



## INSIDE

### ALASKA

■ An unidentified man made what appeared to be a bogus distress call Wednesday, taking the Coast Guard, Alaska State Troopers and other law enforcement agencies on a long, costly hunt around Kachemak Bay.  
**A3**

### LOCAL

■ Pro wrestling returns to Fairbanks for the first time in 11 years on Saturday with World Wrestling Entertainment's Smackdown.  
**B1**

### NATION

■ The Democratic field for the White House swelled to four Thursday as Sen. John Edwards announced his candidacy for president in 2004.  
**A5**

### SPORTS

■ Heisman Trophy winner Carson Palmer dominated his duel with Heisman runner-up Brad Banks, throwing for 303 yards and a touchdown to help No. 5 Southern California beat No. 3 Iowa 38-17.  
**C3**

### OUTDOORS



■ Moose struggle to maintain their weight in winter, mostly munching on twigs from birch, poplar and willow.  
**C1**



"I'm studying my navel. Do you think I need a government OK?"

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# Linking complex chain of events



**WILLIAM HOLMES**  
Accused arsonist  
from Fairbanks

**JASON WALLACE**  
Accused in Ester  
killing

**HAKHEEM BRYANT**  
Fairbanks killed  
in California

**CHRIS MARTIN**  
Killed in  
California



Crews load a homicide victim in Northern California.

Courtesy KING-TV

Here is a timeline of key events, as described in Alaska and Washington state court documents, in the killings of two people in California and one in Alaska. Names are from court documents:

**Dec. 22**—Hakeem Bryant and William Holmes, both of Fairbanks, fly from Anchorage to Seattle. Christopher Martin of Olympia, Wash., picks them up and drives them to his apartment in Olympia.

**Dec. 23**—Krista Robinson, Martin's former girlfriend, takes Martin, Bryant and a third man to a Tacoma car rental agency and rents a car. Bryant is listed as a second driver.

**Morning of Dec. 24**—Bryant and Holmes leave the Tacoma workplace of Mishone Mahone-Wallace, the wife of Jason Wallace.

**Approximately 1 p.m., Dec. 24**—Martin, Bryant and Holmes leave the Olympia apartment in the rental car, reportedly heading to California with \$80,000 for a drug transaction.

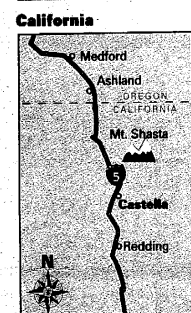
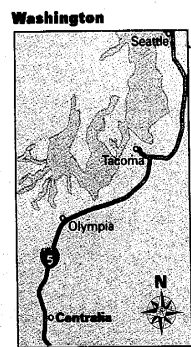
**Approximately 8:30 p.m., Dec. 24**—Bodies of Bryant and Martin are found alongside Interstate 5 near Castella, about 30 miles north of Redding in Northern California. Both had been shot in the head.

**Early Dec. 25**—Holmes calls Mahone-Wallace to ask her to pick him up at an I-5 off-ramp in Washington state. She brings Holmes back to her apartment.

**7:44 a.m., Dec. 25**—Police in Centralia, Wash., respond to a report of a burning vehicle. The car is found to be the one rented by Krista Robinson in Tacoma.

**Approximately 8 a.m., Dec. 27**—Alaska State Troopers and fire units respond to an apartment fire off the Parks Highway in Ester. The body of Teasca Bacote is found in a bedroom. Authorities say she was killed prior to the fire but that she was seen alive at 4 a.m.

**Approximately 11:15 a.m., Dec. 27**—Troopers find Jason Wallace, wanted in another crime that occurred about four hours earlier, at Fairbanks International Airport.



**Morning of Dec. 29**—Holmes is arrested in Tacoma after leaving the Wallaces' apartment. He is charged with arson for the burning of the rental car. Authorities seize several items from the car, including a large amount of cash.

**Dec. 31**—Wallace tells troopers he killed Bacote and set fire to the apartment.

**Jan. 1**—Wallace is charged with murder and arson.

## Investigators still probing Ester ties to Calif. shootings

By DAN RICE

Staff Writer

A Tacoma, Wash., man was arraigned in Fairbanks court Thursday on murder and arson charges in the killing of a woman in Ester last week. Meanwhile, investigators in California continued searching for clues in a Christmas Eve double homicide that authorities have linked to the Fairbanks case.

Jason T. Wallace, 22, who Alaska State Troopers say has admitted killing 25-year-old Teasca Bacote with a hammer in her apartment a week ago and trying to burn the residence to destroy the evidence, was assigned \$1 million bail.

Wallace, who was represented by a public defender at his arraignment, is the first person to be charged with murder in a complex case involving three deaths and connections to three states.

