final phase of the building.

The community won't have to go it alone, she said. In addition

to the matching grant from the Rasmuson Foundation, Parr said a private donor is also offering to double match donations made through the end of the year, making a total \$3 match for every dollar received.

Raven Landing opened in to residents in November 2010 and has expanded, building by building, over the last five years. It's added two more housing units for a current total of 60 apartments designed for seniors.

In 2013, it opened the Raven Landing Center, a community center with a commercial kitchen that the Rasmuson Foundation also assisted with.

RAVEN » A3

SPOTLIGHT • THOMAS TEMPLE



Tom Temple stands in the Law Library at the Rabinowitz Courthouse on Friday.
ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER

Local lawyer, ex-Marine living Alaska dream

By **Dorothy Chomicz**
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If you're ever in trouble, Thomas Temple is the guy you want on your side. Calm, strong, intelligent and capable, this ex-marine combat veteran will have your back in just about any situation. Whether you need help shooting your way out of the zombie apocalypse or require the services of an ace criminal defense attorney, Temple's your guy.

A boy with a goal

Temple was born in Louisiana and raised in Culpepper, Virginia, and grew up shooting and hunting with his dad. He started with a BB gun, as most kids do, and

graduated to using a .22 caliber rifle with the Boy Scouts. By 14, he knew he wanted to join the Marines, so he enrolled in the Marine Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp in high school. Temple's shooting skills earned him the captain's spot on the JROTC rifle team, and he enlisted in the Marines once he finished high school at 17.

"I joined when I was a kid. One, out of a sense of patriotic duty, and two, out of a desire for adventure. I tell people I watched too many Rambo movies as a kid," Temple said Friday afternoon as he prepared for an evidentiary hearing at the Rabinowitz Courthouse.

Temple served four years as a machine gunner and rifleman

and was deployed three times — once to the Mediterranean, and twice to the Persian Gulf. He saw active combat in the first Gulf War.

"It was my kind of war because it was very short," Temple said dryly.

Temple and his wife, Amy, met as kids at a church summer camp. They were pen pals for years until "the friendship turned to romance," and they conducted a long-distance courtship while he served abroad. They were married after Temple left the Marines at 22.

Temple worked odd jobs while he put Amy through college and was at various times a lifeguard,

SPOTLIGHT » A3

Opposition to Atlantic offshore drilling building

By **Joby Warrick**
THE WASHINGTON POST

VIRGINIA BEACH — When then-Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (R) first pushed the idea in 2010, it was easy to find Virginians who favored oil and gas drilling along the Virginia coast, even in this tourism-dependent city of 450,000. The Virginia Beach City Council voted 8 to 3 that year in support of the giant offshore rigs, betting, along with the mayor, that "there's going to be money made."

But that was before the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and before oil prices began their historic slide. At its December meeting two weeks ago, the same city council abruptly reversed course, voting to rescind its 2010 resolution after some of the city's biggest business alliances campaigned against drilling.

"Why should we put ourselves at risk?" Laura Wood Habr, vice president of the city's restaurant association, said in an interview after the vote.

The Virginia Beach council's reversal is the latest blow to a plan that could bring offshore drilling to the Southeast Atlantic coast as early as 2017.

In recent months, at least 93 coastal communities — from small beach towns on the Delmarva Peninsula to the wealthy and politically powerful cities

DRILLING » A8

Back-to-back blazes keep firefighters busy during weekend

By **Matt Buxton**
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The fire fighters at the North Star Volunteer Fire Department had a busy weekend with two back-to-back blazes, one that was a lucky catch and another that was a complete loss.

Both fires occurred late Saturday night and into early Sunday morning, said Battalion Chief Justin Boddy.

The first fire occurred at a commercial building with some residential

housing off Dennis Road.

Boddy said the building, valued around a half-million dollars, only suffered a few thousand dollars of damage thanks to a quick response and functioning smoke detectors.

"Our engine got there within a minute of the dispatch," he said. "Talking to the occupants, the smoke detectors went off so that's what alerted them to the fire. ... It was fairly minor, but had huge potential to be a big event."

Things wouldn't be so lucky for another fire across town.

The North Star Volunteer Fire Department responded to a fully engulfed cabin fire early Sunday morning. The two-story cabin on Tobacco Road was vacant when the fire occurred. JUSTIN BODDY/NORTH STAR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the cleanup of that fire, another call came in for an unknown fire.

"The caller said she could see flames through the trees and when our first engine got on



scene they found a large two-story cabin that was pretty much fully

engulfed," he said.

FIRES » A5

