



# Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA

**Inside Today** Some health insurers are dropping Obamacare. What happens to customers? » A9

## No changes to predator control methods

By Sam Friedman  
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Alaska's fish and game commissioner this week rejected changes to the state's predator control efforts sought by petitioners critical of the program.

In August, 150 Alaskans, including several former Board of Game members and former commissioner Frank Rue,

signed a petition sent to Gov. Bill Walker. They asked Walker to replace lethal predator control with nonlethal methods, to discontinue the "Judas wolf" technique for killing packs of wolves, and to create 5-mile buffer zones to protect wolves and bears around national parks and national wildlife refuges.

Current Fish and Game Commissioner Sam Cotten responded Thursday

in a letter to lead petition signatory Rick Steiner, a former University of Alaska Fairbanks professor.

"At this time, I am not inclined to adopt these suggestions, and I'll briefly explain why," Cotten wrote.

Cotten's two-page letter begins with a general defense of Alaska's wolf and bear-killing program, known as intensive management. The

program comes from a legislative mandate to improve habitat and control predators to protect deer, moose and caribou populations that are important sources of food for Alaskans

Steiner called the program "unscientific, unnecessary, ineffective, costly, unethical, inhumane, and controversial" in the petition.

In his response, Cotten said, "The predation con-

trol programs in place are supported by scientific evidence and biologists are always gathering more. If evidence shows a program ineffective, department biologists are the first to recommend casing it," he said.

Cotten said that moving or sterilizing wolves instead of killing them was ineffective and expensive.

Meanwhile, creating 5-mile buffer zones

would seriously hamper predator control hunts because federal conservation areas already cover a large percentage of Alaska. He defended the "Judas wolf" technique as a tool that's also used in Washington and Idaho, although he observed that it's only used to hunt wolves in one part of Alaska, northeast of Fairbanks in the range of

PREDATORS » A3

### GOOD MORNING



#### The weather.

Clear skies bring colder weather. Patchy freezing fog in the morning. Highs in the lower 50s. Tonight: Mostly clear. Lows in the upper teens to lower 20s. High today .....49 Low tonight .....22

WEATHER » A9

#### Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be low. Weather permitting, low-level 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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### BIRTHDAY POTLATCH

Howard Lukes, 93, celebrates with a little help from his friends.

INTERIOR Page A4

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### TENNIS, ANYONE?

Lathrop girls doubles team reaches state tennis final

SPORTS Page B1

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SOURDOUGH JACK: "I always like a big slice of pumpkin pie after a bowl of moose soup."



## NOT FINISHED WITH FLORIDA



A man wades through floodwater Friday as he check out damage from Hurricane Matthew in St. Augustine, Florida. For more on Hurricane Matthew, see page A7. AP PHOTO/JOHN BAZEMORE

## Mauling victim: 'I love bears'

### Man who survived recounts attack, life-saving rifle shot

By Paula Ann Solis  
JUNEAU EMPIRE

JUNEAU — As Josh Dybdahl waited for help on the side of a mountain and tried to hold pieces of his flesh together after a bear tossed him around like a ragdoll, he tried to concentrate on the bright side of things.

"At least it's sunny out," Dybdahl recalled telling his hunting partner while the pair were waiting for a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter to find them.

Dybdahl, 30, knew he was losing a lot of blood, he knew that there was a chance the helicopter might not find him and he also knew there were more bears in the brush circling them. But none

On Oct. 4, from a bed at Bartlett Regional Hospital in Juneau, Josh Dybdahl, left, and his friend Anthony Lindoff talked about Dybdahl's mauling by a female bear with cubs last week on Chichagof Island.

MICHAEL PENN/THE JUNEAU EMPIRE VIA AP

of that mattered. He had made up his mind that he was going to live.

Sitting up in his hospital bed Tuesday, Hoonah resident Dybdahl went over the surreal mauling he had suffered just three days prior while on a hunting trip near Port Frederick bay with his friend Anthony Lindoff, 36. The two had taken a



boat out to an area just 10 miles southwest of Hoonah to look for deer. As they were getting ready to make deer calls, Lindoff said, he heard something. He hoped it was a deer, but then he turned and locked eyes with a sow brown bear running straight toward him.

"It didn't get the

memo that it was supposed to bluff charge, this was serious," Lindoff said.

"It chased me first, and as I was running, backing away, I was trying to swing at it with my trekking pole because my rifle was in my sling on my backpack.

ATTACK » A3

## Speaker links Trump, Reagan

By Kevin Baird  
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Donald Trump was compared to President Ronald Reagan on Friday as volunteers and support were drummed up during a Fairbanks Republican Women's luncheon.

Jim Crawford, the Alaska chairman for Trump's presidential campaign, was the keynote speaker. Crawford is a staple in Alaska politics, having chaired six presidential campaigns in Alaska dating back to Reagan's first.

Crawford said Trump and Reagan are media-savvy candidates who have been maligned by "the press."

He specifically mentioned Reagan getting flak for his comedic role in the movie "Bedtime for Bonzo."

Crawford blasted The New York Times and Washington Post for their treatment of Trump.

"They will try to convince you (Trump) is not presidential," Crawford said.

"They did the exact same thing to Reagan."

Crawford

Trump apologizes for remarks about women » A5

CRAWFORD » A5

## Lawmakers want to end pot-eradication program

By Christopher Ingraham  
THE WASHINGTON POST

In 2015, the Drug Enforcement Administration gave \$20,000 to the state of New Hampshire to eradicate marijuana plants, according to federal documents. But the Granite State's law enforcement agen-

cies didn't have much luck finding any weed to pull that year — their efforts uncovered a single outdoor grow site with a total of 27 plants.

Do the math, and U.S. taxpayers paid \$740.74 for each pot plant uprooted in New Hampshire that year.

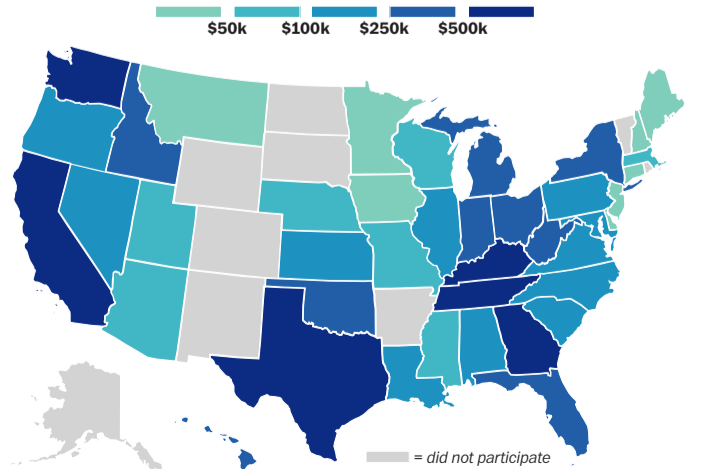
That's an expensive weeding operation, but

it could be worse. Utah received \$73,000 in marijuana eradication funds, according to the federal documents, obtained by journalist Drew Atkins as part of a FOIA request. But agents failed to find a single pot plant to eradicate.

MARIJUANA » A10

### The high cost of pulling weed

Federal expenditures on marijuana eradication programs in 2016



WAPQ.ST/WONKBLOG

Source: Drug Enforcement Administration

