On The Move

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UNIVERSITY *of* ALASKA

STATEWIDE









Secretary Tommy Thompson holds an Arctic ground squirrel as UA President Mark Hamilton looks on.

Secretary Thompson Emphasizes Alaska Issues & Learns Importance of Arctic Ground Squirrels

U. S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson visited the university last week on his tour of Alaska and learned that studying squirrels can help us better understand human health problems.

UAF scientists are studying squirrels to learn more about human health problems like obesity and strokes. The scientists are studying a hormone within squirrels that keeps them from snacking when they should be hungry. Their ability to gain a lot of weight makes them ideal subjects on which to test leptin, the hormone found in lots of mammals, including humans, that curbs the desire for food.

Ground squirrels also have an adaptation that could help medical researchers develop new treatments for human stroke victims. A stroke can occur when a clot or ruptured vessel interrupts blood flow to the brain. Denied oxygen, and glucose-rich blood, cells within the brain die. The heart of a supercooled squirrel may beat just twice a minute (the normal heart rate for an active ground squirrel is about 200 beats per minute). Such a reduced trickle of blood flowing to a hibernating squirrel's brain should cause damage, but it doesn't.

Several years ago scientists at the UAF Institute of Arctic Biology found that hibernating squirrels' body temperatures drop below freezing, a process called supercooling. Now the scientists are investigating how ground squirrels keep daily and seasonal time in their homes in the arctic, where the sun does not set for months in the summer and it is constantly dark in their burrows during winter. None-the-less these animals keep to regular daily schedules during summer and know just when to warm up in the spring.

Secretary Thompson learned about the squirrels, and even handled one, during his stop at the Butrovich Building where he was briefed on the importance of the squirrel research, and other issues involving the university.

On his tour of Alaska, the secretary was accompanied by a number of officials, including Karen Perdue, UA's associate vice president for health.



West Point Cadet Here to Learn About ARSC

Shaun Baker isn't your usual kind of Alaska tourist. The West Point Military Academy cadet arrived in Fairbanks last week to spend three weeks learning about supercomputing in an academic environment.

Baker will be working with ARSC as part of a coordinated effort by the Department of Defense's High Performance Computing Modernization Program to increase collaboration between military and academic research units.

The cadet will work with ARSC staff on a project to investigate portable high-density storage formats. Balancing the formats in which data is stored with the ability to move that data quickly and accurately is an extremely important part of supercomputing. Researchers at ARSC must be able to move and read the huge amounts of data they produce when using a supercomputer.

This is the second summer ARSC has hosted West Point cadets since ARSC joined the program two years ago.

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To submit information for this newsletter, send via email to bob.miller@alaska.edu or call 474-7272

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA

Many Traditions One Alaska

Dickinson Leads Bond Sale Effort



John Dickinson, assistant vice president for finance, has successfully completed a major financial transaction for the University of Alaska system, one that required massive amounts of time and his best financial and negotiating skills.

With John leading the effort, the university just sold $33.5 million in tax-exempt general revenue bonds, on which the low bid was submitted by Morgan Stanley DW Inc. with a 4.75 percent interest cost.

"John worked hard on this project, and the entire university system will benefit from his fine efforts," said Joe Beedle, vice president for finance.

The bond proceeds will be utilized for the UAA Community and Technical College Project ($14 million) which involves acquiring and renovating space at the University Center Mall in Anchorage; the Juneau Readiness Center/UAS Joint Recreational Facility Project ($5.47 million) to be used by UAS and the Alaska Army National Guard; and the UAF West Ridge Research Building and Related Science Facilities ($8 million).

In addition to the project costs, $4 million in bond funds was utilized to refinance previously sold bonds at lower interest rates, and the remainder was used for reserves, interest and issuance costs.

With the bond deal signed and delivered, John Dickinson is leaving this week for a well-earned vacation.



Fires shown in circles. Photo courtesy of the Alaska Interagency Fire Center

Interior Fires Ruin Fairbanks Air Quality

Air quality levels in Fairbanks will remain to be unhealthy as long as there so many fires burning in interior Alaska, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation said this week.

