

Pre 2000

Tours spotlight cramped police station

Some shortcuts possible dangers

By BRIAN O'DONOGHUE
Staff Writer

The city reportedly isn't happy about the Fairbanks Police Department's preference for drying bloody clothes in bags strung inside a basement utility room, but it's a significant improvement over the method once used.

"We used to let the blood drip right on the floor," recalled Assistant Chief James Welch.

For those who work inside Fairbanks aging police headquarters, Welch said, the department's pump room solution to containing blood-born pathogens is "probably the most egregious" of the building's many structural deficiencies. But the bizarre use made of the small utility room—which also contains a sloping wall of sand bags dating back to the days when the nearby evidence locker served as a shooting range—hardly rates mention on the list of public hazards and law enforcement detriments of the city's cramped cop shop.

On Tuesday city voters will consider a \$7 million bond proposal for construction of a new police station, which emerged as the top recommendation of a recent task force weighing the city's capital priorities. Given the stakes, the News-Miner took part in the department's open house Saturday for a behind-the-scenes tour.

The failings of the current building, which dates back to the 1962, start with the location of the entrance on an out-of-the-way alley connecting 5th and 6th avenues. "It's hard for people to find," said Lt. Ray Miller, observing that the city's utility sale took away the one good landmark for directions. "You can't even say the alley is next to MUS anymore."

Upon entering the building, prisoners, victims, people making complaints, seeking police reports on accidents or, perhaps, summoned to collect recovered property—all transit the same narrow corridor, passing through a locked door controlled by department receptionists who screen visitors through safety glass.

That shared access creates a security problem, endangering both police and the public, Welch said.

"We can't separate the vic-



Eric Engman/News-Miner

OPEN HOUSE—Above, Lorna Weese, fire arms instructor and dispatcher at the Fairbanks Police Department, helps Samatha McKinney, 8, hit the target with a Ruger .357 Magnum handgun equipped to be used with the BeamHit Laser Shooting System at the downtown precinct Saturday. At right, the presence of an outlet fan makes an old utility room the only available place at the police headquarters for drying bags of bloody evidence.

tims and their families from coming in contact with suspects, the media and the general public," he said. "Funneling people through those common work areas allows room for injury if someone breaks free."

The entrance corridor leads into a small room, where police logs are kept in a binder for public inspection and officers often meet with individuals to take complaints. Inside, a doorway provides access to a larger room, which serves as the building's central hub, providing access to staircases leading up and down, the station's holding cell, offices used by Welch and other supervisors and the single room available to officers writing reports.

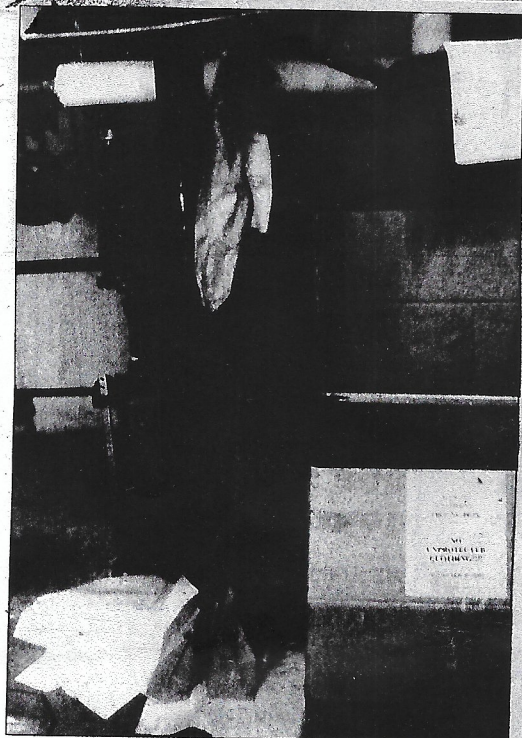
In addition to serving as a central hallway, the hub room is outfitted with the station's breath analysis machine and a video taping system. Individuals suspected of intoxication are generally detained in the hub

for the 15-minute waiting period before a blood-alcohol test is conducted. That can be a long 15 minutes when a boisterous drunk becomes impatient in the big open room.

Police work is often disturbed by intoxicated ranters. "You've got firemen trying to sleep upstairs," added Miller. "It disturbs their rest."

The capacity of the station's temporary holding area—a fence-lined room fronting Sixth Avenue—maxes out at about four, Miller said. When the need arises to detain more suspects the first option is handcuffing individuals to the line of rings, affixed medieval style, in the station's two-bay garage. But that's also the station's only area for forensic investigations on vehicles, assuming wreckers manage to deliver the cars or trucks suspected of containing evidence through the station's

See POLICE, Page B-2



Fish rec Person back o

By TIM MOW
Staff Writer

There is a Yukon River salmon run.

Thanks to silver salmon fishing in the reopen Monday schedule of the week.

Citing a chum salmon ogists had cl personal use f

The fall salmon runs arriving first, nearly over, s gist Keith Sc the personal won't pose a escapement.

