

PIONEER PRESS

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Cantwell vet is also a seasoned musher

Lance Mackey's dogs are among patients of popular practitioner

By Bill Rodwell
DENALI CORRESPONDENT

CANTWELL — When repeat Iditarod and Yukon Quest champion Lance Mackey needs someone to spend a day evaluating the health needs of his championship dog team, he calls on veterinarian Dr. Jayne Hempstead. So do scores of people with smaller dog teams, family pets and ailing livestock.

Hempstead's practice has saved time, money and, most importantly, lives, in remote country not previously served by a full-time vet. As fuel costs rise it becomes more and more apparent how expensive it would be to get professional veterinary care when a trip to the nearest vet means a 150-mile drive.

Hempstead is also a veteran musher. "Dr. Jayne," as she is known, has 15 dogs, bringing firsthand knowledge beyond her



Veterinarian Dr. Jayne Hempstead with one of her patients at her clinic in Cantwell.

PHOTO BY BILL ROWELL

University of Georgia, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree. She estimates she recreationally ran her dogs 2000 miles this past winter.

"It's just plain fun running my

dogs," she said.

Vets are required to pursue continuing education credits and she attends in-state and Outside meet-

See Dr. Jayne, Page 8

He lived with the territory of Alaska on its terms

Talkeetna writer, historian recalls her times talking to a longtime prospector

By Roberta Sheldon
Contributor

TALKEETNA — When I met Adolph "Missouri" Taraski in 1964, he was living out his retirement years along Talkeetna's Main Street in a lovely log house that had been constructed sometime in the 1930s.

He was 76 at that time and was still chopping his own firewood, reading and cooking by the light of his kerosene lamps, and fishing the Talkeetna River a short distance from his home. We quickly became friends, and in ensuing years I spent many hours with him in conversation at this place. While his wood

stove murmured in the background he would smoke his pipe and tell me about his life.

Missouri was born in Poland in 1888, he said, and had ventured to America at the age of 18. After roaming around a bit, he had worked a five-year stint in the Missouri oilfields, where he picked up the nickname that would stay with him for the rest of his life.

But, he said, "I got tired of the oil drilling rigs and wanted to fill my poke with all that gold I hear about up in Alaska."

In 1923 he landed in the Territory of Alaska and got work with the Alaska Railroad, which he eventually left for the more independent appeal of prospecting and trapping on his own. He ended up in Talk-

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Adolph "Missouri" Taraski
PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROBERTA SHELDON

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News of Denali:



Bill Rodwell joins the ALASKA PIONEER PRESS

It's another new dawn as the PIONEER PRESS begins serving the Denali National Park and Preserve and its communities.

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Houston Kids Pitch In:



Some hard-working Houston Middle-School students cleared land for a garden at the local senior center.

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Robin Song:



Bird Sight

The varied thrush is one topic of this month's column.

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There's nothing like camping in sub-zero temperatures to bring people together.

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Grete Lewis Perkins:



Grete has put her column on hiatus for the summer to spend time working on and selling her art.

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Artesian spring or highway runoff?

Borough may pay expert to find fresh water source's origin at Parks Mile 89

By John R. Moses
EDITOR

SUNSHINE — Water that comes from the apparent spring near Mile 89 of the Parks Highway tested as safe from contamination in 2005, but any attempts to make the spring an official water station will bring in a raft of regulations, required filtration equipment and complex water quality testing rules.

That's the gist of a series of e-mails written in 2006, shortly after the local community council backed a call for official improvements to a long-used spring water collection point the state considers a "use-at-your-own-risk" water source flowing from corrugated pipes designed as a conduit for roadside water runoff.

A recently retired state environmental official last month asked her former superiors to keep an eye on a move backed by a state representative and discussed recently by the Susitna Community Council to make the outfall an official drinking water source.

The pipe is a primary water source for many who do not have running water or wells on their property. State Rep. Mark Neuman (R-District 15) is studying ways to improve public access to drinking water in the Sunshine/Caswell area following a resident's complaint and a local petition drive.

The series of e-mails and a lack of progress on defining the spring leave unresolved the issue of how Sunshine and Caswell residents will find water if they lack wells, said Neuman aide Rex Shattuck.

The state's position two years ago was clear after the Y Community Council's June 2005 resolution supporting the local Soil and Water Conservation District's attempts to "preserve and protect the Artesian Spring located at Mile 89 of the Parks Highway as a safe and free clean water source accessible to the Y Community and its visitors." That council is now named the Susitna Community Council.

The state considers the "spring" to be a storm drain.

"This was designed and built as a road drainage system and was never intended to be a public water source," Kurt Devon of the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (A.D.O.T.&P.F.), wrote in January of 2006 to state Department of Environmental Conservation employee Lynn Lowman.

State environmental regulators at that time reacted with caution and a warning to the suggestion that public



This outfall contains fresh spring water, according to those who have used it for decades. The state calls the water road runoff. The Borough may eventually settle the matter by hiring a hydrologist.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LYNN LOWMAN, ADEC

use of that spring be made official.

A state environmental official in January of 2006 notified the former head of the Upper Susitna Soil and Water Conservation District that her office advised the A.D.O.T.&P.F.'s Devon to ask a state lawyer for advice on A.D.O.T.&P.F.'s exposure to legal action from public consumption of water that comes from road runoff and public activity on state land.

"I highly discourage any attempt to glorify this source as potable water and would not encourage local residents nor tourists to consider the water as pristine. As Kurt (Devon of the A.D.O.T.&P.F.) explained, the water entering this culvert is road drainage as should be treated as such," wrote Lynn Lowman of the state's Department of Environmental Conservation's Drinking Water Program to then- Upper Susitna Soil and Water Conservation District Director Kristi Renfrew.

Lowman recommended that if the Susitna Community Council, then named the Y Community Council, wanted to pursue the area as a water source it should work with A.D.O.T.&P.F. "to develop the source and install all treatment and required monitoring to meet the Drinking Water Regulations, 18 AAC 80 for a Community surface water source.

"This is not an inexpensive venture, but it will ensure that the water source provides the best public health protection," Lowman concluded.

Reached on April 30, her last day before retiring from DEC, Lowman strongly repeated these warnings, which she said she passed on two years ago to the Y Council and the soil district and had just sent to DEC's upper management.

