



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today

Three firefighters killed, others injured in Washington state wildfire. » INSIDE, A3

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Partly sunny with isolated rain showers in the morning.

High today 59
Low tonight 47

Sunrise: 5:53 a.m.
Sunset: 9:52 p.m.

WEATHER » A9

...



ALASKA ON DISPLAY

Fairbanks musicians are taking their talents on tour.

LATITUDE 65

...

LANDSLIDE

Emergency workers unable to clear Sitka debris to look for missing people.

Page A2

...

MOOSE COLLISION

Tourist couple seriously injured in crash on Chena Hot Springs Road.

INTERIOR
Page A4

...

PATRIOT POWER

North Pole romps in 39-0 win over Juneau Douglas.

SPORTS
Page B1

...

SOURDOUGH JACK:
"I'm gonna take my talents on tour ... soon as I figure out what they are."



SHOOTING » A3



Jessica Godfrey, right, takes a photo of her son, James Godfrey, before the start of his first day of school as a second grader at University Park Elementary School on Wednesday morning as a school bus pulls in to drop children off. University Park was one of several schools in the district that had bus delays due to a shortage of drivers. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

Bus delays expected to ease

Contractor looking for additional drivers, offers \$2,000 incentive

By Weston Morrow
WMORROW@NEWSMINER.COM

School bus delays in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District should begin to ease over the next few days, according to the district.

First Student — the company that coordinates the district's transportation — brought in six trained drivers from other parts of the state

and is in the process of training 15 more drivers during the next two weeks, district spokeswoman Sharice Walker said Wednesday.

"I think we're going to see improvements. It's just hard to pinpoint exactly what that's going to look like," Walker said.

Tuesday afternoon, a day before the first day of school in Fairbanks, the district reported a shortage of approximately 30

bus drivers. Because of the shortage, the district was forced to delay more than a dozen of its morning bus routes and cancel a handful of afternoon bus routes.

Some buses ran much later than the already-late times advertised. Michael Dunton, whose son attends Woodriver Elementary, said it took 1 hour 45 minutes for his son's bus to drop him off at home Wednesday

afternoon.

No morning routes were canceled for the first day of school, but five afternoon routes — at Monroe Catholic, Barnette Magnet, West Valley High, University Park Elementary and Ryan Middle — cut bus service home from school for some students. The district didn't immediately know how many students were affected by the cancellations, but during the 2014-15 school year roughly 127 students used those canceled routes.

BUSING » A3

Northstar Wireless loses tax credits

By Jeff Richardson
JRICHARDSON@NEWSMINER.COM

The Federal Communications Commission has rejected a set of lucrative tax credits for a company co-owned by Doyon, Limited that won an auction for federal wireless spectrum licenses early this year.

The company, Northstar Wireless LLC, won a \$7.8 billion auction for wireless spectrum licenses in January. Northstar was formed by Doyon and telecommunications giant Dish Network, which owns an 85 percent stake, to bid on the wireless spectrum.

Northstar Wireless had requested, because of Doyon's participation, to be treated as a "designated entity" under a program that aims to aid minority-owned businesses. That status would have qualified Northstar for \$3.25 billion in federal bidding credits.

The FCC made its decision Tuesday, according to a Doyon news release issued Wednesday afternoon.

"We are extremely disappointed in the FCC's decision," Doyon President and CEO Aaron Schutt stated. "The DE program was intended to provide greater fairness to minority-owned businesses in an industry virtually devoid of minority ownership."

NORTHSTAR » A3

Man charged with shooting at motorcycle riders

By Dorothy Chomicz
DCHOMICZ@NEWSMINER.COM

A North Pole man who allegedly shot at three motorcycle riders Monday night faces multiple felony charges.

Wayne A. Decker, 51, chased the riders in his pickup truck and fired several shots from a handgun, then told Alaska State Troopers his brother did it, according to charging documents.

Decker is charged with three counts of felony third-degree assault, two counts of felony misconduct involving a weapon, misdemeanor driving while license revoked and misdemeanor false report to a police officer.

The two felony weapons misconduct charges stem from the fact that Decker is a convicted felon and is prohibited from possessing a firearm or being in a home where a firearm is stored. Decker was convicted of felony driving under the influence in 2005 and his license is revoked until 2063.

The three victims told troopers they were riding their motorcycles at about 10 mph on Repp Road in North Pole when Decker came out of a driveway and swung what appeared to be a firearm at them, according to charging documents. They fled and Decker, driving a blue Ford F-150 and again brandishing a gun, cut them off at Brock Road.

The victims said Decker fired several shots at them as they fled. One of the victims said the gun was black, resembled a revolver, and that it sounded like a small caliber such as a .22 or a .380, according to charging documents.



The Fox Water Station is seen June 3. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

Borough explores Fox well takeover

By Amanda Bohman
ABOHMAN@NEWSMINER.COM

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources doesn't want the Fox well. Neither does the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Both agencies responded "not interested" to inquiries by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, DOT spokeswoman Meadow Bailey said

Wednesday.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough is the only agency contacted by the DOT that is interested in acquiring the well.

Borough Mayor Luke Hopkins said he continues negotiating with the DOT with the goal of transferring ownership to the borough.

"Assembly members are still interested, and I am still interested in this," Hopkins said.

The DOT is looking for

another public agency to take over the popular watering hole so the department can focus on its core mission of taking care of roads.

"We'll keep it open until we have somebody," Bailey said.

The free water source, formerly an artesian spring, is located about 12 miles north of Fairbanks at the beginning of the Elliott Highway.

WELL » A3

INSIDE

Classified » B6 | Comics » B5 | Dear Abby » Latitude 65 | Markets » A8 | Obituaries » A5 | Opinion » A6



Our ANNIVERSARY SALE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2015
9AM-5PM

Join us for an exciting day of Live Music, Aerial Silks, Coloring Contests, Giveaways and Free Grilled Cheese for the Kiddos

36 College Road, Suite 4
(907) 374-3900

