

## THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA

**Inside Today** Celebrate the 75th year of Usibelli with a tour of the coal mine. » KRIS CAPPS A3

## GOOD MORNING



The weather. Things will be cooling down with rain and clouds.

High today ......68 Low tonight ......54

Sunrise: 4:50 a.m. Sunset: 11:02 p.m.

WEATHER » A7

. . .

## PRINTER JAM

Judge blocks the release of blueprints for 3D-printed guns.

NATION Page A5











An osprey plucks a rainbow trout out of Ballaine Lake on Tuesday afternoon. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER PHOTOS

# **Ballot** seeks to buttress **NP pot** business ban

By Amanda Bohman ABOHMAN@NEWSMINER.COM

A ballot question going before North Pole voters, if approved, would prevent the City Council from overturning a ban on marijuana companies.

The council approved the ballot question at its July 16 meeting, according to the North Pole clerk. It's one of four ballot questions that North Pole voters will face at the Oct. 2 election.

In 2016, North Pole voters outlawed cannabis businesses within the city's 4 square miles. By law, the City Council has the power to reverse that ban after two years. With the two-year anniversary nearing, another petition was in the works when North Pole Mayor Bryce Ward decided to act.

Ward said the new petition was a bit late for the 2018 election, so he sponsored a resolution.

The new ballot question goes a step further than the

## ARM AWARD

Fairbanks 49er pitcher Isaac Roehl receives top pitcher award at American Legion baseball tournament

> SPORTS Page B1

> > • • •

#### SOURDOUGH JACK:

"If you're out for a hike tomorrow, look out for raindeer and drizzly bears."



interference Tuesday, announcing that it had uncovered "sophisticated" efforts, possibly linked to Russia, to manipulate U.S. politics and by extension the upcoming midterm elections.

The company was careful to hedge its announcement; it didn't link the effort directly to Russia or to the midterms, now

The forecast calls for a series of rainstorms through the weekend in the central and eastern Interior and as much 2 inches of rain in the mountains both north and south of the Interior.

"A broad low pressure

system in the Bering Sea will move north to the Bering Strait, then east into the Interior and stall and dissipate over the Upper Yukon Flats as a second system moves in behind it Saturday," the weather statement reads.

The low-pressure system follows a series of strong high-pressure systems that brought mostly sunny skies and high temperatures in the 70s and 80s for much of July.

FORECAST » A3

## Facebook finds 'sophisticated' efforts to disrupt elections

Forecast calls for stormy start to August

By Barbara Ortutay and **Mary Clare Jalonick** ASSOCIATED PRESS

By Sam Friedman

@NEWSMINER.COM

A National Weather

Service special weather

statement forecasts a

major weather change

in Interior Alaska

SFRIEDMAN

today.

NEW YORK - Facebook elevated concerns about election

less than a hundred days away. And its findings were limited to 32 apparently fake accounts on Facebook and Instagram, which the company removed because they were involved in "coordinated" and "inauthentic" political behavior.

But official Washington connected those dots anyway, not least because the reported activity so closely mirrored Russian influence campaigns during the 2016 presidential election. Nearly 300,000 people followed at least one of the newly banned accounts and

thousands expressed interest in events they promoted.

"This is an absolute attack on our democracy," said Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, which Facebook had briefed in advance. Warner expressed "pretty high confidence" that Russia was behind the assault.

A spokesman for Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley said Facebook had informed his office that "that a

#### FACEBOOK » A5

question decided by the voters in 2016. It writes the marijuana business ban into the city charter. That way, the ban cannot be repealed by the City Council. Only the voters could undo it.

Ward, a candidate for Fairbanks North Star Borough mayor, said he supports the state law allowing communities to opt out of legal marijuana sales. He doesn't use marijuana, nor does he object to its safe adult use, he said.

"I have no problem sponsoring something to go to the voters to give them the opportunity to weigh in on it," Ward said. "I support the right for the city to choose."

North Pole was the only area municipality to forbid marijuana companies in its jurisdiction. The vote at the 2016 election was 158 in favor of the ban and 98 opposed.

Voters in Fairbanks and in the portion of the borough outside the two cities had the opportunity to ban marijuana businesses with questions on the 2017 ballots. They were defeated by a ratio of about 2-1.

POT » A3

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The Fastest Way to Fun!



2nd Annual **Downriver Been Festival** 



### **Downriver Beer Festival** Saturday, August 04, 2018 5:00PM - 9:00PM at the Boatel 3368 Riverside Dr. Fairbanks

A festival showcasing the best beer that the state of Alaska has to offer! We will have food trucks, live music, home brewing competition, free giveaways,

\*\*MUST BE 21 OR OLDER\*\*