"If they make it a bonafide water system it's a bonafide water system," Lowman said. That means that, like the A.D.O.T.&P.F. project at Fox Springs, there must be filtration, testing and a water system operator on duty every day. "That's the choice you have, or you leave it as it is."

20, 2005, water from that spring was tested and found to be clear of detectable levels of toxins like cadmium, lead and mercury as well as organics such as chloroform and inorganic compounds such as chloride.

The tests were run by National Testing Laboratories based in Cleveland through the Mat Su Test Lab in Palmer and were paid for by the soil conservation district.

The Borough may enter the fray, and there is discussion about hiring a hydrologist to find the source of what Borough Assembly member Tom Kluberton said seems obviously to be a year-round spring in use for more than 45 years. Kluberton said no progress will happen on that issue until the Borough Assembly finishes up the Borough's budget. He said he hasn't seen runoff in the west ditch near the spring but suspects it is possible during heavy rains for some uncontrolled runoff to divert into the path of the spring water. A solution could be as simple as sending that water runoff into nearby wetlands.

A Borough-hired hydrologist at least could determine the source of the constant water flow. "I think if we do anything it's going to be exploratory," Kluberton said.

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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Talkeetna council won't support Borough building

By Laura Wright
CORRESPONDENT

TALKEETNA – A Borough warm storage building proposed for construction off Talkeetna Spur Road was a main topic of the May 6 Talkeetna Community Council, Inc. meeting. The lengthy session lasted almost until 11 p.m.

The project has been in the works since 2003 but generated a lot of public concern because of a recent change in the building's location. Originally slated to be built near the sewage lagoons off Beaver Road, the site was changed because studies showed that location to be impractical due to flooding and the

large amount of gravel needed to raise the site.

Concern over the new location, near the corner of Comsat and the Talkeetna Spur, was the reason many of the 25 people in attendance were there. It was generally accepted that the facility can't be built near the lagoons but many don't like the newly proposed site on 14 acres of Borough land. It is across from the XY Parks trailhead and next to a subdivision, both accessed from Comsat Road.

Borough Project Manager John Harris said that a 4,000-square-foot building is needed to house both Public Works and Parks and Recreation equipment. There will also be a workspace, office and shower fa-

cility.

Many people who gave public testimony want the Borough to look at the old landfill site next to the current transfer site.

According to Harris and engineer Gerry Brown, buildings cannot be built on top of the old landfill which is covered with an impervious membrane that cannot be disturbed. Between setbacks, buffers and the old landfill, they said there is not enough room for the building.

Discussion went on for more than an hour between attendees and Borough representatives.

Resident Sandy Kogl said the Borough could use the old landfill site if it got creative with the build-

ing's shape. Only one resident, Chris Mannix, spoke up in favor of the newly proposed site, saying that the old landfill would make good ball fields, ski trails and a stadium area for ski events. "If they do it right and buffer it on the proposed site, it will be a good thing," said Mannix. He added that any development at the dump would interfere with the future of skiing and trails.

Many were concerned that a large metal building is not what people want to see as they enter Talkeetna. Harris said that only two acres of the 14-acre parcel would be developed. He added that the driveway has a curve so the building wouldn't

See COUNCIL, Page 12

It's back! Moose Dropping Festival aims to keep getting better

TALKEETNA — Summer is coming. Mosquitoes and tourists are already here. You know what that means in Talkeetna – it's time for the 36th annual Moose Dropping Festival. That annual event blows the roof off the village every summer.

This year, July 12 and 13 are the dates for locals to take cover in the cabin if they're allergic to fun, music and crowds.

The Talkeetna Historical Society's main fundraiser brings thousands of people to Downtown Talkeetna to dance in the park, browse the many craft and merchandise booths and check out the works of Alaskan artists.

And don't forget the food.

Organizer Bronn Salmon said this year's theme is a salute to the 90th anniversary of the "Doughboys," those Americans that volunteered to fight alongside the French in the first world war.

"We hope to make this year's festival fun and exciting for every-

one," Salmon said

Last year's events will return, but Salmon hopes to add some new events as well.

Look for the return of the Moose on Parade decorated wooden moose auction, the competitive Mountain Mama contest, The Moose Toss, and other such traditionally non-traditional events.

Then there's the Moose Dropping Contest, which still attracts occasional calls from animal rights activists even though festival organizers swear they don't actually drop the moose, just his or her leavings.

Parking problems are an issue Salmon plans to tackle. Last year some cars were routed into a residential neighborhood, and more attendees than usual swelled the vehicle ranks. This year Salmon is marshaling his experience as a U.S. Marine veteran (and a father of four) to organize a paid parking staff to make sure last year's happenings are history. The job pays \$8



to \$10 per hour and applications are being taken.

"We will also be providing permit identifiers to ensure that we get our local merchants and their employees through to the downtown area as fast as possible. We will be rerouting all (festival) vendor vehicles to designated parking areas to reduce congestion around the park area and we will be closing off traffic around the park as well," Salmon said.

The festival also needs plenty of volunteers.

"This year we have created a volunteer incentive program to thank those that give their time helping to

make sure that the festival is a success. We will be holding a barbecue the weekend after the festival for all of the volunteers and will hold a drawing for lots of prizes," Salmon said.

For each three hours of volunteer time a person gives, he or she will receive a prize ticket. The more tickets one has, the better chance of winning. Volunteers who put in six or more hours will earn a special festival jacket or hoodie.

Vendors in the Talkeetna area seeking applications should visit bulletin boards at the Talkeetna Post Office, The Store and Moores' Hardware Store. Applications are available on the Web at www.talkeetnahistoricalociety.org.

Moose Dropping Festival Coordinator Salmon (also known as Fish), is available by either e-mailing him at mdf@talkeetnahistoricalociety.org or calling him at 761-3636. Those are also the contact number and e-mail address for applying for the parking lot positions.

ALASKA
PIONEER PRESS

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Camping in the cold

I'm a hunting junkie. I can't help it. August 1 is my own private holiday. It means summer is on its way out and it's almost time: that magic time to take up the rifles and practice the tradition of our forefathers and their forefathers, etc.

In recent times, a group of my blood brothers—Steve, Tim, Curtis, Dirk and Billy—have made it a tradition to go on a winter caribou hunt. We usually go to Cantwell then hunt down the Old Denali Highway. This year, however, because of the way the seasons and permits went, we had to go the long way through Glennallen then up to Paxson to hunt the Old Denali Highway from the other side around Tangle Lakes. This meant a winter camp. We found a good camp site far off the highway and any other beaten path — just the way we like it.

