



# Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

**Inside Today**

Pope greeted with excitement, calls for climate action during visit to D.C. » A7

**GOOD MORNING**



**The weather.**

Partly sunny with highs reaching 40. Rain and snow possible overnight.

High today ..... 41  
Low tonight ..... 31

**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.gi.alaska.edu/AuroraForecast>

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**45 YEARS, 100 SHOWS**

FLOT celebrates its decades in Fairbanks with — what else? — another show.

**LATITUDE 65**

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**BACK TO BUSINESS**

Chinese President Xi Jinping moves from one Washington to the other on visit.

**Page A5**

...

**KEEP THEM DOGGIES ROLLIN'**

Ice Dogs still unbeaten after win in NAHL Showcase.

**SPORTS Page B1**

...

**SOURDOUGH JACK: "Only 45 years? That's nothin'! Call me when ya catch up to me!"**



## Woman injured in shooting

### Police seek two suspects

By Dorothy Chomicz  
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A Fairbanks woman was injured in a shooting Wednesday morning but is expected to recover fully, according to city spokeswoman Amber Courtney.

Fairbanks police received a report of at 10:50 a.m. of shots fired near 24th Avenue and South Cushman Street, Courtney said. K-9 units and an Alaska State Trooper helicopter helped search for the two suspects, who fled on foot.

The suspects are described as a black man wearing a black hoodie and a black man wearing a knit cap. The men are armed and still at large, Courtney said.

Anyone with information about the identity or whereabouts of the suspects is asked to call police at 450-6500.

Courtney said the case is still under investigation, but it appeared the suspects specifically targeted the victim's residence.

Neighbors told police the two men had been hanging out and acting suspiciously before the shooting.

More details will be released when available, Courtney said.

Seven local schools were placed in "sit-tight" mode at the request of police about 11:45 a.m. The request was lifted at 12:38 a.m.

Staff writer Matt Buxton contributed to this report. Contact staff writer Dorothy Chomicz at 459-7582. Follow her on Twitter: @FDNMcrime.



**Above: Alaska State Trooper K9 handler Josh Rallo and his partner, Skippy, join the search for two suspects at the scene of a shooting on 24th Avenue on Wednesday afternoon.**

**Left: Fairbanks police officer David Elzey photographs the backyard at the scene.**  
ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER PHOTOS



## Pot zoning focus of hearing tonight

By Amanda Bohman  
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A major ordinance dealing with the up-and-coming marijuana industry comes before the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly today for a public hearing and possibly a vote.

The measure, Ordinance 2015-41, outlines where pot dispensaries, grow operations and other cannabis businesses will be allowed to open in the borough.

Marijuana industry advocates say the measure is too strict and should be dialed back to better compare with rules that apply to the alcohol industry.

Opponents want more restrictions added.

Marijuana businesses are expected to start opening around Alaska sometime in the middle of next year. Alaska voters approved a ballot measure in November legalizing marijuana.

"I think the buffers will be a big thing," said Assemblywoman Diane Hutchison, who — along with Assemblyman Lance Roberts — is planning amendments to further limit marijuana activity.

**MARIJUANA » A3**

## BOROUGH BUSINESS

Also on the agenda: Buying land to expand Birch Hill by six acres. » A2

## 10 people hurt in van rollover

By Weston Morrow  
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A passenger van carrying 10 people slid off the roadway and rolled down an embankment on the Parks Highway near Healy early Wednesday.

The van was traveling south near 245 Mile Parks Highway at approximately 7:45 a.m. when it reportedly hit a patch of black ice and the driver lost control. The van rolled down a slope on the roadside.

The driver and all nine of the passengers were injured, though none of the injuries appeared to be life threatening, according to Alaska State Troopers. One of the vehicle occupants may have been initially trapped before being freed by emergency medical responders.

Paramedics had responded to the scene and begun transporting victims to the hospital before troopers arrived on scene.

Trooper spokeswoman Megan Peters said she was unable to confirm the extent of injuries. The names of the occupants have not been released.

Contact staff writer Weston Morrow at 459-7520. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMSchools.

## Larger turnout at final F-35 meeting

By Sam Friedman  
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A larger, more diverse group of local residents came to the third and final public meeting this week about the environmental effects of bringing the Air Force's newest fighter jets to Eielson Air Force Base.

As in past meetings, the general tenor of most comments Wednesday was unconditional support for the proposal, especially among the Interior's elected officials and business leaders, who have long lobbied for stationing the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter in the Interior. However, as an Air Force hearing officer worked his way through 1 1/2 hours of testimony at West Valley High School, people asked for the Air Force to provide more information about aircraft noise, about interference for

civilian planes and about whether the military will use local contractors for construction jobs. Six of the 34 people who testified at the meeting said they don't want the Air Force to bring the new jets to the Interior.

Regardless of local public sentiment, it will be the Pentagon's decision on where to put its F-35s. As the only base under review for the first Pacific-region-based F-35s, Eielson is likely to be the home of 54 of the new planes starting in 2019.

But under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Air Force is obligated to study the environmental consequences of adding planes, people and new building to Eielson. The Air Force published its draft study earlier this month. It's online at [pacaf-f35aeis.com/Documents.aspx](http://pacaf-f35aeis.com/Documents.aspx).

The Air Force is taking comment on the draft environmental study at three public meetings held this week and online or by mail through Oct. 20. The service is expected to address comments in a final version of the document. Topics for further review brought up at Wednesday's meeting included:

- The heads of the Fairbanks and North Pole economic development corporations expressed concern that the military could turn to Outside contractors for the \$454 million in construction the military plans at Eielson in the next four years. Jim Dodson, the CEO of the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation asked the Air Force to review a past practice of using Outside contractors.

**F-35 » A3**



**Fairbanks City Council member and former mayor Jerry Cleworth speaks during the last of three public hearings about a draft document on the environmental impact of basing F-35s at Eielson at West Valley High School on Wednesday.**  
ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER

