



# Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA

**Inside Today** Denali Borough students are semi-finalists in 'Name the Rover' contest. » A3

## Trapper charged after using moose as bait

By Alistair Gardiner  
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A local man has been charged with six misdemeanors after he allegedly admitted to snaring 25 moose to use as bait for trapping wolves.

Joseph Lyndon Johnson, 24, of Fairbanks, has been charged with one count of unlawful possession/transportation of game, one count of using game as animal food or bait, two counts of attempting to take marten during a closed season and one count of criminal mis-

chief in the fifth degree — all class A misdemeanors.

According to an affidavit, Johnson admitted to an Alaska Wildlife Trooper that he had been snaring moose and using them as bait for wolves. He allegedly admitted to snaring 25 moose in total.

On March 21, 2019, a wildlife trooper investigated a trapline that Johnson had set near Hess Creek. The trooper found two conibear marten trapping sets still active, despite the fact that the season had closed Feb. 28. According

to the trooper, on that same trapline there was a live wolf caught on a leg hold next to a moose carcass.

On March 22, a wildlife trooper set up a camera on Johnson's Hess Creek trapline. When the trooper returned a few days later, they found that the camera had been stolen.

On March 28, a trooper used a state helicopter to conduct another examination of the trapline and saw that the carcass of the wolf had been removed, but parts of the moose remained. All four

quarters of the bull moose were missing and it had been frozen in a manner that suggested it had been transported there on a sled. The moose had an indentation around its snout, suggesting it had a snare clinched around it. A necropsy later confirmed the initial suspicions that it had been caught in a snare.

After a trooper found records stating that Johnson had taken a wolf, a search warrant was granted for his home. Troopers found a gray wolf and the stolen trail camera, among other

items that showed Johnson had been using the trapline.

Johnson is being charged for illegally snaring the moose, for using them as bait for trapping wolves, for leaving active conibear marten sets out during a closed season and for removing the trooper's trail camera.

According to Alaska statutes, a class A misdemeanor may be punishable by up to one year in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Contact staff writer Alistair Gardiner at 459-7575. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMoutdoors.

### GOOD MORNING



#### The weather.

Today will be mostly cloudy with flurries.

High today ..... -1  
Low tonight ..... -12

#### WEATHER » A5

#### Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be active. Weather permitting, active auroral displays will be visible overhead from Utqiagvik to Anchorage and Juneau, and visible low on the horizon from King Salmon and Prince Rupert.

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.gialaska.edu/AuroraForecast>

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### SLIDING FORWARD

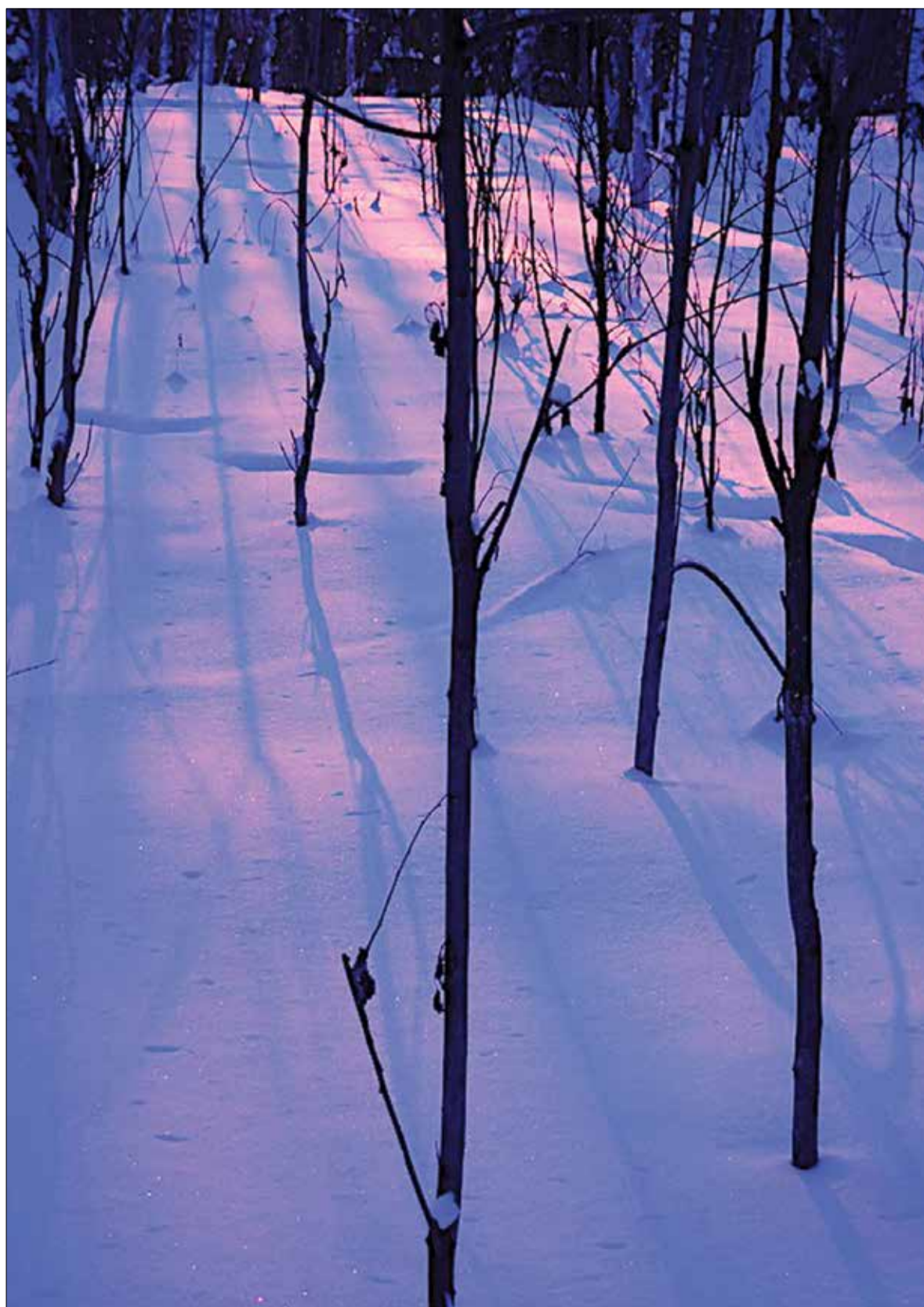
Team Cora Farrell advances to 2-0 at Junior National Championship.  
SPORTS  
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SOURDOUGH JACK:  
"Alaskans would make great astronauts. They already live where it's cold, dark and hard to breathe."