Even though it was late March, the night temps were brutal: -25, -30. I purchased a Cabela's winter bag rated to -20. I guess Cabela's rating system means that with their bag you won't die at -20 because that's about all it accomplished. The first night we slept until sometime around 1 a.m. when you could feel the cold settling into our little camp

Tales from the Trail

By Jonathan Durr

site. From then on it was roll and toss and find a warm position and doze. The next two nights were repeats of the first.

We hunted hard everyday and saw and explored some amazing country. Unfortunately, the main herd had already passed through the area. Due to a good job of tracking, we did manage to get up on a small group but they were skittish from being hunted all year. Plus, I noticed a lot of wolf tracks so these were some spooky caribou.

After only three or so hours of sleep for three nights and fighting the cold all day, I admit I was ready to hit the road.

...

One of my lifelong studies has been the case of Albert Johnson, or the "Rat River Trapper," who, in 1932, led the Canadian Mounties



(Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or RCMP) on an epic chase through the wilderness.

It's my conclusion that Johnson was a psychopathic serial killer, or else he would have cooperated with the Mounties whose initial contact with Johnson was simply to resolve a trapping conflict. Trapline conflicts were common, and most always resolved with a handshake with the Mounties simply acting

as facilitators. When the Mounties first knocked on Johnson's door, he simply did not answer, which is one reason I've concluded he was a serial killer and thus very reluctant to get into any form of dialogue with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. There was also the pouch of gold fillings in Johnson's possession which had been pulled from someone's mouth.

On the next visit the Mounties made to Johnson's cabin, he simply shot one of the Mounties (who managed to survive) through the door. There was no going back after that.

For the next couple of months, Johnson led the Mounties on an odyssey through the wilderness in the dead of winter with temps ranging from -40 to -50. Johnson was living with the minimal gear he carried in his pack and frankly kicked the Mounties' behinds for nearly two months, fatally shooting one of his pursuers through the heart.

"We found a good camp site far off the highway and any other beaten path — just the way we like it. Even though it was late March the night temps were brutal: -25, -30."

MEETINGS

Sunshine Community Health Clinic Board of Directors:

May 27, 6:30 p.m. — Sunshine Clinic

June 24, 6:30 p.m. — Sunshine Clinic

July 29, 6:30 p.m. — Sunshine

Clinic

Aug. 26 — Sunshine Clinic

Sept. 30 — Willow, place TBA.

Oct. 28 — Sunshine Clinic (Annual Meeting)

Nov. 25 — Sunshine Clinic

December meeting TBA

New principals coming to Su Valley Jr./Sr.

High, Talkeetna & Trapper Creek Elementary

PALMER — Principal John Brown of Talkeetna and Trapper Creek Elementary Schools is going to a new school next fall and Principal Matt Clark of Susitna Valley Jr./Sr. High School is moving to a native village, where he will continue his career in education.

Rob Picou will be making the move from Burchell High School, where he has been the principal, to Su Valley. Picou is currently in the Ph.D. Ed Leadership and Research program at the University of Mississippi. He earned a Master of Liberal Arts from Tulane University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of New Orleans.

Brown brings more than 20 years

of experience in the district to the Correspondence Study School as its new principal.

Following his year as principal in Talkeetna and Trapper Creek, Brown said that professionally, he is looking forward to the collaborative work of the Correspondence Study School.

"It is a premium opportunity to collaborate with a very talented staff so that we can support families and help enable children to achieve their dreams. The mission of this school is to support families who choose to teach their own kids. Flexibility with accountability is the essential piece to making it work for families," Brown said.

Entertainment Calendar

The Historic Fairview Inn

May 16 9 p.m. LoveLife Music w/ Shawn and Milo @ Fairview

May 17 10 p.m. Sticky Wicket @ Fairview Inn

May 19 9 p.m. Open Mic Night @ Fairview Inn

May 24 10 p.m. GaNgLy MoOsE returns!!!! @ Fairview Inn

May 30 9 p.m. Nervis Rex @ Fairview Inn

May 31 10 p.m. Weeping Willies @ Fairview Inn

Jun 5 10 p.m. Feel the Beat Drop / TB2 Productions presents Hip Hop

Go to www.myspace.com/thefairviewinn for updates.

Denali Arts Council

Art Exhibition: The Arts Council looks forward to the artwork of Robin Song in May. The North Wall Gallery is in the Sheldon Community Arts Hangar in Talkeetna.

Whole Wheat Radio

Whole Wheat Radio is located on E. Birch Creek Boulevard just off the Talkeetna Spur near Mile 8. For more information call Jim at 733-2452 or visit wholewheatradio.org and click on the Events Calendar on the left-hand side. All events are Webcast on the Internet world-wide.

Featured event: Fairbanks' Porch Dogs will be performing a house concert at Whole Wheat Radio in Talkeetna on Saturday, May 24, at 7 p.m. A suggested donation of \$10 is requested. The Porch Dogs perform original songs written by members Suzanne Graves, guitar & fiddle; Jeff Siniscalchi, mandolin, harmonica & guitar; Ken Brown, dobro, dobro & weissenborn; and Jim Vogt, bass. Check them out: www.myspace.com/ruraldeliveryband

Sunday, May 25, Noon Red Cross Dog First Aid, 5 p.m., Red Cross First Aid For People

Sunday, June 1, 7 p.m., Ken Waldman House Concert

Tuesday, June 10, All day Seniors Luncheon

NEWS OF DENALI



Sign of Spring — the breakup

PHOTO BY SKIP MARTIN

Denali-area resident Skip Martin captured this scene near Cantwell recently. Summer will soon be here.

DENALI COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

Denali National Park Facilities Opening for the Season

The Denali Visitor Center opens on May 15 with daily hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The 2 p.m. sled dog demonstration begins on May 15. Shuttle bus begins its seasonal operation May 20. The new Eielson Visitor Center located at mile 66 of the park road is scheduled to open mid-June.

Teklanika River Campground will remain closed until at least July due to the overflow ice that inundated the campground during the winter.

Webmaster becomes medical doctor

Former Denali National Park webmaster Anne Adema recently completed her University of Washington Medical studies and requirements! It can officially be put in print: Anne Adema, M.D.

