



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today

Fairbanks animal shelter hopes to build unit to house barnyard animals. » A2

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Mostly cloudy with a chance of more snow.
High today -17
Low tonight -21

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>

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HAPPY HOCKEY

Ice Dogs won 7-1 against Wenatchee Wild.

SPORTS
Page B1

...

HEY, IT'S WINTER

Fairbanks headed for deepest cold this season, a little later than usual.

INTERIOR
Page A4

...

SOURDOUGH JACK:

"Well, shoot. I thought we was gonna get by easy."



Marijuana on the fast track

Legislators want to have rules set quickly, clearly

By Matt Buxton
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JUNEAU — With legalized marijuana a month away, lawmakers are hoping to fast track legislation they hope will clear up legal gray areas.

On Friday, the Senate Judiciary Committee introduced Senate Bill 30 to address underage consumption, what constitutes a public place (because public consumption of marijuana will still be illegal) and addresses driving with marijuana.

Ballot Measure 2, which passed by wide margins in the Fairbanks and Juneau areas, makes marijuana possession, use and growing legal when

the law officially goes into effect on Feb. 24, 2015. Commercial production and sales will follow next year.

North Pole Republican Sen. John Coghill, the vice-chair of the Judiciary Committee, said the bill is intended to give law enforcement clarity with how to enforce the changes. He said the goal is to get the bill passed before Feb. 24.

MARIJUANA » A5

Legislature coverage » www.newsminer.com/news/politics

On Twitter » @FDNMPolitics

More marijuana coverage » www.newsminer.com/marijuana

Musher adds helmet to Quest gear



Brent Sass drops his dogs near Illinois Street while driving through Fairbanks on his way from Anchorage to his home in Eureka on Wednesday. ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER

By Jeff Richardson
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When Brent Sass displays his newest piece of racing gear, a broad smile appears on the Eureka musher's face.

He points to the left side of the bright yellow downhill ski helmet, where a sizable chunk is missing from the brim. It's the spot where Sass crashed into a tree during a recent training run.

He views it as evidence that his new equipment is worth the trouble.

"It's already come in handy," he said. "I was like, 'There's the sign.'"

The helmet is a response to his frightening Yukon Quest run last year.

SASS » A3



Brent Sass holds the helmet he uses when he goes dog mushing during a stop in Fairbanks on his way from Anchorage to his home in Eureka on Wednesday. ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER

Tok embraces Farm-to-School with year-round greenhouse

By Robin Wood
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Culture is not just the shared ideas, values and customs of a group of people. Culture is cultivation, growth and improvement, and cultures are often built around food. A new greenhouse in Tok represents every meaning of culture.

Gateway Greenhouse, built in 2013, is entering its first full year of growing. The goal: provide fresh vegetables to the Alaska Gateway School District, which serves about 375 students in the communities of

Tok, Dot Lake, Eagle, Tetlin, Tanacross, Mentasta Lake and Northway. Students get to take part, learn about cultivation and experience the joy of eating fruit and vegetables picked on the spot.

Six 25,000-Btu heating units and heat loops through soil keep the 30-by-96 foot greenhouse warm using excess heat from Tok School's wood-fired boiler.

Jason Fastenau, technology and farm school director for Tok School, said even at minus 50 degrees the greenhouse is kept above freezing.

In January, scarce lettuce, celery and spinach can be found in the greenhouse, but things are ramping up for the growing seasons. Tomatoes, cucumbers and more celery have been started. Barley is being sprouted, eventually destined for the compost pile. "We're trying to improve soil and improve it organically," Fastenau said. Last season, strawberries, corn, melons, broccoli, peas, cucumbers, cabbage, carrots and "a lot of tomatoes" were grown, according to Fastenau.

GREENHOUSE » A5

Sullivan amends bill to disarm EPA

By Casey Grove
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ANCHORAGE — Alaska's freshman senator has filed his first amendment, and it is aimed at keeping firearms out of the hands of Environmental Protection Agency agents.

Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan said Friday he filed the amendment to follow through with a promise he made while campaigning in Fairbanks last fall. The idea to disarm the EPA came after agents swept into the mining town of Chicken wearing body armor and carrying rifles in August 2013 while investigating possible violations of the Clean Water Act, Sullivan said.

The amendment is attached to a larger bill that would authorize the Keystone XL pipeline.

In fall 2013, miners in the Chicken area told the Daily News-Miner they felt intimidated by the agents, who, in some cases, did not identify themselves when arriving at mines in all-terrain vehicles. An EPA spokesperson described the discussions as "consensual and cordial."

The investigation was based on reports of mines with a history of not complying with state and federal clean water laws and "ongoing significant discharges," the EPA said in a written statement in September 2013.

There have been no federal charges or arrests, at least so far, as a result of the investigation.

Asked about the raid and Sullivan's amendment Friday, an EPA spokeswoman referred questions to agency officials in Washington, D.C., who did not respond to a request for comment by late Friday.

CHICKEN » A5

INSIDE

Classified » B7 | Comics » B6 | Dear Abby » B5 | Markets » A8 | Obituaries » A5 | Opinion » A6 | Sports » B1



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