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Tourney under way

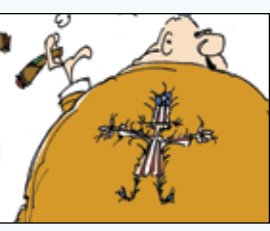
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New highway patrol moves base to Valley

BY ANDREW WELLNER
Frontiersman

WASILLA — It wasn't exactly the toughest goal to accomplish, but the Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol is now headquartered in the Valley.

Reached Wednesday at the Mat-Su West trooper post just up from the Parks Highway on Pittman Road, Capt. Hans Brinke said he hasn't quite settled into his new digs yet.

"I've got all my stuff moved out from Anchorage," he said.

Brinke, a lieutenant and an administrative assistant are all now working in the Valley. That's all it took to move headquarters out here. Well, not quite all. As office space goes, he's currently borrowing an office from Lt. Pat Davis who's out of town this month. Brinke's office is being constructed now.

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ROBERT DeBERRY/Frontiersman

Capt. Hans Brinke stands in front of the Mat-Su West trooper post, which is also the new headquarters for the Valley's Bureau of Highway Patrol. Brinke is commander of the statewide bureau, the Valley contingent of which contains troopers and officers from the Palmer and Wasilla police departments.

Veto stands

Borough assembly upholds Colberg's vote against \$100,000 grant

BY ANDREW WELLNER
Frontiersman

PALMER — Borough Mayor Talis Colberg is now 1-1 in his record of vetoing ordinances.

In a 4-2 vote at the Mat-Su Borough Assembly's regular meeting Tuesday, the body declined to override the mayor's veto of a resolution that would have granted \$100,000 to the Renewable Energy Alaska Project for an energy conservation campaign.

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RULING THE ROOST



ROBERT DeBERRY/Frontiersman

A rooster is perched on a post inside the chicken coop of Cooperative Extension Service agriculture and horticulture agent Steve Brown. Brown has four hens that produce eggs, but says he keeps the rooster for atmosphere. See story and more photos page A10.

Wasilla eyes new train station site

BY TODD L. DISHER
Frontiersman

WASILLA — With the help of a few hefty grants, the city will begin work on a new train station officials here hope will become the transportation hub of Wasilla's future.

The proposed new station would be north of the Wasilla airport. It will be accessed from the north past the Curtis D. Menard Sports Center and from the south once the Mack Road extension is complete, Wasilla Public Works Director Archie Giddings said.

The idea, he said, is to make a more convenient stop for passengers and drivers.

"Where it stops now, at Knik-Goose Bay and the Parks Highway, it blocks the road," Giddings said. "We're trying to plan ahead."

What he is referring to is the possibility of a commuter train between Anchorage and the Valley. The new location will allow for the parking needed for the daily travelers and the train will not lock up Knik-Goose Bay Road.

But even if commuter rail service is still in the conceptual stage, the new station will serve as a Share-A-Ride location and possibly a MASCOT bus stop in the mean-

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Local pet rescue gets lion's share of PFD donations

BY TODD L. DISHER
Frontiersman

WHERE THE MONEY WENT

The Pick. Click. Give. campaign allowed recipients of the PFD to donate to a number of non-profit groups around the state. Other local groups receiving money include:

- Chugiak Children's Services - \$800
- Palmer Senior Citizens Service - \$675
- AK Family Services - \$200
- UAA-Mat-Su College - \$75
- Matanuska Valley Sportsmen - \$50
- HeartReach Pregnancy Center - \$900
- AK Addiction Rehab Services - \$675
- Mat-Su Valley Interfaith Hospitality network - \$600
- United Way of Mat-Su Borough - \$575
- Matanuska Community Health Care - \$425
- Wasilla Area Seniors - \$200
- AK Assoc. Of Conservation Districts - \$175
- Valley Residential Services - \$100
- Mid-Valley Seniors Inc. - \$50
- Museum of AK Transportation & Industry - \$25

WASILLA — The first year of the electronic Permanent Fund Dividend donation program proved a downfall for one Valley organization.

Alaska Dog and Puppy Rescue received a check for \$15,775 courtesy of the Pick. Click. Give. campaign.

"We were ecstatic. It's just amazing," ADPR President Julia Durand said. "That is probably a quarter of what the medical bills are each year. It can be used in so many ways, it's just unbelievable."

ADPR formed in 2003 to rescue dogs from the Mat-Su Animal Shelter, Houston Animal Control and unwanted litters of puppies from the public.

Without a kennel facility, the group relies on foster parents to house the dogs. On Saturdays, the group hosts adoption clinics around Anchorage and the Valley. Its website claims the group has housed more than 1,000 dogs every year since inception.

The group hosts monthly, low-cost spaying and neutering clinics. A representative

makes frequent trips to local classrooms to educate students on being responsible pet owners, Durand said.

Last year alone, the group spent \$15,000 on dog food, \$9,100 on microchips and \$11,000 on rescue fees, its website claims.

As a 501(c)(3) organization, ADPR relies on grants and donations for its budget,

Durand said. The year-to-date total donations is right around \$15,000, she said.

"The Pick. Click. Give. check almost doubled the money we have raised so far," Durand said.

Durand said the money was unexpected. The group did not active campaigning nor did it

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