



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today School district names Bruce Bell as Eielson interim principal for 2016-17. » INTERIOR, A4

Fairbanks Four attorney named to top legal post

By Matt Buxton
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One of the lead attorneys who fought to prove the innocence of the Fairbanks Four is now head of the legal department she once battled.

Gov. Bill Walker on Tuesday announced Jahna Lindemuth as his pick for attorney general following the surprise resignation of Attorney General Craig Richards last week.

At a news conference in Anchorage, Walker said



Jahna Lindemuth, left, is introduced Tuesday in Anchorage as the state's new attorney general. Gov. Bill Walker, right, made the announcement at a news conference.

AP PHOTO/MARK THIESSEN

he was inspired by Lindemuth's pro-bono work in helping free Fairbanks

Four member George Frese when making his decision, noting she was already

was an unusual situation for a firm to do what they did, for her to do what she did."

The official statement accompanying the announcement notes that Lindemuth put more than 950 hours of personal work into pro-bono cases last year.

Frese was one of four young men who were convicted of the 1997 murder of teenager John Hartman on a downtown street corner. The men maintained their innocence through the years, claiming racial bias drove police and prosecutors to overlook alibis and

other evidence that supported their innocence to win the convictions. Three of the four men, including Frese, are Alaska Native.

"That case was one of the most meaningful legal work I've ever done in my life and I'm really truly honored to be a part of that case," she said at the conference. "I truly believe in the innocence of those men and I'm really happy they're out of prison now and enjoying life like the rest of us."

ATTORNEY » A3

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Partly sunny with isolated thunderstorms and highs in the mid- to upper 70s.

High today 77
Low tonight 56

Sunrise: 3:08 a.m.
Sunset: 12:39 a.m.

WEATHER » A9

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PATRIOTISM

Study finds which states are the most and least patriotic.

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ORPHAN MOOSE

Twin calves still alive, may have been adopted by new cow.

KRIS CAPPS
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TURNIPS

Chef at the Market teaches how to use this early season veggie.

FOOD
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SOURDOUGH JACK:
"Here's hopin' them calves grow up good."



HANGIN' ON



A dragonfly clings to a blade of grass near Ballaine Lake on Tuesday afternoon. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

Anti-pot industry effort at full steam

By Amanda Bohman
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More than two dozen volunteers are fanned out in the Fairbanks North Star Borough in an effort to gather signatures to stop the commercialization of pot beyond city borders, according to volunteers with the campaign.

The group, Drug-Free Fairbanks, has until July 8 to get almost 2,000 valid signatures from registered voters for there to be a question on the Oct. 4 municipal ballot. Then they need to convince voters that the marijuana industry is bad for Fairbanks.

The effort comes as at least 25 cannabis entrepreneurs have received land use permits from

the borough for cultivation or manufacturing businesses outside of Fairbanks and North Pole city borders. Construction projects are underway and money has been spent on property, materials, licensing fees and equipment.

Jim Ostlind, the Salcha resident who became an anti-marijuana activist after the Planning Commission approved a marijuana grow in his neighborhood, said he has been gathering signatures at the Noel Wien Public Library, Pioneer Park and at public events such as the Midnight Sun Festival.

Volunteers will be gathering signatures at the Independence Day parade in North Pole on July 4.

Only voters outside of the cities of Fairbanks and North Pole can sign the petition for the signature to count. Only residents outside of the cities will vote on the ban if the signature drive is successful.

"I am just like, let's get as many signatures as we can get and see what we end up with. Work it until the last minute. That is my philosophy," Ostlind said. "We want to have a borough that we can be proud of and a community that we can be proud of. That is what we are working toward."

Ostlind wasn't sure how many signatures have been collected so far but said a tentative count was underway and is expected to be available by Friday.

ANTI » A3

How Brexit may affect Alaska's economy

By Kevin Baird
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The United Kingdom plays a role in Alaska's economy and "Brexit" will make an impact, but the future is murky.

Since the U.K. voted Thursday to leave the European Union, the British pound has fallen to \$1.3347, a 31-year low despite a rebound on Tuesday, and the Euro has decreased in value as well. Markets fell — then rebounded — on Tuesday, but investors still worry about short- and long-term repercussions of the U.K.'s exit from the EU.

Economist Neal Fried, of the Alaska Department of Labor, said this is a big deal worldwide and it's Alaska's \$52.2 billion permanent fund that will feel the "biggest immediate impact."

"The permanent fund is heavily involved in international and U.S. securities," Fried said. "There has been some fallout in the securities, but what will happen in the long run? The fallout could be a blip in time or it could be longer."

Fried said it's still way too early to make any predictions about the Alaska Permanent Fund Corp.'s investments.

Alaska's exports could be affected as well due to Brexit strengthening of the U.S. dollar.

BREXIT » A3

Fairbanks man convicted of murdering his employer

Staff Report
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A jury on Tuesday convicted a Fairbanks man of second-degree murder for the 2014 shooting death of his employer.

Chad Alan Zurlo, 39, was found guilty of killing his 51-year-old boss, Steven Corcoran, in the head after an argument on the night of May 8, 2014, in the bedroom of an apartment shared by the two.

Several witnesses, including responding officers, were called as witnesses during the four-day trial, which concluded Monday. The trial focused on whether or not Zurlo intended to kill Corcoran during the argument.

According to court documents, Zurlo's girlfriend witnessed the shooting and was told by Zurlo to contact Fairbanks police. When officers arrived, Corcoran's body was in a bedroom inside the home and Zurlo was waiting outside for law enforcement.

Alaska State Troopers responded and found Zurlo talking on a cellphone to his son, according to court documents.

The jury began deliberating Monday afternoon and reached a verdict Tuesday afternoon.

The state sought a first-degree murder charge for Zurlo.

Contact the newsroom at 459-7572.

Final Benghazi report: There's no 'smoking gun' pointing to Clinton

By Matthew Daly
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — House Republicans on Tuesday concluded their \$7 million, two-year investigation into the deadly attacks in Benghazi, Libya, with fresh accusations of lethal mistakes by the Obama administration but no "smoking gun" pointing to wrongdoing by Hillary Clinton, then secretary of state and now the Democrats' presumptive presidential nominee.

After the long investigation, filled with partisan sniping by panel members, none of the new revelations highlighted by the House Benghazi committee in its 800-page report pointed specifically to



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton takes a question on the media Benghazi investigation from a member of the House while visiting Denver on Tuesday. AP PHOTO/ANDREW HARNIK

Clinton's actions before, during or after the Sept. 11, 2012, attacks on the U.S. diplomatic outpost and CIA annex in the eastern Libyan city.

Four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens, died in the attacks.

BENGHAZI » A5

