Man charged in pipeline sabotage case

Fairbanks man accused of making false statements in connection to the 1978 bombing of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline

By Jeff Richardson

A Fairbanks man has been indicted in federal court for allegedly making false statements concerning the 1978 bombing of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

According to the indictment, Philip Martin Olson, 61, admitted to the FBI last fall after a renewed investigation that he had carried out the bombing, but he also falsely implicated another person. The grand jury indicted him on three counts of making a false statement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph F. Bottini said Olson can no longer be charged with the same crime related to the pipeline bombing because the statute of limitations has expired.

Most of the statute that Olson may have broken expired years later, he said.

“There’s nothing left to charge him with,” Bottini said.

In the attack, which occurred Feb. 19, 1979, an explosive device was detonated at Mile 444.1, located about six miles east of Fairbanks. The resulting breach spilled 12,000 to 14,000 barrels of crude oil before it was contained. A pilot flying over at 8 a.m. today.

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SO CLOSE TO SUMMER

“Happy grocery shopping for Memorial Day weekend. Careful out there!”

Inside Today
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Weather » A9

The weather.
Partly cloudy again today. Highs in the mid-60s. Low tonight: ......... 41

By Matt Buxton/buxton@newsminer.com

Dave Freedle was 27 when he started working at The Flint Hills Refinery in North Pole, and he’ll be 63 when he and 80 other employees walk away from the plant for good this fall.

The soft-spool mechanized combustor began work at the refinery in 1977. He had a young family, and the refinery needed help it get up and running after a fire.

DowNToThe LAST DROP

This takes the last of the oil from the trans-Alaska oil pipeline at is tons today, A5

“Lincoln” Croskrey of Physical Center. In that interview, Swanson said Croskrey had her son’s death related to murder.

The new charges also follow a March 21 trooper interview with Swanson-byrd, after her account of her son’s death clashed with a medical examiner’s analysis.

The new charges accuse Swanson’s boyfriend Robert “Lincoln” Croskrey of playing a role. Unlike Swanson, he hasn’t been charged with murder. The charges are “failure to report a violent crime against a child,” evidence tampering, and drugs misconduct.

The case is far from over. The child’s father has been charged with a small amount of methamphetamine.

Dave Freedle, a 42-year-old mechanized foulout at Flint Hills Refinery, stands outside one of the refining towers that Freedle has spent much of his career keeping in working order.

Freedle is the longest-tenured employee at the North Pole refinery who worked along with 80 other employees, until the job that once kept the plant going for good this fall. FREDERICK NEWSMINER