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Saturday, July 6, 2013



Fire continues off Chena Hot Springs Road

Warmer temperatures, wind could complicate suppression efforts

By SAM FRIEDMAN  
sfriedman@newsminer.com  
Warmer weather and winds from the south are expected to make life difficult today for fire-fighters working the fire that continues to threaten the Two Rivers

area.  
The Stuart Creek 2 Fire between Salcha and Two Rivers was about 31,960 acres as of the most recent estimate available from the interagency joint information center Friday. That's down from a 50,000-acre estimate

IF YOU GO  
A community meeting has been set up for 6 p.m. today at the Pleasant Valley Community Center, 7534 Anders Ave. Fire management leaders will be on hand to provide information and answer questions.

used earlier in the week because of less accurate mapping.

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Skinny's Road in mop-up mode

Staff Report  
newsroom@newsminer.com

With a goal of 100 percent containment before today's first shift, the fire that's disrupted Parks Highway traffic for more than a week is now in mop-up mode.

The 1,806-acre Skinny's Road Fire between Fairbanks and Nenana was 80 percent contained as of Friday afternoon and hot-shot crews were being taken off the fire to make them available for other fires, according to a

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Standoff ends in arrest of man

He is accused of threatening woman with gun

By SAM FRIEDMAN  
sfriedman@newsminer.com

A Fairbanks man is accused of threatening a woman with a pistol and firing it near her head Thursday night.

The incident led to an hour-long standoff with Fairbanks police outside a Hamilton Acres home that ended peacefully with the surrender of Mike Daniel Mayotte, 32, according to police.

Fairbanks police received a call at 11:57 p.m. from a woman on Kody Drive, according to the criminal complained filed Friday against Mayotte.

The woman who called 911 and two other women at the home told police that Mayotte's actions put them in fear of being shot. The alleged assault was not classified as a domestic violence crime.

The three women said Mayotte had been in an argument with one of them and began choking her earlier in the evening on the living room sofa. This woman had scratches and redness on the side of her neck, according to the complaint. This part of the assault ended when dogs in the home got excited and began fighting with themselves, according to the complaint.

The three women told police Mayotte later went out and got a pistol from his vehicle. They said he cocked it and yelled something to the woman he had been choking about having just saved her life. He then fired it into the wall near her head. The three women barricaded themselves in a bedroom and escaped out a window, according to the complaint.

When Fairbanks police arrived, police called out to Mayotte, telling him to leave the home. After about an hour he came out with his hands up, said Sgt. Bruce Barnett with the Fairbanks Police Department.

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FRIDAY NIGHT DANCING



Sam Harrel/News-Miner

Gwendalyn Trigg-Komakhuk dances with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Rural Alaska Honors Institute Native dance class Friday evening at the Alaska House Gallery. The class entertained visitors to the gallery during its First Friday event featuring the topographical sculptures of Erin Kathryn and Tyler Corbett.

Defense Department's civilian workers to start furloughs next week

Employees will have to take 11 unpaid days off

By LOLITA C. BALDOR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than 650,000 civilian Defense Department workers will begin taking the first of their 11 unpaid days off next week, but the cut in salary they will see in the three months may pale compared to what officials worry could be larger scale layoffs next year.

Roughly 85 percent of the depart-

ment's nearly 900,000 civilians around the world will be furloughed, according to the latest statistics provided by the Pentagon.

While defense officials were able to shift money around to limit the furloughs this year, there are widespread worries that if automatic budget cuts go forward for 2014, thousands of civilian, military and contract jobs could be on the chopping block.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel is expected to provide senators with more details early next week on how the next wave of across-the-board budget cuts will affect the department, said Pentagon press secretary George Little.

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Troopers identify motorcyclist killed in Taylor Highway crash

By SAM FRIEDMAN  
sfriedman@newsminer.com

Alaska State Troopers have identified the motorcyclist killed Friday morning on the Taylor Highway as Roy D. Orvist, 63, of Lakewood, Wash., according to trooper spokeswoman Beth Ipsen. Orvist's next of kin have been notified.

Troopers received a call at 10:56 a.m. about a crash at 8.6 Mile Taylor Highway, an unpaved section of the highway between Tok and Eagle.

According to the initial investigation, Orvist was riding a 2006 BMW 1200RT when he crossed into the

opposite lane. He collided with the front passenger side of a 40.5-foot motorhome driven by John A. Sharps Jr., 67, of Livingston, Texas.

The collision occurred in a short uphill stretch of the highway between two curves where there is a break in the pavement, Ipsen said. The motorhome driver said he was driving 45 to 50 mph. It's unknown how fast Orvist was going. Orvist was wearing a helmet at the time of the crash, and neither drugs nor alcohol are suspected in the crash.

Contact staff writer Sam Friedman at 459-7545. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMcrime.



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Sourdough Jack sez:

"When the missus asks me why we don't go dancin' anymore, I just remind her what I look like dancin'. She usually stops asking after that."

Intensifying

Protests erupt in Egypt as Islamists push back.  
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