

State blotter:

A Kodiak man was convicted of arson for burning down his own house after an argument with his wife. He is now seeking a lenient sentence before a three-judge panel on the grounds the principle victim of his crime was himself.

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A Dillingham man received the mandatory minimum of one year for assaulting a local police officer with a splitting maul.

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The state agreed to pay \$7,500 to settle matters were simultaneously before the Supreme Court, Superior Court and an administrative hearing officer. The matters arose out of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board's actions to keep a company from opening a bar in a Fairbanks neighborhood that was 100 percent opposed to it. The board initially approved the application in the absence of expressed community opposition.

Although "notice" was provided, it wasn't designed to alert the community to the application. The notice was a sign posted on the building and screened by brush and the property was posted "no trespassing."

As part of the settlement, the bar cannot be operated at the contested location.

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An Anchorage man accepted \$20,000 in cash from a woman as earnest money deposit on a house he was to build for her. However, he failed to deposit the money in a broker's trust account, he did not obtain the property, did not build the

house, and misrepresented he had a contractor's license. When caught, he agreed to repay his former client and to have his real estate license suspended with revocation the penalty for violating the terms of the agreement. But he did violate the terms, and his real estate license was revoked.

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An Ekwok man with a lengthy misdemeanor records was sentenced to 120 days with 90 suspended on a domestic assault charge. He was allowed to return to his village and told to report to jail on a later date. The day he returned to his village, he got drunk and promptly assaulted the same victim. He was sent back to jail, with what could be a new record time established for violations of probation.

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DWI arrests in Fairbanks this fall nearly doubled over last year's filings. The worst incident involved an intoxicated driver from Seattle who rammed four police cars in a high-speed chase before he was apprehended. His "Rambo" escapade earned him a felony assault indictment for dragging a trooper who was holding on to the suspect's car door. He faces a number of other counts for ramming and terrorizing drivers on Airport Road. The culprit was convicted on similar charges in Seattle arising out of another high-speed police chase.

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A Kodiak man was convicted of burglarizing two canneries. He entered the first cannery through a trap door and slide used for fish and known only by employees. Once inside, he was startled by the night supervisor, who recognized him as a former employee. He was released on bail against the state's recommendation and 10 days later, he was caught in another cannery by an employee who lived on the premises.