



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today

2013 Interior Education Summit: Kaltag school talks about creating virtual museum. » A4

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Partly cloudy. Looks like another chilly day. High today 7 Low tonight 0

WEATHER » A9

Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be low. Weather permitting, low 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.gi.alaska.edu/AuroraForecast

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SINGING FOR VETS

Crawford Elementary School singing group honors Veterans Day.

YOUTH Page B4

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PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Nanook Jordan Wilson recognized by GNAC.

SPORTS Page B1

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HEALTH INSURANCE

Sen. Begich signs up through online marketplace.

STATE Page A3

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SOURDOUGH JACK: "Another race track? Maybe I should fix up one of them hunks of junk in my front yard. ... Nah, that sounds like way too much work."



New drag strip proposed

Neighbors have concerns about noise in North Pole

By Matt Buxton MBUXTON@NEWSMINER.COM

Local racers are working on building a drag strip in North Pole, but the chance that roaring high-power engines could come to the area has some neighbors worried.

The Fairbanks Racing Lions, a group of local drag racers, will be going in front of the Fairbanks North

Star Borough Planning Commission tonight for a public hearing on their plans, hoping to get borough approval of the drag strip.

The half-mile strip would be located west of the eastern end of Badger Road, adjacent to the North Pole Speedway. It would largely focus on drag racing, but would also offer another place for autocross and vehicle training courses.

Top fuel dragsters, the biggest and most powerful dragsters, can sound off north of 150 decibels, about the loudness of a firecracker in close proximity. Racing Lions President Jamie Bodenstadt said that it's unlikely the strip will see much of those kinds of

vehicles and said they're planning on building berms that will shield the neighboring residences from noise.

"Our decibel levels are well within the norm of what's intrusive with the noise barriers we have up," he said. "We'll be putting in a 12-foot earthen berm that dampens the noise."

There are a few residences that are within a few hundred yards of the site and a report produced by the group estimates that they will experience a moderate increase of ambient sound during races, as much as about 75 decibels — the rough equivalent to a ringing telephone. The application calls for a maximum of 106 decibels, about the sound of a car horn, at the edges of the

property. The application includes a request for six "peak weekends" where noise levels could exceed 106 decibels at the perimeter.

But local neighbor Mark Sanford, who lives within about 2,500 feet of the property and owns two duplexes closer to the proposed strip, says he's skeptical about the study. When he first heard of the plans, he went online to research other examples in the country and found that noisy drag strips were often bothering neighbors and being shuttered because of legal challenges.

"When you type in 'drag strips,' you'll

DRAG STRIP » A10

GATHER TOGETHER



People gather at the Veterans Memorial to ring bells in observance of peace brought by the end of WW I at the 11th hour, on the 11th day, of the 11th month, 1918, on Monday. SAM HARREL/NEWS-MINER



Above: Veterans listen to the Veterans Day program Monday at the Westmark Fairbanks Hotel. Left: A cane rests next to a soldier during the Veterans Day program. SAM HARREL/NEWS-MINER

POINT THOMSON

Leaders getting update on oil field

By Matt Buxton MBUXTON@NEWSMINER.COM

A group of Interior lawmakers will join lawmakers from around the state on a trip to Point Thomson, weather permitting, today to get a boots-on-the-ground update on the Point Thomson oil and gas field.

ExxonMobil has been busy at work developing the energy-rich area of the North Slope after it reached a settlement with the state over the development of the field in 2012.

Earlier this year, ExxonMobil reported that it had hired 1,200 Alaskans during the 2013 winter work session and sent work to many in-state contractors throughout the state, including companies in Fairbanks and North Pole.

Sen. Click Bishop, R-Fairbanks, said he plans to attend the flight and said he's been pleased to see ExxonMobil stick to the Alaska hire provisions in the contract, which he helped craft as the former Commissioner of Labor.

"For me, it's kind of very rewarding to hear those kinds of numbers because as someone who was in the administration and who worked on a piece of it, I'm just tickled pink that Exxon is living up to the agreement and spending the money on the state," he said.

ExxonMobil and the state had sparred for years over the lack of development of the field that by most estimates contains a huge amount of untapped oil and gas. The state and ExxonMobil settled in 2012, agreeing to a number of terms to get development started on the project. Those include penalties that are aimed at forcing the oil company to move toward a major gas sale and increased oil production. Unlocking Point Thomson is also critical for the development of a large-diameter natural gas pipeline.

A number of people were critical of the settlement, saying it would result in a lazy development plan that left too much oil untapped.

PHILIPPINES TYPHOON

Alaska Filipinos struggle to contact family

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANCHORAGE — Filipinos in Alaska are struggling to make contact with family back home.

Alaska's Filipino population is just more than 19,000 people, according to the 2010 Census, making it the largest Asian group in the state.

Anchorage contractor Vince Fronteras told the Anchorage Daily News

Population glance » Alaska's Filipino population is just more than 19,000 people

that communications are still down, leaving some people to get information from news reports and rumor. He hails from the island of Bohol, in the central region of the Philippines that suffered devastation in the typhoon.

He says people there were just getting back on their feet from an earthquake when the typhoon hit.

Fronteras says, "People are in great desperation."

He's been fundraising to help the earthquake victims, and expects several Filipino groups in Anchorage will help raise funds for typhoon relief.

Information from: Anchorage Daily News, www.adn.com

Desperate survivors seek to flee typhoon zone

By Jim Gomez and Todd Pitman ASSOCIATED PRESS

TACLOBAN, PHILIPPINES — Thousands of typhoon survivors swarmed the airport here today seeking a flight out, but only

a few hundred made it, leaving behind a shattered, rain-lashed city short of food and water and littered with countless bodies.

Four days after Typhoon Haiyan struck the eastern Philippines, assistance is only

just beginning to arrive. Authorities estimated the storm killed 10,000 or more across a vast swath of the country, and displaced around 660,000 others.

PHILIPPINES » A10

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