

# Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman

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A pitchers' duel turns into a blowout for Road Warriors.

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### One big rig

Local driller builds unique vehicle.

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### Art on the lake

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## Weather

HIGH: 70s  
LOW: 45

Partly sunny.  
Highs in the upper  
60s to mid 70s.

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## Frontiersman Tweets.



[http://twitter.com/matsu\\_news](http://twitter.com/matsu_news)  
<http://twitter.com/matsusports>



# Lake parties irk neighbors

## Acting Houston mayor says he shouldn't have blocked lake

BY ANDREW WELLNER  
Frontiersman.com

HOUSTON — The acting mayor apologized Thursday for blocking access to a local lake, but said the city will do what it can to enforce no-parking regulations in the area.

"The lawlessness out there has been ridiculous," said Jim Johansen, who is usually deputy mayor for Houston, but stepped in at Thurs-

### INSIDE

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day's city council meeting as acting mayor while Mayor Virgie Thompson is out of town.

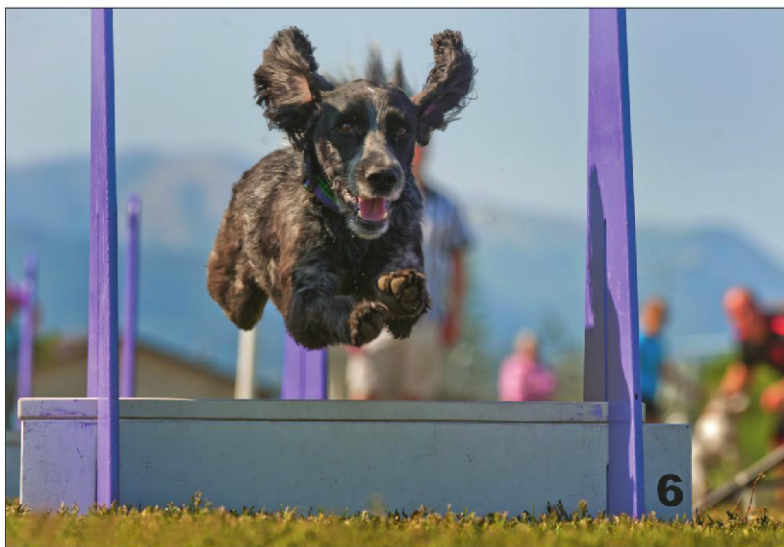
Johansen illustrated his point by describing a recent trip he made to the lake in question, Loon Lake. Down by the water, kids were swimming,

he said, but further back were two men. "There were two gentlemen who had been power-drinking. It looked like, all afternoon," he said.

Residents of the lake complained at the meeting about everything from naked people crawling through their yards to drug needles tossed in ditches to drunks stealing things to unsafe burn-

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## FINE FORM



ROBERT DUBERRY/Frontiersman

A four-legged competitor competes in the eighth annual Alaska Summer Solstice Flyball Tournery Saturday at the Alaska State Fairgrounds in Palmer. The flyball competition continues today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To see more from the weekend's competition, check out Tuesday's Frontiersman for a "Through the Lens" photo feature on the dogs and their handlers.

## Board to decide dog's fate Monday

BY ANDREW WELLNER  
Frontiersman.com

PALMER — The Mat-Su Borough Animal Care and Regulation Board will decide the fate of Wizard on Monday, a sled dog that attacked a child in May at the kennel of Iditarod musher Jake Berkowitz.

The dog broke free of his restraints as a family visited dogs they had kennelled at Berkowitz's Apex Kennels. The dog attacked the 2-year-old girl's neck before her mother fought the dog away. The child sustained life-threatening injuries in the attack.

Shortly after the attack, a borough Animal Care and Regulation Shelter officer recommended that Wizard be classified as a level 5 animal, which means the dog must be seized and destroyed. Borough rules say that a dog that attacks a person that severely must be classified as such. But borough code also says an animal control officer



ROBERT DUBERRY/Frontiersman

Big Lake musher Jake Berkowitz high-fives fans as he heads out on the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in March of 2013. Berkowitz is in a fight to save one of his dogs, Wizard, from being destroyed after it attacked a 2-year-old girl who was inside the dog yard at Berkowitz's Apex Kennels in May.

may make exceptions if the animal was defending itself or its offspring; if it was provoked or reacting to pain; or if not classifying the animal "reasonably

serves and promotes justice, fairness, and the purposes and intent" of borough animal con-

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## 17-year-old held on rape charges

BY ANDREW WELLNER  
Frontiersman.com

PALMER — A 17-year-old boy is facing sexual assault charges in adult court after Alaska State Troopers say he raped a 15-year-old girl while she babysat for a family friend.

According to an affidavit, Alaska State Trooper Toma Caldarea filed in court, Nathaniel Lebaron, 17, is from Mexico. He was in Alaska visiting his brother when the rape allegations were made May 7.

Troopers say the girl was babysitting for Lebaron's brother on May 5 when Lebaron arrived at the house. They kissed, which she told troopers she thought was OK.

Later, he asked her upstairs and that, she said, is when he raped her. She told him "no" more than once, but he continued, only stopping when his brother and sister-in-law arrived home.

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## Commission explains why permit was denied

BY ANDREW WELLNER  
Frontiersman.com

PALMER — Among other things, the project would spread trash around the neighborhood and could contaminate groundwater, the Mat-Su Borough Planning Commission ruled Monday when it made public its reasons for denying a permit to Central Monofill Services.

"It is not possible to set conditions to adequately protect the groundwater and aquifer from anticipated negative effects of the monofill," says the resolution the commission

approved, which spent a significant amount of time detailing groundwater concerns.

The monofill project has been a controversial one for months in a neighborhood off of the Glenn Highway south of Palmer. The company seeking to locate a monofill there, CMS says the fill would contain building materials from its demolition business that cannot be recycled. Worries of contamination of groundwater, they have said, are unfounded. The material will be tightly controlled to ensure danger-

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ROBERT DUBERRY/Frontiersman

Bill Ingaldson, an attorney representing Central Monofill Services, urges the Mat-Su Borough Planning Commission to reconsider its decision to deny a permit application to turn a former gravel pit into a monofill site.