The sky above Fairbanks was filled with a dirty blue-gray haze much of Monday, largely due to the Geskakmina Lake fire, but the Ketchem Creek Fire near Arctic Circle Hot Springs also contributed.

Lightning caused some of the fires, and they have been helped by hot temperatures and winds.

For Sale or Trade

Send your items for sale or trade by e-mail to: **bob.miller@alaska.edu**

Tom Baring, 474-2124:
Wanted: chest of drawers for child, roughly 2.5' wide x 3.5' tall with 4 drawers. Solid wood, good quality

Cathy Fitzgerald 474-7421:
2001 KX 250 in Great Shape. Has never been raced, only used for trail riding. 1 pair of Fox Riding Pants Men's size 38. 1 pair MSR Riding Boots size 12. $5,000.00 obo. Call Chris at 378-4463 or 374-4769.

Nettie LaBelle-Hamer, 474-6167:
Excellent condition Lifestyle Cardiofit exercise machine. Total body motion with low impact. 10 resistance settings with speed, calories and distance computed and displayed. Purchased new for $250. Make an offer.

Stainless steel over the stove hood fan and light. Broan microtek system 1, very good condition. Make an offer.

Jennifer Bowers x6281
Wanted: Good home for lovable guinea pig. Comes with own cage, feeding dishes, and leash. If interested, call Nate at 456-3235.

David Bunzow, 479-2692 or x5005
Woodburning Stove, Beautiful Antique Everett with front & side loading. Includes damper and some piping. Great for cabin or small home. $275.00

2000 Jeep Grand Cherokee - White/Grey. Very low soft miles (28K). Immaculate inside and out. All maintenance records available. $23,000.

Joyce Helens 907-786-6949 or 907-529-9213:
1998 White Mazda MPV 4X4 (mini-van) All Sport 5 door, 4 captain's chairs and a rear bench seat, seats 7 plus cargo/pets/kids/camping stuff. '98 was the last year Mazda made the 4X4 van. 2 sets tires, excellent condition. 65k miles, CD, roof rack, alloy wheels. $15,800.

Very large antique primitive hutch with original curved glass and doors, hand-hammered metal door hardware/key. Some carved wood relief. From a European farmhouse. Can e-mail pictures. Best offer over $2k.

Richard Burton (ARSC) and Marylou Burton 452-4879:
Need a housesitter (or alternatively someone to come by daily to feed cats and water garden) for various 1-3 week blocks throughout the summer. Some compensation for putting up with the rude cats. If interested call or send email to: burtons@mosquitonet.com.

Dan Palow 457-27781:
40 gal Fish Tank with stand setup includes EVERYTHING including fish! Hood, 2 filters gravel plants decorations heater water vacuum, etc. $180.00

Queen Size Maroon Futon w/ wood arm rests $180.00

Kate Wattum x5974:
Shopsmith Mark V - 500 all parts, attachments and manuals for the basic unit: disc sander, tablesaw, drillpress, lathe and horizontal boring machine. Assorted attachments including: bandsaw, biscuit joiner (never used), sawdust collector, chisel set (5 piece - never used), Grinding Wheel II (never used). $1200.00 OBO

Erika Van Flein, x7545(days), 457-6017 (evenings):
Free aged horse manure. Great for gardens. You haul it away. Dont' be shy, there's lots!

Betty Studebaker 479-4925:
Like New - 2 HermanMiller Task Chairs, Dove Grey color, tall, pneumatic stool with full foot ring, seat and foot ring have height adjustment. A great deal at $250 for pair.

Janet Jacobs 457-5790:
Honda FR700 Rototiller. Very good condition, starts easy, works well. $700.

Barb Stockwell 474-6498:
1999 Royce Union Comp 1 Freestyle BMX Bike Chrome color $50 obo.

***On the Move* is Online**
Go to: www.alaska.edu/opa/onthemove. **Deadline** for the next issue is Monday, August 19th by the end of the day.