Few matters were addressed during Wallace's hearing, and his case will now likely go before a grand jury to decide if there's enough evidence to issue an indictment or a formal charging document. If indicted, Wallace would then be arraigned again in front of a Superior Court judge and would have to enter a plea to the charges.

His hearing Thursday came as investigators in California and Washington continued trying to determine what led to the deaths of Hakeem Bryant, 25, of Fairbanks and Christopher Martin, 27, of Olympia, Wash. The men's bodies were found Christmas Eve a half-mile apart off Interstate 5 near the Northern California town of Castella, about 30 miles from Redding.

The Shasta County Sheriff's Office is investigating several people as possible suspects in the two deaths, said Capt. William Cox. He said drugs were likely the motive behind the killings.

"We have made no arrests at this time," Cox said. "We're focusing in on some individuals. Nobody's been eliminated."

William Z. Holmes, 22, of Fairbanks is one of the people authorities are investigating as a possible suspect, Cox said. Holmes is being held in Lewis County Jail in Washington state on an arson charge. According to a court document filed in his case, Holmes is charged with burning the rental car that he, Martin and Bryant used to drive from Olympia to California on Christmas Eve to make a drug deal.

Holmes was arrested in Tacoma driving a 1993 Ford Tempo. The car's contents, which are in the Shasta County sheriff's custody, could hold clues to the killings.

Don Blair, the Lewis County deputy prosecutor assigned to Holmes' case, said Thursday a large amount of money was found in the car, along with clothing and several other items. He said California

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## Dahlstrom picked to fill Murkowski House seat

By MIKE CHAMBERS  
Associated Press Writer

JUNEAU—Gov. Frank Murkowski chose Nancy Dahlstrom to fill the term of his daughter, Lisa, in the Alaska Legislature on Thursday.

Dahlstrom, a Republican from Eagle River, narrowly lost to Lisa Murkowski in the primary for the two-year seat.

The governor said Dahlstrom's showing in the August primary, in which she lost by only 56 votes to his daughter, shows that Dahlstrom has the support of her district.

"By having finished a close sec-

ond to Lisa Murkowski in her primary fight, Nancy Dahlstrom has earned this selection," Murkowski said.

Dahlstrom lost the primary by only 56 votes after running an aggressive campaign as an anti-tax fiscal conservative against the more moderate incumbent Lisa Murkowski.

"I feel very humbled to be given the opportunity to serve the people of District 18," Dahlstrom said via a telephone interview Thursday.

Dahlstrom said her immediate plans are to hire a staff and prepare for the Jan. 21 start of the legislative session. But she said one

pressing issue that she talked to Gov. Murkowski about is finding a resolution to the state's subsistence dilemma and addressing education issues.

The federal government currently oversees subsistence management within two-thirds of the state due to a conflict between state and federal law.

"Subsistence is the issue that we need to find solutions to," Dahlstrom said.

Lisa Murkowski was entering her third House term and had been chosen by House Republicans as majority leader when her father

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## Terrorism fears could hinder science

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON—The Massachusetts Institute of Technology walked away from a \$494,000 study because the government wanted to restrict participation by foreign students. Other universities are talking at demands that the government check research in the name of national security before scientists can publish or even talk about it.

While most federal financing still comes free from such strings, attempts to impose restrictions on research have increased since Sept. 11, 2001, and of fear that some information could help terrorists.

University leaders worry the trend could jeopardize the nation's traditions of open science—talking and writing about findings so they can be verified and built upon by others.

"When the Soviet Union tried to keep its research secret during the Cold War, their whole scientific apparatus atrophied," said former Air Force Secretary Sholto Whitwell, now an economics professor at MIT.

"The stakes are very high in working this out," said Whitwell, who led a faculty committee that

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**ROCKY ROAD?**—President Bush leads the White House media pool over rocks as he gives a tour of his Prairie Chapel Ranch to journalists Thursday in Crawford, Texas, where Bush discussed his economic-stimulus package.

## Bush: Economic plan not 'class warfare'

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON—President Bush said Thursday the economic-stimulus plan he will detail next week will focus on jobs and the unemployed, aimed at benefiting the overall economy and not just wealthy Americans.

Two of the major elements of the plan are expected to be a reduction in taxes on stock dividends and an acceleration in the cuts in personal income tax rates included in the 2001 tax act—items that would benefit higher

income taxpayers the most. Bush, however, rejected criticism that his proposals would be weighted toward the well-to-do.

"Some would like to turn this into class warfare. That's not how I think," he said.

The plan, which the president will unveil in a speech in Chicago on Tuesday, is certain to face renewed attacks from Democrats, who contend that Bush's \$1.35 trillion, 10-year tax cut was slanted to benefit the wealthy.

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