



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today Long-range cameras help spot wildfires faster than watchtowers. » INSIDE, A8

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Rain and thunderstorms possible in the afternoon and into the evening.

High today 65
Low tonight 54

Sunrise: 4:33 a.m.
Sunset: 11:18 p.m.

WEATHER » A9

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FAIRBANKS LEGACY

City Hostess Pearl Watson recognized for commitment to community.

INTERIOR
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BIG WIN

Couple wins classic car in Golden Days auction.

KRIS CAPPS
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GOLD DISCOVERY

McDowell, Burr win 16.5 mile race.

SPORTS
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SAFE SWIMMING

Learn how to avoid swimmer's itch in lakes and ponds.

HEALTH
Page B4

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SOURDOUGH JACK:

"I like the regatta — it's the one race I can't lose!"



A final flotilla



The crew of the HMS Last Minute vessel in KUAC's Red Green Regatta sprays onlookers at the Cushman Street bridge on their way down the Chena River on Sunday. ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER PHOTOS

79 makeshift riverboats take on KUAC regatta

By Jeff Richardson
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After watching the last Red Green Regatta come to a close, Steve Smith couldn't help but smile as he described the fiasco he'd just witnessed on the Chena River.

The title actor from "The Red Green Show" traveled from his native Canada to help judge the final "flotilla of fun," and said he was thoroughly impressed.

"It looked like some kind of landfill had exploded, to be honest with you," he said, drawing raucous cheers from the crowd.

Seventy-nine homemade watercraft assembled at Graehl Landing on Sunday morning, preparing for the uncertain voyage down the Chena to Pioneer Park. There was a boat advertising a funeral home, a floating TARDIS from "Dr. Who" and even a few replicas of the Possum Lodge, the social hub of "The Red Green Show."

Although "The Red Green Show" stopped filming new episodes nearly a decade ago, the comedy about a straight-talking handyman continues in reruns on KUAC public television. The Regatta pays tribute to the show's love of duct tape and marginal workmanship, as participants build their own boats out of a variety of random household items.

This is the 19th and final year KUAC plans to host the Regatta, which General Manager Keith Martin said has become too time-con-



Tony and Nikki Lopez ride their vessel, "Loose Moose," on their way from the Graehl Park boat launch to Pioneer Park. The team won the Red Lantern award.

suming for his shrinking staff to plan.

Jim Hernandez, whose family makes the event an annual tradition, decided he was going out in style.

The Fairbanksan was a bearded, tattooed Dorothy from "The Wizard of Oz," complete with a blue gingham dress he sewed himself. His brother, David, piloted their Oz-themed boat — "Possums, Duct Tape and Bears, Oh My!" — which had a crew from the Hernandez and Goldsby families that included a Tin Man, Scarecrow, Cowardly Lion and a few flying monkeys.



Water balloons sit ready to be thrown.

WINNERS

See who took home the prizes at the Red Green Regatta » A3

REGATTA » A3

The Millers and Ungers load into their "Good Grief" vessel before the regatta. The "flotilla of fun," which is named after TV character Red Green, is ending after 19 years because of a lack of resources.



Left: Don Benn wears an outfit covered in red and green duct tape. Right: People watch the homemade vessels float down the Chena River.



Man dies in crash on Steese Highway

By Jeff Richardson
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A 73-year-old Fairbanks man was killed on Saturday night when his car was struck by a pickup truck at the intersection of Third Street and Steese Highway.

William P. Ambrose Sr. was turning his Ford Focus westbound from Third onto the Steese at about 9:20 p.m. when witnesses say the driver of a northbound Ford F-250 pickup failed to stop at a red light, crashing into the Focus, according to Fairbanks city spokeswoman Amber Courtney.

Ambrose was transported to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital and later died from his injuries, Courtney said. The woman driving the truck, as well as a minor who was her passenger, were uninjured.

Courtney said a police report from the crash will be forwarded to the district attorney. Alcohol isn't believed to be a factor in the crash.

The F-250 driver's name wasn't released on Sunday because no charges had been filed, Courtney said.

The crash scene shut down the intersection to traffic for more than an hour on Saturday night, as Fairbanks Police and Fairbanks Fire Department personnel responded to the scene.

Contact staff writer Jeff Richardson at 459-7518. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMbusiness.

GOP squabbles center of Sunday session

By Erica Werner
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Senior Senate Republicans lined up Sunday to rebuke Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz for harshly criticizing Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, an extraordinary display of intraparty division played out live on the Senate floor.

As the Senate met for a rare Sunday session, Sens. Orrin Hatch of Utah, Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and John Cornyn of Texas each rose to counter a stunning floor speech Cruz gave on Friday accusing McConnell, R-Ky., of lying.

None of them mentioned Cruz by name but the target of their remarks could not have been clearer. The drama came as the Senate defeated a procedural vote to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law and took a step toward reviving the federal Export-Import Bank, both amendments on a must-pass highway bill.

SENATE » A9