McKinley Park Community Center to expand playground

A project is underway to improve and expand the playground and recreation area at the McKinley

Community Center in Denali Park. The community is growing with lots of young people. The existing playground structure is showing its age and does not adequately serve the youth. This playground project was driven by a desire to see more recreation space for area children as they grow, from the preschool years into their teenage years.

The McKinley Park Community Center Playground Project was awarded a matching grant from the Denali Borough of over \$13,000. The grant is to fund the re-graveling of the existing playscape area and to build a basketball half-court. It is a 20 percent matching grant, so the community's obligation is to raise the remaining balance of more than \$3,000. Watch for fundraising activities. Thanks to this Denali Borough grant, groundbreaking should be early this summer!

Neighbors will gather for a staking party on Friday, May 16, when the recently melted out landscape on McKinley Community Center property is surveyed. Ideas will be drafted on the dry-erase board and then folks will gather on the

grounds behind the center to place stakes and pin flags on the ground. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. on the back porch of the Community Center.

Women's hockey team completes season, says goodbye to coach

The Healy Coal Queens completed their 2007-2008 hockey season by taking second place in their Division of the Labatt Blue USA Hockey Tournament in Anchorage. The team has said goodbye to seven year coach Dan Warthin, who has now relocated to Anchorage.

Cat rescued from remote stretch of Parks Highway

On Cinco de Mayo (May 5), at 10:30 p.m., Denali Education Center employee Zach Koss was riding his bicycle along a remote stretch of the Parks Highway. He stopped to have a drink of water and view the mountain scenery from the rest area located near mile 234. This rest area is within Denali National Park where there are no homes, businesses or other infrastructure for several miles in either direction. There was

no traffic and nobody in sight. "The sound of a meow kept getting closer and closer and out from the tundra came a domestic cat!" explained Zach. He took the young orange and white kitty home and named it Cinco. Zach will keep the cat until claimed. If you've lost your feline friend, call Zach at the Denali Education Center, 683-2597.

Calling all kids

Partnering with the National Park Service and the Denali Borough Community, the Denali Education Center hosts a weeklong day camp June 23-27 for first through eighth graders, providing an opportunity to discover Denali's important and diverse resources. Days filled with excursions to different locations within the park connect this vast wilderness and its future caretakers. Students from across the state are encouraged to check for enrollment availability. A limited number of scholarships are available and are made possible in part by a generous donation from the Usibelli Foundation.

Continued on Page 6

Entertainment Calendar

Live music and more at the Salmon Bake

May 15-Love Life Music Milo Matthews and Shawn Zuke
May 16&17-The Rebel Blues Band (blues with a funk addiction)
May 18-Guitar Hero
May 19-Open Mike upstairs, Denali Poker Tour downstairs
May 20-Live DJ
May 21-Jimmy and Woody, ½ baked
May 22-Matt Vrba Band, from Portland Oregon (Americana/concrete/country)
May 23-Gangly Moose
May 24-Ken Waldman & Friends
May 25-Guitar Hero
May 26- Open Mike upstairs, Denali Poker Tour downstairs
May 27-Live DJ

May 28- Jimmy and Woody, ½ baked
May 31-Nervis Rex
June 1-Guitar Hero
June 2- Open Mike upstairs, Denali Poker Tour downstairs
June 3- Live DJ
June 4-Sweating Honey (season pass holder only party)
June 5-Sweating Honey
June 6-The Mike Olson Band (country southern rock)
June 8- Guitar Hero
June 9- Open Mike upstairs, Denali Poker Tour downstairs
June 10- Live DJ
June 13-Seeds of Blessing (reggae)
June 14- Seeds of Blessing (reggae)
June 15- Guitar Hero

Communities that share ties

Denali news pages will help us keep in touch

I've moved from Talkeetna and I can't get back often enough.

I miss my Upper Mat-Su neighbors. I miss the extraordinary scenic and wild country, the cast of interesting and talented characters, and the charm of the small rural communities.

Love and marriage coaxed me north and I'm fortunate to have settled into a place with the same recognizable traits, McKinley Village, a community just south of the entrance to Denali National Park.

News coverage as submitted for this page, providing the Pioneer Press with updates from parts of the Denali Borough (Cantwell, Denali Park and Healy), will allow me to be in two places at once and keep one foot more than 100 miles back down the Parks Highway.

With all the community commonalities (tourism, extensive natural resources, state and national parks, the Alaska Railroad, and air traffic, just to name a few) an expanded base of information is beneficial to the readers of this newspaper. Additionally, as this arrangement ul-

VIEWES FROM THE NORTH

— By Bill Rodwell

timately flourishes, it will create a direct asset to advertisers looking to reach out and touch an expanded consumer base. I look forward to bringing stories of interest to the resident and visiting readers alike.

Our communities are widespread, well over 100 miles apart, yet the Pioneer Press can act as a showcase to answer the question that I am often asked on my trips to Talkeetna: "What's new in Denali?"

Contact Bill Rodwell with your ideas about potential stories or news events happening in the Denali area by e-mailing bill@akpioneerpress.com or calling 907-683-5338.

A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER:

We are thrilled to expand our coverage area to the communities around Denali National Park. Since February the ALASKA PIONEER PRESS has grown in content, but not in size. This edition marks our first 12-page edition, and that happened thanks to excellent work by our correspondents. But now we have to pay the printing bill. Please send us your story submissions, and if you like what you see, and you run a local business, please buy an ad to support our work providing your communities with local news.

John R. Moses, Editor & Publisher

DENALI COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

Continued from Page 5

Denali Backcountry Adventures, specifically for high school students, is a one of a kind opportunity promoting a higher level of understanding and appreciation of the subarctic ecosystem. These camp dates are July 14-17.

To learn more about scholarships or enrolling your child in these programs, contact Blair Schoenborn at the Denali Education Center (907) 683-2597 or check out www.denali.org.

New Post Office Hours

The Denali Post Office has changed to its summer hours. They are open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday. Don't forget, first class mail postage is up a penny from 41 to 42 cents.

Mountaineering Activity

Preparing for the deluge of climbers, Denali National Park helicopter manager Dave Kreutzer orchestrated 17 Beaver aircraft flights of mountain camp infrastructure, medical equipment, food, and jet fuel into the Kahiltna Basecamp.

