

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA

Inside Today Education consultants begin work on 'personalized learning' initiative. » INTERIOR, A4

Without proof, Trump calls for voter fraud probe

By Jonathan Lemire and Eric Tucker ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump declared Wednesday he is ordering a "major investigation" into widespread voter fraud, raising the prospect of a federal government probe into a widely debunked claim and sparking alarm among experts and Democrats.

Trump announced in a pair of early morning tweets the investigation will look at those registered to vote in more than one state, "those who are illegal and ... even, those registered to vote who are dead (and many for a long time)." Depending on results, the Republican tweeted on his sixth day in office, "we will strengthen up voting procedures!"

PROBE » A8

Impact of EPA freeze

Polaris Building assessment funds remain intact

By Kevin Baird KBAIRD@NEWSMINER.COM

The Environmental Protection Agency has awarded Fairbanks with a Brownfields Assessment, which will provide a much-needed contamination assessment of the Polaris Building, Councilman David Pruhs said.

"In our discussion with the EPA Monday, they said they are looking at doing this around May 15," Pruhs said. "One thing the EPA did tell us is this is the largest building they've ever done under the Brownfields program. It is a priority of theirs."

Pruhs explained the EPA won't award the city any cash. Instead, the agency would use a retained contractor to go inside the Polaris Building and assess contamination levels and hazards. The grant is good for as much as \$200,000 of labor with the contractor.

EPA Senior Communications Officer Mark Mac-Intyre said in an email President Donald Trump's order to review grants will not affect this Brownfields Assessment.

"(The Brownfields Assessment) is considered a service provided by the EPA (through an existing contractor) and not a grant. As such it is our



This December photo shows a room inside the Polaris Building. PHOTO COURTESY PAT SMITH

understanding it is not affected by the current suspension," MacIntyre wrote.

The building owner, Fairbanks Polaris Hotel LLC., has not paid property taxes in three years and foreclosure is on the horizon.

"Historically he's gotten close to the foreclosure deadline, but he's always paid his way out," said city Property and

POLARIS » A5

Uncertainty falls over pending local grants

By Amanda Bohman ABOHMAN@NEWSMINER.COM

A temporary freeze on contracts and grants by the Environmental Protection Agency has the potential to affect programs at the Fairbanks North Star Borough, namely air quality and public transit, according to borough officials.



GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Mostly cloudy with 10 mph winds from the east and highs in the 20s.

High today	24
Low tonight	10

WEATHER » A7

Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be low. Weather permitting, displays will be visible overhead from Utqiagvik 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

SOURDOUGH JACK:

"I've been in a freeze for months!"



Family says they've been wrongly blamed for Goldstream dog killing

By Sam Friedman SFRIEDMAN @NEWSMINER.COM

The Goldstream Valley dog killing that led to a proposed animal cruelty law for the Fairbanks North Star Borough didn't happen the way the dog's owners described, said the mother of the boy who shot the dog.

Since her son mistakenly killed a loose dog while hunting in the Goldstream Valley, life has changed for her family, Sherril Mose said in an interview earlier this month.

Since the November dog shooting and a December neighborhood meeting hosted by the dog's owners, her 13- and 14-year-old sons have been subjected to frequent harassment during their small-game hunts in the valley, Mose said.

More than a dozen times people have seen the teens along Goldstream Road and driven at them or stopped to yell at them, she said. Her older son also was reprimanded by one of his high school teachers for shooting the dog, she said. In addition, dog

Padouk, a 14-month old sled dog that was shot dead Nov. 5 near Goldstream Road is seen in a photo a few weeks before his death. PHOTO COURTESY NITA RAE owners Anita Rae lawsuit against Fowler and Hélène Genet have filed a

small claims lawsuit against them. Fowler and Genet seek \$1,500 for the death of their 14-monthold sled dog, Padouk. The owners have used the incident to lobby for a borough law, which goes before the Borough

Assembly tonight. Mose said she believes the responsibility for Padouk's death lies entirely with Fowler.

According to the

Mose's family, Padouk ran away after Fowler let him off leash at the end of a walk on the O'Connor Creek trail.

Mose compares this case with someone letting a dog loose and then blaming its death on a driver who accidentally runs over the dog.

'They broke the law and anything that came from that is their fault. Shame on them for neglect-

ing their animal," Mose said.

Mose said her older son shot an animal that was not wearing a collar.

The dog's owners have said the dog was wearing a collar shortly before it was shot and accuse the boys of removing the collar after killing the dog.

The dog was an Alaskan husky that was easily confused with a covote when it was shot at 50 yards, Mose said.

After approaching the animal, the boys saw it was bigger than they initially thought and assumed it was a wolf. It looked so much like a wolf that her grandfather, a taxidermist in Delta Junction, also believed the carcass was that of a wolf until he inspected its toenails and found the dog had a microchip, Mose said.

In her lawsuit, Fowler alleges the teenage hunters referred to the animal they shot as either a wolf or a coyote because they learned wolf hunting was illegal in the area and were trying to cover their tracks.

DOG » A5

Woman gets two years for cancer fundraiser fraud

By Dorothy Chomicz

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A Fairbanks woman who collected \$6,110 in online donations after falsely claiming her daughter had cancer was sentenced to two years of suspended time Wednesday in Fairbanks Superior Court.

More than 80 people contributed money after a family friend set up the GoFundMe page Feb. 10, 2016. The Mila Cheeks Cancer Recovery Fund page was taken down almost a month later after the friend discovered the child was not ill.

Troopers investigated the case, and the child's parents, Brianna Rosemary Carnahan and Rodman Sangiei Chin, each were charged with one count of scheming to defraud five or more people, a class B felony.

Carnahan pleaded guilty to the charge in exchange for an agreed upon sentence of two years suspended time and 250 hours of community service. The agreement stipulated the case against Chin would be dropped, as would a separate 2016 misdemeanor case against Carnahan.

Carnahan will have to pay an as yet undetermined amount of restitution to GoFundMe and other victims.

FRAUD » A5



