



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA

Inside Today

Board adopts new punishment for students who take knives to school. » A4



The hearse carrying the body of Sgt. Allen Brandt of the Fairbanks Police Department passes onlookers including uniformed officers Tuesday afternoon in Fairbanks. Brandt, an 11-year veteran of the the department, was shot six times Oct. 16 while responding to a call of shots fired in downtown Fairbanks. He was treated at an Anchorage hospital, returned to Fairbanks briefly, and then went back to Anchorage on Thursday for surgery to remove shrapnel from his left eye. He died Friday after complications from the surgery. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER PHOTOS

A somber return to Fairbanks

Body of police Sgt. Allen Brandt flown home from Anchorage for funeral Sunday

By Dorothy Chomicz
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The thrum of engines and the crunch of tires on the frosty road were the only sounds as a hearse carrying the body of Fairbanks police Sgt. Allen Brandt made its stately way past a completely silent crowd Tuesday.

Hundreds of people stood for hours in below-freezing temperatures to honor Brandt, who died Friday in Anchorage as a result of wounds sustained when he was gunned down on a Fairbanks street two weeks ago.

Fairbanks officials work to extend health insurance coverage through 2018 for Brandt's family. » A5

Brandt's body was flown home from Anchorage and arrived at a private hangar at the Fairbanks International Airport at about 2:20 p.m. Interior residents began arriving hours earlier, parking their vehicles in a solid line that stretched from a police roadblock at Dale Road westward to University Avenue. About 30 minutes after Brandt's body arrived, the hearse made its way down an access road before

turning west onto Airport Way, where grim-faced law

enforcement officers and firefighters waited to escort their fallen comrade to a local funeral home.

Patrol vehicles from every local law enforcement agency fell in line one by one as the hearse passed by, forming a solemn procession that slowly made its way past the somber crowd.

Brandt was shot six times early on the morning of Oct. 16 while responding to a report of shots fired in

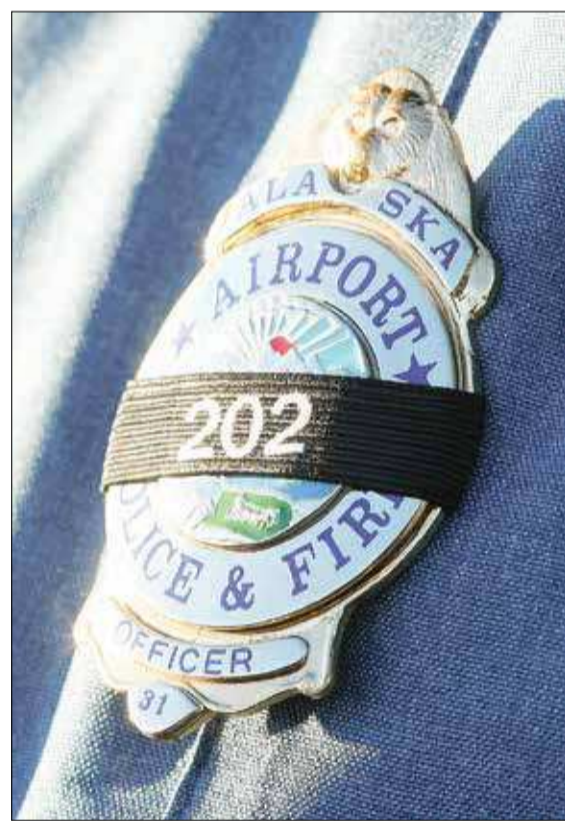


Brandt

downtown Fairbanks. His assailant took Brandt's service pistol and stole his patrol car after stomping Brandt's head as he lay bleeding on the road. A good Samaritan rendered aid until emergency crews arrived, and Brandt was flown to an Anchorage hospital for treatment.

Brandt was shot twice in his right leg, once in his left, once in his right foot, once in the chest, and a sixth bullet grazed his right knee. At least two pieces of shrapnel entered Brandt's left eye and doctors decided to wait for inflammation and swelling to subside before operating.

BRANDT » A5



IF YOU GO
When: 1 p.m. Sunday
Where: Carlson Center, 2010 Second Ave. The public is invited to attend. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and close at 12:45 p.m.

Sgt. Allen Brandt's badge number covers an Airport Police Officer's badge.

GOOD MORNING

The weather.

Partly cloudy with light winds. Tonight: Slight chance of snow after midnight.
High today 27
Low tonight 9

WEATHER » A9

Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be active. Weather permitting, active auroral displays will be visible overhead from Ukpiavik to Anchorage and Juneau.

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>

HONORED

UAF Athletics director elected chair of NCAA Division II Management Council.

SPORTS, page B1

SOURDOUGH JACK:

"Police Sgt. Allen Brandt has come home, and I can't stop crying."



Fairbanks sets record for driest October

By Sam Friedman
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October 2016 was the second-driest October in Fairbanks weather history, but the dry spell may end as soon as tonight.

According to a National Weather Service monthly weather summary, a total of .02 inches of precipitation fell at Fairbanks International Airport last month. That's the liquid water equivalent of half an inch of snow that fell Oct. 20 and a third of an inch of snow that fell Oct. 21.

The next few days easily could exceed October's entire snowfall. The National Weather Service predicts the Fairbanks area will get between 1 and 3 inches of snow between tonight and Thursday night.

October's warm, dry

weather was uncharacteristically conducive for wildfire activity, according to the weather service's monthly summary. Usually there is a low risk of wildfires this late in the year. The month of October hasn't been so dry since October 1914, when only a trace of snow fell. National Weather Service records for Fairbanks go back to 1904. The average monthly snowfall for October is 10.8 inches.

Around Alaska, many weather stations set records for dryness or heat, according to a graphic the Weather Service produced Tuesday based on preliminary data. Barrow, Kotzebue, Nome and St. Paul experienced their warmest Octobers on record. Eagle, Northway, Cordova, Juneau, Yakutat, Sitka and Ketchikan expe-

rienced their driest Octobers on record.

The average temperature in October 2016 was 37.6 degrees, which was 5.7 degrees warmer than normal but far from a record.

Stronger-than-usual winds gusted to 36 mph on Oct. 16 and 17 sparked a fire when powerlines were blown onto trees.

The Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center forecasts more of the same in November, with increased chances for above-normal temperatures and increased chances for below-normal snowfall.

On an average year, 13.7 inches of snow fall at the airport in the month of November.

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