The Lama helicopter began to shuttle some of that gear to the 14,200 level on May 1.

Rangers Mike Shain and Tucker Chenoweth went on an early season patrol of the Tokositna glacier and made a reconnaissance climb of Mt. Huntington.

Although they successfully ascended the difficult West Face couloir, the duo had to turn back just shy of the summit in order to safely rappel down to the base of the mountain in advance of a heavy snowstorm.

Rangers Kevin Wright and two volunteers returned to basecamp on Friday, May 2 after a patrol on the Sultana Ridge of Mt. Foraker to assess snow conditions and gain route information. They were turned around at a large crevasse that had formed in the middle of the mountain's most popular route. This is a new obstacle that presents a problematic challenge for climbers ascending this route.

(Thanks to Kris Fister of Denali National Park for the above mountaineering information.)

Gateway to Denali

Summer Recreation Guide

Where to go and what to do in the Mat-Su/Denali area

The ALASKA PIONEER PRESS announces its 2008 summer recreation guide, featuring unique local destinations and interesting places to visit between Wasilla and Denali.

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MORE NEWS OF DENALI

DR. JAYNE

From Page 1

ings and conferences. This September she plans to travel to Michigan for a course on canine massage and physical rehabilitation.

"I'm excited as it will help me do a better job when working with athletic animals post surgically or when there is a sports related injury," she said.

Hempstead, one of the organizers of the Cantwell Classic Sled Dog Race, has given several years of assistance to the Yukon Quest, but her favorite volunteer time is spent on the Junior Iditarod.

"I admire those kids and the phenomenal amount of time and energy that they put into mushing. At the busy ages of 14-17 years old, they are a special group of kids who care for and train dogs on top of school responsibilities. When many activities could be easier and keep them out of the cold, they are an enthusiastic group of kids, up to the task, and willing to learn," she said.

Anitra Winkler, a Cantwell teenager, ran a strong Junior Iditarod this past year with Dr. Jayne's dog team.

From house cats to sled dogs

Hempstead has served numerous communities throughout Alaska. During the 1990's, "Dr. Jayne" could be found practicing in Palmer, followed by five years in Soldotna.

Today she is farther north. The pets she treats come from households from the Denali State Park area all the way to Fairbanks. A vast majority of her patients are dogs, several are cats and her livestock work includes an occasional horse emergency.

Opening its mouth to say "baaaa," she has even cared for a pet goat.

Besides seeing many local family pets, tending to racing dogs has become a norm in her practice. Heartbeats of top athletic canines



The author's 10-year old house dog Lefty is just one mutt who hopes Dr. Jayne will continue to be available locally. She would hate to travel to Fairbanks to deal with that dog-gone nagging hind quarter cyst that seems to show up annually.

PHOTO BY BILL RODWELL

in the state flow through her stethoscope. Musher Jeff King of Denali Park, with an impressive trophy collection and a top contender in every race he enters, frequently takes advantage of this local veterinarian's practices.

"We use her often for spays, neuters, health certificates, diagnostics and surgeries during the season," said Jeff King's wife, Donna Gates-King, who trains border collies for agility.

In the past, the King family often drove dogs up to Fairbanks and back for various vet services.

Repeat Iditarod and Yukon Quest champion Lance Mackey recently recalled his trip with his team — all the way from Fairbanks — to see Dr. Jayne.

"I needed someone who had all day to spend with my team. In the past I had dealt with her in races and know her from the Kenai Peninsula. She is someone who will spend the necessary time with the dogs and I during the whole visit. I'm looking forward to working with her," Mackey said.

Like Mackey and King, many locals are looking forward to continuing their relationship with her as well.

The high cost of not having a local vet

Dog traffic (and dog poop left behind) along Denali Borough trails is enough de facto market research to indicate that a local veterinarian can keep very busy.

There is no doggy census in the Denali Borough. The human population estimate is just under 2000 residents. There are households with no dogs, several with one dog, and with resident musher kennels, there are households with as many as 75 dogs.

It is difficult to quantify the number of canines and certainly there are a number of household cats as well. Until Hempstead opened Cantwell Veterinary Services three years ago, the 150-mile-plus stretch of Parks Highway communities that she serves was without a permanent veterinarian.

Without a resident vet, here is a sample of how many pet owners in the Denali Borough would seek care:

Loading up the pet for an average 250 mile round trip to a Fairbanks veterinarian was the way that most households sought care. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, the average veterinary

expenditure per household for all pets was \$366 in 2006. Factor in spring 2008 current local gas prices, up to \$4.25 per gallon, over a 250 mile round trip, and pet care costs can become unaffordable.

For many years, bush veterinarian Dr. Eric Jayne (who has a coincidental last name in relation to Hempstead's first name) passed through the area with basic care and clinics for pet owners.

Folks would also seek help from experienced mushers. For example, when Gary Coy ran the Denali Park Kennels until approximately the year 2000, folks would seek his help in emergency situations.

In recent years, Denali National Park Kennels has paid numerous visits to Dr. Jayne. A Fort Richardson military vet in Fairbanks provides many services for their 30 dogs, yet emergency situations occur. They had a mother who had mastitis, an infection of the breast, and had to get medication for her. Puppies could not get milk and Dr. Jayne provided healing medication while bottles served for the interim.

Sometimes a dog's natural behavior causes them problems.

Mike and Caitlin Santos operate Wolf's Den Kennel, a Cantwell lot of 50 sled dogs. On occasion, some of them like to eat the odd shaped rock.

"They stop eating, drinking and pooping and have an arched back stance like a cat," Mike said.

A few years ago, before Cantwell Veterinarian Services' presence, Wolf's Den had two rock eating dogs at once. They made four trips to a Fairbanks vet in four and a half days.

Two weeks ago, a 1 inch by 2 1/2-inch stone went down the hatch of Patton, a loveable leader and big, powerful, smooth moving dog. The rock was not smooth moving and emergency surgery by Dr. Jayne was required to remove it.

Mike Santos called Hempstead early in the morning, dropped Patton off at the clinic and was able to go to work that day.

Bird Sightings in and Near Denali National Park

Bird activity is on the upswing in the Denali Area.

A few notable recent observations:

Juncos

Varied Thrushes

Robins

Swans

Tree Sparrows

Three Toed Woodpeckers

Mew Gulls

Bald Eagles

Golden Eagles

Merlin

Short Eared Owl

Nan Eagleson of Denali Park and her sister Katherine from New Mexico had a series of observations of particular note. On a recent trip into Denali National Park they witnessed a panorama of several layers of raptors.

