



# Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

## Inside Today

Hot, dry weather helps nearly a dozen new fires start around the state. » INSIDE, A3

## GOOD MORNING



### The weather.

The heat wave continues. Sunny with temperatures reaching the mid-80s.

High today ..... 85  
Low tonight ..... 52

Sunrise: 2:58 a.m.  
Sunset: 12:46 a.m.

WEATHER » A9

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## THE BEST WEEKEND EVER

Your guide to the summer solstice in Fairbanks.

LATITUDE 65

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## PRISON REFORM

Gov. Walker announces new partnership.

Page A2

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## SCHOOL BOARD

District set to finalize its budget at meeting today.

INTERIOR  
Page A4

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## PANNERS LOSE

Goldpanners lose 7-3 to Chugiak Chinooks.

SPORTS  
Page B1

...

SOURDOUGH JACK:

"Still need a costume idea for the Midnight Sun Run? Dress up as me! I'm a classic."



# Borough issues fireworks ban

## Fire danger spurs indefinite prohibition

By Jeff Richardson  
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Extreme fire danger through much of Alaska has spurred fireworks bans across the state, including the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Borough Mayor Luke Hopkins issued a fireworks prohibition on Wednesday, banning their use within areas outside the cities of Fairbanks and North Pole. The ban went into effect immediately and will continue until further notice.

The city of Fairbanks has a year-round fireworks ban in place, so the prohibition won't result in any change for city residents. North Pole is still evaluating whether to implement a ban on their use in

that community, borough Human Resources Director Sallie Stuvek said.

The move coincided with various other fireworks bans in the state. With much of Alaska under Red Flag fire-danger warnings because of strong winds and low humidity, the Bureau of Land Management temporarily banned fireworks and open fires on its public lands in Alaska. Established fire rings and barbecue grills may still be used at BLM campgrounds.

The Alaska State Fire Marshal's Office also banned the sale and use of fireworks in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Municipality of Anchorage and Mat-Su Borough on Wednesday.

A news release by the state fire marshal "highly recommended"

that residents of all areas of the state refrain from using fireworks, citing fire danger and the potential for injuries.

The North Pole Fire Department has the authority to halt fireworks sales by vendors in North Pole but hadn't taken that step yet on Wednesday. By city code, fireworks sales are allowed from June 20 to July 7.

It doesn't appear that dangerous fire conditions will be easing anytime soon in the Interior. High temperatures are expected to be in the 80s through the weekend, with no chance for precipitation forecast until Sunday, according to the National Weather Service.

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

## Healy Lake fires merge

By Jeff Richardson  
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A pair of lightning-caused fires in the Healy Lake area merged into a single large blaze on Wednesday, burning a swath of black spruce forest between the Tanana River and the lake.

Smokeyjumpers were dispatched to the area to protect a handful of recreation lakeside cabins, but they were the only opposition to a fire that had grown to about 2,500 acres by Wednesday morning. It more than doubled in size through the day.

FIRE » A3



Rick Johnson, from Thurston County, Washington, and Johnathan Lyon move Lyon's 4-inch suction dredge across the Chena Slough as a team with the Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District use the dredge to remove Elodea from the waters of the Chena Slough upstream from Repp Road off of Badger Road on July 26, 2012. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER FILE PHOTO

## Herbicide may be used in Chena Slough

By Robin Wood  
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The possible use of aquatic herbicides to combat an invasive species in Chena Slough and Chena Lake will be discussed at a community meeting tonight.

The meeting is set for 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at North Pole City Hall, 125 Snowman Lane. An expert from the herbicide's manufacturer will be at the meeting.

The plan is to treat the bodies of water with the aquatic herbicide fluridone to kill off the invasive species Elodea canadensis. But because the Chena Slough flows into the Chena River, a much diluted mixture of herbicide and water is expected to flow through Fairbanks.

HERBICIDE » A3



Brazilian Elodea is seen under the water's surface as a team with the Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District use a 4-inch suction dredge to remove the Elodea from the waters of the Chena Slough upstream from Repp Road off of Badger Road on July 26, 2012. Brazilian Elodea is native to South America and has been a popular aquarium plant. It is also an aggressively growing invasive aquatic plant that degrades fish habitat and displaces native vegetation, and was likely introduced to the waterway within the last 10 years by someone dumping out an aquarium. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER FILE PHOTO

# Marvin Roberts enters halfway house

By Brian O'Donoghue  
FOR THE NEWS-MINER

After more than 17 years in prison, Marvin Roberts, owner of the hatchback that juries in three separate trials agreed served as the getaway car for a "spree" of violence ending with John Hartman's 1997 murder, left prison in Palmer on Wednesday for a Fairbanks-area halfway house.

The inmate's mother, Hazel Roberts Mayo, heard about her son's coming transfer to Northstar Center, near Gold Hill, when he called Tuesday.

"I am feeling just ecstatic. I've had butterflies all morning. I'm just relieved. I don't know how to explain how I'm feeling," she said haltingly. "Just. So. Happy."

Bill Oberly, the Alaska Innocence Project's director and lone attorney, took his client to the airport for the 2:15 p.m. northbound flight.

"I'm glad for him, but there are still three others held in institutions," he said, referring to other members of the so-called Fairbanks Four.

A Northstar official confirmed Wednesday night that Roberts had arrived.

ROBERTS » A5

# Study: Melting glaciers may be key to rising sea levels

Staff Report  
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Alaska's glaciers are melting so rapidly that they could blanket the state with a foot of water every seven years, according to a new study by a University of Alaska Fairbanks professor.

A research team from UAF and the U.S. Geological Survey analyzed 116 glaciers

in the Alaska region during a 19-year period, estimating ice loss from melting and iceberg calving. UAF Geophysical Institute associate professor Chris Larsen is the lead author of the resulting study, which has been accepted for publication in Geophysical Research Letters.

Glaciers in the region included those in Alaska, the southwest Yukon and coastal northern British

Columbia. The study found that climate-related melting is the primary cause of glacier loss in the region's mountains. It also concluded that such glacier loss is unlikely to slow, which will be a major contributor to global sea-level change in the decades ahead.

Larsen stated in a UAF news release that the study "has important implications

for global sea level projections," allowing models that track glacier changes to be improved.

The team collected airborne glacier data and compared it with information from the 1990s collected by UAF scientist and pilot Keith Echelmeyer. They combined those observations with a new mountain glacier inventory that characterizes the size and shape

of every glacier in the Alaska region, according to the UAF news release.

Mountain glaciers hold less than 1 percent of Earth's glacial ice volume, with the rest in ice sheets in Antarctica and Greenland. However, rapidly shrinking mountain glaciers are believed to cause nearly one-third of the current sea level rise.

Contact the newsroom at 459-7572.

