



Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA

Inside Today Sen. Murkowski assures student leaders their voices are being heard. » A3

Oil prices are up, now what?

Understand the implications of crude jumping above \$70 a barrel, oil futures

By Rashah McChesney
ALASKA'S ENERGY DESK

Oil prices are up again. Alaska North Slope crude jumped above \$70 per barrel two weeks ago and has stayed above that mark. Although that's several dollars higher than state economists predicted, it

doesn't quite fill the hole in the state's budget — and it doesn't mean oil prices are going to stay up. Still, when oil prices inch up it adds up fast for the state. "Once you're in the \$70s you're getting maybe \$80 million or so of additional revenue for each dollar of oil price increase," said Alaska

Department of Revenue Chief Economist Dan Stickel. Each year, his department puts out a forecast for the price-per-barrel of oil. Right now, prices are well above the \$63-per-barrel price state economists predicted for the next fiscal year. But, in Juneau, lawmakers are still leaning toward balanc-

ing the budget using money from the Alaska Permanent Fund earnings. That's because, prices are still well below the \$91 dollars per barrel Stickel said the state would need to fill the \$2.5 billion hole in the state's budget.

OIL » A5

North Korea offers to give up nukes if US vows not to attack

By Kim Tong-Hyung
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un told his South Korean counterpart at their historic summit that he would be willing to give up his nuclear weapons if the U.S. commits to a formal end to the Korean War and a pledge not to attack the North, Seoul officials said Sunday.

Kim also vowed during his meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Friday to shut down the North's nuclear test site in May and disclose the process to experts and journalists from South Korea and the United States, Seoul's presidential office said.

While there are lingering questions about whether North Korea will ever decide to fully relinquish its nukes as it heads into negotiations with the U.S., Kim's comments amount to the North's most specific acknowledgement yet that "denuclearization" would constitute surrendering its weapons.

U.S. national security adviser John Bolton reacted coolly to word that Kim would abandon his weapons if the United States pledged not to invade.

Asked on CBS' "Face the Nation" whether the U.S. would make such a promise, Bolton said: "Well, we've heard this before. This is — the North Korean propaganda playbook is an infinitely rich resource."

"What we want to see from them is evidence that it's real and not just rhetoric," he added.

Seoul officials, who have shuttled between Pyongyang and Washington to broker talks between Kim

N. KOREA » A5

SPOTLIGHT · CLAUDIA PIERSON



Claudia Pierson poses Tuesday outside the Farthest North Girl Scout Council. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER

Girl Scouts bestow highest honor on retired Fairbanks teacher

By Amanda Bohman
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Claudia Pierson recently received the highest award bestowed on a volunteer for the Farthest North Girl Scout Council — the Thanks Badge II — for decades of service in multiple facets of the organization.

The 67-year-old retired teacher, world traveler, former McDonald's employee and self-described volunteer addict said she is passionate about the Girl Scouts mission to

"build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place."

"I believe in a girls' organization. I love the staff. I love the way it is run. I just think it is a very good organization," Pierson said.

Pierson started with the Girl Scouts as a troop leader for her daughters' troops a few years after moving to Fairbanks in 1985 and is currently co-leader for her granddaughter's Girl Scout troop, as well as a member of the Farthest North Girl Scout Council board

of directors.

Her community service goes beyond the Girl Scouts. Pierson is a caseworker for Love In the Name of Christ; a volunteer at The Door, a homeless youth shelter; a volunteer at the Boreal Sun Charter School, where her granddaughter attends; a co-chairwoman for Create-A-Gift, a Christmas holiday charity event; and also hands out food boxes at her church, Christ Lutheran Church.

HONORED » A5

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

Monday is blowing in with heavy cloud cover and occasional rain showers with a 50 percent chance of snow tonight.

High today46
Low tonight34

Sunrise: 5:21 a.m.
Sunset: 10:18 p.m.

WEATHER » A5



SOURDOUGH JACK:
"Dang it! I thought I scouted out the highest honor when 'em kids brought me my cookies!"

House passes bill to identify internet gaps in Alaska

By Erin Granger
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The Alaska House of Representatives passed a bill Friday that will allow the Regulator Commission of Alaska to study and identify gaps in broadband internet access throughout the state.

House Bill 384 was introduced in February by Rep. David Guttenberg, D-Fairbanks. Guttenberg has taken particular interest in internet accessibility in Alaska. The bill, which passed 21-17, categorizes internet access as a responsibility of the RCA. The bill specifically does not allow

the RCA to do anything preempted by the Federal Communications Commission but does allow the RCA to collect information about broadband access throughout the state and identify significant gaps in internet access.

Guttenberg said this is an important step toward improving internet access for Alaskans.

"House Bill 384 clarifies that the RCA is expected to play a role in developing broadband internet throughout Alaska," Guttenberg said in a statement.

INTERNET » A5

Threats on trade unsettle farming, ranching backers

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SHEFFIELD — Montana rancher Fred Wacker had thousands of head of cattle fattening up along the Yellowstone River for export to China when President Donald Trump picked a trade fight with the Asian nation.

The dispute threatens a \$200 million deal that Wacker helped secure last year to ship Montana beef to China, yet the potential setback to his business plans hasn't diminished his stalwart support for Trump.

"I'm not going to follow him over the cliff, but I'll take a pretty good jump," Wacker said as a small team of cowboys on his Cross Four Ranch herded hundreds of cattle onto trucks headed for summer pasture.

Deep in Montana's ag country, ranchers' and farmers' support of Trump is being put to the test as the president's threats of a trade war risk their livelihoods. It's a constituency that voted heavily for Trump and that has a lot to lose, both in existing trade and new deals like the one involving Wacker that could send tens of thousands of Montana cattle to China over the next several years.

INSIDE Classified » B4-5 | Comics » B6 | Dear Abby » B3 | Opinion » A4



Mark Your Calendar!

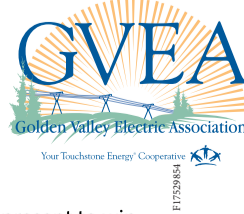
GVEA's Annual Members' Meeting

Thursday, May 3
Lathrop High School's Hering Auditorium
Live video streaming to:
• Healy's Tri-Valley Community Center
• Delta's Community Center

Registration opens at 5pm; you must present an ID. Business meeting begins at 6:30pm.



At the end of the meeting, receive a free LED Emergency Lantern!



GVEA's annual meeting is open to all members. Door prize drawings will be held throughout the meeting; must be present to win.