Nan was soaring in excitement as she talked about the May 6th experience, "We watched a prolonged interaction between a Golden Eagle and a pair of Northern Harriers. The Harriers,

a male and a female in the midst of their aerial display of courtship with one another, performed bombing acrobatics and then thrashed upon the Golden Eagle. Meanwhile, a Gyrfalcon flew overhead and then a Merlin plopped down on a nearby spruce tree."

"The skies are alive! We are seeing a remarkable variety of birds right now", said Nan, who was heading off to Cordova to view shorebirds at the annual Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival.

Thanks to Nan and Jill, two of our local birders, for their recent observations.

The Fairview: It's 86, online and still making history

By Laura Wright
CORRESPONDENT

TALKEETNA — “The summer was spectacular, the winter was excruciating,” said Mike Lindgren, describing his first year as manager of the Historic Fairview Inn.

It is almost one year ago that the Fairview reopened after a few years of sporadic openings and closings. There was a collective sigh of relief among many townspeople when that happened.

The large, white building in the center of town is a draw for both tourists and locals. Live music, a great bar, a fabulous painting of a grizzly bear looking at Denali by longtime resident and artist Curt Wagner and just the right kind of vibe that makes you feel like you're in Alaska rubbing shoulders with climbers, trappers, miners...well at least climbers these days...makes it a must-see for visitors and a cozy place for locals.

Lindgren began running the Fairview for owner Philip Wiedner last May, pledging to keep the bar open year-round and to solve

some of the concerns about rowdiness and other issues. The bar went “non-smoking,” but there is a smoking area.

Lindgren hand-picked his staff of trusted local residents to be behind the bar and at the door. The place has between 12 and 14 year-round employees, albeit very part-time in the winter.

But, according to Lindgren, “there is almost no turnover.” A coveted bartender position can earn the lucky person a lot of money during the busy summer season.

Lindgren said that the bar managed to “climb out of the hole” financially last summer and went into the fall flush. But not quite flush enough to get through the long, quiet winter.

Come September business dropped off significantly and he was finding it difficult to make ends meet with the costs of insurance, fuel and alcohol bills. Lindgren toyed with closing several times, but didn't since one of the main reasons he took the job was to keep the Fairview open year-round.

Better times are almost here

with the summer season's return.

Lindgren feels that the business would be more profitable overall if the Fairview served food. The kitchen is non-existent and is currently serving as the “smoking dungeon” in the now smoke-free establishment.

The Fairview was run over the years by owner/operators. Costs such as Workman's Compensation Insurance and other forms of insurance were non-existent, or at least affordable, many years ago. Not so today, said Lindgren. Those costs — along with the rising costs of barley and hops — may push the price of beer to over \$4.

So, now that Lindgren is heading into his second summer, what's new for this season? Lindgren has lots of projects he would like to tackle, such as renovating the now-closed rooms above the bar and, perhaps years down the line, putting in a kitchen.

His first priority is to recover from the slow winter and make sure there is enough revenue to keep the place open next winter.

Lindgren was approached to do

a “hip-hop” night last year with a local DJ and admits to being against the idea, but finally giving it a try. After seeing the bar receipts, he was all for it. It is now sponsored by Pabst Blue Ribbon beer and has made PBR the most sold beer in the bar.

It also ended up being the most lucrative night as it did not require paying a live band.

“It's kind of like a dance club atmosphere,” says hip-hop DJ Cortni Ruth. It was Ruth's idea to have Pabst Blue Ribbon beer on tap because as she says, “that's my beer.” So now it is PBR Hip Hop night every Thursday this summer.

Jazz night with Rare Form will be every Sunday from 6 – 10 p.m., beginning in June. Smoking Loon Vineyards will be sponsoring Jazz Night, which translates to some signs and banners hanging around the bar but also to a new wine to choose from. Live bands will be there every Friday and Saturday.

To find out who is playing at the Fairview check out www.myspace.com/thefairviewinn or check the calendar section of this paper.

TARASKI

From Page 1

etna and Cache Creek country.

“You know,” he said, “I been real lucky; in all those years I never have a real bad accident. Oh yah, I get in a lot of jams, like once I nearly drown on Granite Creek (near Kahiltna River), but nothing awful. I guess I was too skookum to go that way. But oh, was I damn foolish sometimes. One time, around 1926, I am out on Black Creek and I see this big brown bear — as big as your Jeep. I had a .44 revolver on me and I decide, boy, I am going to get that bear. It was just behind this rise and I figure out my whole tracking plan. Well, I sneak up on him so carefully, and when I peek over this rise, that bear is gone! And that moment I think, now whoever heard of shooting a monster bear with a six-shooter! I think now how foolish I was.”

Missouri did well at trapping.

He said, “No fur buyer ever made a fool out of me on a sale.” He also made good pay mining for other men and, eventually, for himself. “When I was working on Falls Creek for Joe Anderson I made \$5 a day (50 cents an hour) room and board — a helluva lot in those days. When I worked my own lease claim on Cache Creek — well I'm still living off of it today.”

The epitome of a truly independent and self-sufficient man, Taraski was a loner who savored being out in raw wilderness. “I had good dogs and sled and that was the only transportation we used,” he said.

“I always liked being alone — no one around. In the summer the mountains were best: prospecting, looking around, no mosquitoes, a lot of life, green hills, and streams running. But in the winter the mountains are empty and the woods alive. So I stick around the woods and always trap in winter, and the chickadees and camp robbers are enough company.”



Adolph “Missouri” Taraski's house still stands in Downtown Talkeetna.

“But you're never really alone it seems,” he reflected. “Once I was prospecting the area between the Togasitna (the map spelling in those days) and Ruth Glaciers in the thirties. The rain was pouring down and so I stood under a big spruce tree. While I was standing there I noticed an eagle up in a big cottonwood. At the time there was a one dollar bounty on eagles, so I thought, well I'm going to make me a buck — a buck was a lot in those days. So I take a shot at the eagle and got him, but in a minute or so I hear another shot about five miles away. I guess it's someone answering me and it

makes me think, You're not alone, even out here.”

When Missouri spoke of his life nothing came out sounding spectacular or dramatic. Yet one sensed the daily drama of what had been a rugged life of quiet competition with the elements. He lived with the country on its terms and had relished doing so.

