



TRASH-IN-FASHION

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Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA

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Take a look at photos from Aviation Day hosted at Fairbanks International. » A4

Lumber prices at all-time highest

By Amanda Bohman

The 2018 building season in Fairbanks has started off strong despite an all-time high price of lumber.

"We're busier than ever," said Tim Sonnenberg, president of TS Construction. "I don't know if it impacts us. It impacts the consumers."

Northland Wood is selling sheets of plywood common-

ly used for the exterior of new homes for \$23.50 each, up from \$16.95 five years ago. Eight-foot planks of lumber, 2-inch by 6-inch, used to build walls, cost \$6.64 each today, up from \$5.17 five years ago.

Lumber prices in Fairbanks typically go down in the winter when construction slows. That didn't happen during the winter of 2017-18, according to Jason Knoles, president of Northland Wood.

"Shipping has gone nothing but up as well," Knoles said. "It's impactful, but it's not devastating in my mind. It seems like people are still building."

The National Association of Home Builders estimates that the rising cost of lumber has increased the price of an average single-family home by \$7,000. The organization is encouraging members to pressure federal lawmakers to find a long-term solution to a trade dispute with

Canada that is driving up lumber prices.

"We need a solution now to protect the home building industry and consumers from tariffs that are raising production costs and harming home buyers," said a statement on the association website.

Aaron Welterlen, past president of the Interior Alaska Building Association, said the rising cost of building essentials — steel and other materials are

also reportedly getting more expensive — means builders will construct fewer starter homes.

"The real problem you have with material prices is it will hit that lower end market," he said. "The starter home market is the key to getting people in homes."

New starter homes are becoming more expensive to build than what banks are willing to finance, he said.

LUMBER » A3

GOOD MORNING



The weather.

There will be a steady rain in the evening with showers continuing late.

High today66
Low tonight46

Sunrise: 4:10 a.m.
Sunset: 11:25 p.m.

WEATHER » A7

ROYAL WEDDING

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle got married Saturday morning.

WORLD Page A5

SOURDOUGH JACK:
"That radar sounds like a good tool for learning about the utilidors. Shame there's no documentary about that."



Documentary class digs into old university mystery

By Sam Friedman

A University of Alaska Fairbanks class last week took a new stab at solving a persistent campus mystery, the case of Otto Geist's buried mammoth tusks.

Students worked with a ground-penetrating radar operator at both the campus Taku parking lot and an area near Ballaine Lake on Wednesday in hopes of finding a cache of tusks buried in 1938 at some unspecified location on campus.

The students didn't find the buried treasure, but they did uncover some new leads in a case that's hard to investigate because it's believed no one with firsthand knowledge of the cache is still living.

The students also got experience filming a documentary, the main goal of their two week "Hands on Documentary Filmmaking" class.

Mystery of the year

Students in Rob Prince's MAYmester filmmaking clinic have previously explored other UAF mysteries such as whether the blocky Gruening Building on campus was designed



Stephanie Saari, with the Army Corps of Engineers Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, explains the readings on the ground-penetrating radar she was calibrating as UAF film students and researchers with CRREL scan for buried fossils Wednesday morning on UAF property off of Farmers Loop Road near Ballaine Lake. ERIC ENGMAN/NEWS-MINER PHOTOS

Ann Staples, left, measures out a lane as Stephanie Saari, right, both with CRREL, calibrates a ground-penetrating radar.



as a fortress to protect administrators from 1970s campus radicals. (It wasn't.)

This year, the class decided to investigate the mammoth tusk mystery, which is described in an article on the

CLASS » A4

Sport fishing groups fight boost to hatchery production

By Sam Friedman

Sport fishing groups are trying again to stop a Valdez hatchery from boosting pink salmon production this year.

In a long-fought battle in Alaska fisheries, private nonprofit hatcheries release hundreds of millions of juvenile pink salmon each year into Prince William Sound. The hatcheries create a massive fishery that's important to commercial fishermen as far away as the Kenai Peninsula and even the Yukon River worry that the flood of hatchery fish from Prince William Sound are killing the natural salmon stocks by competing with them for food.

This year, the Solomon Gulch Hatchery in Valdez has received authorization from the state to increase the number of eggs collected for raising salmon to 270 million, up from 250 million last year. The 20-million egg increase means the hatchery

FISH » A3



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Summer Getaway 50% off all regular room rates* Alaska Residents & Military ID Holders ONLY! Come for a soak, stay for the night! Double Occupancy: Fox Room reg. \$209 now \$104, Moose Room reg. \$279 now \$139, Bear Family reg. \$309 now \$154. Mark Your Calendars! 13th Annual Renewable Energy Fair Sunday, August 19, 11am-4pm. CHENA HOT SPRINGS RESORT FAIRBANKS, ALASKA