



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today

Farthest North Girl Scout Council plans to honor Women of Distinction. » A3

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Partly cloudy, with isolated rain showers to the east.
High today56
Low tonight36

Sunrise: 5:03 a.m.
Sunset: 10:34 p.m.

WEATHER » A9

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FUTURE OF READING

Library's online collection has expanded to more than 20,000 items.

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TSARNAEV TRIAL

Boston Marathon bomber shows emotion for first time during trial.

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LATHROP ROLLS

Lathrop softball beats West Valley 6-5.

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SOURDOUGH JACK:
"Bout time! I was startin' to think I slept through summer!"



Man killed in shooting at Fox home

By Sam Friedman
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Alaska State Troopers are investigating the death of a 69-year-old man who was shot at his home in Fox on Sunday afternoon.

Jimmy Gojdics, who sometimes spelled his last time the way it's pronounced (Gaydos), was a retired ironworker, outdoorsman and reality television character in the National Geographic show "Ultimate Survival."

Alaska State Troopers received word of the shooting at 3:06 p.m. at Gojdics' home on the Old Elliott Highway behind the Silver Gulch Brewery. Goj-

edics was "suffering from apparent gunshot wounds" when troopers arrived. He was pronounced dead after being transported to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, according to a troopers news release.

The case is under investigation as a homicide, said trooper spokesman Tim Despain. He said Monday afternoon that he doesn't know if there are any suspects in Gojdics' killing. Gojdics' body is being sent to the State Medical Examiner.

Originally from upstate New York, Gojdics had no family in Fairbanks but many friends, according to his friend, Janine Carlson. Carlson knew Gojdics for

about 12 years and said he was known for his wide-ranging interest in building things, from skyscrapers in New York to canoes and rafts in Alaska. People in Fox sometimes saw him driving a Russian Ural motorcycle with a sidecar or a carriage drawn by horses that shod himself. He loved traveling and people from other countries, and he spent winters in South America as much as he could, Carlson said. "Everyone was his friend



Gojdics



An Alaska State Trooper vehicle sits parked in the driveway of a residence along Old Elliott Highway in Fox on Monday as troopers investigate a shooting Sunday afternoon that left one man dead.

ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

and he met someone everywhere," she said. Contact outdoors editor Sam

Friedman at 459-7545. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMoutdoors.

FINALLY, GREENUP



The time of year known as "greenup" is a telltale sign that winter is finally over as vegetation bursts from the buds of trees across the Fairbanks hillsides, including Birch Hill, on Monday. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

Board may turn to salary freeze

By Weston Morrow
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The Fairbanks North Star Borough School Board has the right to ignore its contracts with staff unions and implement a salary freeze if needed, according to advice from the borough attorney's office.

The school board has been weighing the possibility of instituting a salary freeze for the last several weeks, though board members had been previously unsure if such an action would be legal.

The reason for the salary freeze discussion stems from the difficult financial situation faced by the school district next year. The district is facing a \$12 million budget deficit.

To solve that deficit, the board made cuts in numerous departments, including cutting 70 full-time-equivalent positions, 21 of those cuts to instruction.

The idea of a salary freeze was endorsed by board member Lisa Gentry in March as a possible way to save cutting additional teachers, since the board has fought to maintain class sizes as its number one priority throughout this budget cycle.

The board already has transmitted its budget proposal to the Borough Assembly, but that budget only anticipated an \$11 million deficit. The assembly still has not set its official funding level for schools, and the Legislature still could potentially change its funding level.

SCHOOLS » A9

Nenana woman found dead in Fairbanks

By Sam Friedman
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Foul play is not suspected in the death of a Nenana woman whose body was found in a wooded area near the corner of University Avenue and Airport Way Sunday evening, according to Alaska State Troopers.

About 6 p.m., troopers responded to a report of a body found off TVSA Way. Troopers identified the woman as 58-year-old Carolyn Paige-Debler. Alcohol appeared to be a factor in her death, trooper spokesman Tim DeSpain said.

Contact outdoors editor Sam Friedman at 459-7545. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMoutdoors.

Crews preparing for wildfire season to begin

By Casey Grove
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ANCHORAGE — Alaska fire crews are back at work for a summer wildfire season that follows a winter of below-average snow and exposed, drying combustibles on the ground in parts of the state.

Burn permits were suspended Monday in the Fairbanks, Salcha and Delta areas, as well as the Railbelt region, which includes Nenana, Anderson, Clear, Healy and Denali, according to the state Department of Natural Resources.

Of the 521 acres that has burned in Alaska this season, about 60 percent has been on military land, according to the Alaska Fire Service. Most of that is related to prescribed burns in ranges that could ignite later during live-fire training exercises, said Tim Mowry, a spokesman for the state Division of Forestry, which also works with the Fire Service's Interagency Coordination Center.

Of the 66 fires identified by the Coordination Center so far this

fire season, 65 were human caused from sources such as out-of-control burn pits or, in one case, a fire from a sweat lodge, Mowry said. The total does not include prescribed burns like those on the military bases and ranges, he said.

Another chunk of the charred ground in the state is in Southwest Alaska, where a fire near the village of Togiak burned 192 acres April 17 after spreading from a burn box at the local landfill.

"It was blowing away from the village, and rain put it out before we could even think about responding," Mowry said of the Togiak fire.

Just two days earlier in the village of Dillingham, a couple outbuildings had burned after a grass fire took off, Mowry said.

Only about an acre had burned in the Fairbanks area as of Monday, according to the Interagency Coordination Center. Mowry, who was in Kenai for readiness checks, said crews on Alaska's road system were putting out mostly small fires.

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