A couple of months before Missouri's death in 1970, Michael J. Fisher, a longtime Talkeetna resident, met Taraski on the street and inquired as to his health. “Ah, not feeling so hot,” was the reply. When Fisher asked what his specific ailment might be, Missouri said, “Hah, 1888, that's all the matter with me.”

— Roberta Sheldon is an accomplished author and historian and a longtime Talkeetna resident.

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Winging North

This column is about the wonderful world of birds. Anyone is welcome to contribute with a story, poem, or unusual sighting of our feathered friends. Send to: robinsong2004@yahoo.com

It's one of my favorite times of year; the summer birds are returning! Even though there's still a lot of snow on the ground and night time temps can dip below freezing, the birds know when it's time to come north. I listen for new voices in the area, and on April 13th I heard my first dark-eyed junco. I looked out the window, and there he was, all handsome in his slate-grey plumage and pink bill, standing on the snow in front of the porch. And now, a couple of weeks later, there are around a dozen picking amongst the brush and snow for insects and seeds.

On April 23rd I stepped out on the cabin porch and heard a sound that made my heart skip a beat: sandhill cranes were calling. They were so high in the blue sky that I couldn't see them for a long while. Then, finally, I spotted a tiny dot with wings flapping as it headed southwest. I am always amazed at how far the crane's calls carry across the vast sky. I heard more on the 30th, this time calling from above heavy cloud cover, which gave forth light snowfall in the afternoon. Winter wasn't done with us yet, apparently. That morning a friend in Trapper Creek called and when I answered he said excitedly, "Listen to this!" He held his phone out, but I couldn't quite distinguish what he was hearing. When he came back on he asked if I'd heard them...I said no. He said, "Cranes!" He told me many flocks of cranes had been flying over his cabin for the past few days and nights. They were returning to Saunder's fields, the crane sancturay just down the road from my friend's homestead.

When I was caretaker at the sanctuary in 2006, every day the cranes were there was exciting. They are always up to something, and whenever I heard them calling I'd drop what I was doing and grab the camera as I headed for the cabin door. They use the barley fields as a place to refuel before heading on west to nest in the Kuskokwim Delta area, and other places north and south of there. (These are primarily lesser sandhill cranes. The greater sandhill cranes head up a different flyway, usually going to Creamer's Field in Fairbanks before heading on farther



The varied thrush.

Bird Sight

— By Robin Song



north and west.)

I will be going to Saunder's soon, to see the cranes and the myriad of other bird species which also use the fields to refuel. Many species of ducks, songbirds and raptors will be there. Hopefully I will hit it on a sunny day, when Denali and the Alaska Range make a spectacular backdrop for photos.

Meanwhile, on April 26, I saw a bird at the ranch which made my heart skip a beat. As I was returning from the barn, it flew out from under the cabin porch and landed in a nearby bare-limbed tree. A beautiful male Varied Thrush. Against the snow, and in his courting finery, he was breathtaking indeed. The varied thrush usually arrive a little ahead of the American robins, and sure enough- the very next day the first robin was sighted in the Talkeetna area and reported on the radio. A few days later I heard one at the ranch, but didn't see it before it flew away. Soon there will be many robins here. Every year a few nest in the various ranch outbuildings. Sometimes in peculiar places. One nest I discovered on the engine of one of the old tractors. Another year a pair of robins built a nest on top of the engine of the sawmill, and using the mill was delayed until their four babies fledged. The strangest one I think was a nest built by a determined Robin on the axelrod of the ranch pickup truck. It was parked next to the last greenhouse, and the truck was being used, so each day the nest would be removed, hoping to discourage the birds from re-building and encouraging them to build in a more suitable place. They would have none of it, and would re-build the nest each time. Finally there was a sky-blue egg in the nest before it could be removed again. So . . . the nest was carefully placed on the ground and the truck moved. Boards were placed around the nest to protect it from predators. It worked. The parents successfully raised five young, even with dogs and people walking past as everyone went about their ranch duties. Instinct is mighty powerful magic.

While some birds — like robins — are bold, others can be quite secretive. I have yet to discover the nest of a ruby-crowned or gold-crowned kinglet, or of a chickadee or nuthatch. And even though white-crowned sparrows (along with several other species) nest on the ground, I've yet to discover a nest. On one dog-walk in a marsh I was startled by a female Wilson's snipe, who darted out in front of me, doing her best to draw me away from her nest by performing a "broken-wing" display and calling loudly. I searched in vain for the nest for a few minutes, finally walking towards the displaying female and "letting" her draw me away. When she felt I was far enough from the nest, she suddenly, magically "healed" herself, stopped calling and sprang into the air and flew back to her nest. In the tall grass, I couldn't see where she landed and — not wanting to disturb her any more I kept walking away.

On April 30, I also heard my first Ruby-

Crowned Kinglet. Like the Robin, heard it rather than saw it, and it flew away after a few minutes. Just a stop-over to wherever it was headed. And like the Robins, the kinglets will be here for the summer. This was just the first of many. On that day I heard a "mystery bird." Each year I have to renew my acquaintance with various birds, using my Alaska Bird Song tape and my trusty bird books to identify species. Some calls are easy to remember — like the robin and juncos — but others can be tricky, like this little "mystery" singer. It arrived on the 25th, the day before we received a heavy-duty snow storm, which left five inches of soggy snow behind. The redpolls, which had pretty much dispersed awhile before, returned *en mass*, a flock of around one hundred birds bustling at the feeding stations. I stood out on the porch, photographing birds, watching juncos hopping across the snow. Then I heard the songbird. It was in the forest east of the cabin. It sounded nearby and I plied the trees with my binoculars. Searching off and on for a few hours, I had to give up when it flew off to its night time roost. I still hadn't seen it. I so wanted a photo of it so I could figure out what it was.

