

Friday Night Lights Out

No football for Delta this year

Sports, D1



A whole lotta gold

Interior/Alaska B1

FAIRBANKS

Daily News-Miner



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Friday, August 3, 2012

School hit by theft

\$50,000 worth of items stolen from Tri-Valley

By SAM FRIEDMAN
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A thief or multiple thieves broke into the Tri-Valley School in Healy on Wednesday night and made off with dozens of laptops, an iPod and data drives from the school's server.

Alaska State Troopers investigating the case estimated the school lost \$50,000 in stolen items. They are asking anyone who might have information that could help the investigation to call 451-5100.

Reached after hours Thursday, Denali Borough School District Superintendent Jim Elliott said the thieves apparently did not go into the school with the intention of vandalizing the building. The only damage was to the hardware of six doors.

The first day of school still is scheduled for Aug. 22.

The Apple-brand laptops that were stolen were relatively new but had been in use for at least two years, Elliott said.

Tri-Valley School is a K-12 public school located off the Parks Highway. It has about 181 students.

Contact staff writer Sam Friedman at 459-7545.



Politics & religion

Will Romney's faith help him or hurt him in the election?
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Sourdough Jack sez:

"Reminds me of some of the work mama'd make me do growin' up. All us kids had to pitch in."

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A LITTLE HARD WORK ...



Eric Engman photos/News-Miner

Rodahn Evans, 14, center, rolls up a section of grass as he, Tyler Epperson, 15, left, and Christian Frerichs, 12, cut grass from a roadside lawn to make way for a flower bed. The friends were doing chores at Evans' house Thursday afternoon to earn money for the Tanana Valley State Fair, which starts today. The grass was being given to a neighbor to use.



From left, Rodahn Evans, Christian Frerichs and Tyler Epperson cut out a section of grass from the roadside lawn.

Group opposes road to Ambler

Opponents create website to voice proposal concerns

By DOROTHY CHOMICZ
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Opponents of a proposed road to Ambler have banded together to voice their opposition and to launch a website dedicated to highlighting their concerns with the project.

The road is part of Gov. Sean Parnell's Roads to Resources program, which seeks to provide access to areas such as the Ambler mineral district and the Umiat petroleum fields.

The Brooks Range Council opposes the use of state funds to pay for industrial roads for private industry, according to a Wednesday press release. The road to Ambler would be more than 220 miles long and cost the state nearly half a billion dollars. Mining the area would virtually guarantee the

Please see AMBLER, Page A8

ON THE WEB

The Brooks Range Council's website can be found at www.brooksrange.org.

Man to get 10 years for drug, sex crimes

Resident gave girl cocaine then had sex with her

By SAM FRIEDMAN
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A Fairbanks man will receive a 10-year jail sentence for giving a 14-year-old girl cocaine and having sex with her in 2010.

Under the terms of a plea agreement, Robert Lajiness, 40, pleaded guilty Thursday afternoon to one count of third-degree sexual assault — the crime of having sex with an incapacitated person — and one count of drugs misconduct, for possessing cocaine. Nine years of the 10-year sentence are for the sexual assault charge.

Because Lajiness already has two felony convictions, the usual sentence for these crimes would be 15 to 25 years.

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Men floating river save drowning bear

By DAN SCHWARTZ
Peninsula Clarion

KENAI — Kenai River guide Dustin Klepacki, 22, did not expect to perform a rescue mission when he, his father and their friend floated the upper river last weekend. They wanted to avoid all the

ON THE WEB

Check out a video of the rescue on YouTube: <http://youtu.be/TMFe0MbckwM>

combat fishing — just float rapids and fish trout downriver, he said. After a section of rapids, their sunny scene changed — a brown

bear cub was drowning in a whirlpool.

"So we're getting closer and closer, and this thing starts screaming," said Mike Polocz, Klepacki's father and Alaska H2O Pros owner. "And we're like, 'What do we do here? What do we do here?'"

Please see BEAR, Page A8

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