



# Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA

**Vote Today** Polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Get updates at [www.newsminer.com/news/politics](http://www.newsminer.com/news/politics).

## GOOD MORNING



### The weather.

More quintessential fall weather: partly cloudy with highs in the lower 40s and light winds.

High today ..... 41  
Low tonight ..... 25

WEATHER » A9

### Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be active. Weather permitting, active auroral 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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## AIR MUSEUM

Space Camp program recognized with state award.

KRIS CAPPS  
Page A3

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## WHO'S ON THE FIELD

State football, tennis matchups for Interior teams announced.

SPORTS  
Page B1

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## HIGH-TECH MACHINE

Federal grant allows UAF to buy isotope machine.

SCIENCE & TECH  
Page B4

...

SOURDOUGH JACK:

**"I have exactly one plan for today: votin."**



# Woman pleads to murder of husband

By Sam Friedman  
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A 50-year-old woman pleaded guilty to first-degree murder Monday for the November shooting of Michael Pope, her husband of 13 years.

Under the terms of a plea agreement, Monica Dee Forbes will be sentenced to no more than 30 years in jail at a sentencing hearing in the spring. She agreed not to seek legal rulings that would mitigate her sentence.

The minimum sentence for

Forbes — who had no prior felony convictions — is 20 years.

Forbes spoke softly in the courtroom Monday afternoon as she entered her guilty plea.

Forbes was arrested in mid-December, several weeks after Pope was last seen on Nov. 25. Troopers found Pope's body buried in the snow on Forbes' Chena Pump-area property. Alaska State Troopers said Forbes admitted shooting Pope twice with a .44-caliber revolver, which she later pawned.

The case is still pending against Sean Cameron Jenkins, 45, who's

accused of being an accomplice. He's charged with hindering prosecution and evidence tampering.

Forbes' sister Mia Forbes attended the hearing. She said she was "very mixed" about the case's resolution. While Forbes is her sister, Pope was a close friend who spent his savings to help move her to Alaska.

"I love them both. It's very hard for me," she said. "We were all really close."

In an initial interview with troopers, Monica Forbes told troopers that she accidentally shot Pope when he attacked her

with a knife. Troopers said she later admitted to shooting him twice because he "was not taking care of her and she was feeling hurt and scared."

Mia Forbes said Monday she believes her sister's mental health played a role in Pope's death.

"He (Pope) didn't have a violent bone in his body. She has mental issues and has always had. The doctor had recently cut her off medication. I don't know why," she said.

Contact Outdoors Editor Sam Friedman at 459-7545. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMoutdoors.



Signs hang Monday afternoon on the entrance to the Fairbanks North Star Borough Administrative Center reminding people to vote in today's municipal election. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

# Voters may need extra time to decide wide range of issues on today's ballot

By Amanda Bohman  
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Book a little more time than normal to vote in the local elections today, the three municipal clerks said Monday.

The ballots in Fairbanks, North Pole and the Fairbanks North Star Borough are heavy on propositions.

"I don't know if we have had a ballot this big in a long time," said Fairbanks City Clerk Daniyelle Snider. "I think that's a good idea if people plan ahead."

Local voters are going to be deciding on a variety of issues, many tax related, such as the question on the city of Fair-

banks ballot authorizing the City Council to raise the marijuana sales tax to 6 percent.

In North Pole, voters will decide whether to allow marijuana businesses and whether the city should take out a \$2 million loan.

All voters in the borough will decide on a \$13.2 million bond to repair schools and government buildings; a marijuana sales tax; and a proposal to more than double the homeowner property tax exemption.

The city of Fairbanks has four ballot questions. The city of North Pole has seven, and the borough has six.

"This is heavy. We traditionally don't have this

many," Borough Clerk Nanci Ashford-Bingham said.

The polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

The municipal voting locations are the same as they were last year, Ashford-Bingham said.

The state runs a free automated hotline, 1-888-383-8683, for registered voters who need to determine their voting location.

Early voting has been busier than normal at the city of Fairbanks, according to Snider.

Voters there are choosing a mayor along with three city council members.

VOTE » A5

# VP debate will be all about Clinton, Trump

By Philip Rucker and Robert Costa  
THE WASHINGTON POST

Tuesday night's debate is between the No. 2's — but it will be all about the No. 1's.

Indiana Gov. Mike Pence (R) and Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) will share the biggest and most hazardous stage of their careers when they face off in Farmville, Virginia, for the season's only vice-presidential debate, and it is expected to center on the two figures atop the tickets.

Pence and Kaine are expected to duel over the temperament, qualifications, honesty and records of Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton, as the two affable and smooth-talking men explain and proselytize their historically unpopular running mates.

Pence has a particular challenge: Trump's incendiary statements and erratic behavior, especially over the past week, have formed a hurricane at the center of the Republican campaign; Pence could be forced again and again to account for Trump's actions.

"He's got to be ready for how they come at him, whether it's as some kind

DEBATE » A9

# Alaskans bemoan PFD amount

By Rachel D'Oro  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANCHORAGE — Yes, you could call it free money.

But that doesn't mean all Alaskans are happy about the \$1,022 dividend checks nearly every resident will receive starting Thursday from the state's oil wealth fund.

Folks were looking at getting more than twice that amount.

"It's really putting the hurt on my community,"

said Joel James, mayor of the tiny Yup'ik Eskimo village of Gambell, which, like many remote communities around the vast state, is plagued by chronic unemployment and astronomical living expenses. "I'm definitely disappointed."

Each year, residents get the checks from the Alaska Permanent Fund, a reward of sorts for living here at least a full calendar year.

It's fun money for some, with businesses offering

highly advertised dividend deals. For others, it's a way to make ends meet. The amount of the annual checks is based on a five-year average of the multibillion-dollar fund, and they took a hit when recession years were part of the formula, with \$900 checks issued in 2013 before payouts rebounded again.

Last year, the amount for every person was a record \$2,072.

PFD » A5



A sign advertises Alaska Permanent Fund dividend deals offered on Sept. 23 by a local mattress store in Anchorage. AP PHOTO/RACHEL D'ORO