My chance finally came on April 30th. I heard it singing in the forest by the Kingsbury's house. Grabbing binocs and camera, I walked down the drive and waited for a sign of the bird. I could hear it singing, but it kept itself well-covered with spruce boughs. Finally it flew across the drive, landing in amongst brush and hopping about on the snow in search of food. I caught enough glimpses of it to determine that it was a sparrow. I still couldn't get a good enough look to see which kind of sparrow. Cinnamon cap, white wing bars, grey chest and belly, brown and grey back and tail . . . hmmm. It flew to a spruce and again buried itself in amongst boughs. Frustrating! I could hear it clearly, but could not see it. Finally I spotted it, but could not get a good look. After it flew off farther into the forest I returned to the cabin to do some research. I played the bird call tape — definitely an American tree sparrow. In the bird book I read that it nests on the ground and is somewhat common in our area. A closely related species — the song sparrow — stays in the southeast, southwest, and south-coastal. It has streaks on its grey breast. It too nests on the ground, but prefers marine beaches, only occasionally veturing inland.

Of the nine species of sparrows to summer in Alaska, only the following are to be found in and around our area: American tree sparrow, Savannah sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln's sparrow, white and gold-crowned sparrow. Of these, the Fox and tree sparrows have the most intricate songs.

While the redpolls, magpies, nuthatches and other winter birds have dispersed to nest and start families, and so do not visit my feeders any more, the arrival of summer birds keeps us birders plenty busy. Soon the leaves will appear and color the landscape with a variety of greens. Birds, flowers, leaves, butterflies and bumblebees . . . ah yes. Life is good!



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Aviation Day field trip mixed fun with learning

Mix about 30 kids with a helicopter that runs on jet fuel and you have a case of spontaneous learning combustion at the Talkeetna State Airport. Pilot Eric Hood of Evergreen, the firm hired by the U.S. Park Service's Denali Rescue to pluck mountain climbers from harm, showed Susitna Valley Jr./Sr. High students around the "Denali Lama" high-altitude rescue helicopter during a May 8 field trip (RIGHT). Pilot Jonathan Kincaid — (BELOW, LEFT) explained the workings of a Beaver aircraft to freshman Mac Holten, who took his turn in the pilot's seat. Teacher Bruce Hamler mugged for the camera (BELOW, MIDDLE) aboard the "Pretty in Pink." The last stop was the Talkeetna Historical Museum, where Hamler, center, explained routes climbers use to scale Denali using the museum's detailed scale model as a guide.

PHOTOS BY JOHN R. MOSES



Houston Middle School kids pitch in to landscape senior center

By Gale Armstrong Moses
ALASKA PIONEER PRESS

HOUSTON — On Alaska's First Annual Agriculture Day, May 7, seventh-grade students from Houston Middle School pitched in to help the Mid-Valley Seniors.

VFW essay contest winners

TALKEETNA — A VFW essay contest with patriotic themes brought honors to two local students.

Eighth-grader Cébrina Delouise Tollefsen, who is home-schooled, and Susitna Valley High School senior Grant Hicks read their winning entries recently on KTNA Community Radio. Tollefsen also placed third statewide. To hear them read their essays, go to www.ktna.org.

Under guidance provided by Catherine Inman and George Taylor of the Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation District, 120 students helped with garden bed preparation work at the Senior Center's new Community Garden.

They lined three 20 x 150 foot beds, picked up more than 50 buckets of rocks and spread topsoil over one of the beds.

Students were taught about composting and soil health issues in their classrooms before they spent the day preparing the garden.

They also posted swallow boxes all over the Senior Center's grounds.

Eventually the Seniors plan to plant flowers and vegetables in the garden with support from the community.



Houston Middle School students cleared rocks and put up swallow boxes for the Mid-Valley Seniors.

'Sound and fury' signifying break-up



Within five minutes the Nenana river can change. Here are before and after photos of the Nenana River Canyon during this breakup May 10. A river surge carried thousands and thousands of tons of ice down river, picking up everything in its path. Several miles of ice flowed by during this 15 minute show.

PHOTOS BY BILL RODWELL

MOUNTAIN WATCH

The 2008 climbing season is in full swing. The National Park Service base camp was put in on April 25th at 7,200 feet on the Kahiltna glacier. Mountaineering rangers are patrolling the West Buttress route—the most popular route up the mountain.

Denali National Park and Preserve is now offering online registration for mountaineers attempting climbs of Mt. McKinley or Mt.

Foraker. The online registration and associated payment system is operated by Pay.Gov, a service of the United States Department of Treasury. Climbers wishing to register online should go to www.nps.gov/dena, and follow the Mountaineering Information link. The climbing fee is \$200

All climbers attempting Mt. McKinley or Mt. Foraker are required to pre-register with Denali National Park and Preserve at least 60 days in advance of a climb, a

regulation implemented in 1995 with the intention of preventing climbing-related accidents and altitude illnesses. Payment of a \$200 mountaineering special use fee is also required, which includes the \$25 deposit.

Climbing Activity as of 5/10/08

Number of Registered Climbers:

McKinley: 1,115 Foraker: 16

Climbers On Mountain

McKinley: 206 Foraker: 7

Completed Climbs **Mc K: 15 Foraker: 3**

Number of Summits: **Mc K: 5 Foraker 0**

Summit Percentage: **Mc K 33%**

Foraker: 0%

COUNCIL

From Page 3

be visible as one drives by. There is also a 50-foot buffer planned on Comsat Road.

Resident Ruth Wood is opposed to the proposed site. She noted that the Borough is ignoring the Special Land Use District, or SPUD, that requires a conditional use permit for light industrial use. She was skeptical that the borough would only develop two acres and had heard on a recent KTNA Radio program the intention for other uses by the borough for the parcel.

Linda Brenner, director of community and economic development, quoted from a Borough statement regarding the parcel when she said, "There is no other intention for this parcel other than the 2-acre development."

"I haven't heard a substantive reason not to build it on the proposed site," said Council member Rob Holt.

Despite this, the council voted to

not support the proposed site and to recommend the Borough look closer at using other land, including making the old landfill site work.

In other council news, the Playground Committee is nearing its project build dates of June 4 to June 8. The hope is to start dirt work on the site, just north of the Talkeetna Library, in the next couple of weeks. The committee has raised \$108,000 and has pledges of \$83,000.

Of that money, \$10,000 is for maintenance of the playground. Karey Larson, project coordinator, spoke to the council, saying that it sounds like a lot of money but the driveway and parking lot was originally going to come out of the library, so the construction of a separate driveway and parking lot added to the cost of the project. The dirt work is expected to cost between \$20,000 and \$28,000.

The next council meeting is Monday, June 2, 7 p.m. at Talkeetna Elementary. The Talkeetna Community Council will take a summer recess and there will not be a July meeting.

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