



CLASSIC CAR SHOW

INTERIOR » A4



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OUR TOWN » B1



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Sunday FAIRBANKS Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

Inside Today Alaska's track record of reporting hate crime statistics inconsistent. » INSIDE, A2

AFN names conference keynote speakers

Staff Report NEWSROOM @NEWSMINER.COM

The original AFN president and a former Congressional staffer will be the two keynotes speakers when the largest gathering of Native people in the United States holds its

annual convention in Fairbanks this fall. The Alaska Federation of Natives will hold the convention Oct. 20-22 at the Carlson Center. It's the organization's 50th convention and the first time it has met in Fairbanks since 2013. The convention brings together between

4,000 and 5,000 delegates, participants and guests. The association announced in a news release last week the keynote speakers will be Emil Notti and Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle. Notti was the first president of the Alaska Federation of Natives and was

a force behind the Native land claims negotiations that created the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Originally from



Notti Originally from

Koyukuk, he's a former electrical engineer who served under several Alaska governors as Commissioner of Commu-



Alvanna-Stimpfle

nity and Regional Affairs and Commissioner of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. He ran for U.S. Congress against Rep. Don Young in the special election of 1973 created by the death of Nick Begich. He lost by 2,000 votes.

KEYNOTE » A3

GOOD MORNING weather forecast: Numerous rain showers and highs in the lower 60s. High today 58, Low tonight 47. Sunrise: 3:19 a.m., Sunset: 12:21 a.m. WEATHER » A7



Firefighter Sarah Webb watches as engineer William Vogt helps Logan Buddy, 3, put out a pretend fire during the open house at the North Star Volunteer Fire Department on Saturday. ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER

Fire department holds open house

By Sam Friedman SFRIEDMAN @NEWSMINER.COM

Being a volunteer firefighter usually means committing hundreds of hours to training and being on call at all hours to respond to emergencies.

One day every year the assigned duties are important, but just for fun: cooking hamburgers, demonstrating fire-fighting skills and giving fire department stickers to kids.

For the Interior's largest volunteer fire department, that day was Saturday. The North Star Volunteer Fire Department held its annual open house Saturday at its main Bradway Road station.

North Star has a volunteer roster of about 40 volunteers and a paid staff of 18 people. It



William Slater, 8, sits in a fire truck during the open house at the North Star Volunteer Fire Department on Saturday. ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER

serves an area along the Richardson Highway that surrounds the City of North Pole.

The open house is a good way to attract new volunteers, said North Star Fire Chief Steve

Crouch as he worked the barbecue grill. But it takes a large number of recruits to find a dependable fire fighting volunteer. Volunteer firefighters must commit to volunteering

at least 24 hours per month.

"For every 20 that sign up, we'll get one that'll stay. It's a big commitment," he said

OPEN HOUSE » A3

Laughing gas now an option for women in labor

By Robin Wood RWOOD@NEWSMINER.COM

Childbirth is no laughing matter, regardless of a recent addition to pain- and anxiety-relief options at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital's Women's Center.

In November 2015, minimally-invasive nitrous oxide joined opioids, epidurals and local anesthetics as an option for easing women's labor pains.

Commonly known as "laughing gas" and often associated with dental offices, the blend of 50 percent nitrous gas and 50 percent oxygen is an "underused tool" that provides "a safe, quick and effective method of pain control for the laboring woman without delay," Family Nurse Practitioner Debra Booysen wrote in the March 2016 edition of Alaska Nursing Today.

Booyesen spearheaded the effort to offer mothers the "more natural" pain relief treatment at FMH.

In a telephone interview, Booyesen said she was introduced to the practice in the mid 1990s during midwifery training in Africa, and often wondered why the treatment was not available in the United States.

However, in recent years the procedure's availability has rapidly grown.

When Booyesen first looked at bringing the treatment to Alaska, circa 2011, there was only three facilities offering it in the United States.

LABOR » A3

SPOTLIGHT Shave Ice Sisters provide Fairbanks with cool, tasty treat. BUSINESS Page D1

SOURDOUGH JACK: "Classic cars and shave ice? What a summer!"



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Spring and Summer Fling Getaway 50% off all regular room rates Alaska Residents & Military ID Holders ONLY. Mark Your Calendars! 11th Annual Renewable Energy Fair Sunday, August 14, 10am-5pm. CHENA HOT SPRINGS RESORT FAIRBANKS, ALASKA