Schultz sai run appears Though the population est run, an avera bers about according to silver run cou fishermen mal chum run.

"All the i river are that able surplus of

Schultz sai about a week l the last puls should be past

"We'd like t fish through fishing area b up," he said.

Only a few up at the Delta outside Delta, the largest bre Yukon and Ta salmon.

The Delta C only coho spaw itored by Fish state has an ar goal of 9,000 f Clearwater. La coho were coun Clearwater.

"Everything coho run than Schultz.

Correction

■ School Board incumbent candidate Jennifer Schmidt's response to the question, "Are you satisfied with the current administration? Why or why not?" was inadvertently omitted from last Sunday's Municipal Election section. Her response follows:

"The current administration needs to build on the strengths of our district by working with the school communities. Some of the decisions of the past year should have been better planned and understood, so that there

would be more support both now and in the future. Long-standing improvement and positive change takes the decision and commitment of more than one person."

■ Also in Sunday's election section, borough Assembly candidate Dae Miles' web site was omitted. The address is www.alaskadae.com/wealth.

The News-Miner strives to correct inaccuracies in a timely manner. To report an error in the newspaper, call the newsroom at 459-7572 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, fax 452-7917, or e-mail newsroom@newsminer.com.

Panel to recommend North Pole salary cha

By MARMIAN L. GRIMES
Staff Writer

Six months after its inception, the North Pole salary study committee will return to the City Council next week with several suggested changes to the city's pay scales.

Committee chairwoman Diane Williams will present five recommendations from the committee at Monday's City Council meeting:

■ The pay scale should be stretched out to cover 20 years rather than ending at the 10-year mark, as it does currently.

■ The City Council should consider, on a yearly basis, whether to give cost-of-living increases to employees.

■ The city should re-examine its health in-

surance benefits, and consider paying all or part of the premium for coverage for employees' family members.

■ The city should look at a way to compensate employees for education and certification in their fields.

■ The city should pay shift differentials to employees who work swing and graveyard shifts.

The recommendations came after Thursday presentations by several city employees regarding the pay scale.

Unresolved is what the city should do with its two-tier pay scale, and how much each employee should be making. City employees are currently paid under one of two pay scales.

Those hired prior to Aug. 1 under one—schedule A—and after that date are paid under schedule B.

Employees at the meeting two scales should be merged.

Fire department representatives suggested that a moved onto salary schedule be stretched out to cover 20 years who are making the maximum scale would have their pay frozen of their time at the city, he whose current pay rates do years of service on the new

Y2K or not, don't forget to take proper winter precautions

THE COMING OF A.D. 2000 has been discussed A.D. nau-

If we'd stop to think about the vulnerability of the tiny wires

lying in the slush last Sunday putting snow tires on the van

■ Keep copies of all financial

We opened him. He will be we only knew him period of time. It is meet and let a family go. But Jack is at peace in no more pain. Jack and his wife, Blanca, put their marriage and learned to live with the realization that Jack was sick. Blanca stood by Jack throughout his sickness and his passing. They forgave each other for the mistakes in their lives. Jack lived his life to the Lord and went to church every Sunday until he passed away. Jack was in the United States

Allstate

It could be a best seller. But it's free.

To get your free catalog, write:
**Consumer Information Center
Dept. B257, Pueblo, CO 81009**

Don't pay sticker price for car insurance.

to be.

and exclusions may apply.

WINTER TOYS

DOOF THAN EVER BEFORE!

ANKS

ER

anks' second annual

er trade show to help

u enjoy winter!

businesses featuring...

IES & SPORTING GOODS...

s to arctic gear!

S & SERVICES...

ication to how to quilt!

ow!

E

o audio systems!

RE

hot tubs!

With

ADMISSION

hance to win a

E FOOTBALL

EEKEND

R TWO to Seattle, accommodations at

ifth Avenue, AND two tickets to the

has been discussed A.D. nau-

Friday, Oct. 1
4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 2
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 3
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission \$3
Kids 12 & Under FREE

Call

Karen Cole

SOURDOUGH

have been driving at an.

Police cited Jan Thies for driving with a revoked license after she plowed through the plate glass window in a 1978 Chevy pickup about 2:45 p.m. Saturday. Thies told officer Jon Terland that her brakes failed as she was pulling in to check her mail, but the Fairbanks patrolman later said he didn't detect any mechanical problems with the vehicle.

No one was injured in the incident, which caused over \$5,000 in damage, police said.

Driver hospitalized

A woman remains hospitalized after rear-ending a loaded fuel transport near Mile 3 Richardson Highway late Friday.

Frank Duxbury, a truck driver for CEM Leasing, said he was just pulling away after making a required stop for a highway railroad crossing when he heard the screech of brakes behind his loaded semi-trailer. "I stomped on the gas, but it did no good," he said.

POLICE: Headquarters

Continued from Page B-1

narrow garage doors.

