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Sports, C1



Traveling light Sundays.
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Grizzly kills man in Denali

Backpacker's death is the first fatal bear mauling in park history

By KRIS CAPPS
For the News-Miner

DENALI NATIONAL PARK — A grizzly bear killed a solo backpacker inside Denali National Park and Preserve on Friday, the first fatal mauling recorded in the park's 95-year history.

Alaska State Troopers killed the bear Saturday and recovered the

remains. The victim was identified as Richard White, 49, of San Diego. He had been in the backcountry for three nights when he was killed. He might have had experience hiking in other parts of Alaska, but it is not known if he had experience at Denali, according to the National Park Service.

The remains and the bear were found at what appeared to be a

historical grizzly cache site about three miles south of the Toklat River rest stop, where the braided river narrows and becomes a dense brushy area. A second, smaller bear that was in the immediate area fled after the first bear was shot.

There are no other registered backpackers in the immediate area. An emergency closure is in place, prohibiting all hiking and camping in Backcountry Unit 10 and adjacent areas, until further notice.

Although no park visitors were

known to be in the vicinity, park staff contacted three groups in adjacent areas and flew them by helicopter to the Toklat River rest stop.

Maureen McLaughlin with the National Park Service said date-stamped photos on the victim's camera show a period of eight minutes during which the bear and the victim drew increasingly closer to each other. Photos show the bear initially partway in the brush.

It is not known whether the bear or the backpacker closed that gap from what looked like an ini-

tial 50 yards. Hikers are advised to keep at least a quarter mile away from bears.

A necropsy on the bear troopers killed, performed Saturday night, and photos from the victim's camera, confirmed that the bear killed White.

The attack was discovered Friday afternoon when three day-hikers, including an off-duty park employee, found an abandoned backpack in an open area along the Toklat River.

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The long road

Military vehicle convoy celebrates Alaska Highway's 70th anniversary



Eric Engman photos/News-Miner

Lamar Rowland, of Alabama, looks in the side-view mirror of his 1970s M109-A4 2 1/2 ton Army truck as more than 80 historical military vehicles, owned by members of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association, stop in Delta Junction on Tuesday during a convoy up the Alaska Highway in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the highway's construction.

Bill Ward, left, of Delta Junction, goes over a road map with Mike O'Sullivan, originally from Australia, who is driving a 1944 Chevrolet C15A Blitz during the convoy.



By SAM FRIEDMAN
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Military vehicle enthusiasts this week briefly returned the town of Delta Junction to a time when vehicles were slower, music was brassier and the wartime highway was brand new.

A group of more than 200 participants was at the Delta Junction Fairgrounds on Tuesday in a convoy of historical military vehicles to celebrate the 70th

anniversary of the Alaska Highway.

As the group celebrated a successful ride from Dawson Creek, British Columbia, lots of comparisons were made between the experience of the highway construction crew and the contemporary historical re-enactors.

Seventy years after its construction, the Alaska Highway is paved, is several hundred miles shorter than

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Senate District C

Campaign ads, calls prompt complaint

By MATT BUXTON
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With the primary election Tuesday, Republican candidates for Senate District C are crying foul about attack ads and automated campaign calls.

Former Commissioner of Labor Click Bishop and former state senator and car dealership owner Ralph Seekins, and their supporters, have been the targets — and source of — numerous attacks on topics such as union support, voting records and party credentials.



INSIDE

GOP hopefuls for Senate District C use Facebook to connect with supporters. Page B1

Palmer resident David Eastman also is in the race, but most of the money, energy and attack ads involve the Bishop and Seekins campaigns.

Seekins served one term in the state Senate, from 2002-06, and his record has provided ammunition for union-backed political groups.

A new radio ad this weekend picks out Seekins' involvement in amending workers compensation laws. The ad comes from the group "Oh No, Not Ralph Again!," backed by Paul Austin and Caroline Williams, which has received union money and reminds voters that Seekins was defeated by a 20-point margin in 2006.

Seekins successfully championed a change in 2004 that decreased the liability of general contractors and project owners by closing off the option for injured workers to sue them in certain cases.

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Sourdough Jack sez:

"A convoy, eh? Ain't she a beautiful sight."

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Neil Armstrong: 1930-2012

America loses an icon

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Neil Armstrong was a soft-spoken engineer who became a global hero when as a steely nerved pilot he made "one giant leap for mankind" with a small step onto the moon. The modest man, who had people on Earth entranced and awed from almost a quarter-

million miles away, but credited others for the feat, died Saturday. He was 82.

Armstrong died following complications resulting from cardiovascular procedures, his family said in a statement. Armstrong had a bypass operation this month, according to NASA.

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Associated Press file photo

The family of Neil Armstrong, seen in this July 20, 1969, photo, says he died Saturday at age 82.



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