



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA

Inside Today Veterinarian helps hesitant owners of bird dogs decide on neutering. » OUTDOORS B1

Project to bring natural gas to Interior on hold

Effort stalls over \$850K dispute with state-owned utility

By Amanda Bohman
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The Interior Gas Utility announced Thursday that “all meaningful work” at the borough-owned utility has stopped.

The utility is in a dispute over \$850,000 in expenses with the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, its main partner with the Interior Energy Project, a \$300 million effort to bring affordable natural gas to the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

The expenses are associated with the cost of the IGU purchasing Fairbanks Natural Gas from AIDEA, a state-owned corporation.

AIDEA maintains the expenses — for such things as due diligence and a plan for integrating the gas company with the public utility — are improper under a loan agreement.

Representatives from the IGU told the assembly they felt blindsided.

UTILITY » A5

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Showers in the morning, then thunderstorms in the afternoon. Cloudy tonight.

High today 74

Low tonight 54

Sunrise: 4:18 a.m.

Sunset: 11:36 p.m.

WEATHER » A5



SOURDOUGH JACK:

“I don’t participate in parades. My Missus has been giving me marching orders since the day we married.”



GOLDEN DAYS PARADE

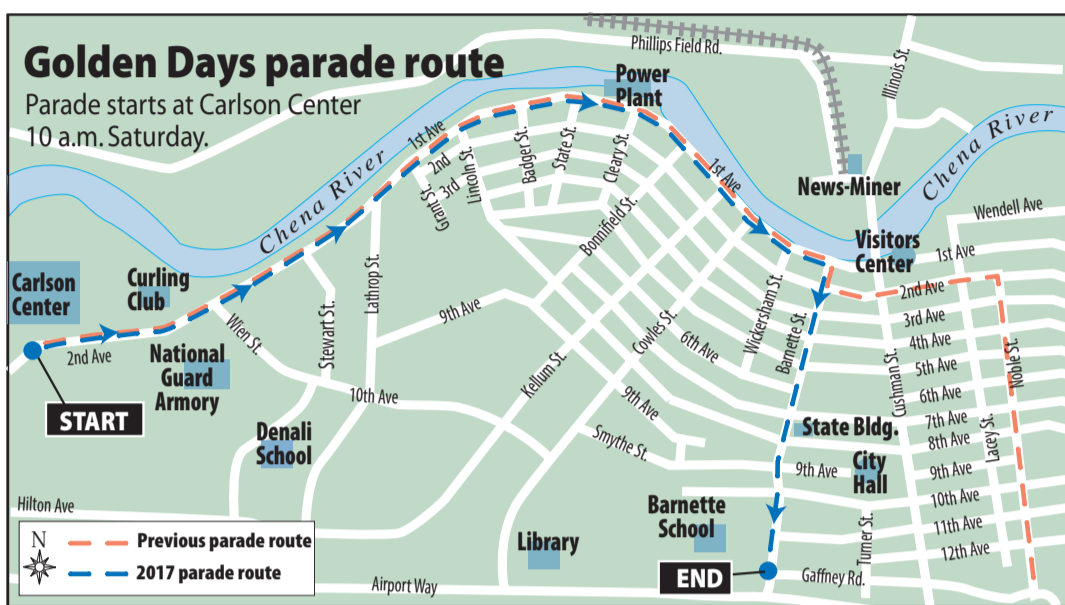
Route change leaves some unhappy

By Kevin Baird
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Construction on Noble Street prompted the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce to reroute the Golden Days Grande Parade down Barnette Street, but some Second Street business owners are worried about the potential loss of revenue.

Traditionally, the Golden Days Grande Parade makes its way down Second Avenue before turning right and heading south on Noble Street. This year, the parade will be staged at the intersection of Wilbur Street and First Avenue. It will head east on First Avenue to Barnette Street, then take a right and head south to Gaffney Road.

“I was shocked to find out



DEEDEE HAMMOND/NEWS-MINER

yesterday the parade isn’t being put through downtown,” said Nick Stepovich, owner of

Soapy Smith’s on Second Avenue. “They didn’t notify us. Why

can’t they turn right on Lacy?”

PARADE » A3

‘It’s like coming home’

WEIO fosters sense of community across Alaska and in its people

By Erin Granger
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MORE WEIO ON D1: AUTUMN RIDLEY, CASEY FEGUSON WIN THE ALASKAN HIGH KICK

The World Eskimo Indian Olympics is best known for its athletic competitions, featuring such traditional Native sports as the ear pull, the knuckle hop and the high kick. However, the annual event also lends a sense of community to Alaska Natives who leave their villages and towns across the state each year to visit Fairbanks.

Those who participate prepare all year and await its arrival with anticipation.

“I love coming here because I get to see everybody. I get to

see all my family and friends,” Esther Hayward said. “It’s like coming home.”

Hayward, a grandmother and a great-grandmother, originally from Minto, lives in Anchorage. Before Anchorage, she lived in Fairbanks.

“My favorite part is coming to see my grandchildren and great-grandchildren,” she said.

Hayward taught herself to sew and has been sewing kuspuks



Ossie Kairaiuak, of Cheformak, paints a small Yupik drum at his booth Thursday afternoon at the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics at the Carlson Center. “It’s always nice to be back,” the 1991 UAF graduate said of returning to Fairbanks and WEIO every year.

for nearly 10 years but only began selling them at her own booth five years ago during the WEIO craft fair.

Family and community are central reasons many from out of town attend the four-day event.

John Waghiyi, from Savoonga, has been coming to WEIO for nearly 20 years.

“It’s a very special tradition for my family,” he said. “It’s an avenue for my children to interact, and this is

their vacation.”

Waghiyi’s booth features bone and antler carvings. The larger ones he carved himself. The smaller ones were made by others who live on St. Lawrence Island. He and his family fly from Savoonga to Nome before arriving in Anchorage to make the drive north to Fairbanks each summer.

“We come back for many different reasons,” Waghiyi said. “We have relatives in

Fairbanks that live here year-round, and this gives us a chance to reconnect with them and bring them indigenous foods. Our children grew up witnessing the games, and they’re starting to become involved in it by participating.”

Waghiyi’s son participated last year in several events.

“We started bringing him in a baby carrier,” Waghiyi said. “He’s 19 now. He grew up witnessing all of this. This is definitely a special time in his life.”

Elvis Woolking, a carver from Whitehorse, Canada, said he has attending the event for 20 years. He runs a booth selling his art that he brings from home.

“I’ve got a bit of everything, all types of mediums,” Woolking said. “I work with bone and ulus and jewelry. Ivory jewelry and stainless steel ulus, caribou antlers,

WEIO » A5

Arts and crafts items are on display during the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics on Thursday afternoon at the Carlson Center. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER PHOTOS

