

Inside Today

Police still searching for a motive in Annunciation church shooting. **Page A6**

# From Cantwell to Portugal

## Rachel Cockman shoots for her basketball dream

Step by step, Rachel Cockman’s dream is coming true. Raised in Cantwell, the basketball player is headed to Portugal to play in the Portuguese pro league, called Liga Betclie Feminine. She arrives in Portugal today and will play for the team Clube dos Galitos. “My grand plan is to play in Europe until I am good enough to play in the WNBA, probably three to five years,” she said. “It doesn’t hurt that the WNBA is expanding as well — more opportunities for women like me.”



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She figures if she doesn’t get drafted then, but does well in Europe for a few years, she could get a training camp contract and get signed that way. She has been working toward this goal for a long time. Cockman first discovered basketball playing on a six-person co-ed team at Cantwell School when she was in fifth grade. She hated it. “I was so terrible,” she recalled. “In fifth and sixth grades, I had one basketball.” During seventh grade she began attending Tri-Valley School in Healy and that is when coach Vanessa Juszczak made her realize basketball could be fun. “She doesn’t teach you to play basketball,” Cockman said in an earlier interview. “She teaches you how to want to get better at it.” From there, Cockman moved to Fairbanks and played for West Valley High School. She worked toward her goal of playing basketball in college and wound up playing center and becoming team captain for Western Colorado University. Last spring, she placed first in one of the top professional scouting camps in the nation, according to Alex McCrindle, sports editor of the Gunnison Country Times. She received offers from a number of leagues overseas.

PORTUGAL » A3



COURTESY RACHEL COCKMAN

Rachel Cockman went from Cantwell to Healy to Colorado and now Portugal on her basketball journey.



Rachel Cockman never gives up on her goals. So far, hard work has taken her to play professional basketball in Portugal. COURTESY RACHEL COCKMAN

# Leaders talk housing crisis, infrastructure, childcare at defense forum

By Haley Lehman

Military and municipal leaders highlighted the importance of communication as a cornerstone of both armed forces and community readiness during a Wednesday forum at the Alaska Defense Forum. Col. Lisa Mabbutt, commander of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and the 673rd Air Base Wing; Anchorage Mayor Suzanne LaFrance; Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Grier Hopkins; and Stephanie Kline, assistant for barracks in the Army’s Office of Installations, Housing, & Partnerships, discussed how local communities can better support military members. Hopkins pointed to the borough’s Tiger Team and civilian-military meetings,

FORUM » A6

# Dunleavy inks deal to speed up permitting

By Jack Barnwell

A formalized agreement signed by Gov. Mike Dunleavy on Wednesday clears the way for a “pilot program” partnership between Alaska and the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council. Dunleavy said the partnership is intended to expedite resource development and streamline permitting — a process long criticized by him and Alaska’s congressional delegation as burdensome and uncertain. The agreement directs the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to coordinate with the council and identify which projects could be fast-tracked. “This is the beginning of what we think is going to be something that the whole country could use,” Dunleavy said. The council was created in 2015 under a process known as FAST-41 to improve coordination of federal permit reviews. Five Alaska projects currently fall under FAST-41 eligibility, including the proposed Alaska LNG pipeline, the Graphite One mining project, and several broadband efforts.

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# Moose comes loose after falling into a Two Rivers sewage culvert

By Anna Lionas

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game pulled a moose calf out of a sewage culvert on Tuesday after it broke through an unstable cover and got stuck. The calf was retrieved from the sewage water and trotted away fine, baring only a few scratches. Renee and Bob Sugden’s dogs alerted them to the moose in their backyard around 7 a.m. The trapped moose was whining and struggling to escape while its mother and another calf stood nearby. The 3-foot wide, 10-foot deep culvert outside their home was previously covered by a deteriorating plywood

sheet, Bob Sugden said. “I was heartsick because I truly thought that the moose was going to have to be put down,” Sugden said. His home beside Two Rivers Community Church of Nazarene, where he serves as pastor, feeds into the church’s septic system. Sugden called the Alaska State Troopers who directed them to ADF&G. Regional Biologist Sara Longson arrived at the scene around 9 a.m. with two colleagues. They brought with them a couple two-by-fours, a rope, a noose pole and a net.


MOOSE » A3



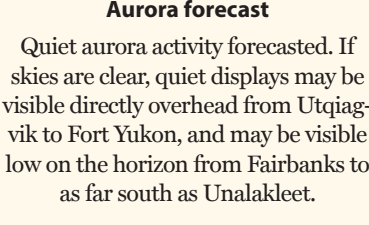
COURTESY OF RENEE SUGDEN

Three Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff pull a stuck moose from a sewage culvert outside of Two Rivers Community Church of Nazarene on Tuesday.


GOOD MORNING




**The weather**  
Rain, drizzle and cool.  
High today ..... 56  
Low tonight ..... 41  
**Sunrise:** 6:22 a.m.  
**Sunset:** 9:19 p.m.  
**WEATHER » A3**



**Aurora forecast**  
Quiet aurora activity forecasted. If skies are clear, quiet displays may be visible directly overhead from Utqiagvik to Fort Yukon, and may be visible low on the horizon from Fairbanks to as far south as Unalakleet.




**Labor Day**  
The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner will close Monday, Sept. 1, in recognition of Labor Day. Home delivery will resume on Tuesday.



**SOURDOUGH JACK:**  
“You think it’s bad when a moose is on the highway, wait ‘till it clogs up the plumbing.”

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