### MORNING LIGHT



"Sunrise on the Skyline Ridge Trails." Thanks to Paul Greci, of Fairbanks, for sending along this shot.

## Autopsy likely to confirm ID of remains

Staff report  
NEWSROOM  
@NEWSMINER.COM

Fairbanks police officers found a body in a Hamilton Acres apartment Sunday evening as they were investigating a report of a missing person.

The missing person was reported on Friday. Police had gotten consent to search the vacant apartment in which the body was found. However, police were unable to positively identify the remains, which were sent to the state medical examiner's office in Anchorage for positive identification.

"We expect autopsy results later this week, and we'll publish an update once we have the results," police spokeswoman Teal Soden said by phone Monday afternoon.

The investigation is ongoing and further details will be released as they become available. Anyone with information should contact the Fairbanks Police Department Detective Division at 450-6550 or [FPDInvestigations@Fairbanks.us](mailto:FPDInvestigations@Fairbanks.us)  
Contact the newsroom at 459-7572.

## NASA welcomes 11 new astronauts, first since Artemis missions announced

By Richard Tribou  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ORLANDO, FLA. — NASA now has 48 active astronauts as 11 candidates chosen in 2017 graduated from basic training, the first since NASA announced its Artemis program to return to the moon.

The 11 NASA astronauts received a silver pin in a Friday ceremony at Johnson Space Center in Houston. Those silver pins will be replaced with gold pins if and when they make their first spaceflight.

"These individuals represent the best of America, and what an incredible

time for them to join our astronaut corps," said NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine at the ceremony. "2020 will mark the return of launching American astronauts on American rockets from American soil, and will be an important year of progress for our Artemis program and missions to the moon and beyond."

Two new Canadian Space Agency astronauts who trained alongside the NASA astronauts attended the ceremony as well.

As active members of the astronaut corps, they could be chosen for missions to the International

NASA's new class of astronauts — the first to graduate since the agency announced its Artemis program — appear on stage during their graduation ceremony at the agency's Johnson Space Center in Houston on Friday.

JAMES BLAIR/NASA/TNS

Space Station or as part of the Artemis missions, which plan to return the first humans, including the first woman, to the lunar surface by 2024.

NASA said it then plans yearly missions back to the moon, and eventually to Mars, with



a goal of reaching a crewed mission to Mars by the mid-2030s.

Graduation ceremonies have been private affairs in the past, but Friday's event was open to the public with Texas Sens. John Cornyn and

Ted Cruz in attendance as speakers.

"For generations, the United States has been the world leader in space exploration, and Johnson Space Center will

NASA » A3

