



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today Son of former PM will be Canada's new leader after liberals take election. » A9

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Mostly cloudy with freezing drizzle and dense fog.
 High today40
 Low tonight22
WEATHER » A9

Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be moderate. Weather permitting, displays will be visible overhead from Barrow to Talkeetna.

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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SCIENCE AT HOME

Test for airborne particulates with borough-owned monitors.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
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BIG BELT

Chugiak joins Railbelt football conference.

SPORTS
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NOT IN KANSAS

Blue Jays beat Royals as ALCS heads back to Toronto.

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SOURDOUGH JACK:
"All this fog makes me feel like I'm in a scary movie."



Council may raise mayor's pay

By Robin Wood
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Compensation for the mayor of Fairbanks may be altered for the second time in slightly more than one month.

An ordinance to end leave time while increasing the base salary for Fairbanks' mayor was advanced to second reading and public comment by the Fairbanks City Council at Monday's meeting.

The ordinance was

advanced to the Nov. 9 meeting by a 4-2 vote, council members David Pruhs and Joy Huntington voted "no."

If the ordinance is approved at the next meeting, the mayor of Fairbanks will see his or her salary rise from roughly \$80,000 per year to \$86,500 per year.

However, any increase to compensation for the mayor, or council members, may not be implemented until one year after adoption, per Fair-

banks City Charter.

Leave time would be eliminated to compensate for the raise — the Mayor's value of leave at the current rate of pay is \$4,500 for the first two years in office, and \$6,183 for the third year.

Pruhs introduced the ordinance, originally proposing a salary of \$88,000 per year. Councilman Jim Matherly proposed a salary of \$85,000 a year, and a decision was made to split the difference.

Pruhs said he intro-

duced the ordinance to "clean up what we started last time," referring to the Oct. 5 meeting when the council voted to end compensation pay for the mayor.

Current Mayor John Eberhart said it's fundamentally unfair to change pay "mid-stream" for any mayor, and that he didn't think the value of \$86,500 was the right number, but added he's "not complaining."

MAYOR » A5



Tree branches laden heavy with ice are seen in the hills west of Fairbanks on Monday.

ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

Storm drops rain, ice, snow on Interior

By Sam Friedman
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Fairbanks seems to be stuck between fall and winter.

Monday's freezing rain didn't turn Interior roads into solid skating rinks like some of the deep winter rains storms of recent years, but some roads did get patches of black ice.

As of Monday evening, schools in the Fairbanks North Star Borough school district plan to hold classes on Tuesday, according to district spokeswoman Sharice Walker.

Parents will receive a call by 5:30 a.m. today if conditions have worsened and the district decides to cancel school. If school takes place, there's a good chance that school buses will use their alternate bus stop locations in order to keep drivers off the smaller roads, Walker said. Classes were held on Monday.

A mix of rain drizzle and freezing rain fell around the Fairbanks and North Pole areas. As much as a 1/10 inch of freezing rain fell in some areas, said Ben Bartos, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Fairbanks.

The icy patches were spread out over the region. Higher areas got more ice.

"It's almost as if there are little micro-climates that determine who gets rain and who gets freezing rain," Bartos said. "Those are hard to predict exactly, but elevation is definitely a factor."

The Eastern Interior and higher elevations received some snow from this weather system. Traces of snow fell at Circle Hot Springs outside of Central Sunday night, and Eagle received about half an inch of sleet and wet snow overnight.

The road conditions factored into a number of recent vehicle accidents. Fairbanks school bus route 21 slipped its front wheels into a ditch on Pandora Road Monday morning with five students on board, said Walker, with the school district. None of the students immediately reported injuries.

Alaska State Troopers reported two rollover crashes on the Richardson Highway near Delta Junction on Sunday.

WEATHER » A3

NEW BOAT LAUNCH



A Great Northwest Inc. crew continues work on a non-motorized boat launch on the North shore of the Chena River downstream of the Barnette Street Bridge on Monday.

The boat launch, which is on private property owned by The Big I bar owner John Jackovich, is part of a multi-stage project involv-

ing several partners, including Jackovich, Festival Fairbanks and the North Shore Bike Path project, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alas-

ka Department of Fish and Game, DNR and DEC, and the Tanana Valley Watershed Association. The North side of the popular waterway through downtown has been recently restored using root balls and willow brush to reinforce the bank against erosion and to create salmon habitat.

The North Shore Bike Path will continue by the boat launch all the way to Pioneer Park, and the boat launch will give the community access to the river in a convenient downtown location.

ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER



Formula One driver has local sponsor

By Dorothy Chomicz
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In the rarified air of Formula One racing, it's common to see the sponsorship logos of huge corporations emblazoned on the drivers and the cars themselves. Hewlett-Packard, Valvoline, Red Bull, TAG-Heuer, Credit Suisse ... and Alaska Coffee Roasting Co.?

That's right. Formula One driver Alexander Rossi bears the name of one of Fairbanks most popular and venerable coffee houses. Rossi, 24, will wear that helmet as he races this Friday at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, currently the only grand prix track in America.

Alaska Coffee Roast-

ing Co. owner Michael Gesser spoke to the News-Miner Monday afternoon as he was preparing to fly to Austin to watch the race. Just how did he come to sponsor an up-and-coming Formula One racer?

Gesser, a former North Slope construction worker, world traveler and car racing enthusiast, struck up a friendship with Rossi's father Peter when they competed against each other in various races in the

Lower 48. They were racing at Sears Point in Sonoma, California, when Peter asked Gesser to take a look at his then 11-year-old son Alexander, who was racing go-karts at the time.

Gesser said he resisted at first but in the end spent three days watching the boy race.

"I kind of thought Alexander displayed a lot of the basic elements that I thought in the end would produce the results that we have. He's

now one of 20 people in the world that drive grand prix cars. Very few Americans have accomplished this," Gesser said.

Rossi has worked his way up from go-carts through the different levels of open-wheel racing until becoming the youngest driver to hold a Formula One super license at the age of 18. He left his home in California at the age of 17 and moved to Europe, where he could fully dedicate himself to the sport.

ROSSI » A3

Formula One driver Alexander Rossi is seen. PHOTO COURTESY ALEXANDER ROSSI