While floor cuff restraints are also available in either of the two basement interview rooms, he said, maneuvering a hostile or intoxicated prisoner down the tight staircase can prove tricky. The options all carry drawbacks when police contend with groups of suspects.

"In the situation of, say, a large fight with two parties and multiple suspects," the lieutenant said, "we don't have any place to separate these individuals until we can tell what we have."

The layout of the building poses further security problems of a legal nature.

Citizens seeking records or property pass by both the bank of standing lockers used for temporary storage of evidence, as well as the old Hotpoint refrigerator housing perishable evidence. Archived records are also stored in an open room accessible from the same hallway. While the department's documentation of evi-

Nila Mae Noble, the driver of the Ford Fiesta that slammed into the rear of the semi Friday about 10:40 p.m., was taken to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. As of Saturday night, she was reported in stable in the hospital's intensive care unit.

Disturbance

A disturbance reported Friday, about 5:30 p.m., at a Lakeview Terrace residence led Alaska State Troopers to arrest Heather C. Sandford, 28, on three counts of domestic assault, and additional charges of criminal mischief, criminal trespass and driving while intoxicated.

DWI

A traffic stop near Carrs Foodland resulted in the arrest of Charles Kingsland, 37, for driving while intoxicated shortly before 4 a.m. Saturday, police said.

Police arrested Everett L. Herbert, 27, on Saturday for driving while intoxicated, driving with a suspended license, refusing to submit to a blood-alcohol test and

Benjamin Goodson, 27, for driving while intoxicated, police said.

Assault

Sung H. Chun, 50, was arrested for domestic assault Saturday, shortly after 3:30 a.m., after police received a report of a man fighting with a woman near the Korean Restaurant.

Trespass

Richard Nicholai, 25, of Fairbanks, was arrested Friday for criminal trespass and for being drunk on a licensed premises after troopers were summoned to deal with a man who wouldn't leave Pike's Landing.

Stray pistol

Friday evening, about 6 p.m., police received a 22-caliber pistol found by a Sunset Drive resident.

Violation

Investigating a 911 hang-up call received Friday, about 2 a.m., troopers arrested Deanne M. Lindstrom, 38, of Fairbanks for violating her conditions of release.

—By Brian O'Donoghue

Monday

Cancelled—Alaska

sional Engineers mo special 'design profes planned for Thursday.

40 Plus Singles

Mail to form a car pool for Monday Night Fun are welcome. For more 488-7594.

Noon—International

munication-icebreak weekly at the Royal Fo communication and p Information: 465-6311.

Noon—Chamber o

of Directors meeting i banks Princess Hotel. 1105.

Noon—College Ro

at Fairbanks Princess Hank Hove and Rep. Ji cuss the proposed F authority. Information: 452-1-3 p.m.—**Dae M**

sembly Seat D will forum on the Alaska thorty vote in the Noel torium. The forum will public policy of officer sources. Panelists incl Hove, Nilo Koponen, Richard Fineberg and welcome to attend. Infor 2 p.m.—**Fairbanks C**

tors Bureau Visitor Infor ship and Communicat will meet at the FCBV fices, Key Bank Center, formation: Karen Lundqu 227.

5:30 p.m.—**Registrat**

paration classes will b Learning Programs of A 122 First Ave. Classes Nov. 2. Information: 452-4-6 p.m.—**Sweet's P**

Toasters meets ex Wendy's Restaurant (low port Way. Meeting obje fence speaking, listening skills. Everyone is welco required. Information: 4-4788.

6-10 p.m.—**Free Hom**

for potential homebuye rented in Room 306 of th Building. The eight-hou thrines Tuesday, 6-10 p may save up to \$250 on A discount on FHA's mort (FHA's discount applies c homebuyers. To register, 2921 or (907) 330-8437.

7-8:30 p.m.—**Head l**

port Group for Surviv press Alaska, Suite 3, 355 Family members are welc tation is needed, call 479-7-7-8:30 p.m.—**"Growin**

lets in Fairbanks," a clas Georgian Botanical Gar varieties, soil, water, fec propagation techniques. B share. Class will also dic local African Violet Societ, 1508-1046.

7-9 p.m.—**Fairbanks Bay**

ence, a support group for with divorce, death or sep every Monday evening in th Sacred Heart Cathedral, Air Peger Road. Free to all, inf 488-6863, Joyce 488-6863 or 2826.

7:30 p.m.—**Pioneer**

No. 4 and Auxiliary No. 8 take place at Pioneer Hall. The Kitty Hensley House qu draw. Information: 474-067-**The following TOPS** at Mondays: North Pole chap 6:30 p.m. meeting at 7 p.m. Catholic Church, 400-6781 chapter, weigh-in at 10:45 a at 11 a.m., Clear-Ancient (907) 582-7373; No. AK 42 6:30 p.m. meeting at 7 Center, Room 505, 479-3519.

Tuesday

Cancelled—Chamber of

Best Attendance a past three years

GUY SATT

Borough Assembly

Buying

Managing